

SRI SRI RAVI SHANKAR

GLOBAL INITIATIVES

2018

Sri Sri Ravi Shankar is a renowned spiritual leader and global humanitarian whose mission of uniting the world into a violence-free, stress-free, global family has inspired millions of people to broaden their share of responsibility and serve society.

Sri Sri has devised practical tools and techniques that help individuals achieve calmness of mind and clarity of thought. Such a state of mind empowers individuals to achieve their goals and instills a sense of service and greater connectedness with humanity.

In 1981, Sri Sri established The Art of Living Foundation, an educational organization with a presence in over 156 countries. The Foundation's individual development programs offer powerful tools to eliminate stress and foster a sense of well-being.

In 1997, Sri Sri founded the International Association for Human Values (IAHV), a humanitarian organization, which promotes societal responsibility and human values in political, economic and social spheres.

IAHV and The Art of Living Foundation collaborate on several humanitarian initiatives, including conflict resolution, disaster and trauma relief, environmental conservation, anti-corruption, prisoner rehabilitation, youth leadership, women's empowerment and universal education. Both organizations enjoy special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations.



2018
IN REVIEW



The whole world is one family, so it is necessary that we live with naturalness and simplicity; only then life blossoms. The wall that we erect between ourselves and others needs to be demolished. From your side, drop all inhibitions between you and others.

PROMOTING PEACE

Leads Paigam-E-Mohabbat Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir, India, Mar. 10



Paigam-e-Mohabbat, an initiative for peace in Kashmir, has been conceptualized by Sri Sri to bring people of Kashmir together to foster peace and harmony in the valley. An unprecedented 11,000 people from across the state of Jammu and Kashmir attended it.

Sri Sri delivered an address hailing their spirit to find a solution for the decades-old conflict.

Post the event, Sri Sri met with people in groups and heard their grievances.

United People's Liberation Army (UPLA) from Assam declares unilateral ceasefire with Government of India Bengaluru, Karnataka, India, Oct. 2



Marking Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary, the leaders of United People's Liberation Army, after eight years of armed struggle, pledged to choose the way of democracy and peace to achieve their goals, at The Art of Living International Center in Bengaluru in the midst of 10,000 people.

“Sri Sri Ravi Shankar’s vision has inspired us to look for democratic ways of fulfilling the

aspirations of the Karbi Anglong people. They have guided us to come to the mainstream and inspired us to see our demands with a bigger and long-term vision,” explained Songsarpo Tungjang, joint secretary, in-charge, UPLA.

The UPLA members were accompanied by a delegation of over 35 members of National Police Foundation of the US as well as top cops, scholars and peace activists from India. Also present were members of the police, policymakers, and defense who were attending a two-day World Summit on Countering Violence and Extremism. This summit was organized by The Art of Living’s sister concern International Association for Human Values along with the From India With Love Project.

Addresses World Summit on Countering Violence Bengaluru, Karnataka, India, Oct. 2



On Mahatma Gandhi’s 149th birth anniversary, the World Summit on Countering Violence was organized by The Art of Living’s sister concern, International Association for Human Values (IAHV), along with the From India with Love Project at The Art of Living’s International Center in Bengaluru.

Conference highlights:

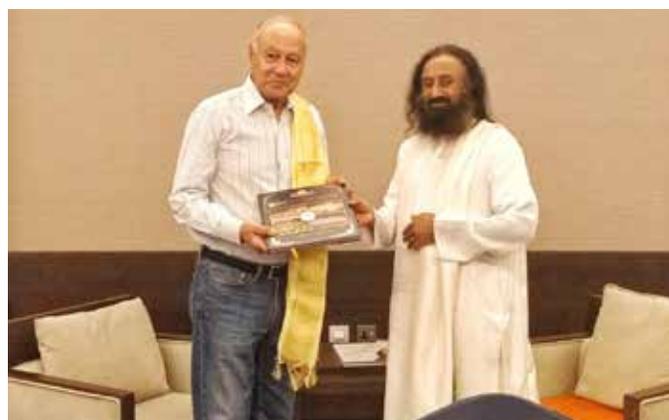
- The Brazilian Government conferred Sri Sri with the title of ‘Friend of Military Police of Brazil’ as more than 1,000 military officials have benefited from Art of Living’s meditation workshops.

- A first-of-its-kind MoU was signed between The Art of Living and the US Police Foundation, Washington DC to improve police and community relations across the United States of America. Frank Straub, Director of Strategic Studies & Center for Mass Violence Response Studies signed on behalf of the police.

While addressing over 30 members from the US National Police Foundation along with global thinkers, policymakers, law enforcement officials, activists, lawmakers and scholars who came together to deconstruct modern day conflicts and approaches to solving them through Gandhian principles of nonviolence, Sri Sri said, “We need to help people see beyond their prejudices. We all talk different languages, and our cultures are different, and so are our ways of worship. Spirituality is recognizing universal values and diversity that exists in our creation.”



Meets with ministers from several Middle Eastern countries UAE, Nov. 15



On his maiden visit to the UAE, several ministers including H.E. Ahmed Aboul Gheit, Secretary-General of the Arab League and ministers of Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, and other Arab nations met with Sri Sri and discussed The Art of Living's peace work in these countries.



Later, Sri Sri led thousands of Emiratis through a powerful meditation at the 'Illuminate Peace' event organized by the government of Fujairah at the Fujairah Football stadium. The event celebrated the country's spirit of peace and harmony on the International Day of Tolerance.



Sri Sri also visited the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque, the largest mosque in Abu Dhabi on November 18.

The ruler of Fujairah had extended a special invitation to Sri Sri, marking the latter's maiden trip to the UAE.

Meets Indian Ambassador to Lebanon, President and Prime Minister of Lebanon Beirut, Lebanon, Dec. 18

Sri Sri met Lebanese President Michel Aoun at his presidential palace and Prime Minister Saad Hariri to discuss the ongoing civil war in Lebanon. Aoun lauded Sri Sri's efforts in conflict resolution in the region. The founder of The Art of Living in his interaction with the state leaders discussed solutions to root out the trauma from the difficult past that the country has been through and usher in an era of peace and stress-free living.



"In a world with conflicts, how can we meditate? This is a genuine question. But, peace is needed only when there is conflict. There is no value of peace in the North Pole and the South Pole. Peace is more relevant when there is a lot of pressure around us."

- Sri Sri

Through a series of workshops in Lebanon and Jordan (in and around Syrian refugee camps - Al-Za'tare, Al Mafraq, Al Zarqa and Al Azara governorates) since December 2016, the IAHV has reached out to

- over 3000 war-affected children
- 350 vulnerable youth, frontline workers, caregivers, and families

Sri Sri was interviewed in ‘Celebrating Diversity’, a seminar on Interfaith and Intercultural Reflections on December 17. He also led 1,700 people into meditation at the ‘Waves of Happiness.’



EDUCATION

Addresses 5th convocation of Sri Sri University
Cuttack, Odisha, India, Sep. 28



Addressing the 5th convocation of Sri Sri University, Sri Sri said students can take the nation to great heights if they have a clear vision. To a question asked by the media after the event, he pointed out that the

solution to depression and stress among youngsters is a value-based education.

The university at the convocation awarded 15 gold medals to students from 10 different courses, degrees to 317 students including two doctorates, 137 postgraduates, and 178 undergraduates.

Inspired by Sri Sri’s vision of integrating human values in our education system, Sri Sri University was founded in the year 2009. Since its inception, the university has received numerous prestigious awards including the ‘Global Powerhouse of Peace’ by the Non-Violence and Peace Foundation, Geneva; Best Boot Camp Award by the government of Odisha; Best Innovative University Award at National Education Summit and many more.

Inaugurates ‘National Workshop on Proctology Surgeries & Parasurgical Procedures’
Bengaluru, Karnataka, India, Oct. 5



Sri Sri inaugurated a 2-day-seminar on surgery in Ayurveda, techniques known to be at least 2,000 years old. The seminar titled, ‘National Workshop on Proctology Surgeries & Parasurgical Procedures’, brought together 20 eminent surgeons from across the country and even featured live demonstrations of surgeries.

Speaking at the inauguration, Sri Sri said, “It was in 860 BC that this country had plastic

surgery. Somewhere, we lost this wisdom and I'm happy that you're reviving it. It is important to walk the middle path, and take from both the ancient and the modern."

Dr. Manoranjan Sahu, Proctology Specialist & Former Dean, Banaras Hindu University, who has to his credit more than 1000 successful surgeries using the technique of Kshara Sutra said: "It is time we come together to improve and standardize the systems of traditional practices of ayurvedic system of medicine. Modern surgeons can also learn, understand and incorporate these highly successful techniques for common good."

Inaugurates 'Sri Nagarjuna Saptah'
Bengaluru, Karnataka, India, Dec. 7

On the occasion of the 14th Annual Day of the Sri Sri College of Ayurvedic Studies and Research, the institute launched 'Sri Nagarjuna Saptah' - a 7 day National Seminar on Ayurveda which saw the participation of 200 Ayurvedic doctors.

GUIDING YOUTH

Addresses youth from 20 colleges in Davangere
Davangere, Karnataka, India, Jan. 13



Sri Sri addressed thousands of youths and their parents from over 20 colleges at the Bapuji Institute of Engineering & Technology (BIET) in Davangere.

Addressing the gathering, Sri Sri said, "Four things are important in life - yukti (logic), bhakti (devotion), shakti (strength) and mukti (freedom). You need all four to be successful in life." He also urged everyone to collectively work for the upliftment of the nation.

This interactive event was a part of Sri Sri's relentless efforts to encourage and enthuse the youth of the country to realize their full potential.

Before arriving at Davangere, Sri Sri interacted with over 2500 villagers and farmers at Gadag and addressed 2000 farmers at Kampli.

Live Q&A session at Anugraha Yuvotsav
Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh, India, Feb. 26



Thousands of youth, mostly including school children, listened intently as Sri Sri answered their questions with wisdom and a dash of humor. The session was a culmination of YUVAAN: a Pan India drive of Art of Living youth programs that empower students to excel in life.

Interacts with students and faculty at Mody University
Rajasthan, India, Sep. 20



Sri Sri addressed more than 5,000 students at Mody University, a leading girls university in Rajasthan. In the interaction, he emphasized the need to get rid of hatred from within and accept diversity or difference of opinion and preferences. Sri Sri challenged the students to reach out to and connect with every other student in their classroom and make friends with them, despite the apparent differences – a suggestion which was well received by the students.

“Shake hands with those you do not like and you will see something shifts within you. If we learn the art of winning over everyone with love, then everyone will live in accordance with us.”

Interacts with 60,000 youngsters and leads them into meditation
Sikar, Rajasthan, India, Sep. 21

On World Peace Day, Sri Sri interacted with 60,000 youngsters from schools and universities at the Sikar District Stadium. He led the students through a powerful meditation session after a lively, witty yet insightful interaction on issues spanning career, relationships, and matters related to mind and meditation.

The interaction was a part of the ‘Spreading Smiles Campaign’ which aimed to de-stress and uplift youth, especially students of competitive examinations. Under the campaign, 2,00,000 youth from Kota and Sikar have experienced meditation from 2016 - 18. In last month (August 2018) alone, around 40,000 students have experienced the Art of Living meditation sessions in IIT/ NEET coaching institutes of Sikar.



Sharing his message on the occasion of World Peace Day, Sri Sri tweeted, “Outer peace is possible only through inner peace and the way to create inner peace is through meditation and an attitude of service.”

Interacts with youth
Surat, Gujarat, India, Dec. 3



24,000 youth from 15 colleges, 60 higher secondary schools and 30 NGOs participated in a Q&A session titled ‘Yuvarang’ with Sri Sri in Surat. Sri Sri answered questions ranging from studies to life goals, and to relationships.

EMPOWERING INDIVIDUALS

New Year celebrations

Bad Antogast, Germany, Jan. 1

Sri Sri celebrated the New Year at the German ashram.

“When the mind is stuck to events, then there is suffering. If the mind flows with time, it is fresh and alive. Whether it is a celebration or a bad memory, the mind sticks to the event. Wisdom makes the mind non-sticky. Events create impressions on the mind. Wisdom is you getting out of impressions. When that happens, you flow with time.”

-Sri Sri

Inaugurates 3rd World Environment Conference

Bengaluru, Karnataka, India, Jan. 10



Sri Sri inaugurated the 3rd World Environment Conference in The Art of Living International Center, Bengaluru. The conference saw the participation of scientists and researchers in the fields of environmental and material sciences who presented cutting-edge research on environmental conservation.

Inaugurates 60th birthday celebration of 1,100 farmers

Sompura, Karnataka, India, Jan. 15

Sri Sri encouraged farmers to follow chemical-free ways of agriculture and sustainable innovation at the birthday celebration of 1,100 farmers in Sompura.



Addresses employees and scientists at ISRO Satellite Center

Bengaluru, Karnataka, India, Jan. 18



Sri Sri addressed employees and scientists at ISRO (Indian Space Research Organization) Satellite Center and conducted a meditation session for them.

Addresses members of the Builders Association of India

Bengaluru, Karnataka, India, Jan. 20



Sri Sri addressed the members of the Builders Association of India and advised them to create a cell for tackling corruption.

Felicitates yoga instructors at Kaushal Vikas se Rashtra Vikas event

New Delhi, India, Jan. 21



Sri Sri felicitated 500 yoga instructors with the certificates in Recognition of Prior Learning of Yoga under the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojna. The Yoga Instructors hailed from 17 different locations of 5 states of India, including 50 candidates from Jammu and Kashmir. The Sri Sri Rural Development Trust organized the ‘Kaushal Vikas se Rashtra Vikas’ event in New Delhi.

Sri Sri said, “We have been undertaking youth empowerment programs in rural areas for its development and helping youth in becoming self-reliant.”

Highlights

- A letter of collaboration was handed over to AICTE for training 30,000 final year students of AICTE-approved colleges, belonging to underprivileged economic sections.
- The Art of Living signed to launch a competition in association with AICTE in all colleges across India to identify sustainable innovative social enterprises.
- The Art of Living will incubate (support and finance), 50 top ideas to promote start-up India.

Leads The Art of Living Happiness Program

New Delhi, India, Jan. 21



Sri Sri led the Happiness Program in New Delhi, as part of the ‘Happiness Mahotsav’. Over 8,000 people experienced the Sudarshan Kriya in person, while another 12,000 from six states in India participated via webcast.

Addresses faculty and students at launch of the Academy of Global Justice at Al-Quds university via video

Bengaluru, Karnataka, India, Feb. 10

Sri Sri addressed faculty and students at the launch of the Academy of Global Justice at Al-Quds university in Jerusalem. The Academy is a first-of-its-kind institute in the Middle East that will focus on teaching, training, and research in the areas of international criminal law and human rights litigation.

Inaugurates Ayurveda Parv, The Art of Living International Center

Bengaluru, Karnataka, India, Feb. 16



Sri Sri inaugurated Ayurveda Parv, a three-day festival to highlight the importance of Ayurveda held at The Art of Living International Center and organized by the Ministry of AYUSH and All India Ayurvedic Congress.

Chinese New Year celebrations, The Art of Living International Center Bengaluru, Karnataka, Feb. 16



Sri Sri joined the festivities as Art of Living volunteers from China, Mongolia and South-East Asia led the Chinese New Year celebrations.

Inaugurates 8th International Women’s Conference Bengaluru, Karnataka, India, Feb. 23



Sri Sri inaugurated the 8th International Women’s Conference in The Art of Living International

Center, Bengaluru. The three-day conference was a confluence of women leaders, dreamers, and achievers from across the world. The conference sought to provide a platform for inspiring women to share their stories and amplify the message of peace and empowerment.



Addresses CII Partnership Summit 2018 Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, India, Feb. 26

Sri Sri addressed the CII Partnership Summit 2018 which was organized by the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India in partnership with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Government of Andhra Pradesh. The summit aimed to enunciate India’s growing importance in enhancing the ‘Global Economic Landscape.’



In his address, Sri Sri emphasized the role of inner peace and happiness for any development. He said that ensuring employees are happy and satisfied can solve many problems in an industry.

Interacts with saints from across India in Sant Samagam

Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, India, Feb. 27



Sri Sri contemplated on peace and spirituality with saints from across India in the event, Sant Samagam. The event was organized by The Art of Living.

Addresses 70,000 farmers

Madhya Pradesh, India, Mar. 7



Sri Sri addressed 70,000 farmers from Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Maharashtra as a part of a 3-day program organized by the government. of Madhya Pradesh in association with The Art of Living. Present at the event were Shivraj Chauhan, the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh and Dr. Raman Singh, the Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh.

Leads Antarang Varta and satsang

Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh, India, Mar. 8



Sri Sri guided a meditation and interacted with participants of Antarang Varta, a session aimed at giving life-transforming knowledge to its participants. In the evening's satang, thousands meditated and sang in the presence of Sri Sri.

Interacts with participants of Pearls of Wisdom

Pune, Maharashtra, India, Mar. 13

6,500 people committed to spreading waves of happiness and positivity in society during the Pearls of Wisdom event in Pune. Pearls of Wisdom was a platform for people from all walks of life to interact with Sri Sri on a wide range of topics like ethics in business, global peace, and cultural preservation among others.



Hundreds of thousands of people sing, meditate, celebrate during Sri Sri's Maharashtra Tour.

Over 100,000 people dive deep into meditation

Satara, Maharashtra, India, Mar. 14



Over one hundred thousand people meditated with Sri Sri during his visit to Satara. The meditation session was preceded by renditions of soulful bhajans.

He also encouraged the gathering to discard superstitions and look at the world through scientific eyes. Answering one of the questions from the gathering, he explained that spirituality is that which gives an individual the strength and relieves their stress.

Sri Sri also interacted with thousands of youth during the ‘Yuvacharaya Sammelan’. Applauding their dedication, he congratulated the youth as well as the farmers for spearheading the river rejuvenation projects and creating model villages.



50,000 people gather for an evening discourse

Pune, Maharashtra, India, Mar. 15



Sri Sri addressed the gathering of at least 50,000 people at an evening discourse held in Pune. The attendees experienced deep meditation and soaked in the soulful celebrations in Sri Sri’s presence. The atmosphere was filled with joy, happiness, and gratitude.

An interaction with DRDO scientists and employees

Bengaluru, Karnataka, India, Mar. 19

Sri Sri addressed the scientists and employees of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) in Bengaluru. He emphasized that for scientists to be successful, clarity in perception and perfect expression are required; and both qualities can be enhanced with meditation.



Attends evening discourse at the World Spiritual Festival
Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh, India, Mar. 25



Sri Sri participated in a satsang organized by the Andhra Pradesh government and The Art of Living during the World Spiritual Festival. The event was attended by 11,000 people.

Sri Sri attended the second day of the event where he addressed a gathering during an evening discourse held at Taraka Rama stadium. People from different parts of the district attended the discourse. An initiative of the Andhra Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation, the World Spiritual Festival aims to promote the spiritual city of Tirupati.

Inaugurates Kaveri River Rejuvenation Project at Bhagamandala
Kodagu, Karnataka, India, Mar. 27

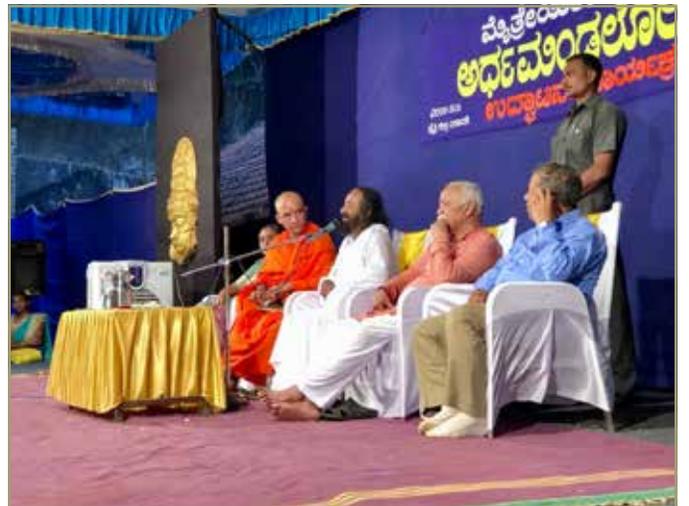
“Both the government and civil society should come together to protect rivers and also safeguard catchment area of the river by planting locally suitable trees, cleaning even the smallest of streams and avoiding construction of big structures in the area,” said Sri Sri at the event.

The Kaveri river rejuvenation project launched by The Art of Living, in association with Karnataka Rural Development and Panchayataraj Department, is expected to benefit 1.5 lakh people across 10-gram panchayats.



In the past, The Art of Living has worked on reviving 35 rivers and tributaries in Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu.

Presides over 24th anniversary celebrations of Maithreyee Gurukulam for girls
Vitala, Karnataka, India, Mar. 28



Maithreyee Gurukulam has Sanskrit as its medium of instruction and brings Vedic education to girls infused with modern scientific temper. Sri Sri inaugurated the event, along with the Sarsangchalak of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, Mohan Bhagwat, and Adichunchanagiri Math Swamiji.

8,500 people exude enthusiasm to build a better India

Bengaluru, Karnataka, India, Mar. 31



The Dynamism for Self and Nation (DSN) program was attended by 8500 participants. One of the flagship programs of The Art of Living which aims to empower individuals and inspire them to uplift the society, DSN was held in 102 locations across India and Nepal.



Sri Sri addressed the participants via video conference.



“The DSN program was an eye-opener for me. I realized that my so-called problems are not problems at all. There are much more things to focus on such as service for society in any form. I also realized that the only way to succeed in any area of life is to give 100 percent commitment. I’m a better person than yesterday just because of this wonderful course.”
 - Arvind Vishwanath, senior quality analyst, Amazon; financial advisor & consultant, Next Investments

“After the DSN program, I see a lot of change in me. I have expanded my comfort zone and my awareness level has increased.”
 - Preeti Talreja, a homemaker

Addresses a public talk introducing meditation

Tokyo, Japan, Apr. 8



In this special interaction, attendees received a deep experience of meditation, profound knowledge, and learned about the secrets to lead a happy life with a stress-free mind. Sri Sri mentioned how breathing techniques can have an incredibly positive effect on our state of mind and body.

One of the highlights of the event was Sri Sri’s interaction with Mr. Suritaro, an eminent TV personality in Japan and a yoga ambassador. He then led the gathering into meditation and answered questions from the audience.

First Lady of Japan Mrs. Akie Abe welcomes Sri Sri
Tokyo, Japan, Apr. 9



Sri Sri was received by the First Lady of Japan, Mrs. Akie Abe, wife of the Japanese Prime Minister, Shinzo Abe. Later in the day, Sri Sri conducted a yoga and meditation session for the members of the Japanese Parliament, who enjoyed the session.



Talk & meditation at Hawaii Theatre Center
Honolulu, Hawaii, USA, Apr. 11



Sri Sri gave a talk on ‘Finding Tranquility in Turbulent Times’ at the Hawaii Theatre Center in Honolulu. Hundreds listened intently as Sri Sri explained the need to build a stress-free and happy society. He also guided the gathering into meditation.

Leads ‘Meditation 2.0’ at the Sacramento Memorial Auditorium
Sacramento, CA, USA, Apr. 17



The hall reverberated with energy at the Meditation 2.0 event with nearly 2000 participants meditating in the presence of Sri Sri. Relieved of stress and in a happy state of mind, participants committed to creating waves of happiness.

“When it comes down to connecting on a human level, I think events like this drive home the point that we’re all a part of the human family. And I think that’s important to hear in times of turbulence in the community.”
- Ben Sharpe, a community leader in Sacramento

Yale University students discover ways to be mindful leaders
Connecticut, USA, Apr. 19

In a talk titled, “Mindful Leadership for Turbulent Times,” Sri Sri addressed the attendees at the Yale University. More than 150 people, including students, professors, locals, and people from out of the state

attended the discussion, moderated by Susan Cain, a lecturer and author of the book, “Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World that Can’t Stop Talking.”



During the talk, Cain also asked Sri Sri about other aspects of his work, such as focusing on building stronger leaders and mediating between individuals who might disagree with one another.

Later, Cain asked Sri Sri questions sent in by students.

**Meets kids, mothers & caregivers at Children’s National Hospital
Washington DC, USA, Apr. 21**



In his first visit to the pediatric hospital, Sri Sri suggested pediatrics learn from the babies in their

care. He said babies smile over a hundred times per day and are as flexible as trained yogis. After the talk, he guided a yoga and meditation session for the staff.

“When we think about healing children, we need to be healed and healthy ourselves,” Kurt Newman, Children’s president and chief executive, said while introducing Sri Sri. He termed Sri Sri’s visit as an event aimed at helping staff reconnect with their professional joy and the meaning of being there.

The center’s newly formed provider wellness committee, which had invited Sri Sri to speak, announced The Art of Living programs with the aim to reduce burnout of caregivers and heal bereaved parents.

Sri Sri also met mothers whose kids were admitted at the center but had passed away. These mothers were now providing solace to other grieving families. Sri Sri congratulated them for their courage and initiative.

**Speaks at Georgetown University
Washington D.C., USA, Apr. 23**



In conversation with Shaun Casey, Director of Georgetown University’s Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs and Former Director of the US. Department of State’s Office of Religion and Global Affairs, Sri Sri examined the role of yoga and meditation in the reconciliation of faith-based conflicts.

Spirituality essential for a violence-free society

Frankfurt, Germany, Apr. 25



Sri Sri led a gathering into meditation at the Palmengarten Hall in Frankfurt. During his address, he said, “At every stage of life, there are challenges. With inner strength, we can go through life with a smile without getting stressed.”

Sri Sri added that the practicality of spirituality is the establishment of a violence-free society, a disease-free body, a confusion-free mind, an inhibition-free intellect, a trauma-free memory and a sorrow-free soul. He urged everyone to create positive vibes in society and highlighted the need for the creation of happiness centers where people can drop their stress and come out refreshed and happy.

Attends the 1st meeting for Mahatma Gandhi’s 150th birth anniversary at Rashtrapati Bhavan

New Delhi, India, May 3

Sri Sri was invited for the first meeting of the National Committee for Commemoration of the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi at Rashtrapati Bhavan. At the meeting, a blueprint to mark the occasion was discussed. The celebrations which began on October 2, 2018 will continue for two years.

The meeting was attended by prominent leaders including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, former

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, BJP veteran LK Advani, chief ministers of 23 states, among others.



At the meet, Sri Sri suggested to establish a Chair of Gandhian Principles in universities across the world and have a mass movement to honor his teachings of non-violence and eradication of untouchability.

Speaks at the Times Now’s Karnataka Now Conclave

Bengaluru, Karnataka, India, May 4



Sri Sri was invited to take the special session titled ‘What it means to be a Hindu: Sri Sri on his personal journey’. The session saw him taking on a number of questions related to religion, spirituality, and culture.

In the session, Sri Sri described Hinduism as a broad philosophy which is not contained in a single book but is a whole library. Explaining further, he said a number of sects and philosophies have emerged from Hinduism and it embraces all schools of thought. Speaking about the role of reformers in

Hinduism, he said, “Every reformer in Hinduism, be it Meera, Basavanna or Adi Shankaracharya, has fought against casteism and communalism. All devotees have stood against oppression.”

Addresses business leaders from Jain community at JITO Growth Summit Bengaluru, Karnataka, India, May 25

Sri Sri addressed the business leaders from the Jain community at JITO Growth Summit. In his address, Sri Sri emphasized the importance of meditation for those involved in business activities.



Leads a million people from the African continent into meditation Bengaluru, Karnataka, India, May 26

As a part of the annual event, iMeditate Africa, Sri Sri led a million people across the globe into meditation via live webcast.



iMeditate Africa is a unique attempt and global peace initiative for Africa, encouraging the use of meditation as a mainstream peacebuilding block for the continent. The free campaign was started in 2013 and 2018 was the sixth year in a row which saw participation from 32 cities in 24 African countries. Millions of people across the globe have meditated as part of this peacebuilding initiative so far.



He also answered several questions from the countries of Africa.

Q from Congo: “Congo has gone through many conflicts. It has impaired the economic situation of the country. Many youth are unemployed. How can we change that?”

Sri Sri: “We can train the youth in Congo in skills like agriculture, solar electrification. We can even start schools. We just need five youth from every village and we can train them to train other youth and change the village. Congo has suffered a lot. It is time for us to leave behind the impressions of suffering and dream for a better Congo.”

Meets farmers from 8 districts of Vidarbha Bengaluru, Karnataka, India, Jun. 3

Sri Sri met with farmers from eight districts of Vidarbha, Maharashtra in the Bengaluru ashram. The farmers went back to their villages with a renewed sense of purpose to prevent farmer suicides and practice natural farming techniques.

Since 2006, The Art of Living has been working in Vidarbha to prevent farmer suicides through self-empowerment programs and the practice of zero budget natural farming. Till now, the organization has reached 507 villages where not even a single case of suicide has taken place after The Art of Living intervention.



World Environment Day conference
New Delhi, India, Jun. 5



At a symposium organized by The Art of Living in association with United Nations Environment Program on World Environment Day, Sri Sri made a worldwide call for reducing usage of plastic by half.

People from 80 countries joined Sri Sri in the pledge, at a symposium titled, 'Voices Against Pollution, Moving towards Green Energy'. People from 70,000 remote locations also joined the pledge through webcast.

Inaugurates Yoga festival
Amsterdam, Netherlands, Jun. 17



As a part of the International Yoga Day celebrations, a one-day yoga festival was inaugurated by Sri Sri, the Dutch Minister of Infrastructure and Water Management Cora Van Neuenhuizen, and the ambassador of India to Netherlands Venu Rajomany. More than 3000 people attended the wellness festival. Organized by the Indian Embassy, it saw a gathering of both, Dutch and Indian dignitaries. The event included yoga sessions by renowned yoga teachers including Sri Sri who also led the gathering into meditation.

Later, cultural programs were held showcasing Indian dance forms and musical sessions.

Inaugurates Yoga Day Celebrations
at the House of Nobility
Helsinki, Finland, Jun. 18



Sri Sri inaugurated the International Yoga Day celebrations along with the Indian Ambassador H.E. Vani Rao at the House of Nobility in Helsinki, Finland. He also led a session of yoga and meditation.

**Gives public talk at the House of Nobility
Helsinki, Finland, Jun. 19**



Sri Sri gave a public talk at the House of Nobility in Helsinki, Finland. During the talk, he highlighted the need to create spiritual ambassadors to spread the message of peace and love throughout Europe.

**Addresses Nokia Global Leadership Team
Espoo, Finland, Jun. 19**



Sri Sri conducted a meditation session and addressed the Nokia Global Leadership team and its employees at their headquarters in Espoo, Finland.

**Interacts with German
lawmakers and politicians
Dusseldorf, Germany, Jun. 20**

On the invitation of Armin Laschet, Prime Minister of the German state, Rhine-Westphalia, Sri Sri interacted with German politicians

and lawmakers at the state Chancellery in Dusseldorf. Sri Sri spoke on a wide range of issues including the refugee crisis in the world.



**International Day of Yoga Celebrations
Brussels, Belgium, Jun. 21**



Sri Sri led the European Parliament through a guided Yoga and Meditation session to mark the 4th

International Day of Yoga. He was joined by India's Minister of External Affairs, Sushma Swaraj, and Members of European Parliament, Geoffrey Van Orden, and Neena Gill along with 250 other leaders and embassy officials. "There is no better way to tackle the two ills facing society today- aggression and depression- than through yoga," said Sri Sri.

Meanwhile, thousands of police professionals, prisoners, navy officials, government officers, and civilians participated in The Art of Living's International Day of Yoga celebrations around the world. 60 countries participated in Art of Living yoga programs across the world, each ending with International Yoga Day celebrations.

Conducts meditation in Munich

Munich, Germany, Jun. 24



Sri Sri conducted a meditation and knowledge session in the majestic Nymphenburg Palace in Munich, Germany.

Gives keynote address at the conference on Anti-Doping in Sports

Oslo, Norway, Jun. 25

In his keynote address, Sri Sri spoke about the importance of having a right mindset for ethics to flourish in sports, rather than imposing rules of ethics on sportsmen. "It's not just about following rules, but life and sports is an expression of joy," Sri Sri said, "It's not about finding joy when you win or not being happy when you lose. The very act, the very process, the moment you started kicking the first ball, you are

enjoying already and people are enjoying it. That's the spirit of sports with which it originally began with."



As a continuation of WFEB's (World Forum for Ethics in Business) conference series on 'ethics in sports', the conference on 'Anti-Doping in Sports' saw the participation of keynote speakers including the Norwegian Prime Minister Erna Solberg; Vice-President of World Anti-Doping Agency Linda Hofstad Helleland; Travis Tygart, CEO, Anti-Doping Agency, USA, among the 25 other eminent speakers.

The conference addressed key aspects of anti-doping with an objective to provide a substantial agenda for action, as part of the ongoing anti-doping reforms and policy framework.

Interacts with Norwegians at 'Meditation 4.0'

Oslo, Norway, Jun. 26



At the 'Meditation 4.0' event, Sri Sri along with the Indian ambassador to Norway, Pradhan Debraj,

interacted with an audience in Oslo, Norway. Sri Sri also guided the audience through meditation, filling the auditorium with a profound silence.

Participates in 26th Latvian Song & Dance festival & gives a public address
Riga, Latvia, Jul. 1



Sri Sri participated in the 26th Latvian Song and Dance festival in Riga, Latvia that marks the 100th anniversary of the country’s independence. He was welcomed by the Latvian Minister of Culture, Hon. Dace Melbārde.

Sri Sri guided the audience through meditation on July 1.

Later, he spoke about the significance of self-knowledge.

He said, “There is something in us that expands when we are happy and it contracts when we are sad. That which expands and contracts is worth

knowing. And only human beings can know that. It is our source of energy. Going to that source is what self-knowledge is all about. It makes our lives much better. We become more intuitive and creative. When our spirit is uplifted, we can help everyone around.”



Interacts with students, faculty of Mindvalley University
Tallinn, Estonia, Jul. 2



Sri Sri was hosted by the university’s founder, Vishen Lakhiani in Tallinn, Estonia where he interacted with the students and faculty of the university. He answered a wide range of questions ranging from developing inner peace to artificial intelligence to global politics.

On being asked how he is transforming hard-core terrorists, Sri Sri answered, “with sincerity and love!” He said that inside every culprit, there is a victim crying for help.

Addresses 36th Annual Convention of the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPIUSA)

Columbus, Ohio, USA, Jul. 7



Sri Sri addressed the 36th annual convention of the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPIUSA) at Columbus, Ohio, USA.

On the importance and the need to practice yoga, Sri Sri said. “Yoga is more than just stretches, poses, and an elastic body. It provides inner comfort and enables you to access your intuitive ability, which is a necessary ingredient in any field – be it business, arts, science or sports,” said Sri Sri. “The ancient secrets of Yoga hold the key to open a new dimension in your life beyond body and mind that will unlock your potential and tap into a field of infinite possibilities to live a deeper, more joyous life. Yoga brings good health, sharpness of intellect, creativity, emotional stability, and a broad vision.”

Speaks at a Mental Health Solutions Summit

Ontario, Canada, Jul. 10

Sri Sri spoke at a Mental Health Solutions Summit hosted by The Art of Living in collaboration with the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA). The summit intended to open dialogue about the

unique mental health needs in Toronto and explore meditation as a tool to promote mental health. The summit also saw the participation of Dr. Patrick Smith, CMHA national CEO, Mayor John Tory and Dr. Sean Kidd, Chief of Psychology at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH).



“It was an honor to meet His Holiness Sri Sri Ravi Shankar this morning at the mental health summit. It was a very enlightening discussion on how spirituality and meditation can play an important role in improving mental health.”

- Mayor John Tory’s tweet

Addresses business leaders at ‘Mindful Leadership Seminar’

Windsor, Ontario, Canada, Jul. 11

Sri Sri addressed business leaders from Southwestern Ontario at the ‘Mindful Leadership Seminar’ in Windsor, Ontario, Canada.



Addresses Canadian business leaders
Montreal, Canada, Jul. 15



Sri Sri addressed Canadian business leaders in Montreal, Canada.

Guru Purnima Celebrations
San Francisco, USA, Jul. 28



Thousands thronged for the Guru Purnima celebrations at the San Mateo centre in San Francisco where Sri Sri himself performed Guru Puja. The day witnessed a surge in energy with soulful and energetic singing from the crowd and deep meditations that succeeded the auspicious Guru Puja.

On the occasion, Sri Sri highlighted the significance of the presence of the Guru and of the auspicious occasion of Guru Purnima:

“You go to school, you learn and move on. However nice the teacher is you move on to the next grade. This happens when you want some information. But, in this school, when you pass, you stay. Because there is nowhere to move one. The fullness unites you where there is no two. There is a saying in Sanskrit ‘guru koi aap samaan’, which means guru makes you a part of who you are. However, this school is tough to graduate. Your own mind charms you and does not let you see beyond the limited identities.

Guru Purnima is the day when you remember where you were, what you have gone through, how much up and down you have faced and still keep smiling. It is the power of the knowledge. It is not an intellectual knowledge. Guru gives a presence that is beyond our intellectual grasp. For that one, is grateful.”

Meditation 2.0
Seattle, Washington, USA, Jul. 29



Sri Sri conducted a meditation session and gave a wisdom talk in Seattle, USA.

Mass meditation
Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, Aug. 6

Hundreds meditated as Sri Sri led a mass meditation in the historic city of Victoria.



Inaugurates 71st National Council Conference of the Indian Federation of Working Journalists
 Bengaluru, Karnataka, India, Aug. 18



Over 800 journalists from the Indian Federation of Working Journalists came together for the 71st National Council Meet at The Art of Living International Center in Bengaluru. Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, Justice Santosh Hegde (former Lokayukta), Sampath Raj (Mayor of Bengaluru) and BV Mallikarjun were among those who inaugurated the conference.

Sri Sri urged journalists to uphold human values in society through their work, and said that it is their responsibility to keep hope alive in people. “We need to find our own style of journalism, that’s aligned with the people at the grassroots. It is my

wish and blessing that journalism in India reaches such heights that India should be looked up to by the entire world,” he said, addressing the gathering.

The two day meet reiterated the need for free, fair and independent journalism to keep the spirit of democracy alive. Bengaluru’s Mayor Sampath Raj announced a grant of 1 crore towards healthcare fund for journalists and their families. The conference also saw the participation of KC Ramamurthy, Rajya Sabha member, Basavaraja Patil, Economic Advisor to the Prime Minister and Mr SN Syamasunder, Chief Editor of Asianet Kannada.

Leads Anandutsav, 3-day online nationwide Happiness Program
 Bengaluru, Karnataka, India, Aug. 19



Sri Sri led Anandutsav, a 3-day online nationwide Happiness Program that saw the participation of 100,000 people from 412 cities of India.

The Art of Living teachers and volunteers were available at all web locations where the Happiness Program was conducted. Apart

from the webcast, people also traveled to The Art of Living International Center to learn the techniques directly from Sri Sri.



“Stress is when you have too much to do, very little time to do it and no energy to do the task,” says Sri Sri. “But what you can do is increase your energy. Pranayama (breathing exercises), meditation and Sudarshan Kriya gives you more energy for the day and makes you more productive.”

Sri Sri meets people receiving free orthopedic care at Sri Sri Ayurveda Hospital

Bengaluru, Karnataka, India, Sep. 2



As a joint initiative of The Art of Living and the Bhagwan Mahavir Viklang Sahayata Samiti (BMVSS), a 3-day camp for differently abled people was organized at the Sri Sri Ayurveda Hospital. 620 people with orthopedic disabilities were given customized fittings such as artificial limbs, Jaipur foot, wheelchairs, and other assistive devices.

Sri Sri met the beneficiaries and the trained personnel who assisted the camp.

Inaugurates organic waste composting machine in Swamimalai Temple

Kumbakonam, Tamil Nadu, India, Sep. 5



Sri Sri inaugurated the organic waste composting machine at the Swami Malai Temple in Kumbakonam in Tamil Nadu. The unit will convert 1 ton of flower offerings and organic waste into manure, per day. This will help keep the temple and its surroundings clean.

The Art of Living has installed similar units at

- Ajmer Sharif Dargah
- Kashi Vishwanath temple
- Udupi Krishna Mutt temple
- Dakshineswar temple
- Tarapith temple
- Kamakhya temple
- New Delhi Municipal Corporation
- Sholinganallur waste composting unit, Chennai
- The Art of Living International Center, Bengaluru and
- Several vegetable markets

Launches PM's 'Swachata hi Seva' movement

Bengaluru, Karnataka, India, Sep. 15



Sri Sri kicked off the Prime Minister's 'Swachata hi Seva' movement, marking Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary at The Art of Living International Center in Bengaluru. Hon. Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi thanked Sri Sri for connecting tens of thousands of volunteers with the Swachh Bharat Mission via a video conference call. Sri Sri was later joined by thousands in a cleanliness drive around The Art of Living Center on Kanakapura Road.

Thousands of Art of Living volunteers held cleanliness drives across India, including the state of Kashmir where 400 Kashmiri men and women participated in the cleanup drive organized by the Youth Paradise Social Welfare Society in Baramulla and Budgam districts.

"We saw the video call of Sri Sri with the PM and Sri Sri's call for cleanliness and Swachh Bharat. We also heard about the inspiring work being done. So we decided to participate."

*- Firdous Hassan Parray, chairman,
Youth Paradise Social Welfare Society*

Representatives of the Ajmer Sharif Dargah, who also joined the Prime Minister's video conference,

expressed their gratitude to Sri Sri for setting up a waste management plant at the Dargah to help process all the flower offerings into compost.

Addresses over 25,000 youth in Dharmnagar and inaugurates Sri Sri Kaushal Vikas Kendra

Odisha, India, Sep. 28



Sri Sri addressed over 25,000 youth in Dharmnagar, Kalahandi district, Odisha to promote skill training in the region. He also inaugurated Sri Sri Kaushal Vikas Kendra, an Art of Living Skill Development Center in the region.

Deepostav

Rajkot, Gujarat, India, Nov. 7



Diwali celebrations began with Ashtalakshmi Homa in Sri Sri's presence at Rajkot.

“You, the Soul, are light. If we sit with this feeling even for a few minutes, meditation will happen and we will witness changes in our lives. Every being in this world is light. In nature, Deepotsav (Diwali - the festival of lights) is constantly occurring.”

- Sri Sri

The event also marked the tie-up between the government and The Art of Living to carry forward the nation-wide cleanliness campaign. Awareness drives about wet waste and dry waste segregation were conducted by The Art of Living volunteers who created and then distributed 35,000 mobile dustbins.

Annakut celebrations

Vasad, Gujarat, India, Nov. 8



Annakut is a festival that is celebrated on the fourth day of Diwali. A significant ritual of the festival is to offer a variety of vegetarian food items to Lord Krishna. Devotees celebrated the festival by preparing 1700 dishes at The Art of Living’s Vasad Ashram. Sri Sri presided the celebrations that were marked by ecstatic bhajans.

Inaugurates International Conference on Yoga for Public Health

Panjim, Goa, India, Nov. 12

Sri Sri inaugurated the International Conference on Yoga for Public Health in Panjim. Union

minister of state for Ayush Shripad Naik and Dr. H R was present on the occasion, among others. The conference was organized by the Ayush ministry. Representatives from around 50 countries participated in the two-day conference.

Sri Sri also addressed the professors and students of Goa University.



Imparts lessons on leading a stress-free life to 5,000 migrant workers at Sharjah Expo Center

Sharjah, UAE, Nov. 16



Sri Sri imparted lessons on how to lead a happy and stress-free life to nearly 5,000 migrant workers from 20 countries, including Sri Lanka, India, Pakistan, and the Philippines at the Expo Centre in Sharjah.

Addressing the workers at the Sharjah Expo Center, he explained how one can lead a happy and stress-free life through ancient techniques of meditation.



Earlier in the day, Sri Sri visited a labor camp for South Asians in Sharjah and held a discourse on happiness.

Around 1,000 people from ten countries took part in the happiness programme organized by the local chapter of The Art of Living at the Labour Camp.

Addressing the workers, he said the most important thing in life is to be happy always. “Meditation helps you to overcome tough times. Even in odd situations, we have to remain calm. Any job we take up has to be completed with sincerity,” he said, adding “Time has an important place in everyone’s life and all activities should be time-bound.”

Sri Sri also noted the role of Indian manpower in the development of UAE.

Interacts with professors, scholars, doctors & decision makers at Mysore University
Mysore, Karnataka, India, Nov. 20

Sri Sri interacted with professors, scholars, doctors and decision makers at the Manasagangotri campus of Mysore University in Mysore.



Addresses Energy International Expo 2018
Surat, Gujarat, India, Nov. 30



Sri Sri was the keynote speaker and chief guest at the Energy International Expo 2018 organized by the Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry and the Southern Gujarat Chamber Trade and Industries Development Center.

The Expo which explored the potential of renewable energy in India drew 1,200 members

and businessmen of various industries. In his address, Sri Sri appreciated Surat's enormous growth in a few years. He also encouraged businessmen to not get demotivated when faced with obstacles in their businesses.

Discussed solutions to tackle the challenges of a marginalized community
Bengaluru, Karnataka, India, Dec. 6



The Bhovi community is a scheduled caste community in Karnataka. The leaders of the community met with Sri Sri and discussed the issues and challenges faced by the community.

Visits cyclone affected area in Pudukkottai
Tamil Nadu, India, Dec. 8

Sri Sri visited the cyclone-affected area in Pudukkottai in Tamil Nadu and distributed solar lamps to the villagers.



Christmas Celebrations

Boone, North Carolina, USA, Dec. 25



On the occasion of Christmas, Sri Sri shared that all prophets have a common message. He said, "Beyond the name and form, there is one light inside all of us. Whoever radiates that light, their work will be remembered forever. That has what has happened for all the prophets; be it Lord Rama, Lord Krishna, Buddha or Jesus. Their message has been common: find the inner peace and inner light and spread the love. When we exit the planet, two questions will come in front of you: how much knowledge have you gained and how much love you have spread. We should ask these two questions to ourselves."



Toronto, Ontario, Canada, Jul. 11-15

UNVEILING INFINITY

A commentary on the Vigyaan Bhairav

Sri Sri decoded the ancient Kashmiri Shaivism text, Vigyaan Bhairav, in a two-day seminar in different locations across the world. Participants have shared experiences of healing and stability after attending these sessions. The discourses included a variety of meditation techniques which helped the participants to go deep within and experience bliss.

Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India, Jan. 27



Hong Kong, Jan. 30



Cochin, Kerala, India, Feb. 4





Vilnius, Lithuania, Jun. 28

New Delhi, India, Mar. 3



Los Angeles, California, USA, Apr. 17



Bali, Indonesia, Apr. 7



Washington DC, USA, Apr. 22



Amsterdam, Netherlands, Jun. 16



Detroit, Michigan, USA, Jul. 8- 10



Silicon Valley, USA, Jul. 23

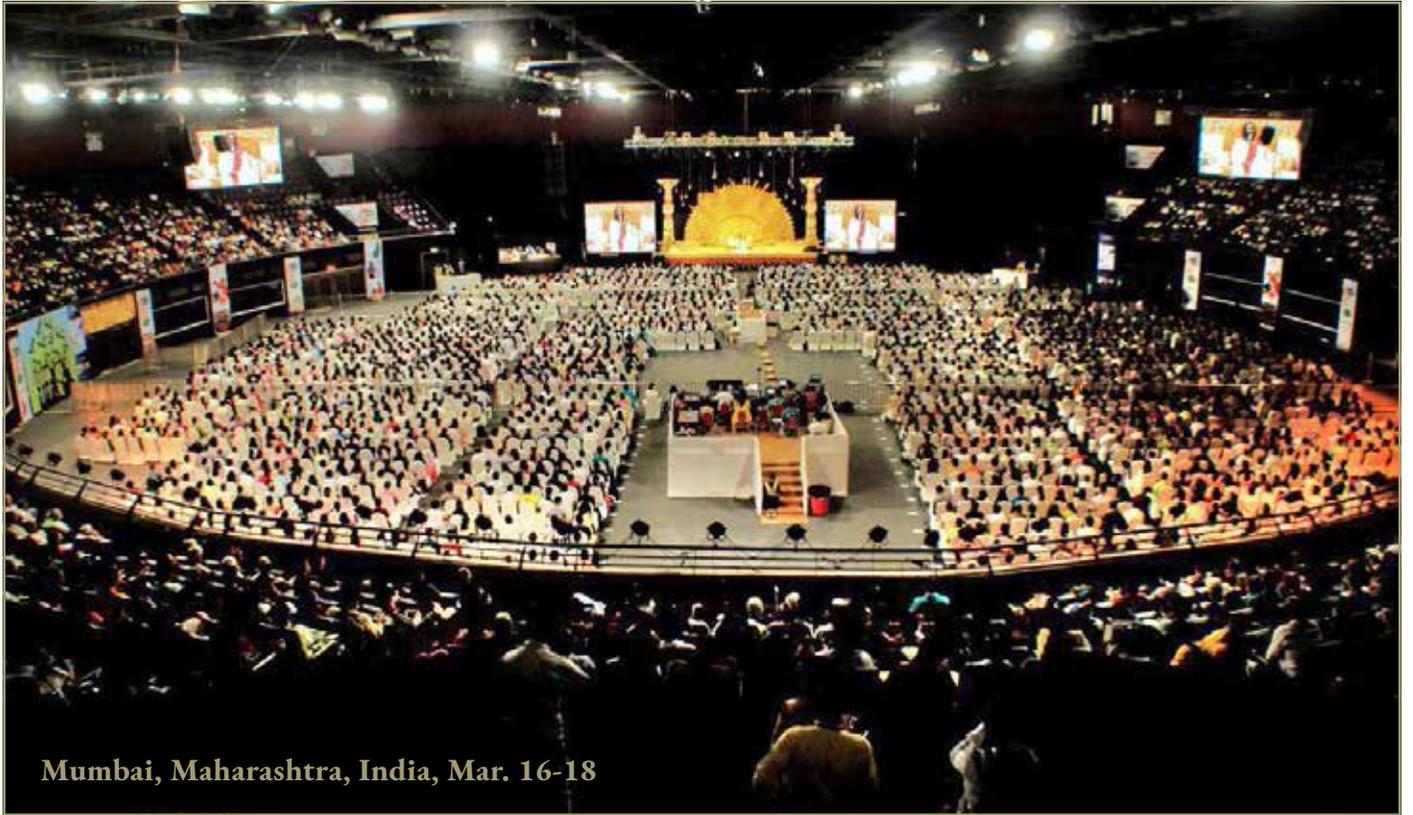


Calgary, Canada, Jul. 20



Frankfurt and Oppenau, Germany, Aug. 11





Mumbai, Maharashtra, India, Mar. 16-18

Jaipur, Rajasthan, India, Sep. 23



Milan, Italy, Nov. 2



Goa, India, Nov. 12



Dubai, UAE, Nov. 17-18



Surat, Gujarat, India, Dec. 2



Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu, India, Dec. 9



**BUILDING INTER-CULTURAL
HARMONY**

**Meets Maulana Tauqeer Raza Khan,
visits Dargah-E-Ala-Hazrat**

Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh, India, Mar. 7



On the invitation of Maulana Tauqeer Raza Khan, Sri Sri visited Bareilly. Both discussed various issues related to the peace and prosperity of India. He also visited the Dargah-E-Ala-Hazrat.

**Delivers a talk on combating
religious extremism & terrorism
at Atlantic Council**

Washington DC, USA, Apr. 20



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Fred Kempe, president, and CEO of the top think tank, Atlantic Council welcomed Sri Sri, as he spoke on one of the most pressing issues of the century: combating religious extremism and terrorism.

“Encourage kids to multi-cultural and multi-religious program. We need to teach kids the importance of non-violence in life. We need to wean them away from aggression to value of compassion.”

- Sri Sri

Observing that a sense of insecurity was on the rise, Sri Sri said there was a need to instill confidence and reassurance in human values. “We need to empower our youngsters that they need not be a victim of their stress and disturbed emotion,” Sri Sri said.

Addresses Members of Parliament and diplomats at the Norwegian Parliament

Oslo, Norway, Jun. 26



Sri Sri addressed the Members of Parliament and diplomats at the Norwegian Parliament in Oslo, Norway.

Addresses 6th International Inaugurates Veda Vidwat Sammelan, 3-day vedic conference organized by The Art of Living

Bengaluru, Karnataka, India, Aug. 18



Sri Sri inaugurated Veda Vidwat Sammelan, a 3-day conference organized at The Art of Living International Center. The conference which discussed the preservation of the oral tradition of

Vedic Studies hosted an eclectic ensemble of around 100 scholars from different branches of Veda, Vedanga, Upanga and Upavedas. The participants shared their views on subjects ranging from Vyakarana, Vaisheshika, Nyaya Shastra, Poorna Mimamsa among others.

"For so long the Vedas have been kept alive by diligent scholars and gurus through the guru-shisya parampara and now the need of the hour is to take a scientific research oriented study of the Vedas by eminent scholars which will bring out the knowledge that the Vedas encapsulate and make it even more relevant for modern times."

- Sri Sri

The conference proposed to form a council of eminent scholars from all over Karnataka to serve as a platform for exchange of ideas and to take forward the study of Vedas and its knowledge in a systematic manner and preserve it for the future generations.

Addressing the International Humanitarian Forum

Baku, Azerbaijan, Oct. 27



Sri Sri addressed the 6th Baku International Humanitarian Forum which featured a breakout session on "The Policy of Multiculturalism as a Factor of Ensuring Stability in Society."

"Azerbaijan attaches great importance to multicultural values," Sri Sri said.

He hailed the fact that one of the breakout sessions of the Baku Forum addresses multiculturalism. “Such prestigious events play a major role in promoting multicultural values throughout the world. Everyone should respect religious beliefs, language, ethnicity of others, and people should not live in fear because of their choice,” he added.

He also commended President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev for attaching importance to the promotion of multiculturalism and tolerance.

Sri Sri also addressed a public program at Baku.

Speaks at the conference on ‘Ethics in Action’

Vatican, Oct. 31

Sri Sri spoke at the conference on ‘Ethics in Action’. He also addressed the Italian Parliament as well as the Indian embassy in Rome.

“When we have a broader perspective of our lives, Ahimsa automatically happens. To bring Ahimsa in our lives, we need to make our vibrations positive. A happy person will never be aggressive.”

- Sri Sri



AWARDS & HONORS

Receives Simon Wiesenthal International Leadership Award

Los Angeles, USA, Apr. 17



Sri Sri was bestowed with the prestigious Simon Wiesenthal Center’s International Leadership Award for his contribution in promoting human dignity, diversity, and interfaith harmony.

The award that celebrates community work and significant contributions made towards building a more peaceful and tolerant society has been presented to the Dalai Lama, Bono, former Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper among others.

“Sri Sri Ravi Shankar is well known for worldwide activism and relief efforts on behalf of endangered and displaced minorities across the Middle East and Asia, including Christians and Yazidis in Iraq. We honor him for courageous deeds on behalf of forgotten victims of violence and terrorism.”

- Rabbi Abraham Cooper, the Wiesenthal Center’s Associate Dean and Director of Global Social Action

The ceremony saw the presence of several government officials, Congressmen, Mayors and Council Members of 28 cities across California, the Ambassadors of Japan, Sweden, Myanmar, Brazil, Mexico, Germany, Netherlands, Switzerland, Azerbaijan, Italy, Czech Republic, and Turkey were also present.

The Art of Living’s work in California hailed

Sacramento, CA, USA, Apr. 18

Mr. Anthony Rendon, the Speaker of the California State Assembly received Sri Sri at a reception hosted by him at the State Capitol Building in Sacramento. He and fellow members presented Sri Sri a proclamation commending the work of The Art of Living in the state of California.



Receives honorary doctorate at Karnavati University and confers degrees to graduating classes

Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India Dec 4



In Karnavati University’s first convocation ceremony held at the Gandhinagar campus, Sri Sri conferred degrees to students of the university.

The university also conferred Sri Sri with an honorary doctorate.

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