



## SRI SRI RAVI SHANKAR

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### GLOBAL INITIATIVES

2012

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 150 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.



2012  
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.*

## JANUARY

### Sri Sri Visits West Bengal

#### In Remembrance of Swami Vivekananda on his 150th Birth Anniversary

Kolkata, India, January 7



Sri Sri delivered the presidential address at Swami Vivekananda's 150th Birth Anniversary Celebrations and

inaugurated a walk to commemorate the event at the Scottish Church College. He emphasized that India's youth should follow the ideals iterated by Swami Vivekananda - strong hearts and open minds, and the desire to be of service to one's country.

"Life is a gift but very complex. It's a complexity of...peace and dynamism, love and action, silence and service," said Sri Sri during the address.

### Addressing Modern Management Needs

Kolkata, India, January 8

Sri Sri was invited to speak at the Indian Institute of Management in Joka. Addressing the students and faculty at the IIM event 'Intalgio,' he emphasized the importance of innovating management to address local needs. He also visited a local Art of Living drug rehabilitation facility, where he met with the many residents who are currently undergoing treatment. Sri Sri's visit to Kolkata culminated with tens of thousands participating in an evening of music and meditation.

## Promoting Unity through the Arts

Solapur, India, January 17



In keeping with Art of Living's focus on arts as a unifying cultural vehicle, Taal Ninaad recorded participation by 1548 percussionists (1230 tablas and 318 pakhawaj). During the event, which won a place in the Guinness Book of World Records for most hand drum players together on one stage, audience members pledged to work toward freeing their communities from alcohol and violence. Additionally, Sri Sri urged the gathering to discard discrimination based on caste and creed, and commit to the advancement of human values.

"There is a need for youth in every area. Have an intention of working together. Your mind will be purified. Have an intention for belongingness and do selfless service." - Sri Sri



## Faith Leaders at the World Economic Forum

Davos, Switzerland, January 25

Sri Sri attended the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2012 alongside retired bishop Desmond Tutu and other

spiritual and religious leaders, who attended with the goal of bringing more humanism into business. "Capitalism can't survive without humanism...Spiritual leaders have a big role to play....We need to bring the message in the gloomy atmosphere around us. We should hold on to hope and work unitedly for a just and better world," said Sri Sri at the event.



## FEBRUARY

## Women and Technology: International Women's Conference

Bangalore, India, February 3-5



Sri Sri addressed the 5th International Women's Conference (IWC), titled 'Women and Technology' hosted at the Art of Living's International Center in Bangalore, India. Over 500 women leaders from 55 countries and all walks of life came together to reflect on the role of technology in women's empowerment. "There is a big divide between rural and urban women, not just in India but all over the world. Bridging this



gap is the need of the day.” Sri Sri said at the IWC.

Women leaders in attendance included Hon’ble Lulama Xingwana, Minister for Women, Children and People with Disabilities, Republic of South Africa; Hon’ble Ronit Tirosh, Member of Parliament, Israel; Ms. Shiren Ibrahim Fattah, Representative, Kurdish Government, Iraq; Hon’ble Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, State Minister of Women and Children Affairs, Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh; and Ms. Orna Sagiv, Hon’ble Consul General of Israel, Israel Consulate, Mumbai.

## Shivaratri Celebrations

Bangalore, India, February 20



People from more than 40 countries attended the festival of Shivaratri at Bangalore, where Sri Sri led participants through a meditation for world peace. Participants also attended a week-long individual empowerment workshop that promoted human values and stress-free living.

## Honoring Beacons of Selfless Service

New Delhi, India, February 23



Sri Sri was invited as the Chief Guest at the 2012 Sitaram Jindal Prize ceremony to honor 20 Outstanding Selfless Workers in the arena of social upliftment. Winners of the Jindal Prize, India’s largest cash prize designed to encourage societal responsibility, included Former President of India, Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam.

## MARCH

## Third International Seminar on Mysticism & Spirituality in Islam & Indian Religions

New Delhi, India, March 11



Sri Sri was the Guest of Honor at the “3rd International Seminar on Mysticism & Spirituality in Islam & Indian Religions” organized by the Al Mustafa International University, Iran. The two-day seminar, which was held at the India Islamic Culture Center in New Delhi, promoted religious co-existence. The University also honored Sri Sri with an award for Peace & Harmony.

## Sri Sri Visits Pakistan

Pakistan Tour, March 12-14

“Spirituality can truly unite the people of the two countries,” said Sri Sri at the close of his 3-day visit to Pakistan, while calling for closer ties and interactions between the people of India and Pakistan. During his visit, Sri Sri met with many religious and political leaders, including Deputy Convener and Parliamentary leader of the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM), Farooq Sattar, and Pakistan Peoples’ Party Advisor



*Leadership: Art or Science? Both! Science as it requires planning & reasoning. Art as leadership is all about heart.*

to Sindh CM, Sharmila Farooqi. After the meeting, Sattar remarked, "Sri Sri should come every year and inspire all of us." This sentiment was echoed by many at the events in Lahore, Karachi and Islamabad.

"My dream is to see a violence-free Pakistan and I'm sure it is possible," said Sri Sri addressing a gathering of dignitaries in Lahore, where attendees included Former Finance Minister of Pakistan, Mr. Sartaj Aziz; Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid leader, Ms. Humaira Shahid; Secretary General of Tehrik-i-Insaf, Mr. Omar Cheema; and Pakistan Today Editor, Mr. Arif Nizami.

"We have spent a lot on conflicts, on escalating conflicts and on destruction of life and environment. Now we have to work towards making peace. With greater linkages between the people, India and Pakistan can both come closer and work towards a peaceful co-existence. In order to avoid other forces taking advantage of the conflict, it is important for India and Pakistan to be in mutual peace." - Sri Sri



Sri Sri crossing the border into Pakistan via the Wagah Border



Sri Sri with Ms. Anusha Rehman Khan, Member National Assembly & Senior Vice President of Pakistan Muslim League - Nawaz (PML-N) Lawyer's Wing



Sri Sri with Sufi religious leaders



Sri Sri with Mr. Babar Awan, Vice President of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and former Federal Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs.

## A Musical Symphony of 1100 Veenas

Bangalore, India, March 28





*We don't have to be Danish to eat Danish cookies nor do we become Swiss if we eat Swiss chocolates. We accept food, music and technology too from every part of the world. Then, why don't we accept wisdom from every part of the world and from every tradition?*

The 'Sahasra Veena Jhenkara' musical event brought together 1100 veena artists on one platform for the very first time. The event, which sought to foster India's ancient heritage of classical music, showcased the talents of young artistes.

"In happy times your love for music is spontaneous. In tough times music can sooth, heal, and de-stress you. So, make music an integral part of your life. The veena is the most ancient instrument known to mankind. Its resonance is still un-paralleled, captivating, and takes you to another dimension. Eat music, drink music, and sleep music till you can hear your soul song of eternity" said Sri Sri.

APRIL

## World Forum for Ethics in Business

Singapore, April 2



As a keynote speaker at the World Forum for Ethics in Business in Singapore, Sri Sri emphasized the need for ethical business practices saying, "What is most essential today are role models. Young entrepreneurs need to see role models; industries which have ethical practices, which are fair and which have corporate social responsibilities. This can happen and in fact this should happen, for there are ample number of businesses who have grown steadily following a code of conduct and ethics."

## Japanese Prime Minister lauds Sri Sri's "Wave of Happiness" Campaign

Tokyo, Japan, April 11 - 13



During his three-day tour of Japan, Sri Sri met with Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda, who welcomed him and praised the efforts of the Art of Living saying, "I am very happy that Sri Sri visited the epicenter of the tsunami and met with the displaced victims. I appreciate the participation of the Art of Living in Japan where the suicide rates are becoming very high." Mr Hiroshi Yamada, leader of the 'Spirit of Japan' party and former Mayor of Sugunami city organized a civic reception for Sri Sri, attended by the former Prime Minister of Japan, Mr Abe Shinzo; Mr Hiranuma Takeo, Minister of Parliament; Mr Sonoda Hiroyuki, Minister of Parliament; Mr Nagashima Akihisa, Minister of Parliament; Governor of Saitama prefecture, Mr Ueda Kiyoshi; Chairman of Osaka prefecture assembly, Mr Asada Hiroshi; former Mayor of Yokohama, Mr Nakada Hiroshi; and Mr Kasai Noriyuki, Chairman, Central Japan Railways Corporation.

## Spirituality & Media

Los Angeles, USA, April 18

Sri Sri participated in a panel discussion about the impact and interaction of spirituality and media at the University of Southern California, Los Angeles.

"Through films, science can trigger the quest, inquisitiveness in a person. Through films, art can bring beauty, ecstasy, and joy. Through films, spiritual awakening can also happen," said Sri Sri during the discussion.

*Learn to make people your own. They already belong to you. They come from the same soil and breathe the same air which you expel.  
You are connected — so connected.*

## A Commentary on the Upanishads

Los Angeles, USA, April 20 - 23



Sri Sri delivered a three-day commentary on the Upanishads, a Vedic text that highlights the relevance of spirituality in daily life. In addition, he led more than 3,000 people in meditation during a series of talks titled “Secrets of Meditation.”

MAY

## Sri Sri visits Ukraine

Kiev, Ukraine, May 3 - 4

Sri Sri met with Ivan Ziatc, the Deputy of the Verkhovnaya Rada of Ukraine, who commended Sri Sri’s efforts to revive human values. Additionally, Sri Sri visited the historic Kievo-Pecherskaya Lavra and St. Vladimir’s Cathedral. He was welcomed by the church’s rector, Boris the Abbe, who said, “This meeting will remain forever in my heart. I wish you success in whatever you do. You do goodness to people — this is especially important for the modern world.”

Sri Sri also addressed the importance of organic farming and environment awareness in Ukraine. Local Art of Living volunteers joined Sri Sri at the Kiev botanical garden, where he planted Pink Magnolia trees — a local symbol of purity, nobility and perseverance.

At the Ukraine Chamber of Commerce, Sri Sri led a “Yoga for Health and Happiness” seminar. 850 participants attended the seminar, which highlighted the basics of yoga and breathing. Following the seminar, Sri Sri participated in a round table discussion on “Spiritual Values in Politics, Business and Charity” with Ukrainian politicians, businessmen, athletes, and artists. The discussion was followed by an open conversation and meditation, which was attended by more than 1500 persons.



## Promoting Human Values

Washington, D.C., USA, May 14



Sri Sri led a meditation for peace at the All Saints Unitarian Church in the nation’s capital.



## A Symphony of Bagpipes

Sofia, Bulgaria, May 16

The Art of Living organized a bagpipe ensemble with a record 333 musicians at the National Palace of Culture in Sofia, Bulgaria.



## IV Congress of the Leaders of the World & Traditional Religions

Astana, Kazakhstan, May 29-31



During his first visit to Kazakhstan, Sri Sri was received by Minister of Environment, Nurlan Iskakov, and spoke at the IV Congress of the Leaders of the World & Traditional Religions. Sri Sri then led an evening of spirituality, music and meditation in Astana, and also met with Senate Speaker Kairat Mami.

## JUNE

### Inauguration of the International Center for Meditation and Well Being

Boone, North Carolina, USA, June 30

Leaders from Christian, Buddhist, Hindu and Jewish faiths attended the inauguration of the 381 acre International Center for Meditation and Well Being in Boone, North Carolina. The Center, which is designed to be both a retreat and community center, advances individual empowerment and human values based programs.

“It has been the dream of many to open a place like this in the United States, where people can discover how beautiful they are on the inside through the beauty of nature,” said Sri Sri during the inauguration. “This Center will tend to each individual’s physical, mental, and spiritual needs and turn tears to smiles, dullness to creativity, and hatred to love. It is a place where reason becomes sharper, faith becomes deeper.”



## JULY

### Inspiring Youth

Warsaw, Poland, July 19 - 22

The Art of Living Foundation hosted the International Youth Festival in Taraska, Poland, where Sri Sri encouraged youth to work toward a stress-free violence-free society. Festival participants included youth-run non-profit organizations, cultural ambassadors, young business and political leaders,



and students. They attended customized individual empowerment workshops that promoted human values and community building initiatives such as the Non-Aggression program. Following the Festival, Sri Sri met with the residents of PiotrkówTrybunalskich, a small town near Warsaw.

Youth from various NGOs finalized their plans for ecological projects at the International Youth Festival in Taraska. One of the organizers commented, "Speaking with Sri Sri has inspired us, given us a great impetus to further develop service projects in Poland – programs like Non-Aggression Program ('NAP') dealing with aggression among young people."



## AUGUST

### Resolving Communal Violence

#### Assam, India, August 8 - 9

In the aftermath of violent riots between the indigenous Bodos and Bengali-speaking Muslims, Sri Sri toured the riot-hit districts of Kokrajhar and Chirang in Assam, India, and visited many Bodo camps. In addition to commencing workshops to help refugees combat post-traumatic stress, Sri Sri initiated a dialog between the opposing factions. He successfully urged the representatives of both parties to work toward long-term solutions to the region's problems while maintaining peace and harmony. Additionally, Sri Sri visited refugees at the Kajalgoan Higher Secondary school camp in Chirang, where he initiated supply of food and resources for infants and young children. He also distributed clothes

and necessities to refugees at the Vidyapeeth High School in Kokrajhar.

Local officials acknowledged that Sri Sri's efforts contributed toward containing the crisis, and he was invited by President Pranab Mukherjee on August 16, 2012, to discuss plausible solutions to prevent the recurrence of unrest.



Sri Sri meets with H.E. Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, President of India

## Reforming Militants

Bangalore, India, August 10



In a unique initiative designed by Sri Sri and supported by the state government, a month-long workshop at the Art of Living Foundation's Bangalore headquarters resulted in the reformation of 241 Assamese militants. Workshop participants, who underwent an intense yoga and meditation detoxification program, termed their experience as the commencement of "a second life." Workshop modules included social responsibility, leadership training, self-awareness exercises, and advancement of cultural awareness.

## Spirituality: Bridging Peace

South Africa Tour, August 25 - 29



Photo credit: daylife.com

During a five-day visit to South Africa to promote spirituality as a bridge for peace and understanding, Sri Sri inaugurated the International Center of Peace in Cape Town. He also

addressed a gathering at the Chatsworth football stadium in Durban, where he encouraged the audience to commit to broadening cultural horizons and promoting human values. Sri Sri's talk was attended by residents, social change expounders, political and business leaders, and faith leaders such as Islamic leader Yousuf Sayed.

## Sri Sri Visits Brazil

Governor of São Paulo honors Sri Sri

São Paulo, Brazil, August 30



Gov. Geraldo Ackmin, the Governor of São Paulo, and Voorwald Herman, the Secretary of Education, received Sri Sri at the Bandeirantes Palace in São Paulo, Brazil. They discussed alternatives for peace education and the importance of human values. "Often problems are caused for young people due to stress and excessive family conflicts," Gov. Ackmin said. "It was a great honor to receive Sri Sri Ravi Shankar and the board of the Art of Living; they have a great expertise in education."

## SEPTEMBER

Rio de Janeiro honors Sri Sri

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, September 3

During his visit to Brazil, Sri Sri was felicitated with Rio de Janeiro's highest honor, "The Tiradentes Medal" for outstanding service to society. Mr. Eduardo Paes, the Mayor of Rio de Janeiro honored Sri Sri by giving him the keys to the city.





Sri Sri then visited the “Corcovado” (the monument to Christ) in Rio de Janeiro, and was received by Padre Omar, Rector of Christ the Redeemer.

Sri Sri led the largest meditation for peace in the city’s Cinelandia Square, a landmark site of the freedom struggle. With Sri Sri, it became a destination for meditation, wisdom, and peace.



## Sri Sri Visits Argentina

### Buenos Aires, Argentina, September 4

Two-thousand residents, and national and international media, welcomed Sri Sri to Buenos Aires. Sri Sri remarked “I am very honored to be in this country, with so many happy and vibrant people. We are here to generate waves of peace and harmony in the society.” A magnificent choir comprising 300 singers welcomed Sri Sri with their recitation of the “Ode to Joy.”



## Cordoba Bestows Honors

### Cordoba, Argentina, September 5



In recognition of the work done by the Art of Living at the Siglo XXI University campus, the University felicitated Sri Sri with an honorary doctorate. An estimated 18,000 people attended the ceremony and participated in a guided meditation despite heavy rains. The Consul General of India, Dr. Sergio Luis Suarez, presented Sri Sri the recognition of ‘Custodian of World Peace’ and the Governor of Cordoba, Jose Manuel de la Sota, honored Sri Sri as an ‘Honorary Citizen of Cordoba.’

## University of Buenos Aires honors Sri Sri

### Buenos Aires, Argentina, September 6

1,000 people gathered at the Aula Magna auditorium of the University of Buenos Aires to witness Sri Sri receive a



Diploma of Honor from the University. University faculty and students from across the country attended the event. Sri Sri also inaugurated a spiritual conference organized by a group of companies with the support of the municipality of Buenos Aires. He said, “The voice of good people should be heard; corruption arises from a few bad people and the silence of good people. Where there is lack of spirituality and belonging, corruption arises, and this begins to reverse when common people take responsibility.”



## **Sri Sri visits San Martin Prison**

**San Martin, Argentina, September 6**



Hundreds of prisoners in the San Martín prison, government lawyers, and Ministry of Justice officials accorded Sri Sri a warm welcome to the facility. Inmates, more than 5200 of whom had attended the Art of Living’s prison rehabilitation program, lauded Sri Sri’s efforts. One prisoner said, “Thank you for what you do for us in here. We feel free. You gave us the desire to live again.”

## **150,000 Meditators Come Together for Peace**

**Buenos Aires, Argentina, September 9**



Sri Sri led an unprecedented gathering of 150,000 Argentines in a meditation for global peace. The event, entitled ‘El Planeta Medita’, had thousands more join through live broadcasts from 300 cities across the globe. During the event, Sri Sri urged every youth to dedicate some time to service activities for a better Argentina and world.

## **Sri Sri speaks at the Ethics in Business Conference**

**Buenos Aires, Argentina, September 10**

Sri Sri was welcomed by 2000 business leaders, CEOs, Directors and Presidents of the most renowned Corporations in Argentina for the ‘Ethics in Business’ Conference.

He was joined by luminaries such as Mr. Luis Moreno Ocampo, the first prosecutor of the International Criminal Court in the Hague.





### Rehabilitation in the Slums of Retiro

Retiro, Argentina, September 10



Sri Sri visited the slums of Retiro in Buenos Aires and met with the school teachers and children who had participated in the Art of Living's educational programs. Sri Sri promised greater collaboration between the Art of Living and the local schools. He also met with recovering alcoholics and former drug addicts who have benefitted from undergoing the Art of Living's programs. The Art of Living had been working in these slums for the past 15 years, rehabilitating many at-risk youth from a life of crime and violence.

### Sri Sri Visits Paraguay

Asunción, Paraguay, September 13



In a rare and unique ceremony, Sri Sri was honored with the highest civilian award of Paraguay — the National Order of Merito de Comuneros. The award has only been bestowed on two other recipients in the parliament's 200-year history. "I dedicate the National Order of Merito de Comuneros highest civilian award of Paraguay, to all those who work for non-violence, honesty and compassion," said Sri Sri.

### University of Asuncion honors Sri Sri for Humanitarian Work

Asuncion, Paraguay, September 13



Universidad Autonoma de Asuncion of Paraguay conferred the Doctorate Honoris Causa on Sri Sri on September 13, in recognition of the humanitarian work done by The Art of Living.



Sri Sri Ravi Shankar with Dr. Federico Franco, the President of Paraguay.



Sri Sri Ravi Shankar addresses the Paraguayan Senate.

## Sri Sri Visits Peru

### Sri Sri receives the Most Illustrious Guest Honor

Lima, Peru, September 15



The Mayor of Lima Susana Villaran de la Puente honored Sri Sri Ravi Shankar with the “Most Illustrious Guest” Honor in Lima, Peru.

## Sri Sri visits Machu Picchu

Machu Picchu, Peru, September 15



Sri Sri visited the world heritage site of Machu Picchu in Peru and conducted a meditation for world peace for 1,000 people at the ancient site.

## Emphasizing the Need for Human Values-Based Education

Chennai, India, September 29-30

Sri Sri visited Chennai on a two-day visit to attend an educational conference entitled “Broaden Your Vision, Deepen Your Roots” which discussed the role of education in accelerating economic, environmental and social change. Sri Sri also participated in “Aanandham,” a public event with guided meditation and wisdom.

## OCTOBER

## Sri Sri Honored for Socio-Economic Contributions

Bangalore, India, October 1

The Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FKCCI) felicitated Sri Sri with the Sir M. Visvesvaraya Memorial Award in Bangalore. The award honors individuals who have contributed to the socio-economic development of Karnataka and commemorates the birthday of Sir M. Visvesvaraya, founder of the FKCCI.





## Prayer for World Peace

Bangalore, India, October 16 - 24



The International Art of Living Center in Bangalore, India, hosted thousands persons from across the world for the Navratri 2012 Celebrations. In addition to participating in meditations and prayers led by Sri Sri, attendees also showcased traditions and songs from across the world, and Sri Sri emphasized the idea of a "One World Family."

## NOVEMBER

### Sri Sri Visits Gujarat

*Anand Deep Parva: Celebrating the Light of Knowledge*

Ankaleshwar, India, November 9



Sri Sri's weeklong visit to Gujarat started with an evening of music and meditation with over 40,000 attendees in Ankaleshwar. He urged the youth to play a greater role in nation building while encouraging everyone to stand up against corruption and put their attention on environmental conservation.

### Sustainable Farming: Sri Sri connects with 15,000 Farmers

Idar, India, November 10



Sri Sri met and interacted with more than 15,000 farmers in Gujarat at the “Rishi Krishi Utsav.” The farmers meeting had been organized to create awareness of organic farming methods and chemical-free farming.

## Celebrating Diwali: The Festival of Lights

Anand, India, November 13



Sri Sri celebrated Diwali, the festival of lights with thousands of people in Anand. “Diwali is a festival where we explode our ill-feeling with the crackers, and spread sweetness in the society by distributing sweets.”

Sri Sri also met with the Chief Minister of Gujarat, Mr. Narendra Modi during the visit.



## Sri Sri Visits Maharashtra

November 18 - 25

Sri Sri’s visit across Maharashtra spanned 10 days and 1000 miles. More than one million persons attended his talks, which addressed an array of issues facing the region.

Sri Sri said, “Corruption begins where belongingness ends. And spirituality is expanding belongingness.”



At Parbhani, where the Mayor and other local officials accorded him a warm welcome, Sri Sri urged residents to combat corruption through peaceful means and emphasized the need for human values in politics.

Sri Sri also addressed the concerns of the region’s farmers during his visit. At the annual “Kisan Mela” or Farmers Meet in Maharashtra, Sri Sri said, “If the village improves, the country will improve; the heart of the country is in the villages.” He urged farmers to pursue organic farming free from harmful chemicals and fertilizers, and adopt methods that will help preserve natural resources such as land and water.

Sri Sri reiterated his call for organic farming and support for the agricultural community at Rajewadi, where he interacted with 30,000 farmers.

In commemoration of Sri Sri’s efforts to advance hygiene and cleanliness, Selu Nagar Parishad, a local governing body in Selu, India, declared November 20, 2012 as “Sri Sri Swachata Divas” (Cleanliness Day). Sri Sri spoke to Selu’s residents about the benefits of cleanliness and environment-friendly practices such as recycling and organic farming.



Sri Sri also addressed concerns about increasing number of suicides in the state. At Osmanabad, where thousands attended his meditation workshop, Sri Sri highlighted the importance of spiritual education to curb the suicides.



### **Music and Spirituality: Naad Sanskriti Satsang**

**Pune, India, November 22**



More than one hundred thousand people attended the Naad Sanskriti Satsang in Sangvi, where the Art of Living showcased India's rich culture and tradition. Sri Sri spoke to the audience, many of whom attended a three-day yoga and meditation workshop, about the importance of stress-free living and human values. He also guided the gathering in meditation.

### **Delivering the Key Note Address at BANCON 2012**

**Pune, India, November 25**



Mr. Kamath, Chairman of BANCON, honored Sri Sri at the Annual Banking Conference at Pune for his humanitarian work and efforts to instill human values in business. Addressing the gathering, Sri Sri said; "Innovation is a combination of intellectual sharpness and intuitive ability. Why is there corruption, crime? It is because people have lost the confidence to make money. Money is a means to earn something more than money — 'happiness'. That which gives you absolute comfort — inner and outer, absolute confidence, creativity and compassion is 'real happiness'!"

## **DECEMBER**

### **Receiving Siddha Shri Award**

**Belgaum, India, December 2**

Sri Sri received the Siddha Shri Award in Belgaum, India, in recognition of the Art of Living Foundation's humanitarian work and contribution to society. The event, which was

organized by the Mugalakote — Jigada Math, was also attended by political leaders from opposing parties in a rare demonstration of unity.



## Honoring Exemplary Contribution

New Delhi, India, December 3

Sri Sri presided over the Sitaram Jindal Foundation’s prestigious S.R. Jindal Prize ceremony. He was accompanied by Justice R.C. Lahoti, former Chief Justice of India and Chairman of Jury. The Award recognized 20 recipients (individuals and organizations) for their exceptional social contribution. At the event, Sri Sri lauded the recipients’ efforts and urged members of the audience to replicate their sense of societal responsibility.



## Combating Substance Abuse

New Delhi, India, December 4

Sri Sri interacted with 750 youth who were recovering from substance abuse in New Delhi. The event recognized the completion of a meditation-based drug rehabilitation program organized by the Art of Living Foundation and local law enforcement officials to reduce crime and stress in the city.

## Sri Sri launches the “Volunteer for a Better India” Campaign

New Delhi, India, December 5



Introducing “Volunteer for a Better India (VFABI), the Art of Living Foundation’s newest initiative, Sri Sri appealed to India’s citizens to “Give one hour to the nation. The



country has problems because good people are apathetic. Youth must take charge and volunteer for a better India.” The event, which sought to rejuvenate volunteerism for social causes and grassroots advocacy, commemorated the United Nations International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development and the International Anti-Corruption Day. Project partners include FPAI, UNODC, UNFPA, UNGCNI, UNICEF, UNMC, Heroes Project, DRISHTEE, INERELA + (Asia Pacific)-IICA, and APAC-VHS.

## Sri Sri Visits Maldives

**Welcomed by President Mohamed Waheed**

Malé, Maldives, December 9



In what marked a milestone for Sri Sri’s cultural diversity efforts, the Republic of Maldives invited him to visit the strictly Islamic nation. President Mohamed Waheed and First Lady Ilham Hussain hosted a dinner in recognition of Sri Sri’s global humanitarian efforts. At the event, President Waheed appreciated Art Of Living’s holistic efforts to foster peace and build unity, and lauded the Foundation’s social development, and relief and rehabilitation efforts.

## Emphasizing Responsible Media

**Bangalore, India, December 12**

Sri Sri inaugurated the new campus of the Sri Sri School of Media Studies along with Padma Vibhushan Sri M.N. Venkatachaliah, Former Chief Justice of India and former Chairman of the National Human Rights Commission.

Speaking at the occasion, Sri Sri emphasized the importance of fair and free media and said, “Fair press can play a role to check fanaticism of any kind. Press should be free thinkers and not aligned with political parties or ideologies.” Other dignitaries who attended the event included Ms. Vani Murthy, social activist, Mr. Prakash Belawadi, filmmaker, Ms. Mamta, Department of Information, Karnataka Government, singer Ajay Warriar, and Kannada author Anusuya Devi.



## Remembering India’s Martyrs

**Bangalore, India, December 16**



Speaking at the Vijay Diwas celebrations, an annual commemoration service for members of the Indian Armed Forces, Sri Sri encouraged attendees to form long-term goals for the country and to pledge at least two hours a week in service of the nation.

## Celebrating the Holiday Season

Bad Antogast, Germany, December 25 - 31



The Art of Living Foundation's European headquarters in Bad Antogast, Germany, hosted a two-week individual empowerment and leadership workshop during the holiday season. Designed to advance Sri Sri's vision for "a stress-free violence-free society," the workshop highlighted cultural and religious diversity.

The workshop was followed by an inter-faith New Year celebration at Berlin, where Sri Sri led attendees through meditation. Encouraging participants to commit time for volunteerism, Sri Sri said, "When it comes to doing, say, 'How can I do some more? How can I contribute more to make this world a better place?' This should be our line of thinking."

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## 30 YEARS OF SERVICE



### FACTS AND FIGURES - 30 YEARS OF SERVICE

THE HUMANITARIAN WORK OF IAHV AND THE ART OF LIVING FOUNDATION IN THE LAST 30 YEARS IN 151 COUNTRIES

- Over **300 million people** have participated in **151 countries** in the Art of Living programs
- Over **10 million trees** planted around the world
- Transformed the lives of over **200,000 prison inmates** through the prison program
- **Trained 61,546 rural youth** in Youth Leadership Training Program - mainly in India, Africa and South America
- Conducted **121,600 free stress-relief workshops** benefiting more than **5,688,000 people**
- Built **1,527 homes, 5,670 toilets, 1,036 bore-wells, 820 bio-gas plants**
- Conducted **48,800 hygiene camps** and **23,600 medical camps** benefiting **2,582,500 people**
- Reached **40,212 villages** with the 5H program — Health, Hygiene, Homes, Harmony in diversity, Human values
- Trained over **6,000 farmers** in organic farming
- Over **500 conferences** with over **10,000 leaders** from business, academia, sciences, art, and religion in participation
- **More than 25,000 children** benefit from the Art of Living's **210 free schools** across 18 states in India.
- The YES! for Schools program was offered to **12,845 students** from **36 schools** across the United States of America



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