

SRI SRI RAVI SHANKAR

GLOBAL INITIATIVES 2011

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 not only to achieve their goals, but it also 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 more than 150 countries. The Foundation's self-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 advances human values such as compassion, caring and commitment 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 supporting universal education. Both organizations have special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations.



2011

Spiritual Strength in the Fight Against Corruption: The India Against Corruption Movement

page 2

Spirituality, Arts and Culture

page 4

Globalizing Spiritual Wisdom

page 6

Spirituality and Sustainable Development

page 8

Youth and Spirituality

page 10

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.

SPIRITUAL STRENGTH IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION: THE INDIA AGAINST CORRUPTION MOVEMENT

Throughout 2011, Sri Sri Ravi Shankar campaigned to root out the cancer of corruption from societal life. As one of the founding members of the India Against Corruption movement,



Sri Sri traveled to 52 cities across 14 states in India. During the grassroots campaign, he called upon the hundreds of thousands of people to take

an oath not to take or offer bribes. Sri Sri emphasized that legislation alone will not bring about long-term change. "The big C of corruption can be countered by 5Cs – Connectedness, Courage, Cosmology (understanding life events in a larger context), Care, and Commitment. A lack of connectedness or sense of belongingness breeds corruption in society. That is why, often, you see people looking for connections, in order to avoid corruption! A sense of belongingness among people, among the community, can root out corruption."

Anti-Corruption and Spirituality

Mumbai, January 12-15

On a four-day visit to Mumbai, Sri Sri shared spiritual wisdom with 100,000 people at Dadoji Kandeo Stadium and met with members of the press at the Mumbai Press Club to highlight the role media plays in fostering a corruption-free society. Through the proceeds of the four-day visit, the Art of Living Foundation established an endowment fund to finance entrepreneurship development centers in the rural villages of India.

Kerala Campaign Against Corruption

Kerala, February 12-16

400,000 joined the India Against Corruption Movement during events with Sri Sri in Trivandrum, Trichur, Calicut and Kannur where participants took oaths to stop paying or accepting bribes and end corruption across the state.



Shivaratri Celebrations

Jaipur, March 2

Sri Sri Ravi Shankar led 100,000 people representing 45 countries in meditation on the sacred Hindu festival of Shiyaratri.

Stemming Corruption through Connective Leadership

Bangalore, May 14

Sri Sri Joined Infosys Chairman Mr. K.V. Kamath in releasing the biography of former Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee President, Mr. R.V. Deshpande. In his remarks, Sri Sri called on leaders of industry to orient their businesses toward social upliftment and politicians to serve society with a sense of belonging, highlighting the role connective leadership has in stemming corruption.

Meeting with Protestors of the India Against Anti-Corruption Campaign

New Delhi and Tihar, August 16



Sri Sri met with protestors after civil society activist Anna Hazare was detained for launching a hunger strike against the Government of India. Addressing the media, Sri Sri called on Indians to unite in "non-violent revolution" and leaders in government to reinitiate dialogue with leaders in civil society.

Sri Sri meets with Anna Hazare

New Delhi, August 17

In what has since become a symbolic visit for the India Against Corruption Movement, Sri Sri traveled to meet Anna Hazare in Tihar Jail to affirm his commitment to uniting India against corruption through spirituality and non-violence.

Sri Sri Addresses Protestors at Freedom Park

Bangalore, August 18

Sri Sri addressed supporters of Anna Hazare in Bangalore, encouraging the crowd of 20,000 people to fight injustice with a calm mind. While acknowledging the significant attempts by the Government of India to thwart the non-violence protest movement, he emphasized the importance of trust and dialogue. Sri Sri shared, "We have to learn to trust each other. Both sides are trying to resolve the matter. Talks between the two can solve the issue."

Rural Youth and Anti-Corruption

Bangalore, August 20

Sri Sri met with 5,500 youth leaders representing the full cross section of India at the International Art of Living Center in Bangalore. Calling on the youth to instill spiritual values across the country, he noted the connection between human values, spirituality and a corruption free society and asked the youth to commit themselves to eliminating corruption and cultivating spiritual values.

Meetings with the India Against Corruption Movement Goa, September 21 & 22

Sri Sri met with members of India Against Corruption movement at a mass gathering organized by the anti-corruption body and Art of Living Foundation. Sri Sri led a meditation for thousands gathered and shared a need for collective action: "This country has deteriorated not because of bad people, but because of good people, because they did not stand up against injustice".

Spiritual Strength and Collective Action Against Corruption

Tamil Nadu, September 23 & 24

Sri Sri inaugurated a rally for anti-corruption in Tamil Nadu as part of his two-day tour of the State, emphasizing spiritual values as the only long-term solution to fighting injustice.

Spiritual Campaign against Corruption

Uttar Pradesh, November 7 - 11

Sri Sri visited six cities on a five-day tour of the eastern portion of Uttar Pradesh to address residents across the State prior to the state elections, including meetings with tribal and rural people.

SPIRITUALITY, ARTS AND CULTURE

Batticaloa, Sri Lanka, January 22

Sri Sri joined 21,000 classical Tamilian singers at a recital of a traditional south-Indian epic organized by the Art of Living Foundation. Responding to persistent religious conflict in Sri Lanka, he emphasized a message of respect for all religions during his three-day visit to the country.

Preserving Cultural Heritage

Nagpur, February 20 & 21



3,000 artists performed an Indian traditional dance form during an evening of wisdom with Sri Sri that drew 100,000 people. The event was organized by Art of Living to highlight India's cultural diversity.

30th Anniversary Celebrations of the Art of Living Foundation

Berlin, July 3-5



Sri Sri attended the 30th Anniversary Celebrations of the Art of Living Foundation at the Olympic Stadium in Berlin, Germany. Joined by eminent figures in politics, business, academia, religion, sports and the performing arts to honor cultural diversity, he highlighted the accomplishments of more than 10,000

global faculty and millions of volunteers who work for the Art of Living to advance a vision for a stress-free, violence-free society in the 151 countries where the organization is active.

Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, Founder of the Art of Living Foundation



"30 years of the Art of Living: A big milestone with many achievements, inspiring us to move forward with greater speed and enthusiasm. The dream to make life a celebration and the world a family has materialized and become a reality.

I am happy to be here in Berlin where the walls came down between people. This time the walls should come down between cultures, between civilizations.

I congratulate all those who have been working around the world to make this idea a reality; taking up a number of service projects in 151 countries. There are many more countries which we have to reach, and I am sure with the help of all the volunteers we will bring to reality a stress-free, Leadership: Art or Science? Both! Science as it requires planning & reasoning. Art as leadership is all about heart.

Sri Sri, World Economic Forum.

violence-free world, and give a society for our children much better than what we have inherited. Prejudice will have to go, differences will have to be celebrated, poverty should be eliminated, and a connection to the Divinity which we all possess should be recognized. One Divinity, One Humanity, Celebrating the Diversity. This is our sacred duty.

Millions of volunteers who have worked with such enthusiasm and love will continue to inspire millions more, reaching out to all those areas where we have not reached and wiping away all those tears that might yet appear.

The 30th Anniversary is a celebration of achievement and a vision to do more service."

The Cultures of the World Unite at Berlin's Historic Olympic Stadium

The Art of Living Foundation celebrates its 30th anniversary in Germany's capital Berlin and spreads the message of global peace

Highlights

- 151 participating countries
- 50 000 visitors
- Historic Olympic Stadium
- 5500 main stage Performers 31 acts:
- 1000 German singers performing Beethoven's 'Ode to Joy'
- Grand Guitar Ensemble for Peace with 1000 guitarists
- 300 Lithuanian professional folk dancers
- 1000 dancers comprising Bulgarian folk group
- 800 yoga performers
- 30 pianos on one stage
- Impressive performances of Outlandish, The Idan Raichel Project, a beautiful Lotus Dance by Yako Mama, the stunning St. Petersburg Ballet and a 20 min laser show
- 700 World Pavilion Performers 88 acts
- 800 attending dignitaries: 55 ambassadors, 14 ministers/ former ministers and 60 international members of parliaments
- Largest gathering for peace in Europe peace mediation led by Sri Sri Ravi Shankar



The World Culture Festival was organized by volunteers of The Art of Living Foundation that came from 35 countries worldwide.

While almost all open air events got cancelled on 2nd July 2011 due to rain and cold, rare for this time of year in Berlin, nothing could dampen the enthusiasm during the Art of Living's 30th anniversary celebration in the Berlin Olympic Stadium and stop the captivated audience to convert their stadium seats into a big dancing stage.

In a bid to promote peace, intercultural dialogue and togetherness, senior governmental representatives, business leaders, academia, leaders of NGOs, religious and spiritual leaders, peacemakers and renowned personalities from across the globe shared their views and spread the message of peace, unity and intercultural harmony.

Sri Sri Ravi Shankar led a peace meditation that not only invited the audience in the stadium to join in and to take a few moments to unite in peaceful silence, but also millions of people worldwide who watched the show via live webcast and on various TV channels.

During the two-day program, 100 stands in four continent pavilions; Asia- Pacific, Europe, America and Africa, situated around the stadium, offered fascinated visitors a cultural journey around the world. A Yoga Park invited through workshops to explore the benefits and the impact of yoga on health and well-being.

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?



Messages from World Leaders

H. E. Mr. Herman Van Rompuy President of the European Council

"The World Culture Festival represents the fruitful melding of West and East, the harmony and humanity of our universal human values, and the inevitable victory of peace. I want to congratulate the Art of Living, especially its founder Sri Sri Ravi Shankar and everyone who made this possible."

Prof. Ruud Lubbers

Former Prime Minister of the Netherlands; Chair of the World Culture Festival Reception Committee

"We all have a common destination and that is to live in harmony with ourselves, with our neighborhood, with all people, and with nature. The Art of Living is a powerful and spiritual way forward for each of us together. Politics, business, and civil society, we can change the world, change it for the good, live up to a globalization with a human face."

Hon. Nancy Pelosi

Democratic Leader and Former Speaker, US House of Representatives

"The World Cultural Festival is a celebration of a common humanity, reflecting the bold vision of the Art of Living Foundation and Sri Sri Ravi Shankar. It brings together thousands of participants to help to create a violence-free, stress-free society; by honoring and valuing all traditions and cultures, fostering talent and appreciation of diversity, and ultimately harmony."

GLOBALIZING SPIRITUAL WISDOM

Wisdom and Meditation Workshop and Public Talk

Secaucus, New Jersey, April 9

Sri Sri addressed 5,000 participants at a one-day program organized to provide people with skills to cultivate a stress-free attitude through breathing techniques, meditation and yoga.

An Evening of Wisdom, Meditation and Music

New York, April 10

Sri Sri addressed an audience of 2,700 people at the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts and launched "I Meditate NY", a campaign to support stress reduction across the city organized by the Art of Living Foundation



in partnership with the private sector. The evening included a musical performance by Grammy nominated vocal artist, Chandrika Tandon.

Spiritual Values and Contemporary Life

Denver, April 15

Sri Sri addressed a congregation of 1,400 people at Mile Hi Church - Science of Mind and Spirit and emphasized the common human values that connect us as one humanity.

A Commentary on the Upanishads

Los Angeles, April 17-19

Sri Sri delivered a three-day commentary on the Upanishads, a Vedic text that highlights the relevance of spirituality in daily living. In addition, he led 2,500 people in meditation at public events organized by the Art of Living Foundation.

Honoring 50 years of leadership, Sri Edneer Mutt

Bangalore, May 15

Sri Sri praised Sri Kesavananda Bharati's vision and work on the occasion of the Priest's golden anniversary in his position as the leader of the temple. Sri Sri served as Chief Guest and was 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.

joined by Mr. Hari Khoday, Khoday's Group of Industries, Sri Sureshwaranand Swamiji, Representative of the Gosai Mutt, and Mr. Anant Krishna, President of Karnataka Bank Limited.

Sri Sri Ravi Shankar in dialogue at the German Evangelical Church Day

Dresden, June 4



On Saturday, June 4th, Sri Sri Ravi Shankar spoke at the 33rd Evangelical Church Day, in the German town of Dresden.

Sri Sri gave a keynote speech in the Martin

Luther Church where people were queuing for long to get in to a packed audience.. His speech was part of the main lecture series "Theology and Faith: Master of Life, an Interspiritual Dialogue."

Inauguration of the Sri Sri Center for Peace and Inspiration

St. Mathieu-du-Parc, Quebec, July 15



Sri Sri inaugurated the Sri Sri Center for Peace and Inspiration at the Art of Living's headquarters in Canada in honor of his late father, a social entrepreneur, Vedic scholar and women's rights activist, Acharya Ratnanandaji.

A Call for a Violence Free and Prejudice Free Society after the 2011 Norway attacks

Oslo, Norway, August



In an effort to provide a healing touch to the people of Norway distressed by the recent terror attacks, Sri Sri Ravi Shankar embarked on a two-day visit of the country. Sri Sri addressed a gathering of hundreds of Norwegians on the need for a 'Violence-free and Prejudice-free society'.

The talk was attended by Fabian Stang, Mayor of Oslo, Abid Raja, Lawyer, Author and Politician from the Norwegian Liberal Party and Mia Gundersen, Actress & Singer.

Inauguration of the Giordano Bruno Globalshift University

Budapest, Hungary, September 9

"Education means intellectual sharpening, retaining of innocence and spiritual upliftment."



Sri Sri was the guest of honour and speaker at the opening ceremony of the Giordano Bruno Globalshift University in Budapest. A following public talk and musical evening saw over 1,000 in attendance



Youth and Spirituality

Shimoga, September 16-17

Sri Sri addressed thousands of people during his two-day visit, including 5,000 youth leaders who had gathered to discuss the future of the youth of India and the role spirituality can have in empowering youth to advance the country.

5000 people learn the Sudarshan Kriya directly from Sri Sri

Bangalore, India, 13 November 2011



The Art of Living international center played host to 5000 people from all walks of life as after almost two decades Sri Sri Ravi Shankar taught the Sudarshan Kriya, directly to the gathered

congregation. The Sudarshan Kriya is a rhythmic, stress-relieving and energizing breathing technique that is a corner stone of most of the Art of Living programs.

From Kashmir to the villages in Karnataka to countries such as Egypt, Russia, U.A.E, Australia etc, the diverse gathering comprised young and old, rural and urban alike.

SPIRITUALITY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Addressing Conflict through Spiritual Awareness

New York, April 11



Sri Sri met with Dr.
Ban Ki-Moon, Secretary
General of the United
Nations, to discuss his
work to advance peace
in areas of fragility and
conflict and the role of
spirituality in fostering
peace and development.

Sri Sri becomes the first Indian recipient of the Crans Montana Forum Award

Brussels, June 24



In an impressive ceremony in Brussels attended by several presidents, prime ministers and ambassadors, Sri Sri became the first Indian to receive the Crans Montana Forum Award. This award has

been mainly received by politicians of high repute like Angela Merkel, Chancellor of Germany, Shimon Perez, President of Israel, Yasser Arafat, Jose Michel Barosso - President of the European Commission, Mikhail Gorbachev.

Along with Sri Sri, the other recipients for 2011 were Mr. Alassane Ouattara (President of Cote d'Ivoire), Mr Adrian Nastase (Former Prime Minister of Romania), Mr Philippe Maystadt (President of the European Investment Bank), Mr Tahar Benjelloun (Psychologist and Writer) Mr Mohamed Ibn Chambas (Secretary General of the African, Caribbean and Pacific, Group of States) and Richard Holbrooke (Ambassador of the United States of America) who was awarded posthumously

On conferring the award to Sri Sri, Jean Paul Carteron, Founder of the Crans Montana Forum said: "In you, the East is not only leading the world in spirit, but in action as well. You have broadened the vision of those who are more fortunate and have shared with the less fortunate. If your teachings were followed by politicians, the world would be a different place."

On receiving this award Sri Sri said he would share it with all those millions who are silently working to make the world a better place.

Peace Consultations in Kashmir

Kashmir, July 21

Sri Sri met with Mirwaiz Ulmer Farooq, chairman of the Hurriyat conference, in the headquarters of the separatist alliance to discuss methods to sustain peace in the Valley through spiritual education.

Amarnath Shrine Board Meeting

Amarnath, July 22

Sri Sri met in his capacity as member of the Amarnath Shrine Board to discuss governance and maintenance issues of the temple, reflecting his continued commitment to advancing a sustained peace in Kashmir through dialogue and highlighting the dissipation of violence in the region.

Support for India-Pakistan Dialogue

Jammu, July 23

Sri Sri inaugurated the Ma Sharika Meditation Center in Jammu and addressed members of the media, emphasizing the importance of ongoing dialogue between the Governments of India and Pakistan and highlighting the presence of peace among people in Kashmir.

Spiritual Strength in the Wake of Terrorism

Oslo, August 8

Sri Sri addressed 700 Norwegians affected by recent terrorist attacks at a public event held in Oslo's Congress Center. Sri Sri highlighted spirituality's role in creating a "violence-free, stress-free and prejudice free society". Individuals who attended the evening discourse and meditation program included the Honorable Fabian Stang, Mayor of Oslo; Abid Raja Lawyer, Author and Politician from the Norwegian Liberal Party and Mia Gundersen, Norwegian Actress and Singer.

Meeting with Rural Women of Karnataka

Karnataka, September 18-20

Sri Sri met with rural women from the VISTA India (Value Integrated Services For All) project that was pioneered by Acharya Shri Ratnananda, to empower women economically and socially.

First Ladies, Fashion, Development and Spirituality

New York, 20 Sept. 2011



It was a power-packed Manhattan forum attended by many First Ladies and prominent women of the world: from Michelle Obama to Madame Zuma. While Prada met Versace and Mysore silks at the 'First Ladies & Fashion 4 Development', the heart of the conference was causes and fittingly, opened with a video message from Art of Living Founder, Sri Sri Ravi Shankar: "Fashions change because that is their nature but mission stays. If all the women who love fashion can take up a mission of development of our planet, we will be able to give a better world to our coming generations." His message rang with the theme of the September 19th event: "Giving Back is the New Luxury".

"A woman is the heart of a family. She brings people together. So she is also the heart of society. If she is empowered, there will be progress," said Bhanumathi Narasimhan, Director, Women Empowerment and Child Care Projects of The Art of Living. Speaking at the session on 'Women Connect for Health - Connecting the Dots for the health MDGs and NCDs', Bhanumathi who is also the sister of Sri Sri, further said: "I was shocked to learn that 30 percent of women are suffering from depression all around the world. Spirituality is necessary now. Spirituality, according to me, is caring for each other, having a sense of belongingness and a sharing attitude."

The conference, organized by Advanced Development For Africa (ADA), The United Nations Digital Health Initiative, The ITU Women Network in ICT (WITNET), drew attention to the role of fashion in creating economic growth in developing countries. The conference brought together first ladies and key players in fashion, diplomacy, media, business and the creative industries to celebrate the power of fashion to empower women in implementing

creative strategies for sustainable economic growth and independence in support of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals.

Reassuring Hindu Refugees

New Delhi, November 29:



Sri Sri met with Pakistani Hindu refugees at the Dera Dhuni Baba Camp and spoke with them about their concerns and needs.

Launch of a City-Wide Social Development Initiative Bangalore, December 21

Sri Sri initiated a campaign with 15,000 volunteers of the Art of Living Foundation to improve the city by helping provide access to education and addressing the health needs of people living in poverty through mobile clinics. Sri Sri invited youth to participate in a one-year fellowship program with the Art of Living to engage in social sector development.

YOUTH AND SPIRITUALITY

"India Versus Bharat: The Urban vs. Rural Divide", Maharashtra Institute of Technology, 1st Parliament of Student Council Leaders

Pune, India, January 14

Sri Sri served as keynote speaker at the M.I.T's First Parliament of Student Council Leaders with former President of India, Dr. Avul Pakir Jainulabdeen Abdul Kalam. Sri Sri addressed 3,000 student leaders representative of universities across India, highlighting how a spiritual vision could hasten India's ascent as a superpower and challenging the students to take proactive responsibility for improving the country.

Meetings with Youth on the Sustainable Development of India

Kolhapur, February 21

Sri Sri met with more than 2,000 youth participating in a training program organized by the Art of Living Foundation to promote social transformation and youth empowerment. As part of their participation in the program, the youth took pledges to shun corruption, female feticide and drug use. 2,500 local folk artists and 1,356 traditional drummers from the Dhangar community performed the region's traditional dance.

Youth Leadership Training Program

Bangalore, August 19

Sri Sri met with 1,700 rural youth leaders representing 20 states in India at The Art of Living International Center where the youth were participating in a three-day conference on youth driven social sector development. The Art of Living employs these youth leaders in villages to reinforce human values, improve villagers' access to water and electricity and address crime, lack of education for village children and substance abuse.

SAARC South Asian Peace Conference, Indian Institute of Management

Bangalore, May 24



Sri Sri Ravi Shankar addressed youth representing the 8 SAARC countries at a conference organized by the Blue Ribbon Movement. He shared his vision for youth "to take charge of the world....to get into politics, cleanse and spiritualize it, socialize business and secularize religion. Only then will the world be a better place to live".

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 100 million man hours in developing the full human potential
- Over 10 million trees planted around the world
- Transformed the lives of over 200,000 prison inmates through the prison program
- Developed 50 model villages, benefiting 100,000 people
- Trained 61,546 rural youth in Youth Leadership Training Program mainly in India, Africa, 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 **36,557 villages** with the 5H program Health, Hygiene, Homes, Harmony in diversity, Human values
- Trained over **6,000 people** in organic farming
- Over **500 conferences** with over **10,000 leaders** from business, academia, sciences, art and religion in participation
- Facilitating 600,000 people per month in stress relief workshops
- 12,639 children benefiting in Free School Education Program in 240 own free schools
- In Haiti, the Nouvelle Vie, Youth Leadership for Development program reached **9,867 persons** for post earthquake trauma relief, trained **602 youth** in sexuality education, and trained **3,152 persons** in permaculture to grow their own food.
- The YES! for Schools program was offered to 12,845 students from 36 schools across the United States of America



THE OFFICE OF HIS HOLINESS SRI SRI RAVI SHANKAR

INDIA

21st KM Kanakapura Road, Bangalore, South Taluk 560062 Tel: +91 9986622022, +91 93425 22022 Email: secretariat@artofliving.org

USA

2401 15th Street NW, Washington, DC 20009 Tel: 202 492 5522 Email: ajay@srisri.org

EUROPE

Bad Antogast, Oppenau Germany D77728 Tel: +49 7804 910 923 Email: secretariat@artofliving.org

CANADA

525 Bonsecours, #101, Montréal, QC H2Y 3C6 Phone: +1 514 836 0809 Email: lucie@srisri.org



