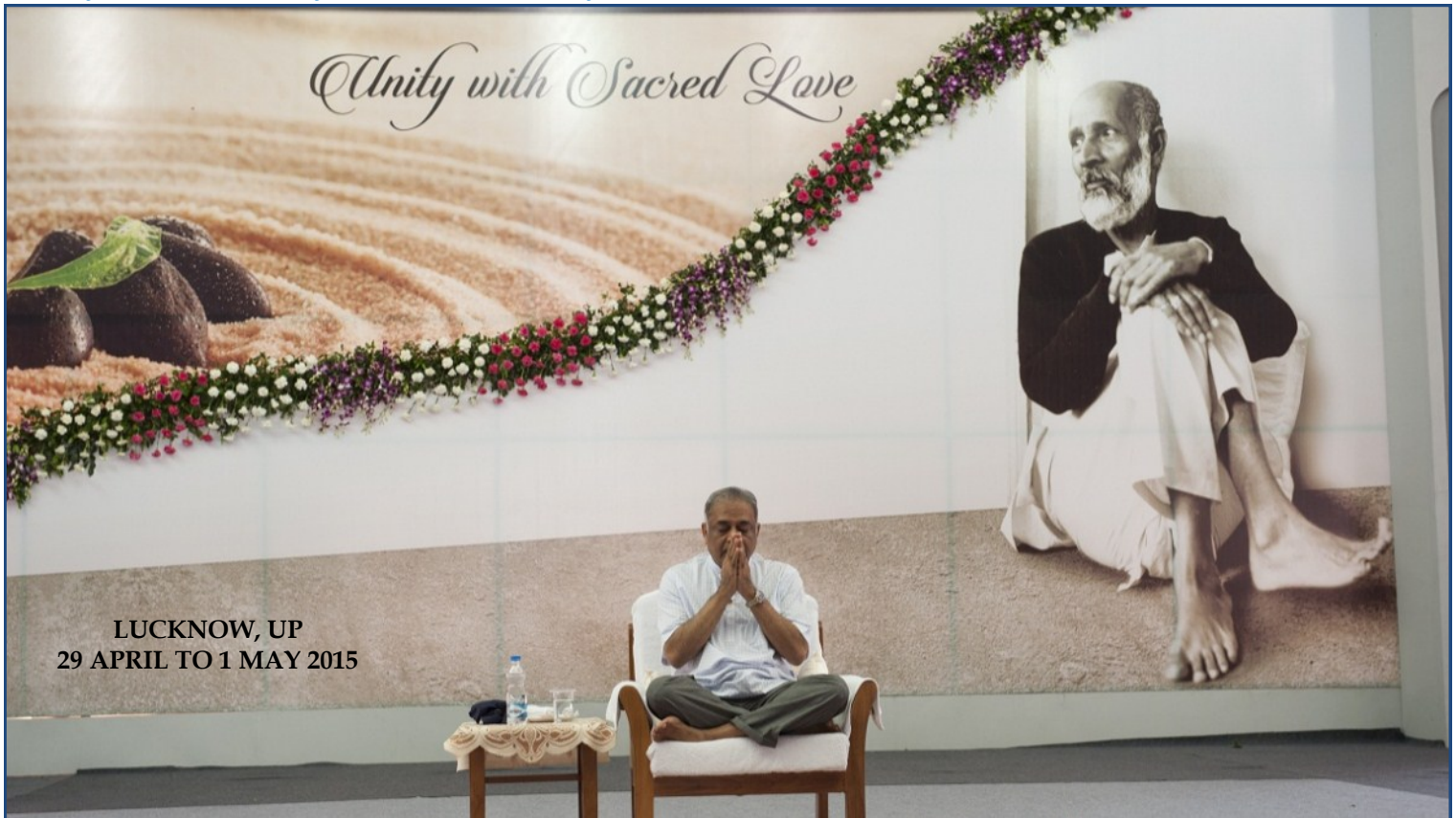




SHRI RAM CHANDRA MISSION



116th BIRTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS PUJYA BABUJI MAHARAJ



The Initial Announcement

On 12th January 2015, respected Kamlesh bhai announced through a Sahaj Sandesh to abhyasis worldwide that the birthday celebration of Pujya Babuji Maharaj would be held at Lucknow, U.P., from the 29th of April to the 1st of May 2015 urging all to gather there in great numbers.

The Preparation

As soon as the announcement of Lucknow hosting the celebrations had been made, work on preparation for the celebrations began. There was eager anticipation of hosting a celebration after five long years with the last celebration in 2010 for the birthday of beloved Chariji.

The celebration committee began with sending out circulars of the arrangements, initiating the registrations and forming teams of volunteers to look at all aspects of conducting a celebration so that they could provide the necessities for all and enable them to be immersed in the special

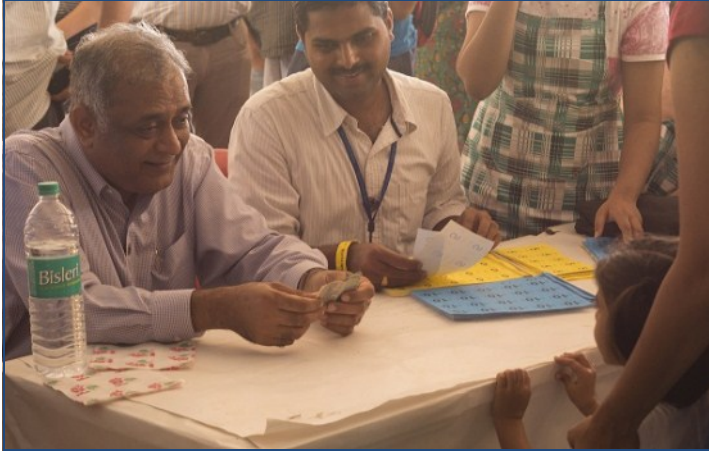
atmosphere at a celebration.

A small but dedicated group of volunteers worked tirelessly at the venue. Kamlesh bhai visited Lucknow Ashram on 15th April to oversee the preparations and went around the venue including the kitchen, the general accommodation, comfort dorm, canteen, bookstalls, medical centre, children's centre and various other units which were being set up. He was happy to see the progress of preparations and gave suggestions for further improvements.

Master's Arrival for the Bhandara

Kamlesh bhai arrived in Lucknow for the celebrations on the afternoon of 27th April from Hyderabad. He was received with warmth and anticipation of a much-awaited celebration.

He conducted the evening satsang on 27th and two satsangs on the 28th. Abhyasis were pleasantly surprised to see him distributing canteen tokens on the morning of the 28th for over three hours and



everyone queued up to receive tokens from him. He also solemnised five weddings on this day.

Venue

With such a large gathering, the arrangements were spread over a vast area. One end contained the area for registration, bedding and tents as well as the main kitchen and dining for the abhyasis. On the route towards the meditation hall were arrangements for drinking water, book stall, donations, banking and a large canteen with a variety of snacks and savouries. The children's centre was located after the canteen, on the way to the meditation hall so that abhyasis could easily drop their children. Transport arrangements had also been made for abhyasis from the area near the tents to the gate for entering the meditation hall area. The comfort dorm, or Sukh Nivas as it is called, was set up on one side of the meditation hall with a small canteen and Master's cottage was located on the other.

The book stall was spacious and had a large section where photographs were displayed for sale. The novel approach this time was the mall-like experience. One could walk around, browse the

stalls and pick up any publication, DVD, MP3 and keep moving from stall to stall collecting whatever was of interest. A centralised billing system had been set up for the first time and one could go to any one of the ten counters to settle the bill and make the payment either by cash or credit card. Though there were some difficulties faced in credit card payments due to connectivity issues, the novel approach definitely enhanced the buying experience for everyone.

Meditation Hall

The most impressive item, however, was the magnificent meditation hall covering an area of 1,54,000 sq ft. It was constructed with special German technology and required no supporting poles across a span of 130 feet which provided an unhindered view of the entire stage for all the abhyasis. A stage and a number of LED screens had been put up for all abhyasis to be able to watch the proceedings with ease. There were separate sections for those who wanted to sit on the ground, those who were carrying their own chairs and a huge section with chairs laid out for those who needed them. Considering the heat during this period at Lucknow, the roof was covered with special PVC sheets which not only reduced the temperature inside the hall but was also waterproof. The hall had been provided with a number of ceiling fans and the sides were installed with mist fans thus providing a comfortable atmosphere for meditation.

Volunteers

A celebration cannot happen without a team of dedicated volunteers. Volunteers across all age groups were involved in various activities ranging from transportation, housekeeping, meditation hall, security, medical, etc. An interesting variation





in this bhandara was the theme-based armband that volunteers wore. Security volunteers had armbands on which was written 'Humility', housekeeping volunteers - 'Serve', medical volunteers - 'Love' and meditation hall volunteers - 'Silence'.

Registrations

A total of around 20,000 people including about 2800 children attended the bhandara.

The Celebration

The celebrations began with the morning satsang at 6.30 a.m. on 29th April. A beautiful background adorned the stage with beloved Babuji on one side and with the words 'Unity with Sacred Love'.

After the satsang a number of children were called upon to release various new publications, DVDs, and audio books.

First Talk by Master

To the delight of abhyasis, Kamlesh bhai spoke on three issues covering prayer, cleaning and the importance of retaining the condition.

- In Sahaj Marg we say, 'We are yet but slaves of wishes' and 'Thou art the only God and power to bring us up to that stage'. Thus, the prayer uses the plural 'us' and not the singular 'I', whereas we tend to limit the prayer for ourselves only. Prayer is not for me alone, it is for all of us.
- On cleaning - if we sit thinking that complexities are going out, then what is left is Simplicity and if we sit thinking that impurities are going out, then what is left is Purity.
- On condition - like a mother carries a baby in her womb for nine months and delivers it to the material world, similarly the Master carries the abhyasi in his *manas* (mind) for seven months before delivering our Spiritual Entity in the divine world, with which we ultimately merge. He requested that abhyasis should maintain a permanent connection with the Master within and for this discipline is necessary.

After the 11.00 a.m. satsang, the release of a special edition of *Complete Works of Ram Chandra*, Vol V was announced. This edition contains unpublished





articles, excerpts from letters and quotes from informal conversations of Babuji Maharaj during the 1940s to 1970s.

He spoke again after the evening satsang at 5.30 p.m. on love, on the reasons for abhyasis leaving the practice and on the need to welcome and invite change.

- He said that love is so sacred that it is prohibited to speak about it. In love, there is only the lover, love itself and the beloved.
- He expressed that we abhyasis, in addition to samskaras, also carry a huge burden of ego which is a barrier to progress, to change.
- Speaking about change he said that to progress, we need to change and invite this change. We are so resistant to change that even when Master wants to take us ahead we still want to remain where we are. Master will initiate change only till the extent to which we have acceptance. This path of accepting change is not for the ordinary but for the extraordinary, for it is not easy to accept change.

30th April 2015

A beautiful background adorned the stage with beloved Babuji on one side and a flock of birds on the other, with the words 'Harmony with Sacred Love'.

After the morning satsang at 6.30 a.m. brother Gurpreet sang two devotional songs which had all the abhyasis immersed. The first and second part of a video on the life of Babuji was played in the meditation hall. After the 11.00 a.m. satsang, brother P.R. Krishna was invited to share his thoughts and release a special publication of

Whispers from The Brighter World which contains messages specifically addressed to beloved Chariji from Lalaji, Babuji, his mother Janaki, his wife Sulochana and his brother Kothandaraman. During his talk, brother Krishna expressed his pride and joy on there being a Hierarchy of Masters who have selected brother Kamlesh to lead all of us on this ongoing spiritual quest. He mentioned that we must remember that the Master is not there to serve us but to serve the Hierarchy of Masters who have chosen him and to whom he has given a promise.

Talking about Chariji he mentioned how his father would never tire of doing anything to serve the Mission in spite of whatever he had to go through. Speaking about the *Whispers from The Brighter World* he expressed that Chariji wanted these messages to be compiled as a special book embellished with a number of photographs and for it to be released as a special edition. As the book was being prepared, Chariji gleefully kept adding new messages that he received and was extremely delighted when the initial bound copy of the book was ready.

This was followed by the release of various publications by children of our Sahaj Marg family.

After the 5.30 p.m. satsang, sister Ranjana Mehta sang a couple of deeply absorbing bhajans which added to the special atmosphere. Kamlesh bhai then gave a talk. He spoke on the imperative need for all of us to not criticise, for us to recognise and feel that we are a family and establish a permanent inner connection with the Master.

- Kamlesh bhai stated that he was disturbed that abhyasis are in the habit of criticising. He said





that we are a family and we should be able to speak to each other and find a solution as we all do within any family. He spoke of criticism that he hears on the many changes that have occurred since the mahasamadhi of beloved Chariji and boldly stated that each and every action is in accordance with the wish of the Hierarchy of Masters.

- Speaking of willpower he said that all we need is a deep desire (the will) and the power He will provide. We only need to establish this strong desire or will to achieve.
- We should deeply desire to become like Master. However, simply thinking "Make me like yourself" is foolish. We have to think at each step about what we need to change, what weakness to remove and in the process establish a permanent connection with the Master.
- Speaking on the craze for darshan of the Master, he said that Babuji had that many people come to see him but they do not see. This is not a thing to see but a thing to feel within.

1st May 2015

The theme for the last day of the bhandara was: 'Anonymity with Sacred Love'.

After the final satsang Kamlesh bhai spoke about identifying for ourselves the condition we have acquired during the bhandaras. He also talked about the importance of preparing



ourselves for bhandaras, the need to overcome our desires, having a fixed time for meditation and his hope to see abhyasis in large numbers at the next bhandara in Thiruvallur.

He expressed his thanks to all the volunteers, the celebration committee, Lucknow abhyasis, the ashram manager and everyone who came together to work collectively to make this bhandara happen. He expressed his fond hope that he would see abhyasis in full strength at Thiruvallur for the 88th birth anniversary of beloved Chariji.

After the concluding satsang, respected Kamlesh bhai met the celebration committee members in the cottage, thanked them for their contribution and had breakfast with them. This was followed by a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Sahaj Marg Spirituality Foundation at 10 a.m. Around 11 a.m., he had a meeting with the Working Committee and then had lunch with them.

All abhyasis were requested to sign the Golden Book to mark their presence at the celebration. Around ten teams of young volunteers with a mobile desk went around the accommodation tents to facilitate this. The recent suggestions by Kamlesh bhai on prayer and thoughts printed in a





visiting card size and a handout containing an article titled 'The Problem of Personality' written by Babuji Maharaj, were distributed to the abhyasis.

Children and Youth Centre Activities

A vibrant children's centre had been created for different age groups. It was operative from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. to enable parents to attend the satsangs without any hindrance. Approximately 2,800 children had been registered and were divided into three groups. The activities were based on the theme of 'simplicity', and the entire area was decorated with heart shaped cut-outs embellished by enthusiastic children from all over the globe. A number of activities were conducted to keep them entertained and also to inculcate values. One of the highlights was the opportunity for children to participate in lucky draws to choose those who would release the Mission publications during the bhandara. Children selected were delighted as they had the opportunity to release a number of

publications in the presence of Kamlesh bhai.

Each day started with a session on terrace gardening with the children involved in preparing the soil and planting saplings followed by the Speaking Tree programme where children spent quiet time communicating with the plants. The relaxation technique was done by all children at the beginning of the sessions. There was also a session on memorization of Maxim 9. To familiarise children with Babuji's life, on April 30th, a short presentation highlighting key points of Babuji's childhood was followed by viewing of the 'Life of Babuji' video. There was also a brief presentation on the city of Lucknow. The UP Ministry of Tourism had provided the services of Puppeteers and Magicians to entertain the children on the afternoons of 29th and 30th. A cultural programme of songs and dances were performed by children from Kanpur, Vijaywada, Lucknow and Chennai.

The 13-17 age group participants enjoyed the NASA



SHRI RAM CHANDRA MISSION



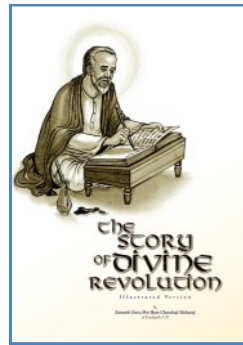
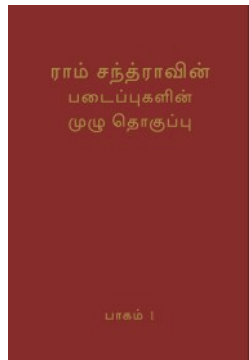
ECHOES OF INDIA NEWSLETTER

survival game. They also had sessions on the themes 'Being Connected', 'With Faith in Master', and 'Spreading His Mission'. Speakers shared their personal and also Master's experiences.

The Children and Youth Centre programme was rounded off with children enjoying a treat of ice-cream sponsored by Master.



New Publication Releases



Complete Works of Ram Chandra
Volume 1 (Tamil)

Complete Works of Ram Chandra
Volume 4 (Hindi)

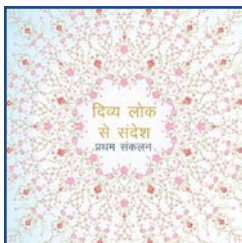
The Story of Divine Revolution
(English)



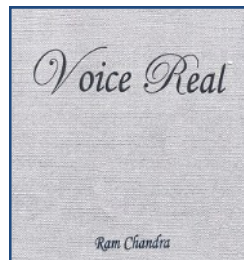
Complete Works of Ram Chandra
Volume 5

(English, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada,
Marathi, Tamil, Telugu)

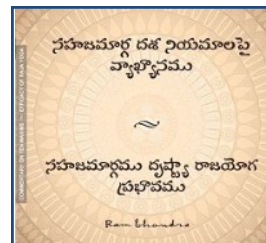
MP3 Audiobook



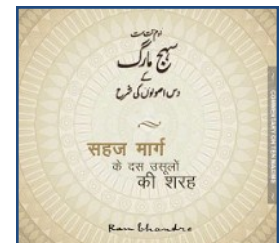
Whispers from the Brighter World
Hindi



Voice Real
English



Commentary on Ten Maxims &
Efficacy of Raja Yoga
Telugu



Commentary on Ten Maxims &
Efficacy of Raja Yoga
Urdu

SHRI RAM CHANDRA MISSION



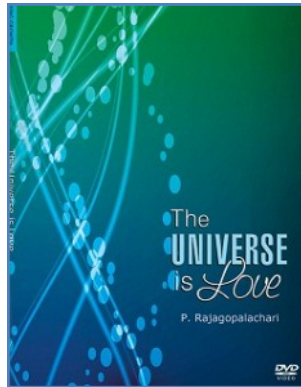
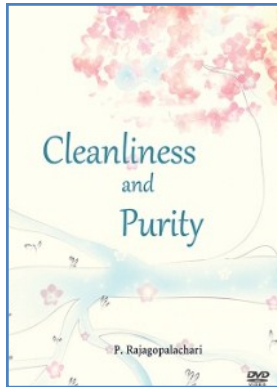
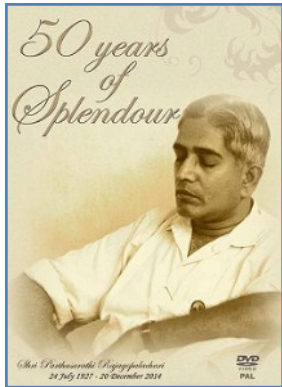
ECHOES OF INDIA NEWSLETTER

New Publication Releases

continued...

**MP3 Audio**

Raagon Ke Rang, Malik ke sang
Hindi

English DVDs

50 Years of Splendour

Cleanliness and Purity

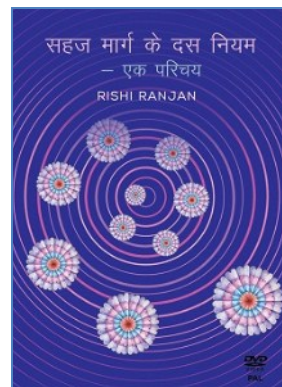
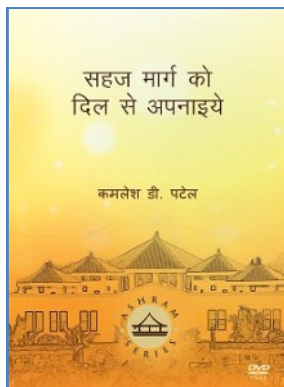
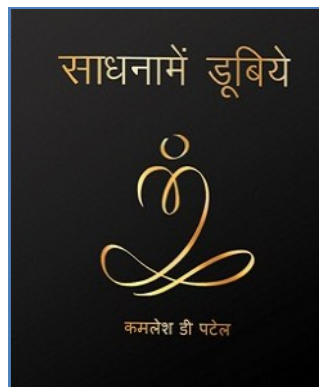
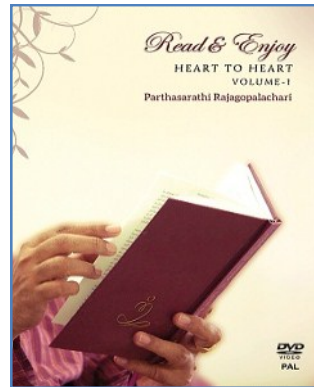
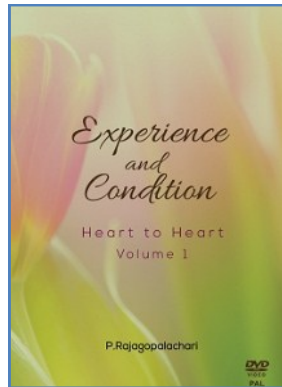
The Universe is Love

Experience and Condition

Evolve With Time

Read & Enjoy

A Seed for Future

**Hindi DVDs**

Sadhana Me Dubiye

Sahaj Marg Ko Dil Se Apnayiye

Ten Maxims - Rishi Ranjan

To download or subscribe to this newsletter, please visit <http://www.sahajmarg.org/newsletter/india> For feedback, suggestions and news articles please send email to in.newsletter@srcm.org

© 2015 Shri Ram Chandra Mission ("SRCM"). All rights reserved. "Shri Ram Chandra Mission", "Sahaj Marg", "SRCM", "Constant Remembrance" and the Mission's Emblem are registered Trademarks of Shri Ram Chandra Mission. This Newsletter is intended exclusively for the members of SRCM. The views expressed in the various articles are provided by various volunteers and are not necessarily those of SRCM.