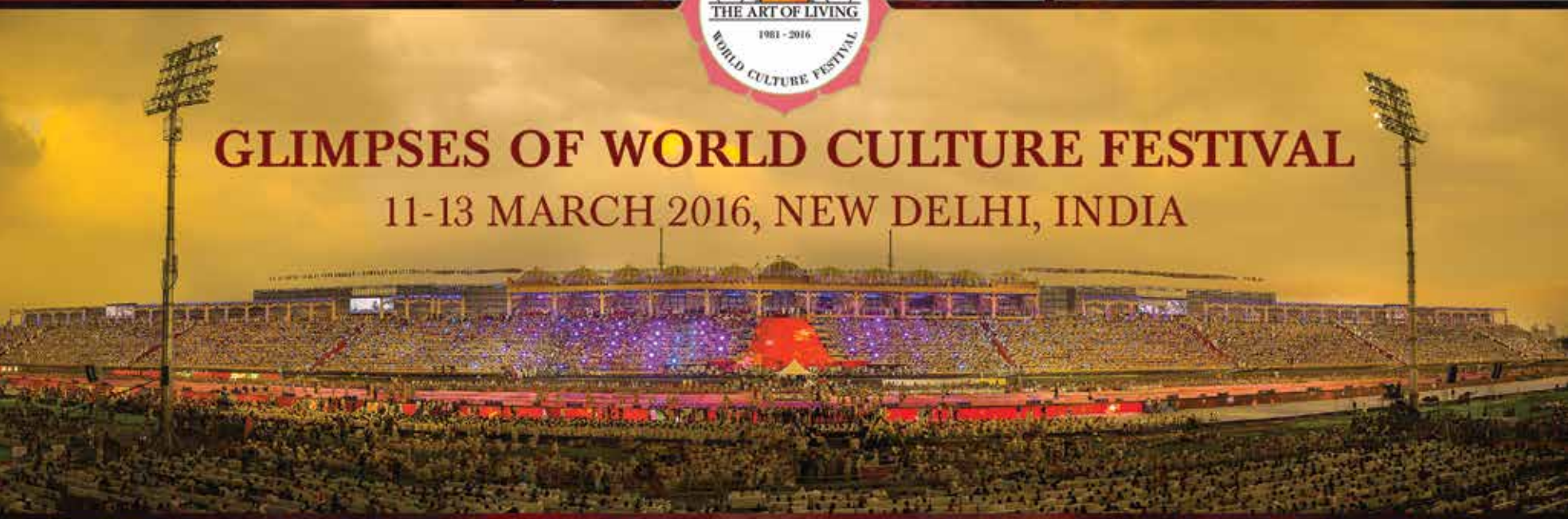




GLIMPSES OF WORLD CULTURE FESTIVAL

11-13 MARCH 2016, NEW DELHI, INDIA



Hosted on the world's largest floating stage of **7 acres**,
The World Culture Festival brought together **3.75 million**
people from **155 countries**.

3000 prominent dignitaries from different parts of the world
graced the grand event, that also witnessed the largest inter-faith
gathering of **2500 religious & spiritual leaders** from Hindu,
Buddhist, Jewish, Christian, Zoroastrian, Islam, Jain,
Native American & Tribal sects.

The three day event was marked by mesmerizing performances
by **36,603 artistes** from around the globe, on the banks of
Yamuna in Delhi, India.

Showcasing cultural diversity like never seen before, the Festival
brought to life the ancient ideal of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam -
'The whole humanity is one family'

An estimated **1.8 billion** people watched live telecast of the
event from **767,463 locations** across **188 countries**.

RECEPTION COMMITTEE

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Hon. Former Chief Justice of India

VICE-CHAIR

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*Hon. 9th Secretary General of Organisation of
Islamic Cooperation
Member of Parliament, Turkey*

Shri Kapil Mishra

Hon. Minister of Culture, Delhi, India

Mr. Jo Leinen

Hon. Member of the European Parliament

Mr. Nirj Deva

Hon. Member of the European Parliament



Artists From Russia Perform The Kalinka Dance



34 Artists Accompany The Swiss Alphorns



110 Dancers From Philippines Perform The Energetic Buyogon Dance, Representing The Rise of Spirit After A Typhoon



Traditional "Dev Naati" of Himachal Pradesh, India Was Showcased By 1050 Artistes



100 Pakistani Artistes Win Hearts With A Contemporary Sufi Performance



Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar

Founder of The Art of Living

There are five main things that unite us all. They are:

1. Sports: A child begins to start playing even when it is born. Sports find universal appeal with everyone at all time and bring everyone together.

2. Art & Culture: 3. Business and Economy 4. Spirituality 5. Intellectual Debate

These five areas unite humanity everywhere in one thread. Today is such a wonderful occasion – that people from so many countries have all gathered here to send out the message to the World – that “We all are One!” We are all One world family. The Art of Living is more of a principle, a philosophy of living life to its fullest. It is a movement and not really much of an organization. Its core value is to find peace

within oneself and to unite people in our society – of different cultures, traditions, religions, nationalities; and thus reminding us all that we have one goal to uplift human life everywhere. It is a collective effort to bring together Bhakti (devotion), Shakti (inner strength and resolve), Yukti (awakened intelligence) and Mukti (sense of freedom) in one’s life. It is an art of uniting minds and hearts in a unique harmony.

In India we have always dreamt of the World as one Family. Today that dream seems to be taking shape – “Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam” – We are all one. There should be no difference between our speech and our actions; no difference between what we are on the inside and outside, and our actions should be such that they bring peace and comfort to us and to everyone around us. This is why there is Spirituality. It is to help one reflect within oneself and to realize that what lies within oneself is what is present everywhere also. This wave of Spirituality, this wave of happiness is what we need to spread to every nook and corner of the world. This is the one aim with which we all have gathered here today.



Hon. Shri Narendra Modi

Prime Minister of India

I congratulate Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar Ji today that in a short duration of just 35 years he has taken this mission (of the Art of Living) to more than 150 countries around the world. This mission today has successfully spread across so many countries, and it is on the basis of this mission’s strength that so many countries around the world today have been united and have come together. Through the medium of The Art of Living Foundation, the world has come to know of a very unique and special identity of India and The Art of Living has played a very significant contribution in this direction.

Today, we are all witness to a very unique Kumbh Mela here which is a grand celebration of Art and Culture. India was so prosperous in those earlier times, which is why India’s art and traditions also

developed so well. This land is so special and vibrant, that every hour of the day has a different kind of music associated with it. The musical notes of the morning are different; the symphonies of the evening are different. This is why if you go to the market today to explore the diversity of music, you will find that there is no dearth of music which can make you sway your body. But if you seek music that really touches and unites the heart and mind from deep within, then that music is only present in India. Today the world seeks music that can sway and uplift the mind, and it is only this confluence of Indian music that we see here today that is truly capable of touching and energizing the minds and hearts of people everywhere.

When we look at any country through the lens of Art & Culture, then one can truly fathom and appreciate the inner strength and prosperity of that country. Today, India has given a very unique gift to the entire world in the form of this musical confluence.



353 Dancers Perform The Resplendent Gorkha-Tradition Maruni Dance



200 Mongolian Dancers Perform The High Energy Biyelgee Dance, Representing The Nomadic Life



Odissi, The Lyrical, Traditional Dance Form of Odisha, India Was Showcased By 1445 Dancers



1150 Exuberant Dancers Present The Hugely Popular, High-Voltage Bhangra



1570 Dancers Enthrall The Audience With Mohiniyattam & Kathakali, Traditional Dance Forms of Kerala, India



Maan Bhoom Chao Dance
From Jharkhand, India



Sieben Schritte and
German Polka



A Troupe of 1400 Splendidly Showcase
The Ghoomer Dance of Rajasthan, India



150 Dancers Present The Popular
Lithuanian Folk Dance



Launch of "Om Spiritual City" Project



Thai Dancers Perform
The Graceful Khon Dance



Traditional Ural Rendition By 40 Russian Artists From Sverdlovsk Region in Russia



H. H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Hamad Al Sharqi

Crown Prince of Al Fujairah, UAE

It is wonderful and inspiring to witness such an enormous number of people gathered to meditate and appreciate music, singing and folk arts. The Art of Living Foundation has worked for the past 35 years through its diverse humanitarian projects to reform individuals and communities around the world. And for this we are thankful to its founder.



Hon. P. J. Kurien

Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, India

The great ancient saints of India gave us the great noble principle of 'Vasudhaiva kutumbakam' – The World is One Family. This grand festival is a great effort in achieving this noble principle, and in fact an exposition of our great culture. Esteemed Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar ji is an embodiment of that great culture. I salute him for the wonderful work that he has done.



Hon. Hakubun Shimomura

Member of Parliament, Japan

Our Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has asked me to give a message - "I sincerely hope we can spread world peace through The Art of Living and through Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar's teachings. The most essential ideology driving our Japanese culture is a spirit of harmony and co-existence. Japan along with all our friends here today, we contribute to world peace."



Hon. Kamal Thapa

Deputy Prime Minister, Nepal

This evening, what I am seeing, I cannot express my feeling in words. It is not only massive, it is amazing. This massive gathering has sent a message to the world that the world is one family - 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' and is a fitting tribute to the service of Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar ji, who has contributed a lot in spreading peace, harmony and love all over the world.



H.E. Ashwin Adhin

Vice-President of Suriname

The World Culture Festival, with the blessings from Gurudev is an exemplary one. My hope is that this may serve as a stepping stone towards helping us rise above our individual consciousness, as individuals and as nations, and proclaim, "Udara charitanam tu vasudhaiva kutumbhakam". He has become so broad that this world has become his family.



H.E. Ryszard Czarnecki

Vice President of European Parliament

I would like to thank Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar for organizing such an important festival where we celebrate harmony and cultural diversity. My great compatriot, Pope John Paul II said almost 14 years ago that 'Nations express themselves by their culture'. In my country, I was the Deputy Minister of Arts and Culture. I know that culture connects people and nations.



H.E. Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan

Cabinet Minister, UAE

Like you, I hope that one day our family will also embrace the entire population of the world, and the One World Family will be truly complete when everyone everywhere finally understands the moral necessity of a culture of knowledge, understanding, kindness and respect. That is the culture inherent in the vision of Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, and his conviction that love and wisdom can prevail over hatred and violence.



H.E. Dominique de Villepin

Former Prime Minister of France

Together here with you, I feel the power of hope that yes, we can heal our broken world. India with its culture of diversity and dialogue, its legacy of non-violence is a good place to unite in such a belief. Every single one of us is the key to change or empty hearts. It is our task to open up to other cultures, other religions, to build bridges for a better world, to invent the weapons of peace to overcome the spirit of war.





53 Shaolin Monks Woo The Audience
With The Synchronized Shaolin Act



138 Dancers From Japan
Perform The Cheer Dance



375 Dance Drummers From Africa Bring The Audience To Their Feet



1100 Kuchipudi Dancers
Give An Artistic Recital



Gudum Baja, The Tribal Dance of Madhya Pradesh, India
With Distinctive Drums, Was Performed By 250 Drummers



300 Dancers Perform Samba,
Frero & Capoeira



Kathak Was Performed By
1700 Graceful Dancers In Elegant Costumes



200 Dancers Perform
Argentinian Tango



1500 Exuberant Dancers Present The Colorful Garba Dance of Gujarat, India



50 Sri Lankan Artists Perform
The Royal Kandyan Dance



200 Dancers Perform Various
Bulgarian Art Forms



A Himalayan Folk Dance
Performed By 150 Nepalese Artists



A Colorful Mix of Performances By
150 Artistes From The Middle East



60 New Zealanders Perform
A Wairua



Beautiful Bharatanatyam Recital By 1700 Artistes



12 Famous Playback Singers From Indian Film
Industry Honor 35 Years of The Art of Living



Bollywood Tribute
Performed By 120 Dancers



Hon. Geoffrey Van Orden
Member of European Parliament

All people of faith whether Christian, Sikh, Hindu, Muslim, Jain, Jew or Buddhist share a common humanity and a belief in the all-powerful. We interpret and communicate faith in different ways. We can all learn from one another. Duty, faith and tolerance should be our guide. A world community of peaceful free nations and a One World Family should be our aim.



Hon. Suresh Prabhu,
Minister of Railways, India

When you see a river flowing, you can make out which river is flowing into the ocean, but once they meet the ocean then you cannot make out the water of one river from another. This is a congregation and millennial gathering of people coming together from different walks of life. When they go back, they will all carry the essence of unity and oneness of the ocean even though separate rivers.



Hon. Nirj Deva
Member of European Parliament

Ten years ago I made a prediction. I said that the world is getting better. Ten years later, I can tell you this: I have good news! The world has gotten better, and The Art of Living Foundation and Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar have a huge role to play in making that happen! For this, I thank you Gurudev.



Hon. Armin Laschet
Member of Parliament, Germany

I have to say tonight, right here, this is the most peaceful place in the world because all the different nations, all the different cultures and religions are celebrating together for peace, freedom and harmony. I wish that the spirit of Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, the spirit of this act of understanding, the spirit of this festival will change the world in the days, months, and years to come.



Hon. Arun Jaitley
Minister of Finance, India

This amazing scene before me today, wherein people from India and other countries of the world; people from different cultures, different civilizations, etc have come together to put forward the message of peace and oneness. It is a matter of pride that you have thought India worthy of having such a grand festival and that this message of peace and harmony goes out from New Delhi to the entire World.



Hon. Piyush Goel
Minister of State with Independent Charge for Power, Coal, New and Renewable Energy, India

All of us gathered here today who have had the good fortune to participate and attend The World Culture Festival should take this message – of peace and One World Family; treating all human beings as brothers and sisters – to all parts of the World.



Hon. Amit Shah
President of the Bharatiya Janata Party, India

I am convinced that in the times to come, this commendable initiative of The Art of Living will go down in the cultural history of the world in golden letters and will find a very unique place of its own in the annals of history of the world. The World Culture Festival will forever be remembered as an event that has hoisted and raised the flag of Indian culture at the grandest pinnacle.



Hon. Arvind Kejriwal
Chief Minister of Delhi, India

To witness this huge gathering of humanity at one place is truly astonishing. This is only possible because of Gurudev and his efforts of spreading the message of peace and harmony through the medium of culture and spirituality to every part of the world. That is the reason why so many people from different countries of the world have come here.





A Rendition By 1500 Artistes From The Far East



Smt. Chitra Roy



1008 Dhangari Dhol Drummers From Maharashtra, India Give A Power-Packed Recital



Hip Hop on Make Noise For Peace, USA



South India's Popular Reed Instrument,
The Naadaswaram Was Played By 50 Musicians



The Vast Venue Echoed With The Uplifting
Vedic Chants By 1100 Pandits



Byelorussian Dance



H.E. Alojz Peterle - Former Prime Minister of Slovenia,
Playing The Harmonica



Genesis Dance From Taiwan



Patricia Sosa - Acclaimed & Popular
Singing Sensation of Argentina



500 Artists Perform
Latin Musical



51 Farmers Were Felicitated For Their Pioneering Work
In The Field of Agriculture & Organic Farming



50 Captivating Folk Dancers
Perform To The Hungarian Tune



**H. H. Jagadguru Sri Shivarathri
Deshikendra Mahaswamiji
Jagadguru Sri Veerasimhasana Math**

The initiative though undertaken to mark the 35th anniversary of The Art of Living Foundation, has a deeper undercurrent of bringing together diverse cultures and employ it for cultivating peace rather than use it as a tool for conflict. The very participation of divergent groups reflects the need for peace today in the international community.



**Rev. Dr. Philopose Mar Chrysostom
Mar Thoma Valiya Metropolitan**

Revered and beloved Swamiji, I thank and praise God for your wonderful ministry in this world. And I pray for God's continued message and blessings to humanity and your continued service.



**Message from Hon. David Cameron
Prime Minister of United Kingdom**

People say that no man can change the world, but we know that Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar has made a good start. With representatives from 160 countries, The Art of Living has extended its reach around the world to introduce stability, comfort, and support for people who need it. We often hear of the dangers of the world, but I am pleased today that we are seeing a beacon of hope.



**H. H. Giani Gurbachan Singh Ji
Akal Takth Jathedar**

When every person in humanity gets connected with each other, then it is very easy to realize and connect to God. Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar Ji who has been greatly blessed by the Grace of God, has achieved something great and remarkable in a very short time of 35 years - to join all of humanity as one. Wahe Guru Ji Ka Khalsa, Wahe Guru Ji ki fateh!



**Hon. Rajavarithiam Sampanthan
Leader of the Opposition in Parliament,
Sri Lanka**

I speak on behalf of the speaker of the parliament of Sri Lanka. Our world is diversified with many ethnic groups, religions and castes, and nevertheless all of us belong to the human family which inhabits this planet. Thus irrespective of various divisions, we must cohabit faithfully in order to achieve progress, peace, harmony and prosperity.



**H. H. Drikung Kyabgon Chetsang
Deputy Director, Buddhist Association of
China**

Art Of Living and Yoga is very necessary, especially in this 21st century modern society. This love, compassion with wisdom is the key of all religions. I'm very happy that we've all gathered together. If we use this love, compassion and wisdom, we can cure the world of all the sorrow. All the problems can get solved.



**Hon. Sherry Rehman
Member of Senate, Pakistan**

Religion and faith are also part of a civilizational impulse. They do not divide, they do not terrorize, they do not cut, and they do not create poles where people drift apart. Today's event is a gathering that unites us in harmony. We bring the colours of our humanity to this kind of gathering and I hope that Pakistan, India and all the nations represented here today can take the world into the future of peace, prosperity, and brotherhood.



**Hon. Manish Sisodia
Deputy Chief Minister of Delhi, India**

It is a matter of great joy and my good fortune to witness that so many noble souls and wonderful people from all across the world have assembled here today for a grand and great cause. I strongly believe that you (Gurudev) have blessed us all by arranging this divine congregation of saints and holy spiritual leaders from different parts of India and the many countries of the World. We shall forever remain indebted to you for this.





4600 Artistes Performed 'Cosmic Rhythm' Dance





Drama Using Over 30 Different Dance Forms





Sangachhadhwam Sung By Art of Living Sumeru Sandhya Singers



Shri. Srinivasa



Smt. Chandrika Krishnamurthy Tandon



Shivoham Sung By Smt. Bhanumathi Narasimhan



Smt. Hema Sardesai



Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam Sung By Art of Living Sumeru Sandhya Singers



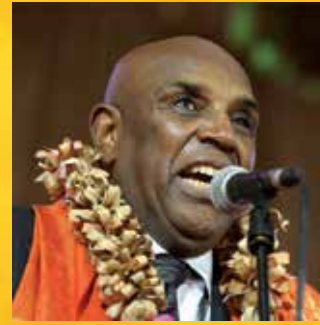
Dr. Manikantan



H. H. Ram Bhadracharya Ji

Founder & Head of Tulsi Peeth, Mathura

I heartily congratulate the Founder of The Art of Living Foundation – Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar Ji for organizing this tremendous festival in the city of Indraprastha (Delhi). This cultural festival has clearly shown that the day is not far off when India shall once again ascend to the exalted seat of being a Vishwaguru and shall give the message of peace and harmony to everyone everywhere.



Rev. Dr. Gerald L. Durley

Pastor of Providence Missionary Baptist Church, USA

Look at New Delhi tonight; 3.5 million people and no violence. We are here in peace. We are here in love. We are here as one family from around the world. We are diverse, but we are community-oriented. I thank God tonight for our love, for our friendship and for our diversity.



H.H. Jagadguru Shankaracharya Swami Vasudevanand Saraswati Ji

Jyotirmath Badrika Peeth

As I witness the World Culture Festival unfold before my eyes, I cannot help but go back and remember the glory of Indian Culture and our rich heritage. The credo for Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam once raised by India today seems to have become a visible reality in this grand confluence.



Hon. Rajnath Singh

Home Minister, India

Gurudev has worked tirelessly to spread the message of India's culture to every corner of this world. It is the message of peace and non-violence of this great country India, that Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar Ji is working to spread to everywhere in the world. There can be no greater service to humanity today than what Gurudev is engaged in.



Ven. Dhamma Master Hsin Tao

Founder, Museum of World Religions, Taiwan

It is because of The Art of Living that we have been intimately coexisting together. Let our hearts quiet down and allow us periods of stillness which brings about the energy of love between heaven and earth. Let our all embracing compassion be transformed into the co-existence in diversity and value of love and peace in life.



Hon. Ayoob Kara

Member of The Knesset, Israel

I come from Jerusalem, I come from the holy land. I am very proud to represent my country - Israel. I want to invite all of you to come be a part of peace. We have to work together to fight the extremist elements in the world. All of us are brothers and we need to work towards bringing peace in the world.



Hon. Sushma Swaraj

Minister for External Affairs, India

Dear Gurudev, the glory you have bestowed upon us all by organizing this grand World Culture Festival is without a comparison. Through this tremendous platform, you have elevated the glory and grandeur of Yoga and Indian music, culture and art – which is India's soft power that we often refer to and use in political discussions. You have managed to bring together an unparalleled confluence of art and music in this momentous event.



Mufti Muhammad Saeed Khan

Islamic Scholar & Founder of Madani Trust, Pakistan

All the knowledgeable and wise people have said this and today Sri Sri Ravi Shankar Ji has also said the same thing: that the light of a lamp is only to spread brightness and not to set fire to the surroundings. So once this lamp of love and knowledge is lit, the false veil of negativity and ignorance burns and disappears. And when the veil lifts then one realizes that everything is made up of the same Divinity and there is no other.





World's Largest Symphony With 8500 Musicians





Playing 50 Different Types of Musical Instruments





Meditation for World Peace





Hon. Jo Leinen
Member of European Parliament

We come from so many different countries and different cultures. Is that not absurd, you are the same person, you live in the same village and you have five different political identities. So I think we have to live the message of Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar. I think Yoga, Meditation, Ayurveda should be a world heritage that must be practiced everywhere, and then I think we would have a better world.



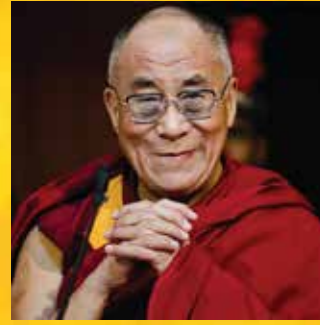
H.E. Kjell Magne Bondevik
Former Prime Minister of Norway

We all have several common values across our differences. We all believe in human dignity and consequently human rights. We all believe in the idea of justice. We all believe in the idea of peace. So therefore let us use dialogue, let us listen to each other, understand and respect each other, and create an inclusive multicultural society all over the world, as you are doing here.



Hon. Hillary Chongwong
Dy Governor, Bungoma County, Kenya

It has been good and it is very encouraging to note that indeed as people on this globe we need to be one family and we need to endeavour and to press upon this value to prevail upon each and every part of the world. What a great feeling to have people come from various parts and various continents of this world, and indeed it is a great testimony that we can be One Family on this planet Earth.



Message From His Holiness Dalai Lama

Ancient Indian psychology is advanced and profound. Tibetans, as students of the Nalanda tradition, have derived great benefit from it. In ahimsa and inter-religious harmony India sets an example for the rest of the world, and I believe the World Culture Festival is taking place in that spirit.



Hon. Venkaiah Naidu
Union Minister of Urban Development, India

Gurudev has shown that he has the capacity to mesmerize the people and to bring them together to work with dedication, devotion and discipline. He has the character, calibre and capacity and conduct to do this and we are all really blessed with his presence here.



H. E. Olusegun Obasanjo
Former President of Nigeria

When there are differences, let us continue to appreciate our culture which this World Culture Festival has brought us to appreciate. Let us dance, let us sing, let us make merry, let us have fun and let us join hands and move together forward because this is the purpose of our existence in this world.



Hon. Ravi Shankar Prasad
Minister of Communications & IT, India

From the principles, the experiences and environment you have helped rekindle and promote through this Maha Kumbh of The World Culture Festival, may the message of peace, compassion, universal brotherhood spread far and wide everywhere. And may the glory and pride of Indian Culture and heritage be strengthened and spread more and more.



H.H. Sri Sri Nirmalanandanatha Swamiji

Head, Sri Adichunchanagiri Mahasamsthana Math

Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar Ji has made the vision of a One World Family a reality. His profound wisdom, iron will, and the historical enunciation, has truly made this event very meaningful. Centuries ago our philosophy has accepted and advocated the idea of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam. Now it has become true and it has been realized through the efforts of Gurudev.





Global Leadership Forum



GLOBAL LEADERSHIP FORUM - DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS

Hon. Meenakshi Lekhi

Member of Parliament, India

Hon. Nirj Deva

Member of European Parliament, United Kingdom

Hon. Matthew Offord

Member of Parliament, United Kingdom

Hon. G.L. Peiris

Former Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka

Mr. G M Rao

Executive Chairman & M.D., GMR Group, India

Mr. Kishore Biyani

Chairman, Group CEO, Future Group, India

Hon. Deshbandhu Karu Jayasuriya

Speaker of the Parliament, Sri Lanka

Hon. Frank Heinrich

Member of Parliament, Germany

Hon. Sutirtha Bhattacharya

Chairman & CMD, Coal India Limited, India

Mrs. Fulvia Ferragamo Visconti

VP Ferragamo Finanziaria S.p.A., Italy

Mr. Samrath Bedi

Executive Director, Forest Essentials, India

Hon. Prof. Herman De Croo

Minister of State, Member of Parliament, Belgium

Hon. Dace Melbārde

Culture Minister of Latvia

Hon. Geoffrey Van Orden

Member of the European Parliament, United Kingdom

Hon. Šarūnas Birutis

Minister of Culture, Lithuania

Hon. Mike Quigley

Congressman, House of Representatives, USA

Hon. Shailesh Lakhman Vara

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work & Pensions, UK

Mr. Avnish Goyal

Owner and MD, Hallmark Care Homes, United Kingdom

Mr. Annurag Batra

Chairman GBN Media – BW, Business World, India

Dr. Parry Aftab

Founder, WiredSafety, United States of America

Mr. Mac Smith

Founder of the Google [x] , United States of America

Mr. Subhash Thakrar

Deputy President, London Chamber of Commerce and Industry, United Kingdom

Mr. Shashi Kant Sharma

Comptroller and Auditor General, India

Hon. Dr. Sarah Claerhout

Member of Parliament, Belgium

Ms. Arundhati Bhattacharya

Chairperson, State Bank of India

Hon. Yvonne Feri

Member of Parliament, Switzerland

Dr. Kiran Bedi

Politician and Social Activist, India

Mr. Deepak Kapoor

Chairman, PricewaterhouseCoopers, India

Dr. Christoph Lutge

Professor of Business Ethics, Technische Universität München, Germany

Ms. Kate Osamor

Member of Parliament, United Kingdom

Hon. Jan Creemers

Mayor, City of Maaseik, Belgium

Hon. Rabin Baldewsingh

Deputy Mayor of The Hague, Netherlands

Hon. Edward Baillieu

Former Premier of Victoria, Australia

Mr. Tarek Fatah

Writer and Broadcaster, Canada

Ms. Brigitte Van Baren

Founder, Inner Sense, Netherlands

Mr. Gary Gauba

President, Century Link, United States of America

Capt. R S Sindhu

Chairman ACB , India

Hon. Krishna Mathoera

Member of Parliament, Suriname

Hon. David Musabayana

Member of Parliament, Zimbabwe

Hon. Bariza Khiari

Member of Senate, France

...CONTINUED

GLOBAL LEADERSHIP FORUM - DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS

Dr. R. Seetharaman

Group Chief Executive Officer, Doha Bank, Qatar

Dr. Vandana Shiva

Scholar and Environmental Activist, India

Mr. Andrew Forrest

Non-executive Chairman, Fortescue Metals Group, Australia

Mr. Hari Untoro Dradjat

Senior Adviser, Tourism Ministry, Indonesia

Mr. Amit Dalal

Executive Director, Tata Corporation, India

Hon. Lord Stone

Member of Parliament, United Kingdom

Hon. Dr. Nancy Nawraz Naguer

Former Culture Minister of Jordan

Mr. Christoph Daum

Former German Professional Football Player,

International Football Manager

Mr. Jean-Marc Borello

President, Groupe SOS, France

Mr. Nirvana Chaudhary

Managing Director, CG Corp Global, Nepal

Princess Raden Dato'Seri Maria Amor Torres DK

DD, Founder and President, We Care for Humanity, USA

Hon. Hernán Penagos Giraldo

Member of Parliament, Colombia

Ven. Master Ji-Jing

Buddhist Monk

Mr. Luis Gabriel Moreno Ocampo

Lawyer, The First Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court

Hon. Naheed Farid

Member of Parliament, Afghanistan

Hon. Sherry Rehman

Member of Senate and Vice President of People's Party, Pakistan

Mr. Michael S Perlis

President and CEO of Forbes Media LLC, USA

H.E. Ashwin Adhin

Vice-President, Suriname

Hon. Nitin Gadkari

Minister for Road Transport and Highways and Shipping, India

Hon. Ryszard Czarnecki

Vice President of the European Parliament, Belgium

Hon. Kamal Thapa

Deputy Prime Minister, Nepal

Hon. Alojz Peterle

Former Prime Minister of Slovenia

Hon. Dominique de Villepin

Former Prime Minister of France

H.E Prof. Adnan Badran

Former Prime Minister of Jordan

Hon. Jigmi Yoser Thinley

Former Prime Minister of Bhutan

Hon. Hildebrando Tapia Samaniego

Vice-President, Andean Parliament, Peru

H.E. Ayoob Kara

Member of the Knesset, Israel

Hon. Bob Blackman

Member of Parliament, United Kingdom

Hon. Petra De Sutter

Member of Senate, Belgium

Hon. Dr. André Hahn

Member of Parliament, Germany

Hon. Yonadam Kanna

Member of Iraqi National Assembly

Hon. Jo Leinen

Member of European Parliament, Germany

H.E. Olusegun Obasanjo

Former President of Nigeria

Hon. Kjell Magne Bondevik

Former Prime Minister of Norway

Hon. Suresh Prabhu

Minister of Railways, India

Hon. Piyush Goyal

Minister of State with Independent Charge of Power, Coal, New and Renewable Energy, India

Hon. General Vijay Kumar Singh

Minister of State for External Affairs, India

Hon. Carla Bacigalupo

Minister of Justice and Labor, Paraguay

Hon. Mtro Armando Rios Piter

Senator, Mexico

Mr. Armin Laschet

Member of Parliament, Germany

Hon. R.V. Deshpande

Minister for Higher Education and Tourism, Govt. of Karnataka, India



Millions Take The Pledge For A 'Swachh Bharat'



Hon. Evgeny Kuyvashev
Governor of Sverdlovsk Region, Russia

I am convinced that the language of culture does not need translation, since it appeals to the very soul of a man. It is understandable for everyone, because real art is based on kindness and love. This is a solid ground of peace and mutual understanding. That is why I view the World Culture Festival as a global dialogue between people, between countries, between nationalities.



Hon. Kapil Mishra
Minister of Tourism, Delhi Govt., India

Although it is night now, but if you look right at the back of this venue, you will see a new Sun rising – and this Sun has risen from the happiness of River Yamuna, as if to say “The people who have gathered here will surely take this Sankalpa to clean River Yamuna, and will also cleanse their heart and mind of all negativity with the message of love and brotherhood that they have received here.”



Hon. Karu Jayasuriya
Speaker of Parliament, Sri Lanka

I am reading out the message of H E President of Sri Lanka, Shri Maithripala Sirisena. “True to its motto, One World Family, the Art of Living changed the living attitudes of several people. That was the reason, I pledged my participation immediately upon receiving the invitation. I wish to extend my best wishes to Gurudev for continuous service to mankind.”



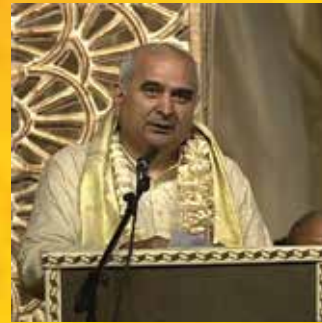
Hon. Nitin Gadkari
Minister for Road Transport, Highways and Shipping, India

If there’s anyone who can be ambassador of India culture, history & heritage to the world, then that would be Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar ji. I would like to congratulate Gurudev for the success of this grand festival. May we continue doing good work with his blessings. We will always remember this event for the rest of our lives.



Hon. Ram Jethmalani
Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha, India

I must say that the best thing you should learn to do is to reduce human suffering as much as you can. That should be the principal object of your existence, and that is the highest religion that I can talk about. You can ignore Gods, you can ignore everybody but please take care of those who are suffering from pain and who are not as happy as you are.



Padma Bhushan Devendra Triguna
Ayurvedic Vaidya & Expert in Nadi Vigyan

It gives me tremendous happiness today to witness a gathering like the Maha Kumbh, and a small glimpse of the vast World gathered here today. I have personally known Gurudev for more than 40 years now. The way he has worked towards promoting an environment of peace, love and brotherhood in the country and the world at large is really unparalleled and exemplary.



H.E. Bishop Marcelo Sanchez Sorondo
Chancellor - Pontifical Academy of Sciences/Social Sciences, Vatican

One of the great ways to foster peace and harmony in the world today is through the work done at a person to person level. The Art of Living has shown by example over 3.5 decades that it has earned its place as a leader in this important work and I congratulate you for this work. The people gathered here today have such visible joy and serenity, that it is a testament of this fact.



Message From H.E. Juan Manuel Santos
President of Colombia

I met with Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar in Bogota in June of last year. I had the great joy of speaking with him about the efforts he is making in our country to hopefully end an internal armed conflict that has lasted more than 50 years. Later on, with my consent, he met in Hawana and Cuba with the negotiators of the FARC leaders to encourage them to follow the Gandhian principle of non-violence. Today I want to thank him for this effort.





Hon. Sarunas Birutis
Minister of Culture, Republic of Lithuania
 Culture is not like a shining ornament, culture binds societies and helps people overcome divisions. It is a real life blood, no less important than a nation's health or wealth. What is happening tonight is the best epitome of how culture and diversity can serve the needs of mankind. One World Family has become the real spirit of this congregation.



Hon. Prof. Vytautas Landsbergis
Former President of Lithuania
 I would like to welcome all to this fantastic festival where all are celebrating life and peace. That's the hope and belief also of my country Lithuania, the ancient sister of India.



Hon. Dace Melbarde
Minister of Culture, Latvia
 I am greatly honored to participate in the World Culture Festival to celebrate the light which can be experienced and sensed through the cultural richness. I believe that there are no borders for culture unless we build them ourselves. Culture has its unique role to widen the horizons for personal joy, to celebrate the living existence.



Rabbi Awraham Soetendorp
Founder of The Jacob Soetendorp Institute for Human Values, Netherlands
 Source of all beings, bless the work of your servant Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar. A small river which he brought to life has become a powerful stream of love. Make it fertile. Give all of us all the blessing of your power so that we can save this planet and make it a soft, a beautiful and a loving place. We thank you God for love and for our life.



Hon. Andre Hahn
Member of Parliament, Germany
 We are living in a time of conflicts around the world with ever more wars being waged. That's why I'm grateful for every occasion that offers a platform for peaceful exchange including controversial issues and cultural interaction between different nationalities and religions. This festival celebrates life and the joy of living, it can help to build a bridge between different cultures.



Hon. Dr. Shri Biren Sikder
State Minister for Youth & Sports, Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh
 We in Bangladesh practice Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar Ji's yoga and it is very well known for short term and long term relief. If we want peace in family life, social life, and even in our political life we need to come to the Art of Living Foundation.



H.E. Hildebrando Tapia Samaniego
Vice-President, Andean Parliament
 My beloved master, take my gratitude for the work you do all over the world. 35 years of great work of bringing hope for change in the lives of people, teaching the youth the path of solidarity, compassion and help. Latin America was a witness to your presence, for negotiating peace with the FARC guerillas in Cuba and having great results for peace. A historical agreement that ended years of death, killing & problems, whether material or human. Thanks to you peace is now seen because peace in Columbia, means peace for Latin America.



Hon. Justice R.C. Lahoti
Former Chief Justice of India
 Music originates from the soul and it is listened to by the soul. Dance is a rhythmic combination of movements arising from an inner perception which stimulate both mind and body. Yoga generally means discipline, and a specific set of practices to enable one to win over all obstacles. Meditation secures peace of mind. Discourses help disseminate noble thoughts. This confluence of cultures has the ultimate objective of having Peace descend onto Earth.





Hon. Frank Heinrich
Member of Parliament, Germany

After this festival all the harmony and these encounters of joy, this experience is one part of the thing. But we need to take something home, I will. We have to work out what we have learned and what we have experienced here to lay down our lives for our neighbors and maybe even our enemies. So go down into this world and live what you understood.



Hon. Khil Raj Regmi
Former Prime Minister of Nepal

I am very happy to be standing here appreciating this organization and its service to humanity because it has been able to give the message of global peace and harmony in diversity. Seeing the participation and presence of people from so many countries around the world, what I can say is that the festival has been able to give life to a One World Family - which has been the objective of the Art of Living.



Hon. Sumitra Mahajan
Speaker, Lok Sabha, India

The smile that was present on Pujya Gurudev's angelic face was the same beautiful smile on the face of every artiste! In fact not just the artistes, but on the face of you all present here today enjoying the performances. This smile is the smile of brotherhood, of friendship, of love. That is why this message of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam that goes out from this colossal stage will reach far and wide.



H.E. Dr. Ahmad Badreddin Hassoun
Grand Mufti & Chairman of the Supreme Iftaa Council, Syrian Arab Republic

If we do a DNA test, we will see that we are all descendants of a common mother and father. Our mother is the Earth, and our soul goes back to almighty. That's why we are all One, we will always be One, and no one can separate us. So may the pigeon of peace fly from India to all over the world because in India the messages of God is present.



Hon. Giriraj Singh
Minister of State For Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, India

I remember the time when Swami Vivekanand Ji had gone to Chicago and delivered the message of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam in a religious conference. Today, Pujya Gurudev has called the entire World to India and has given the message of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam to all and shown us this unique panorama of so many world cultures uniting here.



Ven. Master Kong Xing
Dy Director, Buddhist Association, China

I hope that all friends around the world will work together to carry forward the peace, compassion, an altruism spirit for the stability and the well being of the world, and for the harmony among mankind and nature.



Hon. Dr. Mahesh Sharma
Minister of State for Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation, India

Today, Gurudev has given this message to simply dust off and shake off all the negativity, and go back with that positivity from here. If there is one institution that stands for upholding human values and working towards naturally preserving and protecting our environment, then that is the Art of Living Foundation and its founder Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar Ji.



Hon. Dr. Harsh Vardhan
Minister of Science & Technology, India

I have to salute Gurudev and I have to salute all the volunteers of this great organization. I have to salute you for not only creating the Art of Living, but promoting it at the international level. This moment will be recorded in history for all times to come and each and every Indian; not only Indians, everybody all across the globe will remember you. We have been talking about unity in diversity in our country and now we can talk about unity in diversity all across the globe.







Hon. Shripad Yasso Naik
Minister of Tourism, India

I offer my humble salutations to Pujya Gurudev for bringing Indian culture to the world and also for uniting all cultures under the single tapestry of the World Culture Festival. The message of universal love and brotherhood that our ancient Rishis spoke of and advocated through the principle of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam has become a reality today at this event.



H.H. Ramesh Bhai Ojha
Founder, Devka Vidyapith & Sandipani Vidyanketan

Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam! Through the World Culture Festival – the 35th anniversary celebrations of the Art of Living Foundation, people from all over the world have gathered here today to showcase the art, culture and musical traditions of their countries. The whole world appears to have come together here as One World Family.



Dr. Lawrence Carter
Professor of Religion and College Curator at Morehouse College, USA

God so loves the world, that God gave, God is continuously loving, giving and moving us. God gave us Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, who loves us, gives to us and is moving us. Look around you at his loving gift to us. The international religious and diverse cultural harmony co-created by The Art of Living Foundation for 35 years.



Hon. Sarah Claerhout
Member of Parliament, Belgium

I would like to express my gratitude today because India has a very old tradition of sharing her knowledge, her wisdom and her spiritual richness with the rest of the world and this is what we also see in this festival. It has brought people together. I think this function is an invitation for all of us to take home that - we have to build more bridges between our cultures.



Hon. Ervad Mehernoz Homi Bharucha
Zoroastrian

We Zoroastrians pray to the supreme being to eradicate all the miseries in the world, that may generosity triumph over indifference, may peace triumph over discord. With blessings and regards from the whole Zoroastrian community, I wish the Art of Living a very long life, and Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar a long and very peaceful life.



H.E. Mr. Herman De Croo
Member of Parliament, Belgium

All those who have been present here in last three days, in this extraordinary event, will later tell their children and grandchildren, that I was in middle of March 2016 part of the most extraordinary occasion of my life. Tomorrow this will join the legends.



H.H. Swatantranand Maharaj Ji
Rishikesh, India

At this momentous Maha Kumbh of the World Culture Festival, we welcome everyone who has travelled from different corners of the world and we have so many people who have come here who belong to different communities, different religions. There are different kinds of flowers in a garden, and each flower has its own unique beauty. But when all these different flowers are strung together in a garland, then the garland looks so much more beautiful.



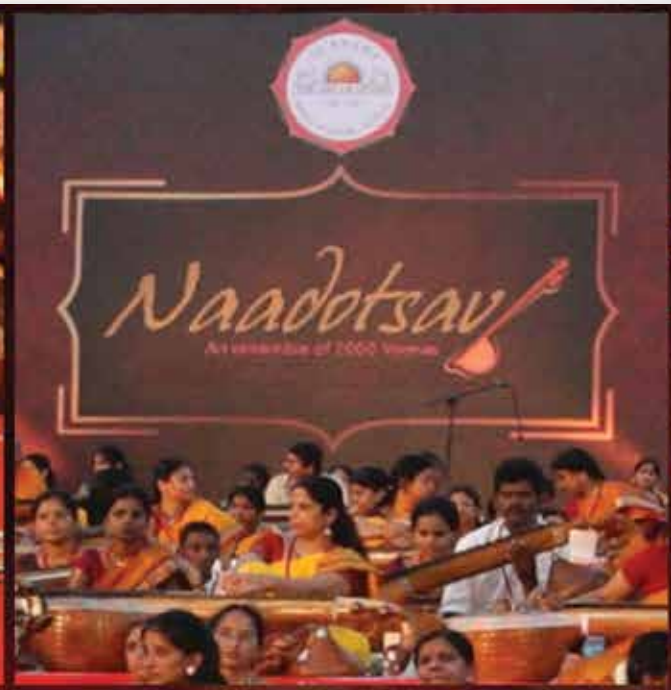
Hon. Prof. Dr. Petra De Sutter
Senator, Belgium

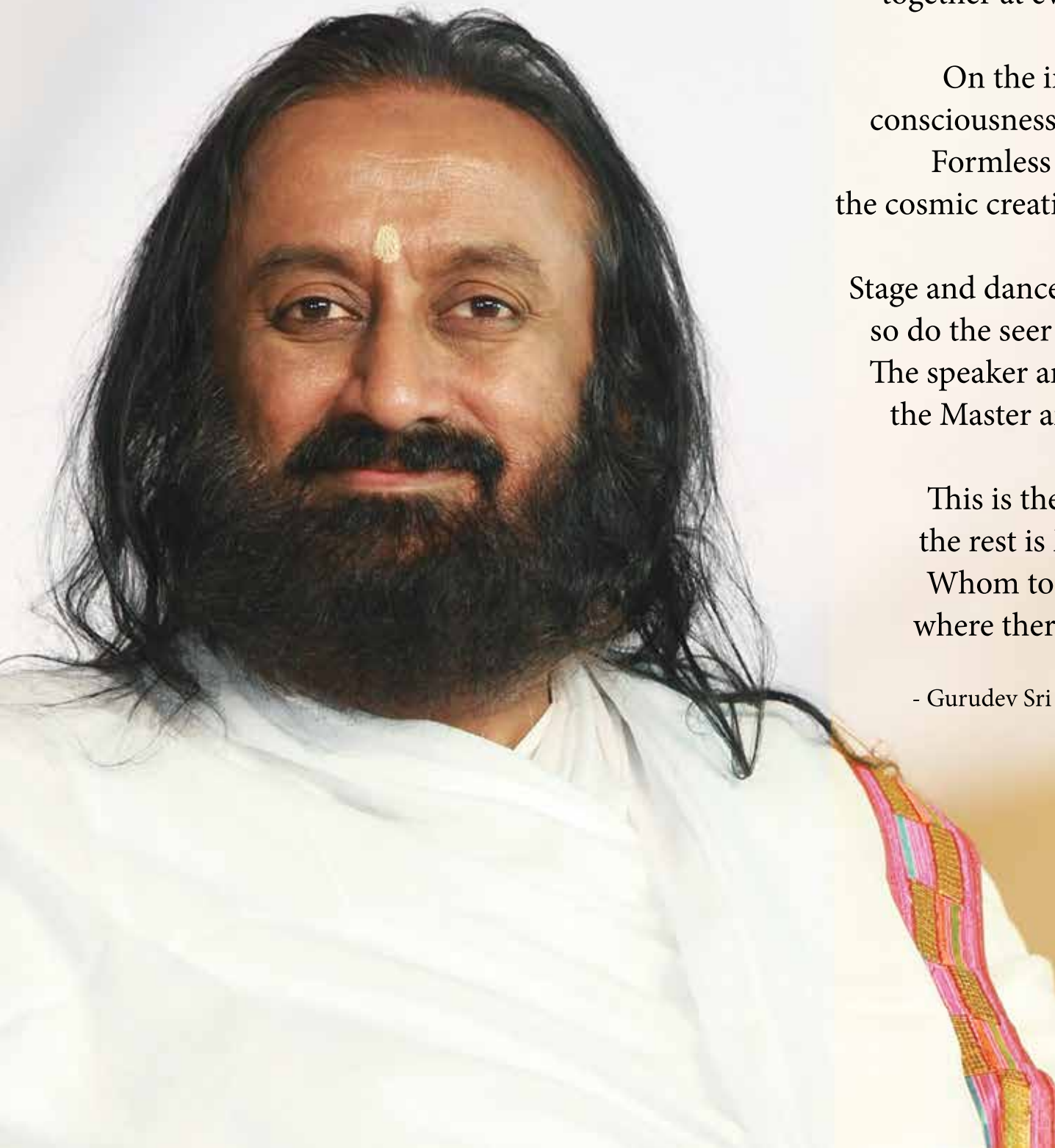
Gurudev, and friends of the world: What I have seen here the last three days is a glimpse of the future, the only possible future if we want to save the this planet. I am from Europe, and we think we have a crisis there, but going outside of Europe we also see what happens in the world. The only way to solve the challenges from the crisis we have is through love, peace and happiness. Thank you Gurudev for teaching us and showing us the way.





2000 Veena Players Pluck At Your Heart's Strings From A Single Stage





I know not how to thank you,
you're truly a part of me
With me every moment,
together at every step are we

On the inner stage,
consciousness dances unfazed
Formless takes form,
the cosmic creation stands amazed.

Stage and dancer merge into one,
so do the seer and the scenery
The speaker and the audience,
the Master and the devotee

This is the only truth,
the rest is Maya's cover
Whom to thank here,
where there is no other.

- Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar



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The Art of Living International Centre, 21st KM, Kanakapura Road, Udayapura, Bangalore - 560082.
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