



PRESS RELEASE

Lakhs turn up for Art of Living Event *Mayor of Delhi honours India's leading spiritual guru*

March 28, 2008: In a first-of-its-kind cultural event in Delhi yesterday, The Art of Living enthralled the crowds with symphonies played by 200 well-orchestrated musicians. Lakhs of people thronged the Japanese Garden in Rohini, Delhi, even as instrumentalists, alternating with melodious Art of Living singers, created a vibrant atmosphere.



His Holiness Sri Sri Ravi Shankar with Shri L.K Advani, Smt. Kamla Advani, Smt. Arti Mehra, Mayor of Delhi, Mr. Buta Singh and Mr. Anand Srivastava of the Maharishi Mahesh Yogi Trust.

Mayor of Delhi, Smt Arti Mehra held a civic reception for the spiritual leader, His Holiness Sri Sri Ravi Shankar at the venue. Distinguished guests invited by the Mayor for honouring the Seer were Shri L.K Advani, Shri Buta Singh, Shri Jagdish Tytler, Shri. Sajjan Kumar and several councillors across party lines.

Smt. Arti Mehra, felicitated His Holiness Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, founder of Art of Living, for "his continuous and exceptional work in creating a peaceful and non-violent world" and said, "Art of living is a legacy not only in India but in 150 countries around the world with the initiatives and efforts of His Holiness in peace negotiations, poverty alleviation, empowerment of women, prisoner rehabilitation, campaigns against female foeticide, child labour and caste system. In this century, he is an inspiration for us. He has travelled all over the world, spreading the message of love."

Dedicating the evening to Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, His Holiness Sri Sri Ravi Shankar spoke about the need to broaden our vision and spread the message of peace and love, "Thorns can also become flowers. Look into a child's eye. And all the love that you are giving here today, give it to the country's children. Our ancient sciences must reach all homes all over the world so today take sankalpa to do this. Maharishi said that when many people do satsang together, a new wave arises, an awakening takes place. Taking this to others is our duty. So that we can have a violence-free society, a healthy body & a confusion-free mind."

The evening also saw the launch of the partnership between the Art of Living and UNODC (United Nations Office for Drugs and Crimes). This collaboration will further the ongoing initiatives by the Art of Living de-addiction camps to combat the spread of drug, alcohol, nicotine and tobacco consumption, and jointly initiate mass awareness and prevention strategies for schools.

Ms. Ashita Mittal, Country Head, UNODC, who was present at the event said, "We need to give this simple message, to the youth, that life without dependencies is a life lived beautifully and the Art of Living will take this message to schools. I believe that this partnership with Art of living will help spread our message to every nook and corner of our country."

On March 26, 2008 at Vigyan Bhavan, in keeping with his mission to aid and uplift all sections of society, His Holiness Sri Sri Ravi Shankar along with National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) initiated the formation of Sri Sri Legal Self Help Groups and Sri Sri Youth for Justice Forums, all across India. These groups will act as mediators between the State Judicial Systems and communities to engender free legal aid and speedy justice to those who do not have access to it. Hailing the village panchayat as the perfect example of mediation His Holiness said, "Every individual can be trained to be a mediator. We should teach every child to be free of prejudice & a sense of social justice should be instilled in the education system. One has to have the conviction that one can resolve a conflict."

On March 26, 2008 His Holiness was also felicitated by the Media Trust of India with the 'Light of the East' award while the Noida Management Association presented him with the 'Architect of World Peace' award on March 25, 2008.

Over the next three days, 'Pranayam Dhyana Shibir' (breath-meditation camp) will be conducted, at the same venue in Delhi, by the Art of Living from March 28 -30, 2008, under the guidance of His Holiness.

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