

Social service by various organizations

1. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Art_of_Living_Foundation

Photo of **Sri Sri Ravi Shankar**



The **Art of Living Foundation** is a volunteer-based, [humanitarian](#) and educational non-governmental organization (NGO).^[1] It was founded in 1981 by [Ravi Shankar](#).^[2] The Art of Living Foundation has centers in more than 156 countries.^[3] Art of Living offers several stress-elimination and self-development programs based on breathing techniques, meditation and yoga.

Programmes and courses[\[edit\]](#)

Its stress-elimination and self-development programs are based on the breathing technique [Sudarshan Kriya](#), meditation and yoga. This technique is a major part of Art of Living courses,^[13] which are conducted by instructors, most of whom do voluntary work.^[14] These courses have also been conducted for students and faculty,^[14] government officials,^[15] firemen,^[13] ex-militants,^[16] and prisoners.^[17]

Social service[\[edit\]](#)

Its areas of work cover conflict resolution,^[18] disaster and trauma relief,^{[19][20]} poverty alleviation, empowerment of women, prisoner rehabilitation,^[17] education for all, and campaigns against female foeticide,^[21] child labour and for environmental sustainability.^{[22][23]}

Project Vidarbha[\[edit\]](#)

In 2007, the foundation initiated the 'Project Vidarbha - 'Swavalamban programme', with the aim of instructing and supporting farmers in severely drought hit regions to improve their living conditions. Over 1000 volunteers provided training in organic and [zero-budget farming](#), rainwater harvesting, hygiene, and the construction of toilets in addition to the Art of Living course.^[24] The foundation received Rs 1.4 million funding from the state Government against its total expenditure of nearly Rs 7.5 million, some of which was self-financed, most of which was raised from corporate donors.^[25] A

similar initiative was started to educate farmers in [Andhra Pradesh](#) to implement 'zero budget farming' to end suicides to due to financial stress.^[26]

Mission Green Earth[\[edit\]](#)

In partnership with [United Nations Millennium Campaign](#) and [United Nations Environment Programme](#) the 'Mission Green Earth Stand Up Take Action' campaign was launched in 2008 with a goal to plant 100 million trees across the world to help reduce global warming and protect the environment.^{[23][27][28]} In 2010, in Bangladesh the foundation participated in the 'Billion Tree Campaign' started by United Nations Environment Programme.^{[29][30]}

River Rejuvenation Projects[\[edit\]](#)

A three-year program to rejuvenate the [Kumudavathi River](#) (in Bangalore) was initiated by the foundation under its 'Volunteer for Better India' campaign in collaboration with civic authorities and environmentalists in February 2013. "The project aims to address the water shortage problems through rainwater harvesting, increasing green cover and de-silting existing step wells, among other methods." Volunteers join the villagers every Sunday to participate in these activities under guidance of a geological scientist.^{[31][32]} To create awareness about this program, Art of Living founder [Ravi Shankar](#), joined by other NGOs, prominent citizens, civic authorities, farmers and volunteers led a walkathon in Bangalore City.^[33] Apart from reviving some water bodies used by birds and animals,^[34] the project had revived five water-recharge wells, constructed 74 boulder checks, cleaned up 18 step wells and planted 2,350 saplings in seven villages by June 2014.^[35]

Similar efforts were held to revive [Pallar River](#) in Andhra Pradesh, Manjra river in Maharashtra,^[36] and [Vedavathi River](#) in Karnataka.^[37]

Volunteer For a Better India[\[edit\]](#)

The Art of Living, combined with UN agencies, NGOs and civil society, launched Volunteer For a Better India (VFABI) on 5 December 2012. VFABI is involved in many activities, including protesting against the [2012 Delhi gang-rape case](#).^[38]

In May 2013, 1,634 volunteers distributed medicines worth Rs. 2.2 million under the guidance of 262 doctors to over 20,000 slum dwellers in Delhi through 108 free health camps organized in collaboration with the [Indian Medical Association](#).^[39]

In September 2013, the 'I vote for better India' initiative was launched to increase awareness of the importance of voting as a responsibility towards the nation.^{[40][41][42]}

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<https://www.dsyindia.org/about-us/>

About DSY, Dharma Sthambha Yojana

Sri Sri Ravi Shankar founder of the Art of Living Foundation, is humanitarian leader, spiritual teacher and ambassador of peace. His vision of a stress-free, violence-free society has united millions of people the world over through service projects and the courses of The Art of Living.

For three decades, Sri Sri Ravi Shankar has been engaged in:

- Promoting human values
- Fostering interfaith harmony
- Building communal unity
- Encouraging social responsibility
- Spearheading humanitarian causes

His work has touched the lives of millions of people around the world, going beyond the barriers of race, nationality and religion with the message of a “one-world family”; that inner and outer peace are possible; and that a stress-free, violence-free society can be created through service and the reawakening of human values.

What is DSY

A portion of your earnings given in service, brings abundance

H H Sri Sri Ravishankar

Founded by His Holiness Sri Sri Ravi Shankar in 2002. The Dharma Sthamba Yojana (DSY) is a unique initiative, bridging the gap between service projects (whose impact and effectiveness critically depends upon monetary resources) and the millions of socially aware individuals, whom are willing to set aside a small portion of their income for the betterment of their society.

Gurudev talks about Dharma Sthambha Yojana, <https://youtu.be/P0mu1UDz2og>

DSY effectively channels your monetary contributions to service projects; impacting, empowering our people, society and country.

Our service projects include:

1. Holistic Rural Development
2. Disaster Relief & trauma care
3. Education - for rural & tribal children
4. Environmental Care - Promotion of organic and zero-budget farming

80G tax exemption certificates are issued after making a donation.

Contact

Email id: info@dsyindia.org

Phone: 080-67612345

(Monday-Saturday 9:30 AM to 6:30 PM IST)

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https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isha_Foundation

Isha Foundation is a [non-profit](#), [spiritual](#) organization founded in 1992 by Sadhguru [Jaggi Vasudev](#).^[v] It is based at the Isha Yoga Center near [Coimbatore](#), [India](#). The foundation offers [yoga](#) programs under the name of Isha Yoga. The foundation is run entirely by volunteers and it has over 9 million volunteers.

Isha Yoga is the masthead under which the Isha Foundation offers yoga programs. The word *isha* means "the formless divine".^{[4]^[unreliable source?][5]}

Yoga classes are also conducted for corporate leaders to introduce them to what Sadhguru calls "inclusive economics," to "introduce a sense of compassion and inclusiveness into today's economic scenario".

Activities[\[edit\]](#)

The foundation regularly organises [Mahasathsangs](#) with Sadhguru in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka where he gives discourses, conducts meditations and indulges in question-answer session with the masses.^[12] It also organises annual [yatras](#) to [Mount Kailash](#) and the [Himalayas](#) under the banners Kailash Manasarovar Sojourn and Himalayan Dhyan Yatra. The Kailash Sojourn led by Sadhguru is among the largest groups to make the trip to Kailash with 514 pilgrims making the journey in 2010.^{[13][14]}

Social and environmental initiatives[\[edit\]](#)

Project GreenHands[\[edit\]](#)



Saplings being readied for transportation at a PGH nursery.

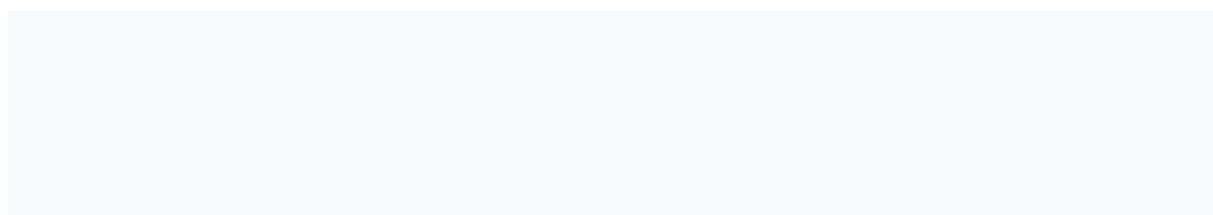
Project GreenHands (PGH) was established in 2004 as an environmental organization. Its activity is largely focused on [Tamil Nadu](#). The organization received the Indira Gandhi Paryavaran Puraskar, the [Government of India](#)'s environmental award in 2010.^[2] The organisation's activities include [agroforestry](#), plant nurseries in schools,^[15] and tree-planting in urban centers such as [Tiruchirappalli](#)^[16] and [Tiruppur](#).^[17]

Action for Rural Rejuvenation^[edit]

Action for Rural Rejuvenation (ARR) is a health and community-oriented program focuses on rural [Tamil Nadu](#). It was established in 2003, and as of 2010, functioned in 4200 villages with a population 7 million.^{[18][19]}

Isha Vidhya^[edit]

Isha Vidhya, an education initiative, aims to raise the level of education and literacy in rural India by providing quality English-language-based, computer-aided education for rural children. There are seven Isha Vidhya Schools in operation which educate around 3000 students.^[20]



Isha Home School premises.

Rally for rivers^[edit]

Rally for Rivers is a campaign launched by Isha Foundation in 2017 to tackle the scarcity of water across rivers in [India](#) and instill awareness about protecting rivers.^{[21][unreliable source?]} [Sadhguru](#) launched the campaign on 3 September from Isha Yoga Center, [Coimbatore](#).^[22] The campaign included a month-long, nationwide campaign.^[23] On 3 October, a river revitalization draft proposal was presented by Sadhguru to [Narendra Modi](#).^[24] Six states signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) with Isha Foundation to plant trees along river banks. These states are Karnataka, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Punjab, Maharashtra and Gujarat.^{[25][26][27][28][29][30][unreliable source?]} The Niti Aayog and the Ministry of Water Resources have constituted committees to study the draft policy proposal.^{[29][31]} Under the flag name of Rally for rivers, [Cauvery calling](#) campaign is being organised which would last for over a decade. this project mainly focouses on river Kaveri. In November, at a conference in Germany, the executive director of the United Nations Environmental Program, Erik Solheim discussed Rally for Rivers with Sadhguru, and how environmental programs around the world can emulate its success.^[32]

Rally for Rivers was criticized by the environmentalist who stated that it was trying to solve a complex problem with a "Shallow solution".

Vivekananda Kendra

<https://www.vrmvk.org> › home-1

1.

Vivekananda Kendra is Spiritual Oriented Service Organization working with motto Man Making Nation Building. **Vivekananda Kendra** is working with Swami ...

Through Karyapaddhati the awareness of the need of organized work for the regeneration of nation is generated. This energy is channelized to undertake a number of activities to actualize Swami Vivekananda's vision of Jagadguru Bharat.

Kendra Karyakartas are spreading Swamiji's message of selfless service and love for the country and pride in our culture through these karyapaddatis.

Kendra organizes every year three stage karyakata prashikshan shibirs to induct new workers to its cadre. Besides numbers of camps like Yoga Shibir, Spiritual Retreat, Maitri Shibir, Personality Development Shibir are also organised at different places.

Vivekananda Kendra works to create the awareness for the need of organized work for regeneration of nation. Such awareness is reflected in ever-growing activities. Some of these activities are undertaken by projects especially created to cater to the needs efficiently. [Vivekananda kendra Natural Resources Development Program](#), [Vivekananda Kendra Vedic Vision Foundation](#), [Vivekananda Kendra ArunJyoti](#), [Vivekananda Kendra Institute of Culture](#), [Vivekananda Kendra Medical and Research Foundation](#), [Vivekananda International Foundation](#), [Vivekananda Kendra Vidyalaya Arunachal Pradesh Trust](#), [Vivekananda Kendra Shiksha Prasar Vibhag](#), [Vivekananda Kendra Utkal Seva Prakalp](#), [Vivekananda Kendra Seva Va Prashikshan Prakalp](#) and [Vivekananda Kendra Prakashan](#).

The activities carried out by all Projects and the Branch Centers are:

- Over 64 Vidyalayas for tribal and rural children in Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Assam, Andmans, Tamilnadu and Karnatak.
- Hostel for Vanavasi Children.
- 150 Balwadies all over the country.
- Running of Non-formal school for preservation of Vedic Vidyas.
- Personality Development Camps for the children.
- Youth Camps to motivate them to lead purposeful life.
- Cultural Examinations to increase the awareness in students about the greatness as well as relevance of Indian culture.
- Non-formal Education through Audio-visuials.

- Matru Sammelan and Women Awareness Camps for tribal women to motivate them to lead purposeful life.
- Deep Pooja and Shiva pooja.
- Vocational Training in Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamilnadu.
- Amrita Surabhi Daily offering of handful rice by women, which is collected to feed around 12,000 poor rural children.
- Residential Yoga Shibirs of 15 days duration.
- Residential Spiritual Retreats of 7 days duration.
- Promotion of use of natural resources like biogas, building materials, herbal medicines.
- Training masons, farmers etc.in appropriate rural technology.
- Seminar and lecture series in Vedic Studies and publishing of Vedic literature.
- Seminar, workshops and symposiums to create awareness in ecology.
- Seminars and symposiums on traditions of VANavasi communities for their protection and promotion.
- Hearth care camps including eye check up and operation.
- Inter-civilization dialogue and understanding in perspective of Hindu civilization.
- Research and documentation of traditional Customs, Tituals of Vanvasi communities.
- Publishing thought provoking literature through magazines like Yuva Bharati (English Monthly) ,Vivekananda Kendra Patrika (English, Thematic Six monthly), Kendra Bharati (Hindi monthly), Vivek Vichar (Marathi, monthly), Vivek Vani(Tamil monthly), Jagriti(Assamiese & English , three monthly), Vivek Sudha(Gujarati, Three monthly) and many other books also.

Vivekananda Kendra had adopted the methodology of regularly conducting classes for different layers of society so as to awaken it towards the challenges it faces in organized way:

Vivekananda Kendra had adopted the methodology of regularly conducting classes for different layers of society so as to awaken it towards the challenges it faces in organized way:

- **YOGA VARGA**
- **SWADHYAYA VARGA**
- **SAMSKAR VARGA**
- **KENDRA VARGA**

The vision of Swami Vivekananda was to rebuild Mother Bharat in tune with her personality enshrined in yoga and spiritual lore. The genius of Eknathji Ranade located the holistic concept of yoga, another name for spirituality in the words of Swami Vivekananda 'Each Soul is potentially Divine,' and adopted it as the basis of Vivekananda Kendra(VK). He could see the vision of Sri Aurobindo enunciating Integral yoga as a furthering depth of Swamiji's thoughts on yoga. Eknathji trained in the organizational skills and powered by a patriotic favor with the holistic vision of Hindu nation enunciated a century ago by Swami Vivekananda, in tune with the emerging trends of popularity of yoga gave a direction to the Kendra in his first pamphlet '[Yoga, the core of Vivekananda Kendra](#)'.

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https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chinmaya_Mission

The **Chinmaya Mission** is a [Hindu](#) religious and spiritual organization engaged in the dissemination of [Vedanta](#), the science of the self as expounded in the [Vedas](#), particularly the [Upanishads](#), and other Hindu scriptures such as the [Bhagavad Gita](#).^[2] The Chinmaya Mission was established in India in 1953 by devotees of the renowned Vedanta teacher Swami [Chinmayananda Saraswati](#).^[4]

Administered by the Central Chinmaya Mission Trust in Mumbai, India, the mission was later headed by Swami [Tejomayananda](#) and is now headed by Swami Swaroopananda. There are over 313 mission centres all over India and abroad. North America had more than 30 centres.^[5]

The motto of Chinmaya Mission is "to give maximum happiness to maximum people for maximum time."

Activities[\[edit\]](#)

The following activities are conducted at mission centers on a weekly basis:

Bala Vihar[\[edit\]](#)

Bala Vihar is a program in which children from age five to eighteen meet on a weekly basis to learn about Hindu culture, customs, and philosophy. Bala Vihar is a program that is conducted throughout the world, not just in India, from countries such as the United States, UK, and Australia.^{[10][11]} Some centers also have a version called Sishu Vihar, which is meant for children aged 2 to 4.

Chinmaya Yuva Kendra[\[edit\]](#)

CHYK – Chinmaya Yuva Kendra, known as CHYK, is the global youth arm of Chinmaya Mission. It is meant for youth aged 18–30 and its motto is, "Harnessing Youth Potential through Dynamic Spirituality".^[12] CHYK conducts many camps and sessions throughout the world. CHYK West is a similar organization that operates in the West (United States, UK, etc.).

Other activities[\[edit\]](#)

- Study groups for adults
- Chinmaya Vanprastha Sansthan for senior citizens (India and UK)

Medical facilities[\[edit\]](#)

- Hospital – 1
- Nurses Training Centre – 1
- Diagnostic Centre – 14
- Eye camp in the rural areas – 1
- Adoption of villages for providing social and medical relief – 120
- Senior Citizen Homes – 8
- Income generating schemes for downtrodden women – 1
- Children Welfare Centre – 1
- Goshalas – 4

Pallavur Chinmaya Vidyalaya, Palakkad, Kerala

Educational field[\[edit\]](#)

- Chinmaya Vishwavidyapeeth <http://chinmayauniversity.ac.in/>
- Schools (Regular) – 70
- [Chinmaya International Residential School](#) – 1
- [Harihar](#) Schools (Free education & vocational training for downtrodden children for self-sufficiency) – 3
- Colleges – 4
- Degree College – 1
- Chinmaya Institute of Higher Learning – 1
- Chinmaya Heritage Centre – 1
- Value based Vision Programme for schools (Regularly conducted in various parts of India)
- Institute of Management – 1
- Chinmaya Academy for Civil Services - <https://www.chinmayaias.com>

Rural development[\[edit\]](#)

A meeting of **CORD**, at Siruvani, [Coimbatore](#)

Chinmaya Mission undertakes activities of Rural Development via its wing [Chinmaya Organisation for Rural Development \(CORD\)](#)

Environment related[\[edit\]](#)

Chinmaya Mission, Sikkim Centre has established CHINMAYA SMRITI VANAM at Bulbuley, Gangtok, Sikkim, India in 1995 and have planted till now more than 10,000 (ten thousand) trees sapling most of which have grown now into full trees.

Studies in Indology[\[edit\]](#)

- [Chinmaya International Foundation](#) (CIF), [Veliyanad](#), [Ernakulam](#), [Kerala](#)

Cultural field[\[edit\]](#)

- [Sandeepany Sadhanalaya, Mumbai](#)

Imparting knowledge of Indian scriptures in English and regional languages (Free two years residential course, for college graduate students) – 6

- Seminars on public speaking for Youth
- Leadership and personality development for youth and adults
- [Chinmaya Naada Bindu: Gurukul of Indian Performing Arts](#)
- Centre for World Understanding – 1

Areas Served[\[edit\]](#)

The Chinmaya Mission has influence in whole of [India](#) as well as in many foreign communities in [Australia](#), [England](#), [New Zealand](#), [Nigeria](#),^[13] [South Africa](#), [United States of America](#) and other countries.

Ashrams[\[edit\]](#)

[Sandeepany Sadhanalaya, Mumbai](#)

[Chinmaya Tapovan Trust, Sidhbari](#)

[Chinmaya Sandeepany, Karnataka](#)

[Chinmaya Sandeepany, Kolhapur, Maharashtra](#)

[Chinmaya Gardens, Coimbatore](#)

[Tapovan Kuti, Uttarkashi](#)

[Chinmaya Vibhooti, Kolwan, Pune](#)

[Chinmaya Krishnalaya, Piercy, CA, USA](#)

[SharadaSannidhi, Mangalore, Karnataka](#)

[Sydney, NSW, Australia](#)

[Chinmayaranyam, Andhra Pradesh](#)

Chinmaya Mission, Sikkim Centre Ashram at Saramsa, Near Jalipool, near Gangtok, Sikkim, India

Chinmaya Mission at Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, India

Paramdham Ashram at [Ahmedabad](#), [Gujarat](#)

[Chinmaya Mission Avantika. Ann Arbor, MI. USA](#)

Vedanta Classes Worldwide[\[edit\]](#)

CANADA

Toronto

Tuesday's 0730pm - 0900pm, Friday's 1030am - 1200pm, Saturday's 0800am - 0900am & 1030am - 1200pm, Sunday's 0800am - 0900am Chinmaya Vedanta Heritage Centre, 8832, The Gore Road, Brampton, Ontario L6P 0B1 Phone - 905-913-2377

CHINA

Hong Kong

Wednesday's 1100am - 1215pm, Thursday's 0715pm - 0815pm Chinmaya Seva Ashram, 11-F Ocean View Court, 43, Mody Road, Tsim Sha Tsui East, Kowloon, Hong Kong. Phone - 852 23673390, 852 67922844

MAURITIUS

Beau Bassin

Sunday's 0600am - 0700am Chinmaya Mission, Parna Kuti, Charles Jolivet Street, Beau Bassin 71507 Phone - (230) 464 2561

NETHERLANDS

Vught

Saturday's 1630 - 1830, 1930 - 2100 Chinmaya Vedanta, Spronk Residence, Johan Frisolaan 11 Vught 5263. Phone - 0031 (0) 73 656029

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland

Sunday's 0600pm - 0730pm, Chinmaya Nikunj Ashram, 63, McKenzie Road, Mangere Bridge Auckland 2022 Phone - (09) 2756954

Nelson

Monday's - Wednesday's 0730pm - 0900pm Chinmaya Darshan, 6, Valley Heights Road, Stepneyville, Nelson 7010 Phone - (03) 5487511

NIGERIA

Lagos

First Sunday of the month 0530pm - 0630pm Chinmaya Centre, No 18, Sere Close, Off Adeola Adeleye Street, Ipupeju, Lagos. Phone - 7027706259

PHILIPPINES

Makati City

Monday's 0830pm - 0945 pm Dasmariñas Village, Makati City. Phone - +63 917 851 0070, +63 908 181 1367

SINGAPORE

Monday's 1000am - 1130am, 0630pm - 0830pm, Wednesday's 1000am - 1130am, 0630pm - 0830pm, Thursday's 1030am - 1230pm Chinmaya Seva Centre, 67, Tessensohn Road, Opp. Civil Service Club, Serangoon, Singapore 217667 Phone - 65 63967949

UNITED KINGDOM

London

Sunday's 1115am - 1230pm Chinmaya Kirti, 2 Egerton Gardens, Hendon, London. Phone - 07812146428

Sunday's 1100am - 1230pm Harrows Arts Centre (Room name - Lowry), 171 Uxbridge Road, Hatch End HA5 4EA Conducted by Chinmaya Kirti Phone - 02082036288

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Atlanta

Chinmaya Niketan, 5511, Williams Road, Norcross, GA 30093 Phone - 678-615-7088

Austin

Sunday Mornings Chinmaya Mission, Chinmaya Sundaram, 12825 Burnet Road, Austin, Texas 78727 Phone - (512) 888-9232

Boston

Sunday's 0900am - 1030am & 1145am - 0115pm, Saturday's 0730am Chinmaya Mission, 1 Union Street, Andover, MA 01810 Phone - 978 749 0876

Chicago

Tuesday's 0700pm - 0800pm Chinmaya Mission, 115080 Kingery Highway Willowbrook IL 60527 Phone - 630-654-3370

Saturday's 1000am - 1040am, 0200pm - 0240pm, Sunday's 0900am - 0940am Chinmaya Mission, 30877, N. Fairfield Road, Grayslake, IL 60030 Phone - 847-740-1215

Houston

Sunday's 0835am - 1015am & 1120am - 0100pm Chinmaya Mission, Chinmaya Prabha, 10353 Synotl Road, Sugarland, Texas 77498-1130 Phone - 281-568-9520

Los Angeles

Sunday's 0830am & 1130am, Wednesday's 0730pm Chinmaya Mission, 14451 Franklin Ave., Tustin, CA 92780-7012 Phone - 714-615-5770

NW Indiana

Sunday's 1215pm - 0100pm Chinmaya Mission, Chinmaya Omkara, 8705, Merrillville Road, Merrillville, IN 46410. Phone - 219-322-7268, 219-924-7105, 219-614-1106

Orlando

Sunday's 0800am - 0845am, 0930am - 1030am Chinmaya Mission, 1221, Chinmaya Way, Casselberry, FL 32707 Phone - (407) 699-7331

Philadelphia

Tuesday's 0730pm Chinmaya Kedar, 560, Bridgetown Pike, Feasterville Trevose (Langhorne) PA 19053. Phone - 215-396-0390

Princeton

Sunday's 0830pm Chinmaya Vrindavan, 95 Cranbury Neck Road, N.J. 082512 Phone - 609-6550404

San Diego

Sunday's 0930am - 1100am Chinmaya Mission, Chinmaya Jyoti Ashram, 12249, 9th Street, Poway, CA 92064. Phone - (858) 748-2013

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[Ramakrishna Mission - Wikipedia](#)

[https://en.wikipedia.org > wiki > Ramakrishna_Mission](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ramakrishna_Mission)

Ramakrishna Mission (RKM, Bengali : রামকৃষ্ণ মিশন) is a Hindu religious and spiritual organisation which forms the core of a worldwide spiritual movement known as the **Ramakrishna** Movement or the Vedanta Movement.

Location: [205 Branch Centres](#)

Legal status: [Foundation](#)

Purpose: [Educational](#), [Philanthropic](#), [Religious ...](#)

Formation: [1 May 1897](#); 122 years ago [Calcutta](#), ...

Ramakrishna Mission (RKM, Bengali : রামকৃষ্ণ মিশন) is a [Hindu](#) religious and spiritual organisation which forms the core of a worldwide spiritual movement known as the *Ramakrishna Movement* or the *Vedanta Movement*.^{[1][2]} The mission is named after and inspired by the Indian saint [Ramakrishna Paramahansa](#)^[1] and founded by Ramakrishna's chief disciple [Swami Vivekananda](#) on 1 May 1897.^[1] The organisation mainly propagates the [Hindu philosophy](#) of [Vedanta–Advaita Vedanta](#) and four [yogic](#) ideals—[jnana](#), [bhakti](#), [karma](#), and [Raja Yoga](#).^{[3][1]}

Apart from religious and spiritual teaching the organisation carries out extensive educational and philanthropic work in [India](#). This aspect came to be a feature of many other [Hindu](#) movements.^[4] The mission bases its work on the principles of [karma yoga](#), the principle of selfless work done with dedication to God.^[1] The Ramakrishna Mission has centres around the world and publishes many important [Hindu](#) texts.^[5] It is affiliated with the [monastic](#) organisation [Ramakrishna Math](#), with whom it shares members

The Math and the Mission are the two key organisations that direct the work of the socio-religious Ramakrishna movement influenced by 19th-century (1800-1900) saint [Ramakrishna Paramahansa](#) and founded by his chief disciple [Vivekananda](#).^[6] Also referred to as the [Ramakrishna Order](#), the Math is the movement's monastic organisation. Founded by Ramakrishna in 1886, the Math primarily focuses on spiritual training and the propagation of the movement's teachings.^[6]

The Mission, founded by [Vivekananda](#) in 1897,^[7] is a humanitarian organisation which carries out medical, relief and educational programs. Both the organisations have headquarters at the [Belur Math](#). The Mission acquired a [legal status](#) when it was registered in 1909 under Act XXI of 1860. Its management is vested in a Governing Body. Though the Mission with its branches is a distinct [legal entity](#), it is closely related to the Math. The elected trustees of the Math also serve as Mission's Governing Body.^[8] [Vedanta Societies](#) comprise the American arm of the Movement and work more in purely spiritual field rather than social welfare.

Attitude towards Politics[\[edit\]](#)

Swami Vivekananda forbade his organisation from taking part in any political movement or activity, on the basis of the idea that holy men are apolitical.^[20]

However, presently, almost 95% of the monks possess [voter ID](#) cards. For the sake of identification and particularly for travelling, almost 95 per cent of the monks are forced to seek a voter ID card. But they use it only for identification purpose and not for voting. As individuals, the monks may have political opinions, but these are not meant to be discussed in public.^[21]

The Mission, had, however, supported the movement of [Indian independence](#), with a section of the monks keeping close relations with freedom fighters of various camps. A number of political revolutionaries later joined the Ramakrishna Order.^[22]

Emblem[\[edit\]](#)

Designed and explained by [Swami Vivekananda](#) in his own words:^[23]

The wavy waters in the picture are symbolic of Karma; the lotus, of Bhakti; and the rising-sun, of Jnana. The encircling serpent is indicative of [Raja] Yoga and the awakened

Kundalini Shakti, while the swan in the picture stands for Paramatman (Supreme Self). Therefore, the idea of the picture is that by the union of Karma, Jnana, Bhakti and Yoga, the vision of Paramatman is obtained.

Activities^[edit]

A sailor assigned to the mine countermeasures ship [USS Patriot](#) who cleared ground to plant a garden of [pomegranate](#), [guava](#) and lemon trees at the mission.

Social service and health promotion [at the Home of Service – Ramakrishna Mission, Varanasi, India](#)

The principal workers of the mission are the monks. The mission's activities cover the following areas,^[16]

- Education
- Health care
- Cultural activities
- Rural uplift
- Tribal welfare
- Youth movement etc.

The mission has its own hospitals, charitable dispensaries, maternity clinics, [tuberculosis](#) clinics, and mobile dispensaries. It also maintains training centres for nurses. Orphanages and homes for the elderly are included in the mission's field of activities, along with rural and tribal welfare work.^[24]

The mission has established many renowned educational institutions in [India](#), having its own university, colleges, vocational training centres, high schools and primary schools, teacher-training institutes, as well as schools for the visually handicapped.^[24] It has also been involved in [disaster relief](#) operations during famine, epidemic, fire, flood, earthquake, cyclone and communal disturbances.^[24]

The mission played an important role in the installation of [photovoltaic](#) (PV) lighting systems in the [Sundarbans](#) region of [West Bengal](#). Due to the geographical features of the [Sunderbans](#), it is very difficult to extend the grid network to supply power to its population. The PV lighting was used to provide electricity to the people who were traditionally depending on kerosene and diesel.^[25]

Religious activities^[edit]

The mission is a non-sectarian organisation^{[26][27]} and ignores caste distinctions.^[28]

Ramakrishna [ashrama](#)'s religious activities include [satsang](#) and [arati](#). [Satsang](#) includes communal prayers, songs, rituals, discourses, reading and meditation. [Arati](#) involves the ceremonial waving of lights before the images of a deity of holy person and is performed twice in a day.^[29] Ramakrishna [ashramas](#) observes major [Hindu festivals](#), including [Maha Shivarathri](#), [Rama Navami](#), [Krishna Ashtami](#) and [Durga Puja](#). They also give special place to the birthdays of [Ramakrishna](#), [Sarada Devi](#), [Swami Vivekananda](#) and other monastic disciples of [Ramakrishna](#).^[29] 1 January is celebrated as [Kalpataru Day](#).^[30]

The math and the mission are known for their religious tolerance and respect for other religions. Among the earliest rules laid down by [Swami Vivekananda](#) for them was, "*Due respect and reverence should be paid to all religions, all preachers, and to the deities worshiped in all*

religions.^[31] Acceptance and toleration of all religions is the one of ideals of Ramakrishna Math and Mission. Along with the major [Hindu festivals](#), Christmas Eve and [Buddha's](#) Birthday are also devoutly observed.^{[29][31][32]} Cyril Veliath of [Sophia University](#) writes that the Ramakrishna Mission monks are a relatively orthodox set of monks who are "extremely well respected both in India and abroad", and that they "cannot be classified as just another sect or cult, such as the groups led by the gurus". Veliath writes that "of the [Hindu](#) groups I have worked with I have found the Ramakrishna Mission to be the most tolerant and amenable to dialogue, and I believe that we Christians couldn't do better, than to cooperate wholeheartedly in their efforts towards inter-religious harmony."^{[33][34]}

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