

Seshan Awarded for Service

India's Chief Election Commissioner, T.N. Seshan, was on Monday, July 8, named winner of the 1996 Ramon Magsaysay award for government service.

The awards board in Manila, the Philippines, cited the tough-talking Seshan for successfully presiding over India's recent parliamentary polls, dubbed the most peaceful, cleanest and orderly so far in the world's largest democracy.

"When India's politicians proved reluctant to legislate reforms, he launched a crusade of his own... [and] cowed the high and mighty and restored credibility to the electoral system," the awards board said.

It said the 63 year old Seshan suppressed local goons, prevented theft of ballot boxes and vote-buying, banned ostentatious campaign displays and noisy rallies and enforced spending limits.

"He also exposed politicians who used public resources for electioneering, banned election propaganda based on religion and banned the sale of liquor and seized unlicensed guns at election time, among others," it added.

"Although the campaign was almost cheerless and devoid of colour, it resulted in clean elections which impressed most foreign observers," the statement read.

Seshan will receive a certificate, a medallion, and a US \$50,000 prize. The award, the Asian equivalent of the Nobel prize, was named for a popular Philippine president who died in a plane crash in 1957.

The awards will be presented August 31. Awardees for public service, community leadership, journalism, literature and creative communication, arts and international understanding will also be named. UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL



Ganesh Pujā → The date for the puja has been brought forward 2 weeks to the weekend of 14/15 September

Why not see to the better side of man. By seeing bad side, if you can cure it - well and good. But if you are not going to cure it, you are yourself going to get bad. If you can cure it, nothing like it. But you cannot.

Also people always say. "I would not do that." But you would do something else that the other person would not do!

When judging others, one has to know one should judge oneself first of all. Because with what are you judging? With your ego and super ego. I have seen it is a very common failing, which should not be there any more.

But you people are not going to see the faults of each other, but to the good points of everyone.

28/7/85

THE AUSTRALIAN

Sahaja Newsletter



Contributions:

11th August 1996

Heather Sattarshetty: (02) 560 0029
Burwood Fax. (02) 745 4927

INDIA TOUR RAFFLE 1996

TICKETS NOW ON SALE

\$12.00 each or two for \$20.00

Tickets can be bought at Burwood from Ruth Cross or Ione Docherty.

Tickets have been sent out to all major centres.

However if you live in a remote area and would like to buy a ticket please send a cheque or money order made out to Life Eternal Trust to Sarita Chavan 27 Kruger Ave Windang 2528

with your name address and telephone number clearly marked.



SPECIAL NOTICE.

NEWS FROM LAUNCESTON, TASMANIA.

SAHAJA YOGA PROGRAMME : FRIDAY AUGUST 30th 7-30p

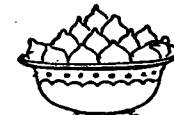
HELP PLEASE! CONTACT CATHERINE BISGAARD
(003) 341526.

~ Catherine Bisgaard ~

15 Abbott Street - East Launceston - 7250 - (003) 341526

© Could all chocolate sellers return either proceeds or unsold chocolates to Gillian Patankar by next Saturday.

Thankyou.



Seekers Flock to Albert Hall

On Friday June 28th, for the fifth consecutive year, Shri Mataji gave a public program in one of the most prestigious and famous venues in the world, London's Royal Albert Hall.

CAMBRIDGE (July 8) - The program began in the usual fashion, with bhajans from the Sahaja Yogis and an introductory talk. The singers had been rehearsing hard and the music was very professional and very sweet. There were certainly more people there than last year. I am very bad at estimating numbers, but I remember thinking that next year any late-comers might not be able to get seats!

Shri Mataji's talk was fairly short. She spoke about the things which keep us away from reality, the ideas to which we are attached, giving the example of the England versus Germany football match in which peoples' attention had become so involved (Sahaja Yogis included!). Her talk was immensely loving and compassionate without the sharp attacks on negativity which we have heard in the past. She mentioned the problems of some eastern countries (such as Bulgaria) where Sahaja Yoga is banned as a cult: "...They say we are a cult when we have done nothing but good for people. All right, if we are a cult there should be some more cults like that!"

This drew applause and laughter from the whole hall. I saw one or two people leave during the talk, but at the end, when She asked those who did not want self-realization to leave, I saw nobody leaving. For the first time in the U.K. Shri Mataji gave realization without working on all the chakras. She said that there were two obstacles to overcome, feeling guilty and not forgiving. "Please hold out your hands, don't feel guilty, forgive everyone in general. Now please ask for your realization." Everyone put up their hands afterwards. She said to Derek Lee that it had been an experiment which had worked out well, that the people were very high quality.

Last year Shri Mataji emphasized at the program the importance of attending the follow-ups, which many people did, but very few seemed to have the depth of experience to really understand Sahaja Yoga and become established. This year it was not mentioned, but the London centres have been swamped with enquiries. We are all hoping that the real seekers have come.

I have heard that Shri Mataji said that we do not have to get a lot more new Sahaja Yogis, that the people coming now are of such good quality, but the accuracy and context of this needs to be confirmed.

In the past we have concentrated on postering for publicity, but this is controlled by a mafia in London and we have always had problems. This year the emphasis was on handing out leaflets, 250,000 of them. I was personally surprised by how respectful and interested most people in the street were. The personal contact with Sahaja Yogis, however brief, seems to be very important. One man that I gave a leaflet to walked away gazing at Shri Mataji's picture intently and walked into a lamp post. He looked shocked for a moment and then laughed loudly, saying, "My God, it's working already."

BARRY WEST

Dear Yogis,

Shri Mataji has been officially invited to attend a conference on Qi Gong in Beijing, China. She will be presenting Sahaja Yoga at the conference which has been arranged through the ministry of health. She will also be signing a memorandum of understanding with the Ministry of Health to cooperate in the research of Sahaja Yoga for the treatment of diseases. We have been asked to set up a training course to teach health professionals about Sahaja Yoga, with an emphasis on the health aspects. It will be an interesting exercise as we have to cut out all references to God, religion or devotion and worship. We are currently developing a course which will give a more medical picture. It will also contain a philosophical approach which is leaning more to Confucius ideals to make it more acceptable to the Chinese people. Shri Mataji said that in China they understand Confucius better than Lao Tsz.

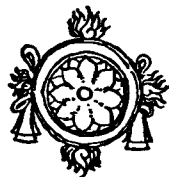
We have also got the provincial head of the Health Administration in Guangdong interested in running a similar course in Southern China. This will be much easier to maintain, as they speak Cantonese, the same as in HK. Lyndon De Valle has been in HK recently to pick up his wife and son. He is now back in Beijing and will continue working at the University teaching English. He needs established yogis to come and help in Beijing. If anyone has a degree and some teaching experience then they can work at the university as there are a number of positions to start in September. If people have Mandarin language skills then it's even better. There is much work to be done in China and we need as many people who can help as possible. There may not be great financial rewards but the spiritual blessings are infinite.

Please contact me for more details.

Lots of love to everyone,

Alex.

P.S. Though Shri Mataji will not be able to travel to China at this time, the yogis will still be presenting Sahaja Yoga at the conference early next month. Good Luck!!!



No more Scottish singing on Friday nights. Carole McNeill, after 4½ years composing the Newsletter, has been promoted to third casual assistant of finances (she hopes). Though she may now be only dealing in small change we would like to thank her a million for her work, love and care. Bon Voyage!

As of July 1996, the new mailing address and telephone numbers for The Divine Cool Breeze are:

The Divine Cool Breeze
6627 Barnhurst Drive
San Diego CA 92117-4205
USA

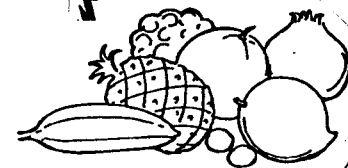
Tel: 1-619-571-8746
Fax: 1-619-571-8740
e-mail: DivineCool@aol.com

Note: Mail already sent to the old address will be forwarded for several months.



Rebecca
Battacharya

on the 3/8/96
gave birth to a
boy - 8½ lbs
in Pune, India.
Congratulations
and love from
us all.



When I find Sahaja yogis criticizing Sahaja yogis, I am amazed! Because you are part and parcel of the same. I can criticize alright, but why should you? Only thing you have to do is love each other. Christ has said it thrice. I must have said it 108 times already that you have to love each other. That is the only way you are expressing compassion. If I have given you any love any time, you have to have patience with others - love for others.

7/85