

The pace established in Delhi -- go slow, and enjoy -- continued at Ganapatipule. Early morning, some of us footsoaked. The water was warm. Later, after breakfast, back in for splashing, swimming, and playing with brothers from all over India in the warm, gentle waves. The heat seemed less stressful this year, after a few slightly uncomfortable hours in the middle of the day, the breezes picked up and the air started to cool around 4:00 in the afternoon.

Babamama announced that all of the music would be presented by Sahaja Yogis this year. For the first time, there would be no outside musicians. Evening after evening, we were treated to young people from the Dharamsala school, or students of the Nagpur music academy, or Sahaja Yogis from all over the world and all over India, or the professional, staggering talent of the masters such as Guruji, Arun Apte, and Deepak Varma.

Again we were graced with Our Divine Mother's presence for the nightly music programmes. On top of that, She blessed us with Christmas Puja, covering so much in so many new ways that the talk will have to be heard several times to absorb it all. (In this talk Shri Mataji explained, in new and subtle ways, about the sixth element, ether.) And then, because the Divine can only shower blessings without limit, we were in Shri Mataji's darshan once again for the Sahaja Yoga marriages. Hearing the vows taken with such a combination of solemnity and gaiety ("we need ghee -- who's got more ghee?") reaffirmed the noble ideals of Vishwa Nirmala Dharma, and the importance of such profoundly spiritual marriages for the establishment and growth of Vishwa Nirmala Dharma.

So many new friends! Every brother near me became a best friend; addresses and e-mail addresses were exchanged. Each brother had inspiring stories of how Sahaja Yoga is spreading on all the continents, in different languages, into new communities. And so many loving reunions with dear brothers and sisters. And for the first time on a tour, this correspondent did not get sick. (Well, okay, a right nabhi toe was bashed against a rock.)

A longer bus ride (12 hours) took us to Kalwe for the last few days of our stay in India. New Year's Eve Puja: As we sat and watched, the yogis of Mumbai transformed a bare stage into a flower-bedecked temple for the Goddess. Shri Mataji arrived in a big V12 car, which made me feel like She was in a vehicle worthy of Her stature. The New Year's Eve puja talk was given in English and Marathi. The topic was freedom, and, while we listened in amazement at the new insights She presented to us, Shri Mataji talked about and explained about freedom and children and growth and expression of in-built talents.

Linda and I had done some tour-shopping (Kurta/Pyjama etc) in Delhi; now we did some shopping in Mumbai for a harmonium. We were looked after by Linda's rakhi brother and what seemed to be an extended family everywhere we went; that one thread doesn't just tie you to one brother, but to that brother's wife and her family! The common thread through all of our travels and meals together was a welcoming, cozy, selfless, pure love.

There is nothing like the reflective, calm mood one feels while at Ganapatipule. And there is no greater joy than seeing Our Holy Mother in the land of Her birth, in the land of spirituality where there is recognition and respect for divinity. Jai Shri Mataji!

--Mark Taylor, New Jersey, USA



Australian Sahaja Newsletter

6th Feb '99

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So the first thing was Sahaja Yoga. All these are secondary, all your art, all your business, all your music or whatever line of life you take is a second. The first and foremost thing is Sahaja Yoga and you get in that everything, but should do it very sincerely, respectfully. If you think you are not in it, then you better understand that if you're not in it, you cannot be there. You have to be full into it, you see. So either you are in the sea or you are outside, it's like that. And this will give you the greatest pleasure, the greatest fulfillment of life. I can see that that's happening now and I'm very happy, and as I said, I'm very proud of you. It should happen everywhere, and with all My love I bless you that you all should really become very, very great Sahaja Yogis and you'll all be known all over the world.

H.H. Shri Mataji Nirmala Devi
5 April 1994, Sydney Australia

COUNTRY TOUR NEWS

Wollongong Public Program and concert

...was held on 3rd February and was a resounding success and a very joyful experience for all concerned. There were about 60-70 new seekers who all enjoyed the program. Jessica Miller (just back from Nagpur Academy) performed a very dynamic dance, the bhajans were overflowing, and a deep meditation was enjoyed by all. Follow ups are planned and all in all a very successful start to the Country tour!

The Wollongong collective would like to say thanks for all the support from Sydney, and the Sydney collective would like to thank Wollongong Yogis for their kind hospitality!

SHIVRATRI PUJA

The Sydney Shivratri puja will be on the 13th of Feb. '99 at 3pm at 10 Clarence St.

PLEASE CHECK WHICH GROUP YOU ARE IN ON THE
NEW PUJA ROSTER

Shri Mataji's Talks

All Sahaja Yogis know how important it is to listen to Shri Mataji's talks, and to hear them a number of times. We all have the experience of hearing more in them each time we listen. Hearing recent Puja talks keeps us in touch with the messages Shri Mataji wants to give us at a particular time. For these reasons, we are strongly encouraged to buy the audio tapes of Shri Mataji's talks and to listen to them frequently.

Audio Tapes

For some time the royalty on the Puja talks was 3 UK pounds, which three years ago translated to AUD\$6, which, with production costs, set the tape price at AUD\$11.

However, in a recent letter from Italy, Guido reminds us that the royalty on tapes is actually US\$6.

With our present exchange rate, that translates to AUD\$10. Together with production costs, that brings the price of a Puja tape to AUD\$15.

As you know, the royalties on Shri Mataji's tapes go towards the various Sahaja Projects which Shri Mataji is establishing around the world. So when we buy a tape, we are actually supporting the International Sahaja Projects in a very real way.

Here are the new prices for audio tapes (earlier tapes remain unchanged):

Puja Talks

1999 tapes:	\$15
1996-98 tapes:	\$11
Pre-1996 tapes:	\$8

All Music tapes recorded in Shri Mataji's Presence:

Prices as for Puja tapes, above.

Public Program talk tapes: \$5

1998 Albert Hall & Holland Park tapes

(soon to be available, with colour photo of Shri Mataji on cover): \$7

Tapes are always available at Burwood after programs. See Kim, Sue or Marcus in the Tape Room!

From: Mark Taylor, USA, <Sahajbhakt@aol.com>

Date: Thu, 28 Jan 1999 13:28:44 EST

Subject: India Tour Recollections

December 1998 India Tour - some recollections We were privileged to see Shri Mataji many times on this tour. First, in Delhi, there was a music programme on the evening of 16 Dec. Shri Mataji arrived and was welcomed by the Delhi Sahaja Yogis with the presentation of a coconut, shawl, and garland. Then many bouquets of roses were offered from the different Delhi-area centres.

It was awesome enough to have Shri Mataji on the stage to enjoy the musical evening with us. Not only did She grace us with Her darshan throughout the performances, however. She gave us a deep and subtle talk about Sahaja Yoga, going into realms and levels I had never heard before. Shri Mataji said there were five elements which were expressed in Sahaja Yogis. Light, Air, Water, Fire, and Earth. Each had a subtle form in Sahaja Yoga. For instance, Light is expressed as the Radiance in the appearance of Sahaja Yogis.

Shri Mataji also explained the difference between a traditional, Indian mind and a western mind. In India, if a person is understood to be a great saint, then anything that person says is accepted. In the west, the mind always analyses, discusses, challenges. Delhi Sahaja Yogis offered dance and music for our collective delight. There are few pleasures more special than being treated to a full Bharat Natyam dance performance with every element--percussion, singing, melody--performed live, on the stage.

We saw Shri Mataji again at the public programme. She spoke strongly to the Indians, and then made the strongest statement for pure devotion to one's country--She stood while Vande Mataram was sung. The men around me and myself had tears in our eyes. The sense of majesty, of the Queen Herself standing to salute Her own country, was overwhelming.

The rhythm of the tour was established in Delhi. There were no deadlines, schedules, tour leaders. We gathered to meditate, eat, sit around the fire. We simply enjoyed. When it came time to go the train station and board the train for Ganapatipule, I asked a local coordinator, is there a particular time we have to get there? He answered, "there is no hurry." So, without hurrying, we all made it to the station, got all the luggage on board, and were rolling down the tracks, on a regularly-scheduled train -- Sahaja.

We had a ball on the train. Various yogi brothers and sisters joined us, some became part of our compartment. Spontaneous Caterers had packed very thoughtfully for our 40 hours on the train--each meal was separately wrapped and clearly labelled in two colourful boxes. The countryside became lush, the colours intense, the sense of prosperity strong. We were in Maharashtra. The familiar sharp-ridged mountain peaks were in the distance.

We gave realisation to the people on the train--the manager of the food car, his employees, and so on. The newly-realised brothers became our buddies, chatting with us in our compartment, waiting outside on the platform with us during a long stop. The friendships grew so fast and so deep that some eyes had tears when we had to say good-bye at Ratnagiri. The shifting from train to our beloved red and yellow buses was easy and fun. A short hour and twenty-minute ride later, we were at Ganapatipule. We arrived at night, and the spectacle was astounding -- specially-timed sequential lights forming a festive "time tunnel" from the road to the main pendal; and so many sparkling lights at the main pendal that from a distance it looked like a multi-level millionaires' resort.