Organisation of global twice daily five-minute prayers to mitigate the effects of the Covid-19 Virus Pandemic

Proposed Timings are 8.00 am and 6.00 pm every day

We encourage citizens all over the world to pray twice a day for five minutes each, in whatever manner they wish to, exactly at 8.00 am and 6.00 pm at their respective local times.

According to the BBC, over 3 billion people worldwide are under voluntary or mandatory home confinement as authorities everywhere have implemented stringent measures to control the spread of the Virus by enforcing strict social distancing.
Understandably there is concern & fear and maybe even anger when all of a sudden people are forced to stay indoors for weeks together! Under these conditions many are resorting to prayers to calm their minds and cope psychologically.
Wisdom traditions the world over have maintained that mass prayers conducted synchronously can provide more effective succour. It is therefore proposed to encourage citizens all over the world who are confined for weeks together in a small accommodation, to pray in whatever manner they wish to or are used to for just five minutes twice a day every day at 8.00 am and 6.00 pm in their respective time zones. in order to avail the benefits of group prayers! An affirmative "Sankalpa" such as for example "My immune system is very powerful and will drive away all Coronaviruses if they approach me" is a recommended alternative/additional resolve.
As emphasised already, all wisdom traditions historically have maintained that synchronous mass prayer will be more effective than individual isolated prayers. Other groups worldwide are probably also independently proposing similar global group prayers.
That the mind plays a crucial role on our health has now been acknowledged by mainstream medical Science. The mind can have both negative & positive roles. Stress can cause disease whereas laughter, prayer, meditation, affirmative positive statements etc can have a beneficial effect on our health.
In this context it is also recognised that group prayer has a very positive role. Group prayers performed in a Temple or Church or indeed at any location <i>leads</i> to synchronicity both in time and space. When we pray at the same place and at the same time we are both transmitters and receivers of the beneficial forces.
In the present global curfew scenario, the option of synchronicity in space is not available. Obviously, we can't attend congregational prayers in Temples, Mosques etc
The option of individual prayers however remains. Religious leaders like Priests, Mullahs and other Spiritual leaders are indeed encouraging their followers to pray at home and not to give up hope.
In this context we are additionally emphasising the importance of all of us <i>praying at</i> the same time everywhere thereby creating temporal Synchronicity. But some may ask where is the proof that temporal synchronicity helps?

Relevance of the findings of the Global Consciousness Project initiated at the Princeton University, USA during the 90s:

We would like to introduce the readers to the existence of an ongoing Scientific Experiment initiated originally at Princeton University in their Department Mechanical and Aerospace Eng. under the title "Princeton Engineering Anomalies Research (PEAR)" program. In the mid-90s they were studying mind-matter interaction phenomena. Their experimental studies confirmed that a person sitting in front of a computer which has an electronic "Random Event Generator (REG)" plug in card installed, could successfully alter/influence the statistical properties of the string of "zeros" and "ones" emanating from the plug-in card. The website http://pearlab.icrl.org/ gives a comprehensive summary of the 30-year long PEAR Lab research program.

From studying the influence of single experimenters on the REG output they expanded their experiments to include the influence of groups of students and other volunteers. One of the remarkable findings was that a couple of experimenters in love with each other (say husband & wife or a boyfriend & girl friend or mother – daughter etc) had a greater impact than either of them individually. The results of such "Bonded couple studies" are published in the PEAR lab reports. It is amazing that a non-living object such as a computer-based instrument could recognise the special emotional bond that exists between human experimenters.

Later they conducted experiments in venues outside the lab where group events were taking place. The "FieldREG studies" clearly demonstrated the formation of a "coherent group consciousness field" which could influence the statistical properties of the REG unit's output, even when the participants were not aware that such a device was monitoring the effects of their group activity!

All these findings led to the establishment of the Global Consciousness Project (GCP). (See their website noosphere.princeton.edu for details.) The GCP is directed by Dr.Roger Nelson from his home office in Princeton. The Institute of Noetic Sciences (IONS) https://noetic.org) provides logistical support for the GCP project. His website says:

"The Global Consciousness Project is an international, multidisciplinary collaboration of scientists and engineers. We collect data continuously from a global network of physical random number generators located in up to 70 host sites around the world at any given time. The data are transmitted to a central archive which now contains more than 15 years of random data in parallel sequences of synchronised 200-bit trials generated every second."

When major global events occur such as Princess Diana's funeral or the 9/11 terrorist attack, election of President Obama, or even the Kumbh Mela in India, many millions of people are deeply engaged and billions learn of the events online and react emotionally. During such moments, without our knowledge, a coherent Consciousness field is established which affects the statistical properties of the output of the random devices ("EGGS") in the GCP network. We believe awareness of such effects of consciousness can make our prayers more effective.

It was the combination of the availability of global TV networks and the 70+ nodal computers of the GCP network that demonstrated the establishment of a coherent Group Consciousness field. In hindsight, it was realised that this happens due to the non-local nature of the Consciousness field created by each of us. The non-locality of the Consciousness field has been independently confirmed, through other parapsychology phenomena such as Telepathy, Remote Viewing etc. Some of our ancients and others such as the founders of the Theosophical Society for example, were aware of this property of Consciousness. Psychologists such as Carl Jung and

Arthur Koestler had come to the same conclusion through deep study of cases of remarkable coincident events.

So when we now call for worldwide Synchronous prayers, we emphasise that there is now experimental evidence for the establishment of a Global Coherent Group Consciousness Field from which everybody will benefit more than if they pray alone.

Those of us who have undertaken this initiative are confident that as many as 100 million people worldwide can eventually be invited and induced to participate in this global effort if a handful of important global leaders such Narendra Modi, the Dalai Lama and the Pope can be convinced.

A brief note on the immediate provocation that encouraged us to initiate this proposal:

On Sat 21st March, the Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi announced in a televised broadcast to the Nation that nation-wide curfew to is to be implemented from the next day, also imploring all the people of India to clap for five mins exactly at 5.00 pm, to show their appreciation for the frontline medical staff who are working tirelessly to help the virus affected patients, without worrying about their own health.

Some of us who knew Roger Nelson, out of curiosity requested to him to check out if the GCP network of monitors picked up any signals? Within a couple of hours, he responded with a graph indicating that yes there was indeed a small response! It was this that encouraged us to argue if a fun thing such as clapping could help would it not be better to ask people to do something more focussed such as praying?

Initial Signatories of this initiative are:

- * **Dr. H.R. Nagendra**, Chancellor, sVyasa Yoga University, Bangalore. (svyasa.edu.in) (He is also the Yoga Adviser to Prime Minister Narendra Modi
- * **Mr. Tim Boyd**, International President, The Theosophical Society, Adyar, Chennai, India
 - (www.ts-adyar.org & also https://www.theosophical.org)
- * **Sri Sri Ravishankar**, Founder, Art of Living Foundation (https://www.artofliving.org/
- * **Dr. Roger Nelson**, Director, Global Consciousness project, New Jersey, USA (noosphere.princeton.edu)
- * Coordination: **Dr. M.Srinivasan**, Physicist, Formerly of the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre and also Life Member of the Theosophical Society. He was also involved with the GCP project in helping set up nodes for the same in India in the early days. (chino37@gmail.com)