Sangamam

Building together a more united and peaceful world

Celebrating the 25th year of Chiara's visit to India

Shanti Ashram
Gandhian center for development, learning and collaboration

focolare movement

NewHumanity of the Focolare Movement

Shanti Ashram's Mahatma Gandhi Institute for Peace, Leadership and Development

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2026 will be a very special year for us in the Sarvo-Foco family. We will be celebrating 25 years of Chiara's maiden visit to India. We will as a family of institutions and individuals inspired by the friendship, dialogue and visionary leadership of Madam Chiara Lubich & Dr.M.Aram, Madam Natalia Dalapicola and Mrs.Minoti Aram, pause to celebrate this milestone in a meaningful way. We will do so with an added focus on children & young people, the bridges to the future and with the potential to carry forward the legacy of building a more united and peaceful world.

Young people often have the enthusiasm and values to build peace and social cohesion but lack structured opportunities for leadership development, volunteering frameworks, spiritual nurture and collaborative platforms. Simultaneously, community tensions (social, religious, or inter-group) persist and local civil society and faith groups operate in silos.

The experience of the Sarvo - Foco family over the past 25 years has been very constructive. Both in the way we have advanced interfaith dialogue through the Sarvo-Foco Roundtables, collaborations through concrete community service projects, joint seminars, fraternal visits, meeting of artists, youth engagement, global events and local outreach.

Sangamam 2026: the joint celebrations planned by the Sarvo-Foco family will mark 25 years of Chiara's maiden visit to India and Shanti Ashram**.** It will begin in February 2026 as part of the Sarvodaya Fortnight Observance and culminate in October 2026 during the Gandhi Jayanthi Celebrations.

Goal:

To celebrate 25 years of Madam Chiara Lubich's first visit to India by convening the Sarvo-Foco Family in a special edition of the Sarvo-Foco Roundtable and nurturing a generation of young and experienced changemakers who can actively build peaceful, inclusive, united and sustainable communities. This we hope to do so by equipping them with transformational leadership competencies, providing access to shared spaces of dialogue and concretely being part of community service.

Specific Objectives:

1. **Carrying forward the Sarvo - Foco Roundtables:** To hold 33rd edition of the Sarvo-Foco Round Table
2. **Organize Sangamam:** To hold a celebratory public event where our shared love for artistic expressions of unity, creativity and peace will be celebrated.
3. **Implement an innovative, inter-generational peace – building initiative for young and experienced changemakers to be organized in 2026.**
    a. **To organize an innovative inter-generational dialogue with 300 changemakers and share with them Mahatma Gandhi & Madam Chiara's** message for the young people and the impact of the Sarvo-Foco collaboration over the past 25 years.
    b. **To nurture capacities for transformational leadership competencies and ethical citizenship practices among 150 children and young people.** Through the courses leadership trainings and social immersion modules, empower children with values of mutual respect & empathy, transformational leadership competencies, non-violent communication, volunteering opportunities and practice in cooperative projects — helping them see themselves as changemakers in their families, educational institutions, and communities.

c. **To deepen inclusion for vulnerable and marginalized children in programmes by establishing volunteering spaces (digital + community-based) that engage at least 500 youth in meaningful service.**

Ensure that children from vulnerable groups — first-generation learners, children in poverty, and those facing social exclusion — have equitable access to Shanti Ashram's educational, health, and social protection initiatives, thus translating Gandhian ideals of equality & equity into lived practice. The 1000 children and young people in micro-groups will learn from this first-hand experience

Time line:

- **The launch of the celebration will be during the Sarvodaya Fortnight that begins on January 30th, the Memorial Day** of Mahatma Gandhi. The special edition of the Sarvo-Foco Roundtable will bring together 25 organizations.
- **The other 3 programmes will be held between February and October 2026. It will have one intermediary celebration at the Coimbatore Peace Festival in August 2026**, an annual appointment that the Sarvo- Foco family has kept for 25 years and culminate in October 2026.

Organizers:

- **Shanti Ashram**
- **MGIPLD**
- **New Humanity**
- **Kumaraguru Institutions**
- **Gandhigram Rural University**
- **Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan**
- **PSGR Krishnammal College for Women**
- **ILWA**
- **Mahatma Gandhi Memorial, Podhanur**

Conclusion:

'I offer you peace., I offer you love.
I offer you friendship, I see your beauty.
I hear your need, I feel your feelings.
My wisdom flows from the highest Source. I salute that Source in you.
Let us work together for unity and peace.'

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