

Kusumben Patel- a unique and versatile personality with dedication to Gayatri Pariwar mission

Dr.Kusumben Patel established Gayatri Pariwar Yugnirman in Chicago, USA in 1988 and since then she has whole-heartedly dedicated herself to the devotion of reverend Gurudev Pandit Shree Ram Sharma Acharya and Vandniya Mata Bhagvati Devi Sharma, Gayatri Tapobhumi Mathura & Shantikunj Haridwar, India. She has been endlessly heading forward to spread the message of her reverend Gurudev and his Gayatri Pariwar mission in the USA. During these last two decades she has achieved magnificent success in furthering the cause of this mission and has been acclaimed as a charismatic spiritual leader both in India and abroad. She has been awarded many prestigious awards and appreciations. She has proved herself an accredited saint living with a true ascetic life, vast reading, knowledge and social service.

Dr. Kusumben hails from small village Endhal, near Navsari city. She got her M. Sc. Chemistry from South Gujarat University, Surat and worked as a professor in Navyug Science College, Surat, India. She married Shri Chmanbhai Patel Vice President of a financial company Chicago and she came as an immigrant in Chicago in 1978.

She worked as a biochemist and lab Project Manager for about 15 years in Chicago. There after she left her job of 50,000 dollars a year and dedicated completely to Gayatri Pariwar and this great spiritual cause by adopting complete saintly life with austerity and penance. She is running many activities with this mission with a sizable number of devotees.

She had started Gayatri Temple in Devon Street, Chicago and continued it there for about ten years. Recently She has moved the Temple in a very large sprawling and beautiful premises at Gayatri shaktiPeeth Chicago, 6023 N. Northwest Hwy.Chicago IL 60631. It has become a very fascinating center humming with multiple activities as yoga center, Meditation, Ayurvedic medicines, Children education, adult conference and all religious and cultural celebration in large hall accommodating 500 people and a parking lot near it.

Dr.Kusumben is successfully publishing two magazines Navyug Shakti Gayatri and “The Torch of Knowledge” in Gujarati and English respectively. Besides two newsletters “Yugdrasta ni Atmawani and Nariyug” are being published every month giving a rich emulative, spiritual and moral values on the guidelines of Shree Gurudev’s vast literature.

Dr.Kusumben has been acclaimed as the most talented and successful spiritual leader by several reputed organizations and authors. In her book “Spices in the Melting Pot” Padma Shandas has given her life sketch under the title “Nurturing the Spirit” Padma Shandas an eminent Indo American writer who in her book “spices in the Melting Pot” (The life stories of exceptional South Asian immigrant Women) published by Orange Tree Publishing USA 2005, has given a living and elaborate life sketch of Kusumben Patel along with other exceptional South Asian American ladies. The authoress says, “ The stories in this chapter are of women who have discovered a deep sense of spirituality. They live their lives happily, simply in the midst of the entire binding materialistic glare. I find their stories empowering, if they can do it, there is hope for me”- Padma Shandas.

The authoress says that Kusum Patel is a woman of high-dedicated spirit who is nurturing the spiritual spirit in the people. She says, “ She seems to have the energy of dozen teenagers, working continuously, from the office, from van and even from home late into night.” Further she says that Kusum Patel is the priestess, organizer, and chief administrator of the Temple and works untiringly for the cause of mission.

The Interfaith Alliance Foundation the Walter Cronkite and Freedom Award

Mrs. Kusum Patel was given a prestigious award in March 2000 It says, “ As honorable spiritual leader and social reformer she strongly believes in universality of all religions and the quality of human beings. She is a sincere humanist and feminist who spread the equality of all religions.”

The Interfaith Alliance Foundation further states that the foundation “ builds bridges across diverse faith communities by bringing people together for honest and respectful dialogue about the direction of our communities and our nation. We celebrate our diversity as a source of national strength.” The award selection committee included such eminent man and women as president Gerald Ford, Bill Moyers, Cokie Roberts and Elie Wiesel. Kusum Patel received the award from the esteemed television anchor Walter Cronkite.

Dr. Kusum Patel Received the Millennium Leader for religious harmony Award from the president of the Federation of Indian America Association (F.I.A.) Sohan Joshi.

In July 1995 Kusum was the convener of a large scale Ashwamedh Yagya attended by about 24,000 people at Soldiers Park in Chicago. It was perhaps the first time a woman had organized an event of this in the world. Generally such large yagya rituals are organized by men in India.

Dr. Kusum also organized a Divine Conference of World Religions in 1999, drawing people from Hindu, Catholic, Muslim, Sikh, Protestant and Jewish faiths to celebrate their shared values such as tolerance, compassion, responsibility, mercy and a vision for peace. She also organized such a conference in Rogers Park on the north side of Chicago by bringing together the different sections of the community together.

Dr.Kusum’s unwavering faith and dedication to her mission of Gayatri Pariwar made her bring different sections and religions together to bring harmony and peace among themselves. She did an excellent work when in the summer of 1999 several areas of Chicago were shocked by a shooting rampage perpetrated by a man named Benjamin.

Kusumben has established her place as a spiritual leader a and wide in the USA. She is always clad in her saffron colored saintly dress and performs Gayatri Yagya and all traditional Hindu Shodash sanskar in almost all the sections of Hindu community. Thus she has a multifaceted religious and spiritual activities by performing yagyas and all the sixteen sanskars, editing and publishing magazines, performing daily prayers in the Temple Gayatri shakti Peeth, organizing different activities in Temple, giving directions to the activities performed far away in India and so on.

She has been awarded by many honors even in India. In 2004 she was honored by an award of “Shree Ram Sharma Acharya Smurti Shaktipeeth award” by Dr. Satishchandra Shukla, Organiser Gayatri Shaktipeeth Bhind (M.P) India, in accreditation of her excellent service for Gayatri pariwar mission and spreading the message of Gurudev and Gayan Yagya.

Dr. Kusumben respectfully referred to as Vandniya Bhagini (revered Sister) and was awarded the “Torch of Learning” (GyanMashal) by the then current Guru Pandit Leelapat Sharma in grand function and large gathering of devotees at Gayatri Tapobhumi Mathura, India in 1998. It is a first ever mission award given to her as a symbol of movement, she has undertaken the responsibility of spreading the Guru’s message in the United States and other countries of the world.

Dr. Kusumben has planned to establish a big Asharm near her home village Endhal, Navsari Gujrat on Bombay Delhi National Highway # 8. She has been almost promised a sizable 24 acres of land as donation. She has a grand vision and a plan to have different establishments as Gayatri temple, meditation and yoga center, senior citizen home, Ayurvedic pharmacy and hospital among the beautiful pond, greenery and mango grooves. The efforts have begun on a large scale to translate this wonderful vision into reality. No doubt, it will very soon become throbbing and humming with activities.

Indeed Dr. Kusumben Patel is a rare person of excellence with all her qualities of spiritual leadership with strict austerity, dedication faith and superb sense of serving the community and spreading the message of Pandit Shree Ram Sharma Acharya and Gayatri Yagyas to bring a new era in which human beings shall live in happiness, peace, harmony and absolute spiritualism.