



# Parmarth Niketan

Quarterly Newsletter

May, 2011



Featuring

Hanuman Jayanti Katha with Puja Bhaishri, National Ganga Conference, and the Ganga Sanskritik Mahotsav





## Special Events | Inauguration of Shankar Bhagawan Murti



**Pujya Swamiji and Pujya Shri Morari Bapuji perform a special abhishek puja**

On the 10th April the new Shankar Bhagawan murti at Parmarth was officially inaugurated by the hands of Pujya Swamiji and Pujya Morari Bapuji.

After the inauguration, Pujya Bapuji stayed for Ganga Aarti and gave a beautiful, effusively-praise-filled talk about the divine seva that is taking place under Pujya Swamiji's guidance, leadership and inspiration. He spoke about the divine way that Pujya Swamiji remains so still on the inside while creating and manifesting so much good on the outside. It was a beautiful evening to see the two saints together, filled with such love and reverence for each other.



**Pujya Swamiji welcomes Pujya Shri Morari Bapuji to Parmarth**









## Special Events | Inauguration of Shri Hanuman Murti

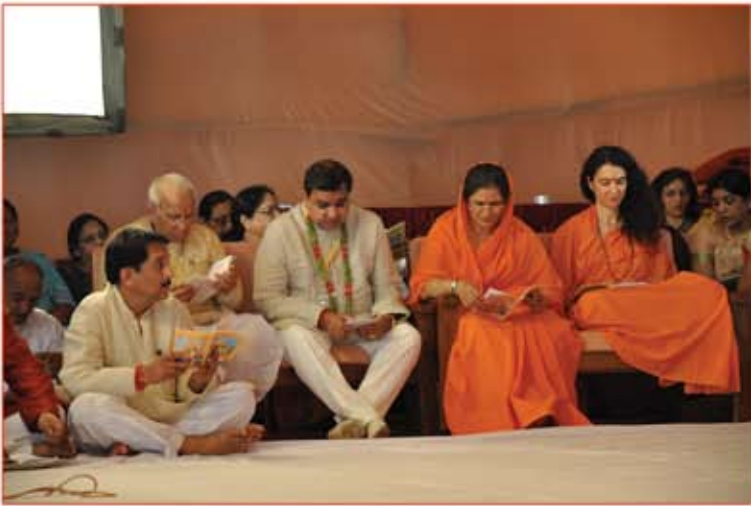
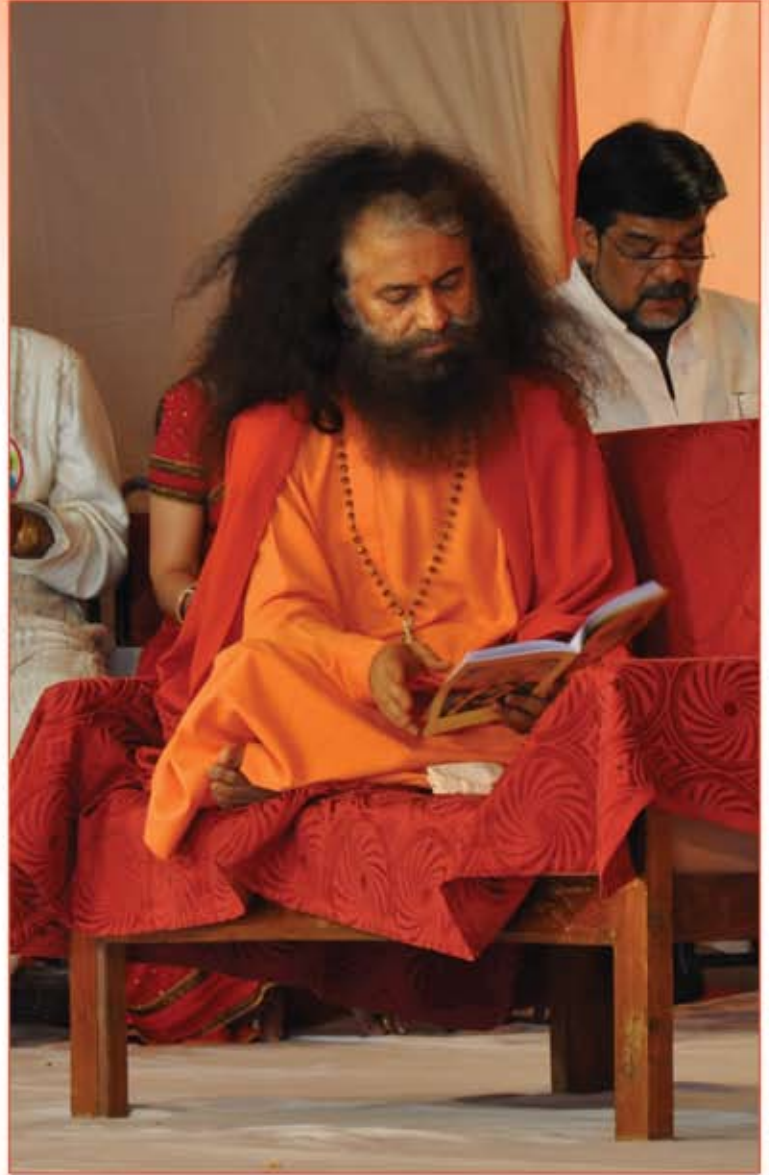


On April 18th, on the day of Hanuman Jayanti, Pujya Swamiji, Pujya Bhaishri and Uttarakhand Tourism Minister Shri Madan Kaushikji inaugurated our new Shri Hanuman Murti on the Parmarth Ghat, standing at 27 feet tall.

Pujya Swamiji, Pujya Bhaishri, Pujya M.M. Swami Asanganandji and Shri Madan Kaushikji performed a Hanuman puja at the beginning of the inauguration, and then revealed the new murti to the thousands who had gathered for the event.







On the sacred day of Hanuman Jayanti on April 18th, Pujya Swamiji along with all those attending Pujya Bhaishri's katha participated in the Sundarkand Paath in which the section of the *Ramayana* about Hanumanji is chanted aloud with devotion.





A photograph showing four men seated in a row at a podium covered with a white cloth. From left to right: a younger man in a white shirt and red shawl; a man with a long beard wearing orange robes; a man in orange robes looking down; and an older man in orange robes. A microphone with the name 'SITARAM' is positioned in front of them. The background features a red banner with the word 'राम' (Ram) repeated multiple times in Devanagari script.

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**Puja Swamiji, Puja Swami Satyami-tranandji, Puja M.M. Swami Asanganandji and Puja Radhakrishnaji light the inaugural lamp of the katha**



**Shri Harish Rawatji, MP presents a shawl to Puja Bhaishri**







# Special Events | New Divine Shiv Lingam



A divine abhishek puja was held in front of the Shankar Bhagawan murti on a beautiful new Shivlingam. The new Shivlingam is a completely unique statue, as it was created from 125,000 rudraksha beads!



**Pujya Swamiji and Pujya Bhaishri perform the special abhishek puja**







**The 108 saris being taken around the Parmarth Ghat**



**The 108 saris being wrapped around the murti of Ma Ganga (in front of the large crowd)**

On April 19th during the sacred Hanuman Jayanti celebrations, the Ganga Chunari Mahotsav took place along the banks of Ma Ganga at Parmarth. During this celebration, 108 colorful saris were offered to Gangaji. In this beautiful ceremony, all of the saris are tied together and carried across Ganga, encircling the river, then devotionally wrapped around the murti of Ma Ganga.







On April 20th during Pujya Bhaishri's katha, Parmarth Niketan was blessed by the presence of many revered saints, mahamandaleshwars and acharyas from a variety of different sampradayas. We had a large Sant Sammellan, or gathering of saints, in which they each blessed the audience with their words of wisdom and inspiration.

Each of the saints also offered effusive words of praise for Pujya Swamiji and the seva He is doing for Gangaji, for Rishikesh, and for all of India.



Pujya Swamiji addressing the audience at the Sant Sammellan



The saints performing aarti



The Saints gathered at the Sant Sammellan









## Special Events | Special Shiv Stuti Dance Performance



On April 20th, Arushi Pokhriyal, daughter of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttarakhand Ramesh Pokhriyalji, danced a special Shiv Stuti dance performance in front of the Shankar Bhagwan murti at Parmarth. The audience enjoyed her performance, and Pujya Swamiji gave Arushi and her dance partner special blessings after the performance.



**Arushi Pokhriyal receives special blessings from Pujya Swamiji**





On April 21st, after a large, two-day meeting, all the tourism ministers of the north-west regions of India came to Ganga Aarti at Parmarth Niketan.

The tourism ministers were also joined by the Central Government Tourism Minister Shri Subodh Kant Sahaiji. Pujya Swamiji spoke with Sahaiji about the issues facing the holy areas of Uttarakhand, as well as showed him the plans and work being done in Gangotri to bring a new face to the area. Pujya Swamiji also spoke with Sahaiji about opening the passage to Mansarovar from the Uttarakhand side, creating a “fifth” Dham and making the passage to Mount Kailash/Mansarovar much easier and quicker.







Sahaiji was so impressed by Pujya Swamiji's vision and understanding of the problems and solutions for these areas that he sincerely requested Pujya Swamiji to accompany him and the Uttarakhand state officials on their helicopter tour of the Char

Dham regions the next day in order to give His vision, ideas, and suggestions. So, the next day they came and picked Pujya Swamiji up in their helicopter and took Him on their survey of the Char Dham.



**Pujya Swamiji showing Shri Sahaiji the plans for Gangotri**



**Tourism ministers performing the evening aarti**





## Special Events | National Aviral Nirmal Ganga Conference

On April 23-24, a large National Conference for an Aviral (free-flowing) and Nirmal (unpolluted) Ganga was organized at Parmarth Niketan Ashram by Ganga Action Parivar, Sarva Dharma Sansad, Sparsh Ganga, Lok Bharati, and Save Ganga Movement. Many top scientists, environmentalists, engineers, social activists, and political leaders attended the meeting, including nobel laureate Dr. R.K. Pachauri, Sundarlal Bahuguna and Dr. Vinod Tare.

The conference focused on finding solutions to the problems that face the Ganga and her tributaries by addressing four key issues: wastewater management, solid waste management, energy management, and agricultural management. The conference discussed many different ideas and options in order to find lasting, sustainable solutions.

*For details about GAP's work, see the "Seva" section of this newsletter.*



**The conference in discussion**



**Pujya Swamiji and Dr. R.K. Pachauri  
with all the conference participants**



**Pujya Swamiji addresses the conference**



**Pujya Swamiji and Dr. R.K. Pachauri  
at aarti**





In May, Parmarth was also visited by Shri Krishnachandra Shastraji who graced the ashram with a divine Bhagawat katha.







## Special Events | Ganga Sankritik Mahotsav



From May 8-12, Parmarth Niketan hosted the Ganga Sanskritik Mahotsav (Ganga Heritage Celebration), a week-long festival organized and sponsored by Sparsh Ganga, Paridhi and Ganga Action Parivar, dedicated to Ma Ganga. The festival included 141 talented actors, musicians, dancers, poets, and other fine artists who have come together to utilize their arts and talents in the service and devotion of Ma Ganga.

On May 10, the highlight of the festival was a grand kathak dance performance on the story of Ma Ganga's descent to the Earth, with Arushi Pokhriyal, daughter of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, Shri Ramesh Pokhariyalji. starring in

the leading role as Gangaji.

It was truly a divine performance, complete with special effects, laser lights, and an amazing wall of water as tall as the stage! Many came to watch the performance, including Acharya Balkrishnaji and kathakar Radhakrishnaji.







Pujya Swamiji blesses Arushi Pokhriyal

Pujya Swamiji and Acharya Balkrishanji with all the performers





# Special Events | Recognition of Swamiji in British Parliament




On May 24th, Member of Parliament Bob Blackman made an Early Day Motion in the British Parliament lauding Pujya Swamiji. The EDM was read aloud in Parliament, stating:

“That this House warmly congratulates H.H. Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji on the occasion of his birthday; recognises that his life and work have been an inspiration and an example to millions throughout the world and the work of the India Heritage Research Foundation with the compilation and publication of the world’s first comprehensive Encyclopedia of Hinduism; and welcomes the event in Stanmore Temple in London on 3 June 2011 to celebrate the occasion.”

MP Bob Blackman came to personally present the Early Day Motion to Pujya Swamiji when He was in London in early June. *(For details of his visit, please see the next newsletter.)*



25/05/2011
Early day motion 1852 - UK Parliament


[www.parliament.uk](http://www.parliament.uk)

### Early day motion 1852

**WORK OF H.H. PUJYA SWAMI CHIDANAND SARASWATIJI**

Session: 2010-11  
Date tabled: 24.05.2011  
Primary sponsor: Blackman, Bob

Blackman, Bob

That this House warmly congratulates H.H. Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji on the occasion of his 60th birthday, recognises that his life and work have been an inspiration and example to millions throughout the world and the work of the India Heritage Research Foundation with the compilation and publication of the world's first comprehensive Encyclopedia of Hinduism, and welcomes the event in Stanmore Temple in London on 3 June 2011 to celebrate the occasion.

[parliament.uk/edmv/print/2010-11/1852](http://parliament.uk/edmv/print/2010-11/1852)
1/1



# Seva and Sanskaras

Each month, numerous activities take place at Parmarth Niketan demonstrating the meaning of Parmarth: "Dedicated to the Welfare of All." Health care camps, conferences, environmental projects and other seva activities are ongoing.

Individuals and families also regularly come to Parmarth to perform sacred rites ceremonies (sanskaras), such as mundan (first hair cut), sacred weddings, and the final ash immersions puja. To see how these events are performed at Parmarth, please [click here](#).



So many people come to Parmarth to perform these sanskaras or to perform seva (selfless service) for the rishikumars of our gurukul or the wandering sadhus or the children in our free schools and other projects, it's impossible to list them all; but on the following pages are some of those who have come during this recent time period.





On April 4, 2010 by the hands of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and many revered saints, the Ganga Action Parivar was officially launched at Parmarth Niketan Ashram in Rishikesh at a special "Sparsh Ganga" function.

There have been Ganga Action Plans and yet, tragically, the state of Ganga -- despite the previous Plans -- is worsening day by day. Water borne illnesses due to bacteria, toxins and parasites in the water, and food borne illnesses due to agriculture contaminated by toxic irrigation are reaching epidemic proportions. With Ganga irrigating the fields that feed more than 1/3 of India's population, with Ganga being the sole source of water for bathing, cooking and drinking for millions of people and with Ganga symbolizing the national heritage and identity of India, the situation has become truly critical.

With this in mind and with the belief that through love and unity all is possible, the Ganga Action Parivar (GAP) was formed by Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji, President and Spiritual Head of Parmarth Niketan Ashram, Rishikesh. GAP is dedicated to being a bridge between all. Members of GAP are dedicated to working in a spirit of cooperation, as a family, embracing all and including all.

Ganga Action Parivar (GAP) is a family of professionals, environmental engineers, scientists, environmental specialists and dedicated sevaks from all across the world dedicated to serving Mother Ganga. GAP intends to restore, protect, and maintain the River Ganga and her tributaries in their aviral (free-flowing) and nirmal (unpolluted) state and to find workable solutions to the problems of pollution and obstructions.







With the cooperation and collaboration of the Government of Uttarakhand, GAP is working in 6 distinct areas, addressing different aspects of the problems facing Ganga. These are:

1. Cleaning the current pollution: for this GAP has joined with river and water specialists who are working to create plans for the safe and effective removal of solid and toxic waste from Ganga's waters. GAP also organizes regular trash pick up programs along the banks of Ganga and Her tributaries.

2. Solid Waste Management - prevention of future solid waste pollution into Ganga with plans for re-using, recycling and development of biodegradable alternatives. Additionally, plans are underway for the collection and eco-friendly disposal of solid waste as its source so it doesn't enter Ganga or her tributaries.



3. Wastewater management - this involves separating wastewater (including but not limited to sewage) from river water. Further, these plans involve prevention of any sewage from entering Ganga by creation of proper sewage treatment and sewage lines. Additionally, the plantation of thick vegetation along the banks of Ganga will restore the healthy flora and fauna to Her waters.

4. Development of alternative sources of energy: GAP is working with solar and wind experts from India and abroad to develop viable plans of energy sources other than hydro-power so as not to disrupt the flow of the Ganga

5. Alternative visions of development "vikas" : GAP is working to help the State Government develop alternative visions of "vikas" which are eco-friendly and do not result in deforestation or pollution in the Himalayas.

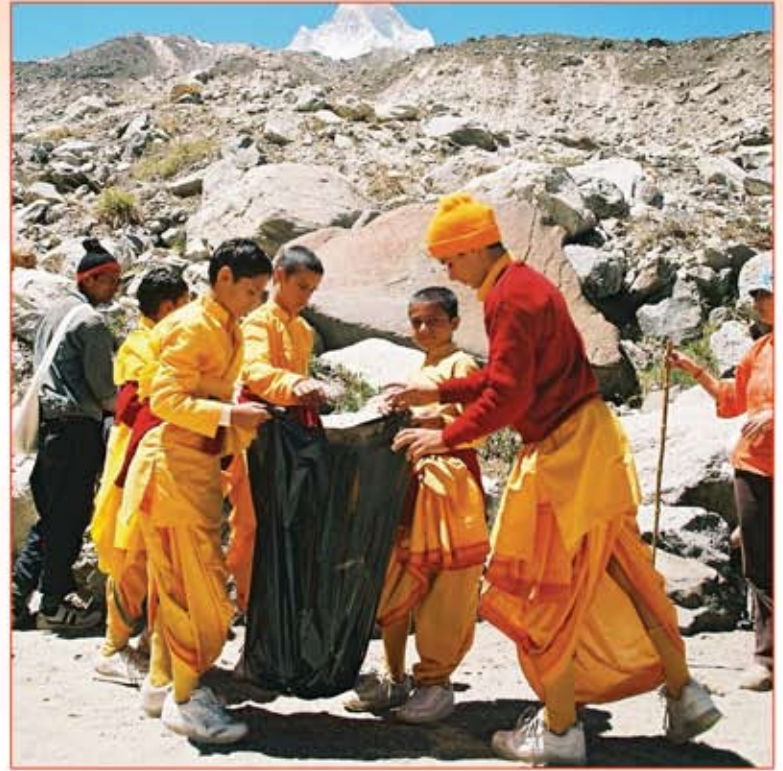
6. Eco-friendly irrigation practices: GAP is working with the State Government to implement policies that prevent agricultural toxic chemical runoff from entering Ganga and her tributaries. Further, GAP is planning mass education of farmers in the methods of sustainable, organic farming. Local work in Rishikesh, with the assistance and cooperation of the State government is already underway and progressing well.





Further, GAP has been working, under Pujya Swamiji's leadership and guidance to beautify and renovate Gangotri in an eco-friendly and sustainable way. This "New Face of Gangotri" program includes solid waste management, sewage treatment, shifting of residence of encroachment on the banks of Ganga and in front of the Mandir to new condominiums, shifting of the marketplace from its current location on the banks of Ganga and lining the path to the Mandir to a new enclosed "shopping center." In this way the banks of Ganga will remain clean and unencumbered by shops, encroachment and trash. Further the Gangotri plan involves solutions for parking and pollution. The project is well underway and is progressing quickly.

*To find out more information and how you can get involved, contact [ganga@gangaaction.com](mailto:ganga@gangaaction.com). Also, log-in on to GAP's new website at [www.gangaaction.com](http://www.gangaaction.com) to learn more.*







Tying the sacred knot of marriage



On April 29th, a divine couple named Jenny and Eric travelled from Los Angeles, California to have a divine wedding on the banks of Ma Ganga. The couple had a traditional Vedic wedding with Sanskrit mantras and Vedic rituals. It was a beautiful ceremony, and many showed up to give their best wishes to the newlywed couple, who received Pujya Swamiji's blessings at aarti.



Pujya Swamiji giving His blessings to the couple at the evening aarti





On May 17th, a divine wedding took place between two of the Parmarth family. Punit, from USA, and Preeti, from Norway, had come separately to Parmarth Niketan in the Spring of 2010 as yoga students. However, when Pujya Swamiji saw them in His jyopri (sitting amongst many other people in satsang), He said, “I think you were made for each other!” One year later, Punit and Preeti returned to Parmarth Niketan with their family and friends and held their beautiful wedding ceremony along the banks of Ganga.





**Pujya Swamiji, Hon'ble CM Ramesh Pokhriyalji, and ambassadors light the inaugural lamp**



**Sadhvi Bhagwatiji speaks about the glory of Uttarakhand at the program**



**Pujya Swamiji and CM Ramesh Pokhriyalji cut the ribbon to the exhibition**

From April 13-14, the Government of Uttarakhand and Industries Association of Uttarakhand organized a large meeting with 14 or 15 Ambassadors from other countries to which Pujya Swamiji was invited to bring a spiritual touch and inspire and uplift the political representatives. The meeting was arranged to provide an opportunity to showcase Uttarakhand and promote its immense trade potential. There was an exhibition of local Uttarakhand development businesses in fields such as horticulture, organic agriculture, handicrafts, textiles, and more.

Pujya Swamiji graced the first day of the meeting in which there was a large cultural event showcasing Uttarakhand, and then proceeded to the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttarakhand Ramesh Pokhriyalji's new home - built in the beautiful, simple, traditional Uttarakhand style - for a housewarming ceremony.

On the 14th, Pujya Swamiji graced the second day of the Ambassador's meeting.



**Pujya Swamiji and CM Ramesh Pokhriyalji at the exhibition**





On April 30th, Pujya Swamiji graced the morning yagna of devotee Dinesh Pachariwalji's new fabric factory in Surat, Gujarat. After the yagna, Pujya Swamiji gave divine satsang to the thousands who were present.

Later that afternoon, Pujya Swamiji joined Pujya Bhaishri for his Bhagawat Katha in Surat.



**Pujya Swamiji in the morning yagna ceremony**



**Pujya Swamiji blessing the Pachariwal family**



**Pujya Swamiji looking at a new water fountain inside the factory**





On the morning of May 1st, Puja Swamiji travelled to Ahmedabad and graced the divine Ram Katha of Puja Shri Morari Bapuji.



In the afternoon, Puja Swamiji gave a wonderful lecture on the topic of “Dharma Raksha, Rashtra Raksha” (“Protect Religion, Protect the Country”) at an anniversary function of Sivananda Ashram, Ahmedabad in which hundreds attended.

Puja Swamiji later attended in the evening the close of Gujarat’s year-long Swarnim Gujarat celebration with Hon’ble Chief Minister of Gujarat Narendra Modiji, Governor Dr. Shrimati Kamlaji, and many others. Tens of thousands of people came from across Gujarat and India to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the creation of the state.





Students from thirteen different countries came to Parmarth from March 14th to April 12th for an intensive 200-hour yoga training course. At the end of the course, each student received certificates to teach yoga.

The course was quite extensive, with students learning asana, meditation, ayurveda, pranayama, mantra, and the philosophy of the Bhagavad Gita and Yoga Sutras of Patanjali. Towards the end of the course, each student had a practicum course which gave them the opportunity to practice their teaching skills.





# Pujya Swamiji's Itinerary



## June

2-3 London  
5 Louisville, KY  
11-12 Detroit, MI  
13-15 Atlanta, GA  
18-19 Greenville, SC  
25-26 Chicago, IL

## July

1-2 New Jersey  
3 Louisville, KY  
4 Cincinnati, OH  
8 San Diego, CA  
9 Los Angeles, CA  
14 Los Angeles, CA  
15-17 Louisville, KY





# Divine Message From Pujya Swamiji



## Giving

Many people think a spiritual life means that one retreats to the mountains, performs meditations and then lives peacefully forever in one's own enlightened cocoon. However, that is not true, deep spirituality. That is not the essence of enlightenment. The essence of spirituality is service of others. Yes, solitude, silence and intense sadhana are crucial in order to establish the connection with God, in order to make the leap from a material life to a spiritual life. This lays the ground work. It is like wiring a house for electricity. In the beginning, when the house is being built, one must carefully lay all of the wires. Much time is spent on this initial electrical wiring. However, once the

lines have been laid, one simply has to plug the cord into the socket and the lamp immediately illuminates! One does not have to re-wire the house each time!

The same is true on the spiritual path. Once the deep connection with the Divine Powerhouse is established, one simply has to close one's eyes and one connects with God.

Then, as we walk the path of spirituality, we must dedicate ourselves to cultivating the divine vision and awareness with which we can see the Divine in all. Once we see every being as Divine, we cannot walk by someone who is suffering without helping them. We cannot see sick, starving animals wandering on the road or watch toxic chemicals being dumped into our precious rivers without doing something about it.

So, ultimately, if the spiritual path is true, it culminates in an insatiable urge to serve all, to help, to give to all, and to live for all.

We must learn to be Mother Ganga - always giving, with no vacation, no discrimination and no hesitation. This way we can merge with the Divine, becoming peaceful and ever-blissful.



## Links

Please visit us on the web for videos, podcasts and music from Parmarth Niketan, as well as information on upcoming programs and seva opportunities.

