



# Parmarth News

H.H. PUJYA SWAMI CHIDANAND SARASWATIJI

Newsletter

October, 2012



Featuring

Pujya Swamiji's 60th Jayanti USA Celebrations,  
Travels Abroad, & Ganga Action Parivar Projects





# Pujya Swamiji's Travels | Art of Living in Boone, NC



On July 3rd Pujya Swamiji arrived in USA and traveled to Boone, NC for the opening of Pujya Sri Sri Ravi Shankarji's new Art of Living Center and also for the celebration of Guru Purnima.

During the 2 days Pujya Swamiji spent in Boone, He gave inspiring talks to the participants and attendees, and spent beautiful time with Pujya Sri Sriji enjoying the natural beauty. They discussed many ideas and plans for the upliftment and betterment of India and the world.







# Pujya Swamiji's Travels | Art of Living in Boone, NC





# Pujya Swamiji's Travels | Pujya Swamiji's 60th Jayanti - Louisville



On July 7th, a special USA celebration was held for Pujya Swamiji's 60th birthday (the India celebration will be in the Autumn). The day began at the home of Jayshreeben and Dr. Rajanbhai Amin with small, cozy Guru puja. In the evening, a large event was held at the Kentucky exhibition center which concluded with a special Indian dance and music performance by a renowned troupe who came in from India especially for the event.





# Pujya Swamiji's Travels | Pujya Swamiji's 60th Jayanti - Louisville







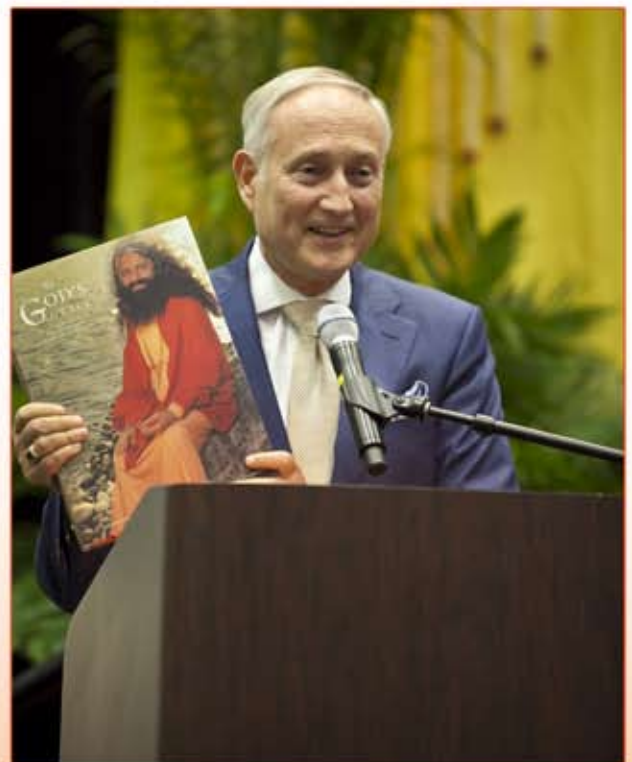
# Pujya Swamiji's Travels |

# Pujya Swamiji's 60th Jayanti - Louisville



We also had the release of Pujya Swamiji's biography *By God's Grace*, a gorgeous coffee table book filled with divine inspiration, published by Mandala. [Click here to order this book. from Amazon.com](#)

A film on Pujya Swamiji's life was also launched at this event, made possible by the divine seva of Rane Sevin and Anurag Tripathi. [Click here to watch this film.](#)



During the celebration, Tom Elliot presented Pujya Swamiji with special honors from the Mayor and Governor of Kentucky. The Mayor awarded Pujya Swamiji an honorary citizenship of Louisville and the Governor gave Him Kentucky's highest honor, being made a "Kentucky Colonel."



**STEVEN L. BESHEAR**  
GOVERNOR

To All To Whom These Presents Shall Come, Greeting: Know Ye, That

Honorable Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji

*Is Commissioned A*

**KENTUCKY COLONEL**

*I hereby confer this honor with all the rights, privileges and  
responsibilities thereunto appertaining.*

*In testimony whereof, I have caused these letters to be made patent, and the seal of the Commonwealth to  
be hereunto affixed. Done at Frankfort, the 6<sup>th</sup> day of July in the year of our Lord two thousand and  
twelve and in the 22<sup>d</sup> year of the Commonwealth.*



*Steven L. Beshear*  
By the Governor - Steven L. Beshear

*Alison Lunsigan Gammie*  
Secretary of State - Alison Lunsigan Gammie





*Greg Fischer*  
MAYOR

LOUISVILLE METRO

*To All To Whom These Presents Shall Come, Greeting:  
Know Ye That*

*the City of Louisville honors  
Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji  
as an Honorary Citizen*

*In recognition of his devotion to God, his  
service to humanity and his compassion for mankind.*



*Done in Louisville, Commonwealth  
of Kentucky, this the seventh  
day of July, 2012.*

*Greg Fischer*

*Greg Fischer, Mayor*



# Pujya Swamiji's Travels | Pujya Swamiji's 60th Jayanti - Winnipeg



Celebrations were also held around the world on the day of Pujya Swamiji's birthday by devotees to commemorate and honor His birth.

In Winnipeg, a special Hanuman pooja and 27 recitations of the Hanuman Chalisa were held to honour Pujya Swamiji on June 2. Jayesh and Tara Maniar also performed a special divine pooja to honour Pujya Swamiji. Many people attended the event, and they enjoyed it so much that they hope to celebrate His Jayanti in this way every year!



Jayesh and Tara Maniar performing pooja in honor of Pujya Swamiji







# Pujya Swamiji's Travels | Cincinnati, OH



On the 5th July, Pujya Swamiji traveled to Cincinnati, Ohio where He graced the janeo sanskar of Pavan Manek, son of Tushar and Vishakha Manek and gave a beautiful discourse at the Dev Dham Temple.

On the morning of the 6th Pujya Swamiji had a meeting with the new Ganga Action Parivar chapter of Ohio, headed by Tushar and Meena Manek.





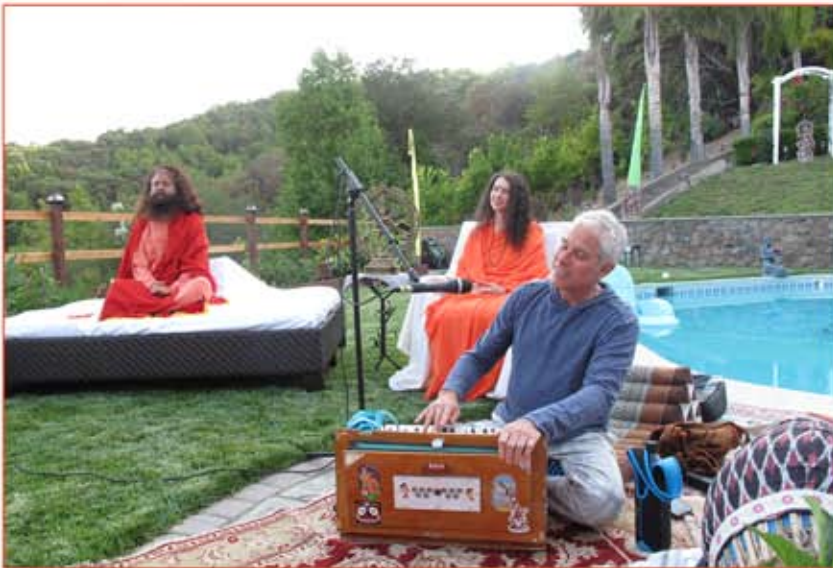


# Pujya Swamiji's Travels | Novato, CA



On July 14th, Pujya Swamiji visited the home of Gordan and Anuradha in Novato, California for a divine satsang. Jai Uttal began the evening with kirtan, followed by divine discourses by Pujya Swamiji and Sadhvi Bhagawati and a question-answer session.

This was the first public program held at Govardhan and Anuradha's new home which Pujya Swamiji named "Vrindavan Dham ki Jai" due to the divine, holy energy there.







## Pujya Swamiji's Travels | Lake Tahoe, CA



While in California, Pujya Swamiji spent a few beautiful days in Lake Tahoe. Pujya Swamiji was so impressed to see the beauty and cleanliness of the area and re-pledged Himself to ensuring that the waters and banks of Ganga should be as clean and spotless. Pujya Swamiji pledged to make Ganga as clean as Lake Tahoe!







# Pujya Swamiji's Travels | Lake Tahoe, CA







# Pujya Swamiji's Travels | Golden Bridge, Los Angeles, CA



On July 15th, Pujya Swamiji visited Golden Bridge Yoga in Los Angeles, founded and run by Gurmukh Kaur and Gurushabd Singh Khalsa, beloved yoga teachers who come frequently to Parmarth. The evening began with a sacred havan/yagna, and then a beautiful satsang in which Pujya Swamiji spoke on the topic of bringing spirituality into daily life.





At the end of the evening at Golden Bridge, they surprised Pujya Swamiji with a special birthday celebration including cake (He would not blow out the candles though – “we light candles, not blow them out” He said!) and a special proclamation of appreciation, love and respect from the Sikh Dharma Worldwide Community.



Pujya Swamiji with Gurmukh Kaur Khalsa, Gurushabd Singh Khalsa, Guru Dev Singh, Avtar Hari Singh and Bibiji Kaur Khalsa, wife of Pujya Siri Sahib Yogi Bhajanji





# Pujya Swamiji's Travels | IHRF Board of Trustees



While in Louisville, KY for Pujya Swamiji's 60th birthday celebrations, the board of India Heritage Research Foundation held its annual Board of Trustees Meeting in which everyone congratulated Pujya Swamiji for the fact that the full 11-volume Encyclopedia of Hinduism has finally been completed and published.







# Pujya Swamiji's Travels | San Diego, CA



Pujya Swamiji came to the Seaside Center for Spiritual Living in San Diego on the 20th of July for a divine program of satsang, darshan, meditation and spiritual discourse.







# Pujya Swamiji's Travels | San Diego, CA



While Pujya Swamiji was in San Diego, He also took time to visit the Pacific Ocean.

Pujya Swamiji appreciated the 'sandman' who evidently has been building castles there for years, every day. He gets no salary, is hired by no one, but just loves to bring joy to people when they see the castles. Pujya Swamiji appreciated his life dedicated to using his art to bring a smile to other people's face.







# Pujya Swamiji's Travels | Los Angeles Art of Living Center



Pujya Sri Sri Ravi Shankarji had requested Pujya Swamiji that whenever Pujya Swamiji was in Los Angeles He should definitely go and grace the newly opened Art of Living Center there with His presence. Pujya Swamiji, of course, had agreed out of great love for Pujya Sri Sriji. So, on the 22nd of July, The Los Angeles Art of Living Center hosted Pujya Swamiji's satsang program there. Pujya Swamiji appreciated the great work being done around the world by Pujya Sri Sriji. He spoke on the theme of "The Art of Living in Joy and Peace." He explained how the "art of living" is the "heart of living" and how we must live with heart and from the heart. Also, Austin Myers, the beautiful organizer of this event, surprised Pujya Swamiji with a special birthday celebration as well!







# Pujya Swamiji's Travels | Pittsburgh, PA

On July 29th, there was a beautiful celebration at the Hindu Jain Temple in Pittsburgh, which Pujya Swamiji had been the inspirer, guide and founder in the early 1980s, to celebrate His 60th birthday year!

The morning began with a few of the temple children leading Him on a shobha yatra up the steps of the temple and then a divine havan led by the temple priests.





# Pujya Swamiji's Travels | Pittsburgh, PA







# Pujya Swamiji's Travels | Pittsburgh, PA



Many of the former temple presidents and chairmen, including three past presidents of AAPI (the Association of American Physicians from India), and deans from Pittsburgh University and Carnegie Mellon University spoke about the crucial role Pujya Swamiji played in bringing the temple to fruition. They also presented Pujya Swamiji with a beautiful letter of gratitude and appreciation.







# Pujya Swamiji's Travels | Chicago, IL



On the 5th August, Drs. Bob and Judith Wright organized a beautiful program at the Chicago Unity Church. Dr. Bob Wright and Debra Poneman began the evening by sharing their own experiences with Pujya Swamiji and how He and His teachings had truly touched them and changed their lives. Then, the film on Pujya Swamiji's life was shown ([click here to watch this film](#)) before the discourses on the topic of how to live peacefully and joyfully.

**Dr. Bob Wright speaking  
on his experiences with  
Pujya Swamiji**







# Pujya Swamiji's Travels | Chicago, IL



Pujya Swamiji blessing  
Drs. Bob and Judith Wright



Pujya Swamiji blessing  
Debra Poneman



The organizers of the evening also surprised Pujya Swamiji with a birthday cake to celebrate His 60th birthday!





## Pujya Swamiji's Travels | Chicago, IL



On the 6th August, the Wrights organized a smaller, cozy gathering at their center in Chicago where Pujya Swamiji and Sadhvi Bhagawati answered questions from the audience on every topic imaginable, from the most esoteric to the most matter-of-fact, from the most philosophical to the most tangible, from the religious to the relational. Unfortunately, as always, time ran out while there was still a pile of questions left. Fortunately Pujya Swamiji did agree to take just one "last" question which luckily read "Would Pujya Swamiji please sing something?" So the beautiful evening ended with the sound of His divine song lulling everyone into beautiful, divine communion.

*[Click here to watch video from this program.](#)*



# Seva & Sanskaras

Each month, numerous activities take place at Parmarth Niketan demonstrating the meaning of Parmarth: “An Abode 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 immersion 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 is impossible to list them all. On the following pages are some of those who have come during this recent time period.





## Ganga Action Parivar | Tree Plantations

With the arrival of the monsoon season, the months of July and August saw Ganga Action Parivar leap into action at the ground level! Massive tree plantations were organized by Ganga Action Parivar and numerous other groups, including schools, ashrams, police units and more. Thousands of trees and medicinal plants were planted in the Ram Jhula and Lakshman Jhula areas of Rishikesh as well as numerous surrounding locations, including the nearby villages and towns of Veerpur, Tehri Vistapit, Kunau, Kotdwara, and more. Plantations continue still, both locally as well as in other locations up and down the Ganga, such as Gangotri, Uttarkashi, Haridwar and Allahabad.







# Ganga Action Parivar | Tree Plantations





# Guru Purnima Celebrations



Beginning on Guru Purnima on July 3rd, Parmarth hosted a five-day Guru Nirvana Mahotsav in honor of Pujya Swami Shukdevanandji Maharaj, the founder of Parmarth Niketan. Over the course of the festival, hundreds came to participate in divine chanting and kirtan, and to listen to the divine discourses of Parmarth's saints.





# Free Dental Camp



On the 13th of July, a free dental camp was organized in Swami Shukdevanand Charitable Hospital to treat dental diseases. Dentists from India and abroad gave their selfless services during the two-day camp. Local people, Indian and foreign tourists as well as kanwaria - the pilgrims who come to the Rishikesh area during the Hindu month of Shravan - came in for dental treatments in large numbers.

Dr. Indra Preet Singh, head of the dental campaign run by Seema Dental College, said the aim of campaign is to provide treatment to more and more poor and disadvantaged people. Thus, Parmarth hopes for more camps such as this one in the future to benefit all with the gift of dental care.







On July 26th, Ganga Action Parivar participated in the ground-breaking event of the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation and the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). This Memorandum of Understanding will allow for the set-up of bio-digester toilets across the Panchayats in India, thus drastically helping the dire situation India now faces in regards to proper sanitation and health.

The bio-digester technology developed by DRDO is a non-polluting and effective method that degrades and converts human waste into usable water and gasses in a completely eco-friendly manner. The generated gas can be utilized for energy/cooking and the water can be used for irrigation.

Many esteemed dignitaries were in attendance including Hon'ble Minister of Rural Development Shri Jairam Rameshji, Hon'ble Raksha Mantri of the Ministry of Defence Shri A. K. Antony, and Hon'ble Minister of Statistics and Information Shri Srikant Kumar Jena. Other noted dignitaries included, among others:

- Smt. Vilasini Ramachandran, Minister of Drinking Water and Sanitation
- Shri S Ramakrishnan, Director DRDO
- Dr. W Selva Murthy, Offg. Secy Def R&D
- Dr. Rajeev Kumar, Secy General FICCI
- Dr. Lokendra Singh, Director Life Science

A pilot plan of this bio-digester model is set to be inaugurated with Ganga Action Parivar at Parmarth Niketan Ashram.





On July 29th, Parmarth's Ganga Aarti was attended by a very unique guest - Garima Ganeshia, an airlines pilot named the "Best Young Pilot in the World" at the young age of just 20 years old. Garima currently flies with South African Airlines.





# Independence Day Celebrations



On August 15th, India celebrated Independence Day. At Parmarth, saints, rishikumars and other residents of the ashram along with others joined together to mark the day with special prayers.







# Dr. Kamal Tawariji



Also on August 15th, Dr. Kamal Tawariji, former IAS member, visited Parmarth. During his stay, he chaired a small workshop on Gram Swarojgar (village employment) and provided guidance on topics like production and marketing of organic crops, milk production, and other cottage industries. He also took time to visit the Veerpur Ashram.





# Minister of Industry Shri Ramakant Goswamiji

Upon His return from His tour abroad, Pujya Swamiji met with the Minister of Industry of Delhi Shri Ramakant Goswamiji on the 21st of August. Together they discussed the situation the river Yamuna - which runs for 22 kilometers through Delhi and serves as a lifeline for the city - faces today, and how steps can be taken together to clean and restore the river. Shri Goswamiji has assured and promised to fully serve this cause and to direct the Delhi government to help restore Yamuna.

After this meeting, Pujya Swamiji also attended a conference in Delhi on the effort to clean-up Yamuna, which was also attended by eminent experts such as Nobel prize winner and Director-General of TERI Dr. RK Pachauri, former Chairman of the Central Pollution Control Board Dr. Paritosh Tyagi, and Advisor to the National River Conservation Authority Dr. RP Sharma.

In this conference, Yamuna Action Parivar (YAP) was launched by attendees, a sister organization to Ganga Action Parivar which is coming together to restore and protect the drying and dying Yamuna. YAP

hopes to help clean the Yamuna in three phases - first beginning with the city of Delhi, then moving to the stretch of Yamuna which runs from Delhi to Agra, and then finally to Her Agra to Her sangam at Allahabad.

Yamuna Action Parivar's will focus on the many, varied issues which face the river and Her surrounding environment, and thus have actions which are varied and holistic. Areas of focus including the construction of eco-friendly toilets, planting trees and other plants along Yamuna's river banks, and stopping the domestic and industrial waste which currently is dumped directly into Yamuna from flowing in Her waters.



**Pujya Swamiji and Shri Ramakant Goswamiji**



# Clean Prayag, Green Prayag Workshop



On August 22nd, a workshop was held in Allahabad to prepare for the first-ever, eco-friendly “Clean and Green” Kumbh Mela in 2013, a concept and plan which Pujya Swamiji has been spearheading for many years.

Pujya Swamiji sees the upcoming Kumbh as the golden opportunity for the nation to set an example of a clean and green India. Having arrived just two days before from His trip abroad, He inspired the people of Prayag to remember and restore the true wealth of India – its unique spiritual, cultural and natural heritage, unparalleled anywhere else in the world. The Kumbh Mela is really an opportunity for each one of us to return back to our sacred value system, centered on the national river Ganga, whose waters have always guided the nation. Pujya Swamiji urged the people

of Prayag to take the important opportunity of leading the way and setting a positive example for the world to stand witness to.

This workshop was a follow-up from another that had been held earlier in the month, focused this time more specifically on school organizations.





# Clean Prayag, Green Prayag Workshop

The workshop was a coming together (*sangam*) of educational institutes, NGOs with Allahabad and the Kumbh Mela Administration. Hon'ble Chief Guest Commissioner of Allahabad, Shri Devesh Chaturvedi, promised full support for all the initiatives and laid out the three main objectives for the coming months of preparation for the Kumbh: tree plantation, polythene-free campaign, and having groups adopt portions of Prayag to maintain "clean and green".

Pujya Swamiji also acknowledged the support and willingness of governing officials to work with the people and urged each citizen to do their part. He said that the shakti (power) of women in the society who act collectively in an environmentally conscious way can truly transform the nation.

All actions for cleaning and greening Prayag are to ensure that during the Kumbh, the sangam kshetra (location of Kumbh Mela) will remain clean and green, inspiring the thousands that come to participate. Plans are underway for a polythene-free and green Kumbh, including the handing out of saplings and jute bags during the mela and the development of a Ganga Smriti Van (Memorial Forest) to allow those who come to the Mela to plant a tree in memory of their beloved. There are also plans to fully develop one location as a model of what can be done to beautify the sacred city. Clean-ups of the Kumbh Mela area are scheduled to be held before and after the Mela, mobilizing thousands of school children and their family to get into action.







# Shri Pranab Kumar Mukherjeeji



Pujya Swamiji met with His Excellency the President of India in early September. He discussed with the Honourable President various issues including Ganga Action Parivar's efforts to clean and preserve Mother Ganga and also His 6Ts initiative (6T for the "six-ty years" Pujya Swamiji has just completed). The 6Ts are:

- Toilets
- Taps
- Trees
- Trash
- Tracks (railways tracks)
- Tigers

Pujya Swamiji also presented the Honourable President with a copy of By God's Grace, His new biography published by Mandala publishing.



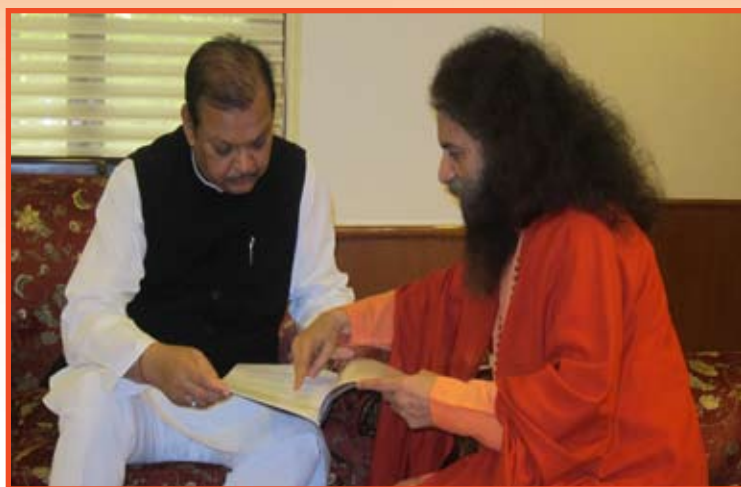
# Shri Sushilkumar Shindeji and Shri Subodhkant Sahai



While in Delhi, Pujya Swamiji also met with a number of ministers to discuss the efforts being made to clean up and protect Ganga.

Pujya Swamiji met with Shri Sushilkumar Shindeji, Minister of Home Affairs. Pujya Swamiji and Hon'ble Shri Shindeji had worked together in the past regarding the issue of hydropower projects on Ganga and how to minimize negative impacts of the dams while maximizing free-flowing water in the riverbed.

Pujya Swamiji congratulated him on his new post as Home Minister and they made plans to sit together at length in the near future.



Pujya Swamiji met with Shri Subodhkant Sahaiji, the Minister of Tourism. Together they discussed plans to make tourism in India more eco-friendly by creating “Green Pilgrimages” and making important pilgrim/tourist destinations eco-friendly.

Pujya Swamiji shared with the Honourable Minister full detailed plans for the Green Kumbha Mela. Shri Subodhkant Sahaiji was very impressed by the depth and thoroughness of Pujya Swamiji's plans and ideas. He committed his full support for the initiative and follow up meetings will be held in this regard.



# Shri KH Muniyappaji and Shri Pawan Kumar Bansalji



Pujya Swamiji met with Shri KH Muniyappaji, the Minister of State for Indian Railways. Shri Muniyappaji had visited Parmarth a few months prior, before Pujya Swamiji went abroad, where he fully expressed his commitment to helping clean up the environment by “greening” India’s most vital transportation system - the Indian railway.

Pujya Swamiji and Shri Muniyappaji discussed many plans, including the “Jai Gange” express train which will run along the banks of Ganga to Ganga Sagar, informing and inspiring all passengers to preserve and protect the Mother river.



Pujya Swamiji met with Shri Pawan Kumar Bansalji, the Minister of Water Resources. After meeting in June, Pujya Swamiji and Shri Bansalji continued their conversation about the issues facing Ganga and what can be done by all to restore and protect Her.



# Vegetarian Thinkers Meet



On September 2nd, Sadhvi Bhagawati spoke at the Vegetarian Thinkers Meet in New Delhi, a program dedicated to bringing together religious leaders, thinkers, media heads, philosophers and activists. The program focused on two main aspects: 1) how to increase the spread of vegetarianism throughout the world and 2) how to combat the rise of non-vegetarianism in India and maintain traditional values of vegetarianism and non-violence.

The program was graced by religious leaders from all faiths, including Imam Umar Ahmed Ilyasiji, Pujya Acharya Lokesh Muniji, Pujya Swami Agniveshji and Pujya Swami S.A.R.P.V. Chaturvediji, head of the Sri Ramanuja Mission Trust, Chennai.





# Yoga Aid - India



Also on September 9th, thousands of yogis around the world joined together for the Yoga Aid World Challenge, a 24-hour yoga relay for charity. Beginning in Sydney, the Yoga Aid World Challenge followed the sun west, touring through over twenty countries, ending at sunset in Los Angeles.





# Pujya Swami Atmaswarupdasji



On September 9th, Pujya Atmaswarupdas Swamiji, of Akshardham Temple in Delhi came to Rishikesh and came to Parmarth Niketan to see Pujya Swamiji. They shared beautiful moments of love together. Pujya Swamiji had been present at the inauguration of Akshardham many years ago and He and Pujya Atmaswarup Swamiji have been close for many years.





# H.H. the Dalai Lama



His Holiness the Dalai Lama was in Dehradun from the 14-18th of September. On the 18th of September, Pujya Swamiji met with him and they spent beautiful moments together of love and sharing. They discussed many upcoming plans and events for the spread of peace and love and for the betterment of the world.







On September 21st, members of the World Bank, from Washington DC and from New Delhi, came to Parmarth on their return to Delhi from a field visit to assess a hydropower project in the Himalayas. Puja Swamiji spoke with them about the dams, inviting them into the family of Ganga Action Parivar to help find solutions to the issues facing Ganga and of electricity that will benefit Mother Ganga Herself, all those who depend on the clean, free-flowing nature of Her waters for their lives and livelihoods and the developing nation of India as a whole.





# Shri Shyamsunder Parasharji Shashtri



From the 19th to 25th of September, Dr. Shri Shyamsundar Parasharji Shashtri of Vrindavan came to Parmarth and gave a beautiful, divine Bhagwat Katha. The ashram was filled with the divine sound of Shri Krishnaji and the atmosphere of Gokul and Vrindavan as Shri Parasharji gave the katha, with many attending to hear the divine kirtan and elucidating spiritual discourses.





# Campaign to Protect Girls Meeting



Helping women and girls who face various issues - from female foeticide to neglect and abandonment - is a cause Pujya Swamiji has always felt committed to. On September 26th, social activists from ActionAid who are working all over India to protect girls came to Parmarth to work together to protect girls, stop the crimes being done against them, and spread awareness about what beautiful blessings girls truly are.



Many plans are now on for this cause, including planning for a major event at the Kumbh Mela in Allahabad in January-February 2013, a platform that will bring together all of India's various spiritual traditions and sampradayas. An expected 120 million are expected to come within those two months to the Kumbh, and thus it is a chance for top spiritual leaders, politicians, celebrities and more to come together and spread the unified message to protect the girl child.





# Divine Message from Pujya Swamiji

## The Essence of Spirituality:

### Service of Others

Spirituality is the essence of life. It is the light that shines on our lives, illuminating our paths, bringing light to the darkness, joy to the sorrow, and meaning to the incomprehensible. And the essence of spirituality? The essence of spirituality is service. As one goes deeper and deeper on a spiritual path and as one gets closer and closer to Realization and Enlightenment, one realizes that the Divine resides in all. One begins to see God's presence in every person, every animal, and every plant.

The first line in the Ishopanishad says:

*Isha vaasyamidam sarvam  
yat kincha jagatyaam jagat  
Tena tyaktena bhunjeethaa  
Maa gradhabh kasya svid dhanam*

This mantra tells us that God is manifest in everything in the universe. All is Him, and all is pervaded by Him. There is nothing which is not God.

When one realizes this Truth deep in one's heart, one becomes filled with an insatiable desire to care for and serve all of God's creation. Typically, we sit in our mandir and ever-so-carefully bathe the deity of God. We gingerly and lovingly perform the abhishek ceremony, caressing His body lovingly with sandalwood and rose water, and adorning Him in the finest clothes. We offer food to Him before we eat; we distribute the sweetest sweets as prasad and we offer our hard-earned money as daan.



However, as one's spiritual path deepens and as one gets closer to the state of God-realization, one sees God's form in everything. Thus, the feelings of care, love, sacrifice and devotion which we feel for the deity in the temple begin to blossom in our heart for all of creation.

Every widow, every orphan, every homeless leper, every wandering, malnourished animal, every deforested piece of land, every polluted river – all become as precious as the marble image of Shiva or Krishna or Durga in our mandir. Thus, from our hearts we are called to do as much as we can to remedy the world's tragic situation.



# Divine Message from Pujya Swamiji

Many people think a spiritual life means that one retreats to the mountains, performs meditation 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. 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. It is difficult, initially, to connect deeply with God while one stands in line at the supermarket or while one is stuck in traffic on the road home from work. Thus, in the beginning, one must retreat temporarily in order to lay 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, once the electrification work is complete, then 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 a spiritual path. Solitude, silence and extensive sadhana are required, as a parallel to laying the electrical wires. But, once the deep connection with the Divine Powerhouse is established, one simply has to close one's eyes and one connects with God.

Look at Lord Buddha – he left the world in order to go into the forest and practice meditation. But once he attained Enlightenment under the bodhi

tree, he did not stay in the forest, reveling in his own Enlightenment. Rather, he returned to the world to spread the message, to spread the light, to spread compassion, to serve the needy. He had attained Enlightenment and once having attained the Enlightened state, he was able to see the Divine in all and thus dedicated his life to spreading light, wisdom and compassion to all.

Ramakrishna Paramhansa, one of the greatest saints in history, used to bow down in pranam to prostitutes and worship them as the Divine Mother. He would lay in the grass and talk to snakes and rabbits. He saw the Divine just as clearly in the impure prostitutes as in the image of Kali in the temple!

In the Bhagavad Gita, Bhagwan Krishna says, “I am the Self, O Gudakesha, seated in the hearts of all beings; I am the Beginning, the Middle and also the End of all beings.” When we embark on a spiritual path, or as we walk on the path, 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 sleep at night unless we have done our best to lessen the pain of our fellow beings, just as we could not sleep if we neglected to perform the aarti in the mandir or if we forgot to offer food to the deity of Krishna Bhagwan. We cannot see sick, starving animals wandering on the



# Divine Message from Pujya Swamiji

road or watch toxic chemicals dumped into our precious rivers, any more than we could tolerate watching someone toss a Shiva Linga onto the pavement.

So, ultimately, if the spiritual path is true, it culminates in an insatiable urge to serve all, to help all, to give to all, and to live for all. This does not mean that one forgets one's personal meditation or japa. Rather, the two go hand-in-hand. There is a beautiful line in our prayers that says, "Mukha mein ho Rama Nama, Rama seva haath mein... Our lips keep chanting His name, and our hands keep doing His work."

It is also important to note that "service of all" can take a variety of forms. For some, it may take the form of working hard at their profession

every day and donating their income to humanitarian causes. For others, it may take the form of founding organizations or foundations which directly work to alleviate various aspects of suffering. For some, it may take the form of giving lectures or writing books on spirituality which bring inspiration and upliftment to the masses. For some, it may take the form of being a spiritual guide or Guru who brings the light of awareness to all of his/her devotees. The possibilities are endless. But the central core is the same – all of these people have a deep realization that all beings are Divine and that God resides in all. Once one has this realization, one feels unity with all creatures and beings on the planet; thus one hears the internal call to help and serve in whatever way possible.



# Special Announcements | Ganga Action Parivar

*“Clean Ganga, Green Ganga. Serve Ganga, Save Ganga.”*



Officially launched in April of 2010 by the hands of Pujya Swamiji, H.H. the Dalai Lama and numerous other saints and dignitaries, Ganga Action Parivar is a global family of professionals, environmental engineers, scientists, activists, government leaders and devoted volunteers from all across the world dedicated to serving Mother Ganga. It is a sincere effort to provide effective and sustainable solutions for the millions of people whose lives depends on the purity of the river.

GAP is working in numerous areas - from “Grand Plan” scale to “Ground Plan” scale - to address the many issues that face Ganga and her tributaries, such as creating solid waste and wastewater management programs, building toilets, planting trees, cleaning and beautifying holy pilgrimage sites, spreading awareness on how to be eco-friendly, creating alternative environmentally-friendly energy plans, and so much more. GAP’s projects have been blessed and supported by saints, scholars, yogis, economists, scientists, environmentalists and agriculturalists, among many others.

Log-on to **[www.gangaaction.com](http://www.gangaaction.com)** to learn more about Ganga, about the issues, and about the programs and projects GAP is working on. Interact and share your ideas, and find out how you can truly help no matter where you are in the world! Together as a family, we can restore, protect and maintain a free-flowing and unpolluted Ganga!



# Special Announcements | Volunteer with us!

Parmarth Niketan is happy to announce a 3-month (minimum) residential service program for those interested in engaging themselves in seva (selfless service)!

Volunteer in Parmarth and Ganga Action Parivar's numerous projects to restore and protect Ma Ganga, save the girl child, help animals, and much more. As our projects grow, so has our need for professional, inspiring, and productive volunteers who can work with us in our mission to achieve a greener, cleaner, and safer tomorrow for all humanity.

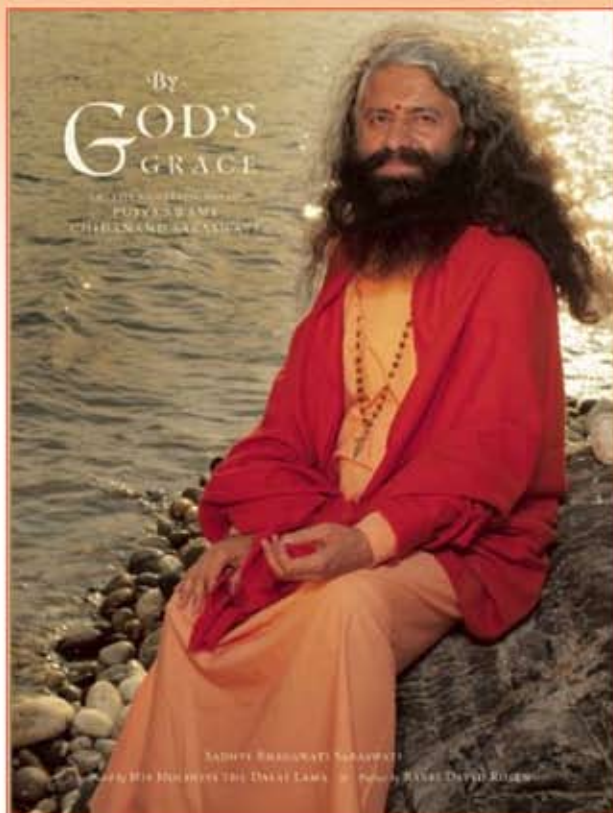
If you would like to get involved and volunteer in any one of our projects, please download our Volunteer Application Packet and send us your application.

*[Click here to download the Volunteer Application Packet.](#)*





# Special Announcements | Release of *By God's Grace*



A gorgeous coffee table biography of Pujya Swamiji has been published entitled *By God's Grace*. Upon its release, this book held the **NUMBER ONE** position as a best-seller in Amazon.com's **Hinduism** section, out of a total of over 17,000 books!

It is a nearly 300 page coffee table book filled with exquisite photos of Ganga, the Himalayas, and all of the saints and world leaders with whom Pujya Swamiji has spent the first 60 years of His life. However, it is more than just a beautiful beautiful book. It also tells the inspiring, uplifting and transformative stories of Pujya Swamiji's whole life — from meeting His Guru at the tender age of eight, to His youth filled with intense sadhana in the Himalayan forests and jungles, including standing on one leg for 11 hours a day.

*By God's Grace* then goes on to beautifully describe Pujya Swamiji's arrival into Rishikesh and choice to stay there, followed by the history of His life at Parmarth Niketan, first as a young student and then as head of one of India's largest spiritual institutions. You will read about His travels around the world, touching and teaching people of all religions, all cultures and all walks of life. The book further details Pujya Swamiji's unparalleled projects and achievements

including the eleven volume Encyclopedia of Hinduism, the construction of three ashrams in the sacred land of Lake Mansarovar and Mt. Kailash in Tibet, widespread tsunami relief work and now an unprecedented project to clean, preserve and protect the 2500 kilometer divine Ganga.

Lastly, even though for those blessed to know Him, we all understand that His life is His message, the book also includes special "teaching" sections in between the chronological chapters. Each special teaching spread takes one of Pujya Swamiji's most fundamental teachings and shares it, in His own words, through His own voice, on gorgeously illustrated pages.

His Holiness the Dalai Lama has written the foreword and shares His own thoughts and experiences with Pujya Swamiji.

This book is perfect for personal reading and for gracing the top of your coffee table, and it is also the perfect gift for any friend or loved one who, whether they know Pujya Swamiji personally or not, is looking for a glimpse into the life of one of history's truest, wisest, deepest, funniest and most down-to-earth spiritual leaders.

Laugh, cry, look at yourself and your life in a brand new way.



*Please visit [www.bygodsgracebook.org](http://www.bygodsgracebook.org) for more information about the book and information on how to order.*



## Links

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



## Links

Thanks to Eros Entertainment,  
you can now watch videos of Pujya Swamiji online!  
Click on the videos below to watch...



A Divine Life - Pujya Swamiji's  
60th Birthday Film



Pujya Swamiji at  
Shree Ram Mandir



Guru Purnima 2011



Peace Through  
Nonviolence



Sadhvi Bhagawati:  
Power of Thought



Power of Prayer &  
Divine Connection

...and click [here](#) to see even more videos online!

