

PARMARTH

H.H. Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji
WINTER - EARLY SPRING 2015 NEWS MAGAZINE



*Pujya
Swamiji, Sadhvi Bhagawatiji
and Faith Leaders Make Historic
Appearance at Sustainable
Development Summit
Page 18*

INSIDE



*Hon'ble Sarsanghchalak Mohan
Bhagawatji Visits Parmarth*



*Together for the United Nations
World Yoga Day*



*Pujya Swamiji Meets the
Hon'ble Vice President of Nepal*



*Pujya Swamiji Meets the Hon'ble
President of Guyana*

CONTENTS

Coming Together	4
Hon'ble President of Guyana Meets Pujya Swamiji	5
Hon'ble Vice President of Nepal & HH Pujya Swamiji March for Peace	7
Mananiya Dr. Mohan Bhagwat Comes to Parmarth Niketan	8
GIWA's Worship to WASH and Women for WASH Summit	10
GIWA India Launched In Delhi with UNICEF	11
The Make in India National Conclave	12
The International Board of the GIWA Foundation Comes Together	14
The WASH Revolution Comes to Gujarat at Special GIWA Summit	15
Delhi Sustainable Development Summit	18
Conclave of Bishops Discuss WASH and Climate Change in Kerala	20
Hon'ble Railways Minister and Pujya Swamiji Meet	21
India's Election Minister Meets with Pujya Swamiji and Sadhvi Bhagawatiji	22
Green Kumbh 2016: The Countdown Begins	23
UNICEF Activate Talk	24
Historic River Conference Brings Representatives of 300 Rivers	25
Episode of "Neeli Chatri Wale" Filmed at Parmarth	26
India's Ambassador to Hungary Inspired By Mother Ganga at Parmarth Niketan	27
World Alliance of Religions Meets in Delhi	29
Pujya Anandamurti Gurumaa For Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	31
Together in Celebration of the UN Declaration of World Yoga Day	32
Hon'ble Governor Launches GIWA Bio-Toilets	34
World Toilet Summit	35
Interfaith Leaders Plan for an Oasis of Harmony	36
Governor, Education Minister and Sanskrit Scholars Celebrate Mother Ganga	38
A Green Birthday With Mananiya LK Advaniji	39
Speaking Tree's Akasha Event: A Divine Talk by Sadhvi Bhagawatiji	40
Rally to Clean the Gomti River	41

LEARN MORE! VISIT OUR WEBSITES BY CLICKING:

www.parmarth.com (Parmarth Niketan Rishikesh), www.gangaaction.org (Ganga Action Parivar), www.washalliance.org (Global Interfaith WASH Alliance), www.projecthope-india.org (Project Hope), www.divineshaktifoundation.org (Divine Shakti Foundation), www.ihrf.com (India Heritage Research Foundation)

CONTENTS

Pujya Swamiji Graces Ganesh Utsav in Indore	42
Prestigious Honours from the World Brahman Organization	43
Saraswati Rashtriya Manav Sewa Ratna Samman	44
All India Ayurveda Congress	45
Krishna Das and Belinda Carlisle Visit Parmarth Niketan	46
Upholders of Green Dharma: Dignitaries from Kauai's Hindu Monastery Visit Parmarth	47
Anup Jalota at mother Ganga	48
A Tribute to our Beloved Swami Yogananda	49
Celebrating Together	50
A Clean, Green and Serene New Year	51
Maha Shivaratri on the Banks of the River Ganga	52
The Solanki Family Comes Home	54
Celebrating Oneness: The World Comes Together with Pujya Swamiji	55
Serving Humanity	57
Livelihood Centre for Disaster-Impacted Women Constructed	58
The Gift of Education Through the Divine Shakti Foundation	59
Saksham Workshop	60
Teaming up for Cleaning: Students from 25 Nations Roll up their Sleeves	61
The Gift of Sight: A Divine Camp Enables the Poor to See	62
From Russia with Love: Siberian Veterenarians Provide Free Surgeries, Care and More for the Street Dogs of Rishikesh	64
Special Announcements	65
By God's Grace	66
Volunteer with Us	67
Visit Us Online	68



COMING TOGETHER.



Wherever Pujya Swamiji goes, His divine presence and wisdom not only inspire those present, but brings light and upliftment to all. Through His extensive travels throughout the world as well as when He is home in Parmarth Niketan, Rishikesh, thousands of people come together in fellowship and harmony so that they may hear His timeless wisdom, sit in His loving presence and share their own noble ideas for the betterment of the world.

HON'BLE PRESIDENT OF GUYANA MEETS PUJYA SWAMIJI



Pujya Swamiji met with the His Excellency Donald Ramotar, the Hon'ble President of the Republic of Guyana at Gandhi Nagar Gujarat University during a meeting organized by Global Organization of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO).

Pujya Swamiji deeply motivated all of the participants with the slogan and message 'My Dil (heart) for India. My Will for India.' He said that the time was right now to not only 'Make In India' but also to 'Make India,' by

giving their time, talent, technology and tenacity to ensure that India could provide basic necessities and infrastructure, such as access to Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, to the over 600 million people who lack such necessities.

The President of Guyana was deeply appreciative of His words and discussed with Pujya Swamiji ways in which cultural exchanges between both countries could be enhanced.



A beautiful lamp lighting ceremony inaugurates GOPIO's Annual conference



Pujya Swamiji sits with Hon'ble General VK Singhji and a dignitary from London



Pujya Swamiji blesses Shri Manish Gupta, GOPIO International's International Coordinator-South Asia



Pujya Swamiji blesses General VK Singhji with a shawl woven by women widowed in the tragic floods of Uttarakhand last year

HON'BLE VICE PRESIDENT OF NEPAL & HH PUJYA SWAMIJI MARCH FOR PEACE



Puja Swamiji and the Hon'ble Vice President of Nepal, Shri Paramanand Jha, were invited to grace, bless and inspire the inauguration of a historic march for Ahimsa (Non-Violence) lead by His Holiness Acharya Mahashramanji of Preksha International.

During their meeting, Puja Swamiji and Shri Paramanand Jha spoke about the great importance of ensuring safe and healthy water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) within the nations of India and Nepal. They also discussed the rivers of India and Nepal, which should always be kept in pristine, free-flowing states, for the benefit of populations as well as for the sake of the divine ecologies both nations share.



They next marched alongside venerable Jain Monks and other dignitaries to launch a journey which will cover more than 10,000 kilometres by foot to promote peace and non-violence within India and bordering nations, including Nepal and Bhutan.

During the event, Puja Swamiji also inspired Respected Acharya Mahashramanji to include Water, Sanitation and Hygiene awareness as part of his historic march, which he readily agreed to do.

MANANIYA DR. MOHAN BHAGWATJI *Comes to Parmarth Niketan*

Mananiya Dr. Mohan Bhagwatji, Chief of RSS, was warmly welcomed and lovingly received by Pujya Swamiji as he came home to Parmarth Niketan recently. During his visit, Mananiya Bhagwatji and Pujya Swamiji shared detailed discussions about the importance of cleaning the sacred rivers of India, especially Mother Ganga. They also discussed the initiatives of Ganga Action Parivar and the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance.

Pujya Swamiji next presented Mananiya Bhagwatji with all 11 volumes of the International Edition of the Encyclopedia of Hinduism, a project led, inspired and conceived by Pujya Swamiji with the tenacious dedication and remarkable leadership of Managing Editor, Sadhvi Bhagawatiji. Just some months before, Mananiya Bhagwatji had graciously accepted Pujya Swamiji's invitation to launch the International Edition of the Encyclopedia alongside the Hon'ble Vice President of India along with many other revered interfaith leaders and eminent dignitaries in a historic event at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi.

During his visit, Mananiya Bhagwatji also inaugurated Parmarth's new Reedbed Wastewater Purification System, which uses green plants to filter and treat the waste from the ashram's bio-toilets, leaving behind clean and pure water. Present for the inauguration were Smt. Vijaya Barathwal MLA Yamkeshwar-Uttarakhand, as well as nearly 30 individuals from Bali, Indonesia and



people from America, Mexico and many other nations.

Pujya Swamiji shared that by employing simple, cost-effective and efficient technologies, such as Bio-Digester toilets, Bio-Sand filters and Waste to Energy systems, we could revolutionize the solutions to the pollution which seem to pose as challenges to India's stable and consistent progress and growth.

Mananiya Bhagwatji and Pujya Swamiji also planted a beautiful Rudraksha sapling together. Thereafter, Mananiya Bhagwatji and Pujya Swamiji offered precious and beautiful beads from Parmarth's Rudraksha garden as prasad (blessing) to all participants.



Pujya Swamiji gifts Mananiya Dr. Mohan Bhagwatji with a set of the eleven-volume Encyclopedia of Hinduism.



Dr. Mohan Bhagwatji and Pujya Swamiji launch an all-natural reed bed system, which will work with Parmarth's bio-toilets to clean all waste through the use of plants instead of chemicals



Dr. Mohan Bhagwatji and Pujya Swamiji distribute sacred Rudraksha seeds, which symbolize the tears of Lord Shiva and hold medical benefits



GIWA'S WORSHIP TO WASH AND WOMEN FOR WASH SUMMIT

Faith Leaders Join Forces with GIWA and UNICEF, Create History on the Holy Banks of Mother Ganga



In a landmark moment in the history of India, some of the most renowned leaders and greatest minds from across the globe came together and joined hands in the *Worship to WASH and Women for WASH Summit of Leaders*.

The Summit was held at Parmarth Niketan by the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance, of which Pujya Swamiji is Co-Founder, with the technical support of UNICEF. It was a historic first to address vital issues surrounding the lack of healthy water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), which results in the deaths of 1,200 boys and girls in India every day.

The Summit was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, Shri Harish Rawat, and was attended by hundreds of renowned leaders of all faiths, who came together from across India, the United States, England, Europe, Australia and Africa.

**SEE MORE
PHOTOS AND
STORIES!**

CLICK:

**[WWW.
WASHALLIANCE.
ORG](http://WWW.WASHALLIANCE.ORG)**

GIWA INDIA LAUNCHED IN DELHI WITH UNICEF



Emminent leaders from across India joined hands this autumn to signify the launch of GIWA-India at a special press event hosted with the technical support of UNICEF-India. GIWA-India is the first country-level initiative of the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance, of which HH Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji is Co-Founder and Co-Chair.

During the launch event, leaders discussed the crucial importance of GIWA's special focus on India, a nation in which over 600 million people don't have access to toilets and millions further have no access to healthy water and hygiene.

Said Pujya Swamiji, "the suffering and deaths that result from poor WASH conditions are mostly preventable, making WASH a holy mission for which all leaders should join forces, for the sake of our children, for the sake of our environment, and for the sake of India's future."

For More Stories and Photos
on the Launch Event, Click:
www.washalliance.org

MAKE IN INDIA NATIONAL CONCLAVE

*Pujya Swamiji and Union Ministers Come Together
for a New Direction for Mother India*



Pujya Swamiji addressed Uday India's "Make In India" National Conclave at Vigyan Bhawan, as a part of their sixth anniversary celebrations, with eminent and respected dignitaries including:

- Shri Rajnath Singhji, Hon'ble Union Home Minister,
- Shri Jual Oramji, Hon'ble Union Minister of Tribal Affairs,
- Shri Prakash Javadekarji, Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change,
- Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwarji, Hon'ble Minister for Textiles,
- Shri G.M.Siddeshwaraji, Hon'ble Minister for Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises,
- Col Rajyarvardhan Rathoreji, Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting,
- Mr Deepak Rathji, Editor of Uday India
- Eminent industrialists such as Shri NL Jhunjhunwalaji, Shri Mridu Hari Dalmiaji and many others

The event focused on solutions, strategies and suggestions to overcome the potential hurdles and bottlenecks in Hon'ble Shri Narendra Modiji's progressive and innovative "Make In India" campaign, especially to jump start the manufacturing sectors, such as automobiles, information technology, security, pharmaceuticals, ports, telecom, skill development, roads and highways, hospitality and railways, in which India has the potential of becoming a world leader.

In His address, HH Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji stressed the need for building moral and ethical values among the youth in order to build the nation. "Make in India is not just constructing buildings and laying roads. Make In India has to be taken along with Make India so that we can create a India that is clean, green and serene for all and in which we not only work on the outer growth but the inner growth of human values and service."

He also added for the Media family present at the event, 'Taking inspiration from Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) let us also create Media Social Responsibility (MSR). Let us make our MSR to be from breaking news to making news, from negative to positive and from misinformation to mass inspiration.' He lauded the work Uday India was doing in this direction.

The Hon'ble Home Minister inaugurated the conclave, saying, "the manufacturing sector is going to be strengthened in order to trigger massive employment generation. It is with this objective Make in India programme has been launched. We are equipped in all respects and are determined to ensure that the economy turns around for the better and become robust...We are also committed for the wholesome development with agrarian economy becoming viable and manufacturing sector becoming robust with

massive employment generation. We are going to get a fair quantum of investment in infrastructure, defence and manufacturing sectors. We have the will and determination to achieve this task."

The Hon'ble Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting added that innovation has to be incorporated into the education system.

Mr Deepak Rathji, Editor of Uday India, shared that Uday India is committed to quality journalism that is upheld by robust morals & ethics. He said, "there will be no compromise on quality, truth, morals and ethics and will continue to hold the torch of nationalism in its duty to the country."

A Book titled "Time to Click India" authored by Deepak Rath, Editor, Uday India, was released at the function.



दैनिक जागरण

National Conclave
MAKE IN INDIA

28th December, 2014
Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi



नए उन्नत भारत निर्माण के लिए गंभीर मंथन

जेएनएन, नई दिल्ली : विज्ञान भवन के मुख्य सभागार में नए उन्नत भारत के निर्माण के लिए बुधवार को विचार-विमर्श के लिए कई हस्तियां जुटीं। एक साप्ताहिक पत्रिका की तरफ से आयोजित इस कार्यक्रम में परमार्थ निकेतन आश्रम के परमाध्यक्ष स्वामी चिदानंद सरस्वती ने कई महत्वपूर्ण सुझाव दिए। केंद्रीय गृह मंत्री राजनाथ सिंह और पर्यावरण मंत्री प्रकाश जावेडकर समेत देश भर से आए सैकड़ों लोगों ने इस मंथन प्रक्रिया में भाग लिया। परमार्थ आश्रम के प्रवक्ता राम महेश मिश्र ने बताया कि गंगा एक्शन परिवार के प्रणेता स्वामी चिदानंद महागज

ने मेक इन इंडिया विचार मंथन को बेहद जरूरी बताया और कहा कि इसके लिए देश की छवि को बदलना जरूरी है। गृह मंत्री ने कहा कि प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी के मेक इन इंडिया के विचार पर मीडिया जगत के किसी संस्थान द्वारा आयोजित इस पहली गंभीर चर्चा से अभिभूत हूँ। पर्यावरण मंत्री प्रकाश जावेडकर ने संपन्न व समृद्ध बनने के चार चरों का जिक्र करते हुए अनुसंधानपरक गतिविधियों को बढ़ावा देने की वकालत की और निरंतर शोध करके नए-नए उत्पाद खोजने और विश्व बाजार में उन्हें आगे लाने की जरूरत बताई।

THE INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF THE GIWA FOUNDATION COMES TOGETHER *Faiths Unite for a Better World*



The International Board of the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance met at Parmarth Niketan, Rishikesh on the day following GIWA's historic *Worship to WASH and Women for WASH Summits*. With Directors hailing from India, South Africa, the Netherlands, England, the United States and Bangladesh, GIWA's Board features representatives of the Muslim, Christian, Jewish and Hindu faiths. Also attending were representatives of the Sikh and Buddhist religions.



Said GIWA Co-Chair, HH Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji, "We came together, as a sangam of faiths, to serve as a coalition of compassion, for the sake of all children, of all faiths and of all lands."

THE WASH REVOLUTION COMES TO GUJARAT AT SPECIAL GIWA SUMMIT



During the recent *Worship to WASH Summit of Leaders* organized by GIWA, with the technical support of UNICEF, in which many interfaith leaders from all over India and all over the world joined together on the banks of Mother Ganga at Parmarth Niketan (Rishikesh), Pujya Swamiji had a detailed discussion with Pujya Swami Madhavpriyadasji to bring the WASH Revolution to the heart of Gujarat and to the Swaminarayan Gurukul Parivar (SGVP).

Pujya Swami Madhavpriyadasji took a pledge to bring about GIWA's much-needed WASH Revolution within 108 villages in Gujarat and inspire this revolution amongst his devotees and within his large community. This pledge was turned into action with the hosting of a GIWA Summit hosted by SGVP in Ahmedabad, Gujarat from the 5th-7th January, 2015.

The first night of the event was inaugurated with a beautiful Aarti ceremony on the Sabarmati Riverfront.

The next day, a sacred and special ceremony brought together all of the young students of their Gurukul to pledge and honour clean water, sanitation and hygiene in their lives with a special bathing ritual. Later there was also a huge clean-up event in support of Hon'ble Shri Narendra Modiji's *Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan*, inspiring everyone to grab a broom and start cleaning up their own streets.

Afterwards, an interfaith leaders' gathering took place, in which leaders joined together and reaffirmed their commitments towards working together in promoting access to WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) for all. They also encouraged and inspired a gathering of thousands to keep the WASH Revolution alive every day through their actions in awareness and support of providing clean water, access to sanitation and hygiene within their own lives as well as in the lives of others within their local areas and villages.






DELHI SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT



For the first time in fourteen years, the globally-renowned Delhi Sustainable Development Summit (DSDS) brought together respected interfaith leaders to speak about the role of faith in catalysing a change in behaviour, perspective and priority towards global challenges of sustainable development and climate change. This valedictory session of this high-level summit was graced and inspired by Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji and chaired by Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswatiji. The theme of this historic session was *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*, the world is one world family.

Said Pujya Swamiji, “We must encourage and inspire sustainable development by changing our vision of the world from a “bazaar,” a market place, to a “parivar,” a family. With that spirit of a family, we must all work towards and attend to the needs of our future generations. In our family, if our mother is very sick and in the hospital we do not merely

dialogue but we prepare to act and do everything we can to save her. Similarly, when our Mother Earth is sick, we must do everything to save Her as well.”

The revered interfaith leaders during the session included: Swami Chidanand Saraswati, Co-founder of Global Interfaith WASH Alliance, President of Parmarth Niketan (Rishikesh), Zainul Abedin Ali Khan, Religious Head and Sajjada Nasheen of the Ajmer Sharif Shrine, Gurubachan Singh, Chief Jathedar Akal Takht, Amritsar, Archbishop Kuriakose Bharnikulangara, Faridabad Diocese, Venerable Bhikku Sanghasena, Founder President of Mahabodhi International Meditation Centre Leh-Ladakh, Acharya Rupchandra Muni, prominent Jain Monk, Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswati, General Secretary of Global Interfaith WASH Alliance and President, Divine Shakti Foundation chaired the session.



World Sustainable Development Forum
WSDS 2015

SPEAKER AT #DSDS15



"The world is not a market, the world is a family. In markets, people are exploited. But in family, people are loved. Bazaar, parivaar."

"Information. Inspiration. Implementation. Be the change. Bring the change."

Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji
Co-Founder/Chairman of the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance, President of Parmarth Niketan Ashram, Rishikesh




SEE THE WEBCAST
OF THIS HISTORIC
EVENT!

Click Here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pkJIPpto15c#t=26255watch?v=pkJIPpto15c#t=26255>

World Sustainable Development Forum
WSDS 2015

SPEAKER AT #DSDS15



"Because of global warming today, we sweat and we thirst. Tomorrow, because of our actions, there will be no oxygen, and our children will gasp for air."

Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswati
President, Divine Shakti Foundation & Secretary-General, Global Interfaith WASH Alliance




CONCLAVE OF BISHOPS

Discuss WASH and Climate Change in Kerala



Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswati and Sadhvi Bhagawatiji led renowned archbishops and bishops in a pledge to take care of our water bodies, to keep them clean and protect them, and also to work for sanitation and hygiene, during the International Conference on Climate Change and the Developing World, which was organized in association with the Church of South India Synod and Nilackal Ecological Commission. The conference was also attended by UNICEF India. Pujya Swamiji emphasized that we should pledge that until there is a toilet facility on the grounds of every church and temple, we should try not to build any more churches or temples. He deeply inspired the assembled leaders to take the mission of WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) to their congregations and communities.

As the theme of the conference was Climate Change, Sadhvi Bhagawatiji emphasized the role that each of our choices, every day, can make in mitigating the crises of climate change and lack of clean, safe water. Through organic agriculture, through buying local produce and most importantly by being a vegetarian we can personally make real and lasting impact. Thus, the children suffering and dying due to lack of clean water, lack of sanitation, lack of hygiene and from hunger due to the gross proportion of food grains fed to livestock rather than to people are our neighbors whom we are supposed to love as ourselves, and they are part of our family.... hence our choices of what to eat, what to wear and what to purchase should support not only our own desires but also their health and their lives.

HON'BLE RAILWAYS MINISTER AND PUJYA SWAMIJI MEET



HH Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji met recently with the Hon'ble Railway Minister, Shri Suresh Prabhuji. During their warm meeting, they discussed how rail facilities could be improved in Uttarakhand. In so doing, Pujya Swamiji urged Shri Suresh Prabhuji to expedite the work of the railway line from Rishikesh to Karnprayag, so that it may be completed quickly for the benefit of all.

Afterwards, they discussed the Railway Park in front of the Rishikesh Railway station, which is being developed by Ganga Action Parivar, of which Pujya Swamiji is Founder. Whilst congratulating the Hon'ble Minister for his work in installing bio-toilets within India's trains, Pujya Swamiji mentioned that much still needs to be done, to ensure that all of India is equipped with toilets within its train stations as well as provided with clean tracks that are fronted by pollution-destroying, beautiful plants and trees.



ELECTING PEACE

India's Election Minister Meets with Pujya Swamiji and Sadhvi Bhagawatiji



Pujya Swamiji gifted and blessed all eleven volumes of the Encyclopaedia of Hinduism to the Chief Election Commissioner of India, Hon'ble Shri V S Sampat, who will officially place them in the Election Commission's Central Library. Also present were Deputy Election Commissioner Shri Umesh Sinha, Chief Secretary Rajiv Kumar Srivastawa, the Encyclopedia of Hinduism's Managing Editor, Sadhvi Bhagwati Saraswatiji, and other officers of the Commission.

During the event, Pujya Swamiji shared His vision of a green-election, which would incorporate a minimum use of paper, polythene and plastic, to ensure reduced environmental impact. To do so, more technological infrastructure can be provided to digitalize the system, so that it would require less paper and other materials.



GREEN KUMBH 2016

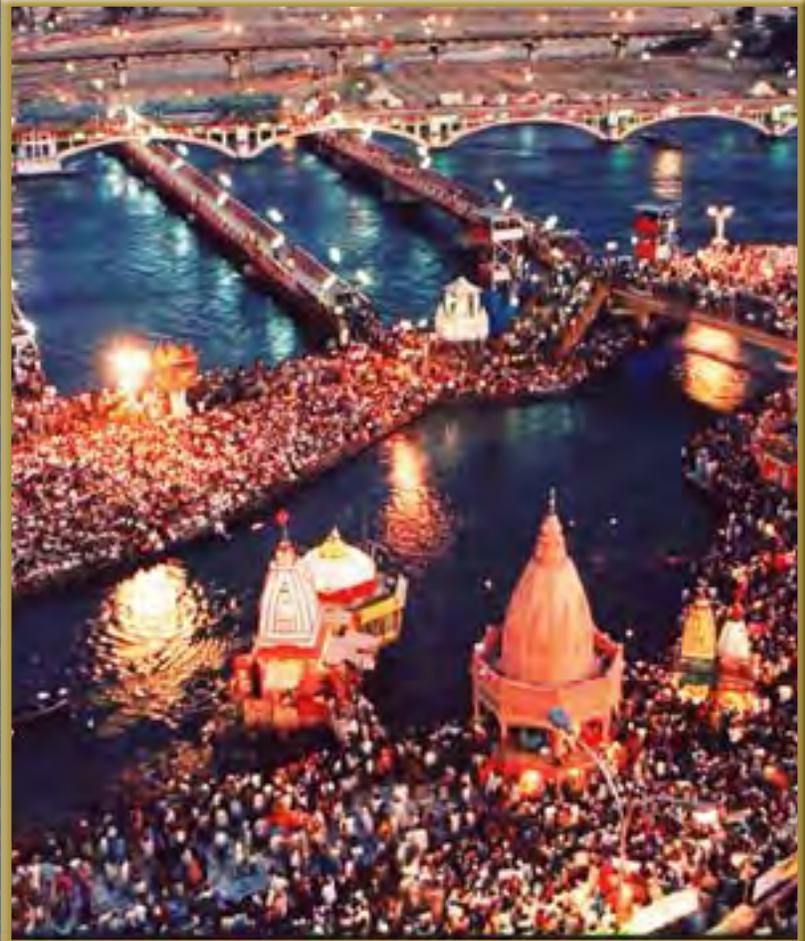
The Countdown Begins for the Haridwar Kumbh Mela, with a Meeting with the Hon'ble Chief Minister



Pujya Swamiji met with the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttarakhand on New Year's Eve to discuss plans to usher in a Clean and Green Kumbha in 2016. Pujya Swamiji shared His vision of expanding the Kumbha Tourist circuit to highlight Uttarakhand's spiritual-cultural and natural heritage. They also discussed the need for the expedited expansion of railway tracks as well as for expedited roads improvements, so that infrastructure may be made ready in time for the mela.

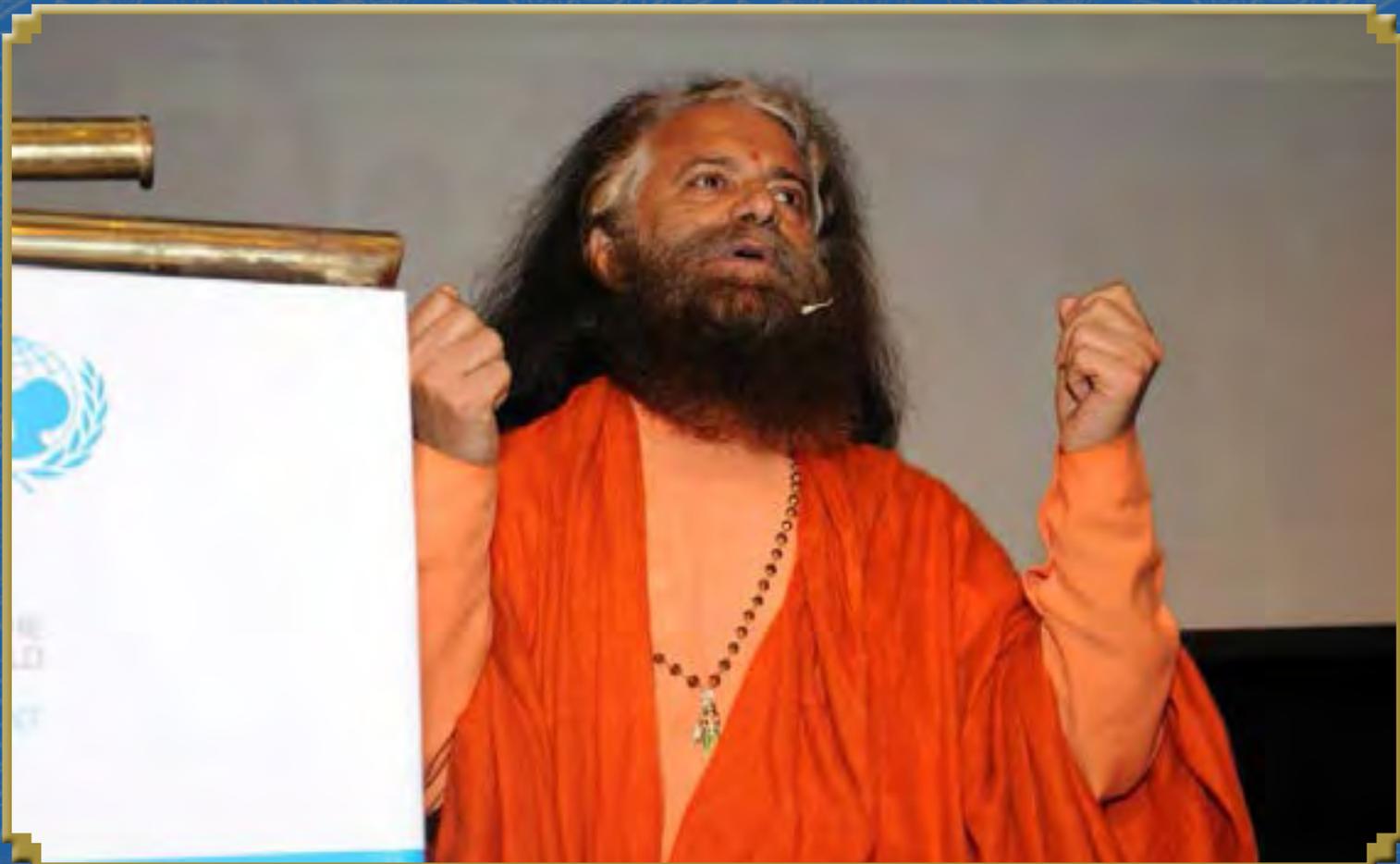
It is estimated that during the Kumbha Mela, there will be nearly 60-80 million pilgrims who will come to take a holy dip in the sacred River Ganga. Therefore, Pujya Swamiji also emphasized sufficient and improved access to sanitation facilities and a proper waste management plan to provide for the influx of pilgrims during the festivities.

They discussed many other plans and ideas to improve Uttarakhand's tourism sector, to ensure Green and Clean Pilgrimages for all in the state that is known as, "Simply Heaven."



UNICEF ACTIVATE TALK

Pujya Swamiji Delivers a Riveting Speech to a Global Audience



As part of the celebrations to mark the 25th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, UNICEF organised an Activate Talk on “Innovations to Support Ending Open Defecation”. Experts, innovators and thought-leaders discussed new ways of thinking to address the sanitation crisis in India, approaching the issue from different angles including social and behaviour change, public dialogue and advocacy, policy and youth engagement.

Said Pujya Swamiji in His speech, “Open defecation is open devastation. Faith leaders are willing to take up the challenge in order to improve the lives of millions of children that lack access to proper sanitation. The biggest problem we have ahead of us is awareness. We have to educate our people through our religious places. We have worshiped the creator for so long but we must not forget the creation. Together we can make change happens. This is a historic beginning.”

Despite the progress done over the last 20 years, India is still home to the world’s largest population of people who defecate in the open, some 595 million or just under half of the population of India do not use a toilet.

RESTORING OUR RIVERS

Historic River Conference Brings Together India's Foremost Experts and Activists



Pujya Swamiji inaugurated the 4th Annual River Festival this February with Hon'ble Shri Shivraj Chouhanji, Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, at Bandrabhan (near Bhopal), Madhya Pradesh.

During His inspirational opening remarks, Pujya Swamiji set the tone of the event by saying, "today, the crisis of agricultural, industrial and domestic waste plagues all our sacred rivers. What once used to be revered, holy, life-giving waters have now become merely a symbol of our negligence and ignorance. Thus, we can not blame anyone else for this crisis and yet, only we have the power to work together to find a solution for it. Therefore, it is heartening



to see such a large gathering of experts, scientists and activists from all over India who are here to exchange ideas and find solutions to save our vital lifelines and sources of inspiration."

He continued, "I strongly believe that more important than dialogue, the time has come to take action and to recognize, legislate, implement and enforce the rights of rivers just as we do human rights. In Indian spiritual-cultural tradition, we have always referred to our sacred rivers as "Mother." Now it's time that we respect and uphold Mother Nature's and Mother Ganga's rights just as much as we would our own near and dear family member's rights."

EPISODE OF “NEELI CHATRI WALE” FILMED AT PARMARTH



Recently, the popular Zee TV family comedy series, *Neeli Chatri Wale's* cast and crew visited Parmarth Niketan to shoot a special episode on the banks of Mother Ganga.

During Ganga Aarti, Pujya Swamiji inspired the cast to take the Green Pledge and use their Media Shakti to encourage families across India to keep their sacred water bodies and their communities clean. He shared that as great figures in history, such as Mahatma Gandhiji have said, “cleanliness is next to Godliness,” we all have to start with our own homes, expand to our communities and extend to our villages, towns, and cities. In such a way, automatically we will see that the whole nation has become clean and green.”

Also present during the ceremony were Chairman of BHEL, Shri B Prasada Raoji, with his friends and family.



INDIA'S AMBASSADOR TO HUNGARY INSPIRED BY MOTHER GANGA



Respected Shri Malay Mishra, Indian Ambassador to Hungary, visited Parmarth Niketan recently. After enjoying a beautiful Ganga Aarti on Parmarth's glorious ghats, he expressed his wish to organize similar Aarti ceremonies on the banks of Danube River in Budapest, Hungary.

During the Aarti, Pujya Swamiji praised Ambassador Malay Mishraji for his laudable work in the field of water pollution and waste management.

The respected Ambassador expressed that he was inspired to hear about the initiatives of the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance and Ganga Action Parivar for improved WASH and the preservation of the River Ganga and Her tributaries. He said that it is truly divine grace to come to Ganga where everyone, from all walks of life, can feel and bask in the peace and serenity. He also praised the Encyclopedia of Hinduism and extended a warm invitation to Pujya Swamiji and Sadhviji to visit Hungary and share the Encyclopedia, so that Hungarians, too, can understand and appreciate India's ancient yet timeless spiritual heritage.

Pujya Swamiji honored Ambassador Mishraji with a sacred Rudraksha plant as a symbol of the Ambassador's deep connection with his Indian roots, for serving his country, as well as for living by and exemplifying the Indian values of universal unity.

Faith Leaders Come Together for Peace at the WORLD ALLIANCE OF RELIGIONS



Pujya Swamiji and Sadhvi Bhagawatiiji recently served as inspiring lights at a conference in Delhi of the Seoul, South Korea-Based World Alliance of Religions. Attending the gathering were eminent leaders, including:

- HH Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswati
- Mr. Man Hee Lee, Chairman of Heavenly Culture, World Peace and Restoration of Light, South Korea
- Ms. Kim Lee, Chairwoman of International Women Peace Group, South Korea
- Sardar Manjit Singh, President of Delhi Sikh Gurudwara Management Committee, India
- Dr. Syed Zafar Mahmood, Zakat Foundation of Interfaith Coalition for Peace, India
- Imam Umer Ilyasi, President of All India Imam Organization, India
- Acharya Lokesh Muni, President and Founder Ahimsa Vishwa Bharti, India
- Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswati, President of Divine Shakti Foundation, India
- and many others.

Pujya Swamiji said, “Today when I arrived, I was welcomed with chants of ‘We want peace.’ Everyone says ‘I want peace’ but are still in pieces. So what is the missing link? in the statement ‘I want peace’ herein lies the solution. If we bend the I, the ego, to become a bridge and not to be a barrier and remove our want, our desires, then all we have left is peace.

Let us not only discuss a resolution of peace today but pledge to work towards a revolution that not only worships the Creator but also collectively serves all of the Creation. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, the environment and climate change are concerns that we must address as one family. This journey of peace has led from Seoul, South Korea to our souls, our spirits, with great enthusiasm and speed but this speed needs a direction and that search of direction has come from India, which is not only a piece of land but a land of peace. Let us come together as a Religious Social Responsibility (RSR) to establish establish peace and to be in peace.”

On the occasion Mr. Man Hee Lee said, “I believe that the intention of God is that we have peace amongst us and unity



amongst religions. Let us work together for peace and the best place to start this work is in India but we need all of the eminent spiritual and religious leaders to come together and collectively work for peace.”

Ms. Kim Lee said, “I feel so welcomed to India. I strongly believe that the culture of motherly love is so strong here and it is time that this compassion is fueled into action for sustainable peace.”

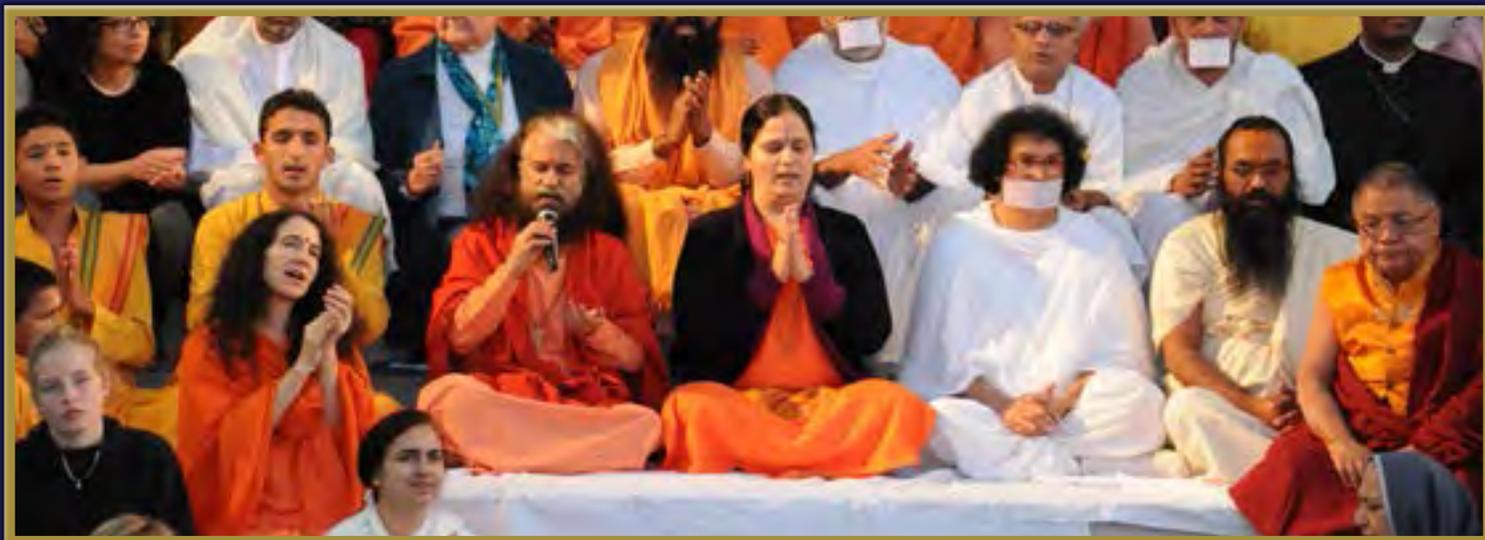
Sardar Manjit Singh, President of Delhi Sikh Gurudwara Management Committee said, “In our religion, there is a saying, *Sarvadha Bhala*, which means for the welfare of all. When we say for the welfare of all, we mean not just human beings but all living beings. Today we need to work together for the environment and for all of our natural resources because nature belongs to everyone.”

Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswati beautifully said, “Indian culture has told us since time immemorial, *Vasudhaiv Kutumbakam*, the world is one family. Our rishis, sages and saints have told us this forever. Now, we are finally understanding and catching up! That identification as of one world family carries within it great potential and possibilities: suddenly I am not bound, in any way, by the false boundaries of my country or my culture. All walls and ceilings are being shattered. It also comes though, with responsibility. Suddenly the world’s hunger, thirst and pain are my own, and my responsibility is to satiate that hunger as if it were in my own belly, quench that thirst as if it were my own parched throat, to heal that misery and pain as if it were happening in my own home. This is why it is vital and crucial that we must work as one family collectively to bring and sustain peace.”

At the conclusion of the event, all pledged and committed to work together for sustainable peace.



PUJYA ANANDAMURTI GURUMAA FOR WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)



Pujya Swamiji and Sadhvi Bhagawatiji had a beautiful meeting with Gurumaa Anandamurtiji while she was visiting in Rishikesh for her year-end annual retreat. They discussed how they could take the WASH pledge taken at the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance's historic *Women for WASH Summit of Leaders* forward, especially as she is one of India's beloved and renowned spiritual women leaders.

She mentioned that she was deeply touched by GIWA's mission and was glad to have been a vital part of its Summit. She committed to dedicating time in each of her spiritual discourses and lectures to inspire devotees to act to not only ensure adequate WASH but also to keep their communities clean and green, as part of Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan. As a result, during the course of her retreat all participants spent a considerable amount of time every day cleaning up the beautiful region of Swargashram, Rishikesh.

Together in Celebration of the UN Declaration of WORLD YOGA DAY



HH Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji, the inspiration behind the world-renowned annual International Yoga Festival at Parmarth Niketan came together with renowned Yoga Guru, HH Pujya Baba Ramdevji, to celebrate a historic announcement by the United Nations that designated 21 June as World Yoga Day.

On the occasion, Pujya Swamiji addressed a Press Conference in Haridwar and said, “Today is a historic day. It illustrates that people from all walks of life, all backgrounds and all over the world are embracing Yoga. It also shows that Yoga is not associated with any one religion but rather it’s a way of life. Yoga is not limited to some but for all. It’s truly an exciting time when the science and ancient practice of Yoga is finding its name on an international platform.”

He added, “Yoga is about finding a balance between the mind, body and soul. Finding and living in this state of balance is the



need of the hour and will serve as a sustainable solution for the pressing challenges of the world. I sincerely and warmly congratulate the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India for leading not only the nation of India but the world towards a yogic-balanced way of life, which can surely usher forth a healthier and happier future."

Pujya Swamiji also explained that there are several benefits of Yoga such as:

- On the individual level, a more healthy and fit body and a more stable and centered mind is developed by the practice of Yoga.
- On the community level, a collaborative, connected and cohesive society is encouraged by the practice of Yoga.
- Yoga reduces the number of ailments and health problems that our cities and our countries are facing such as diabetes, hypertension and obesity. This in turn drastically reduces the amount of money spent every year on health care.

- Yoga brings the focus back on sustainable world.
- On a global level, a more compassionate, united and peaceful world is possible with Yoga.

Pujya Swamiji also mentioned that the declaration of the International day on the 21st of June, which happens to the same day as the Summer Solstice, is a beautiful time of the year when a majority of the world's population, living in the northern hemisphere enjoys the longest day of the year, with the most amount of sunshine. He said, "Just as the sun brings light and sustains all of life so too with the practice of Yoga we can bring light to our own lives as well as the lives of others. Just as the Sun teaches us to give, give and give with the no hesitation, no expectation, no discrimination and no vacation so too Yoga teaches us to live and to give just like the Sun. Yoga is about how we too can align ourselves like the Earth so that we can allow this light to benefit the most amount of people."

HON'BLE GOVERNOR LAUNCHES GIWA BIO-TOILETS



SEE MORE PHOTOS
AND STORIES

VISIT
WWW.WASHALLIANCE.ORG
AND
FACEBOOK.COM/WASHALLIANCE

Prior to GIWA's historic *Worship to WASH and Women for WASH Summits of Leaders*, His Excellency, Governor Dr. Aziz Qureshiji, GIWA Co-Chair, Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji and Head of Shree Swaminarayan Gurukul, Pujya Swami Madhavpriyadasji, launched a beautiful new bio-toilet complex for girls, sponsored by the generous donations of the Emami Foundation Ltd, at the large Post Graduate College in Rishikesh, which has several thousand girls enrolled, but no adequate toilet facilities for them.

Also gracing the event were dignitaries including UNICEF India WASH Chief, Sue Coates and UNICEF India Communications Chief, Caroline den Dulk. The structure was a much needed effort by GIWA to prevent some 24% of Indian girls from dropping out of school, mainly due to the lack of enclosed toilet facilities, and the protection they provide, highlighting the great need for toilets in all of India's schools.

People from all over the world have contributed to building the structure, brick by brick and the beautiful structure now has been presented to the school.

WORLD TOILET SUMMIT

The Globe Unites for Inspiration for Sanitation



The Global Interfaith WASH Alliance had a strong presence at the World Toilet Summit in Delhi, which was attended by several senior cabinet ministers and representatives of dozens of multinationals, NGOs and international governmental organizations dedicated to bringing about a sanitation revolution. During the conference, Pujya Swamiji pledged to build a toilet complex at Ajmer Dargah Sharif with Shri Dewan Sahib, a huge move in not only sanitation but in interfaith joining of hands for the betterment of society. Pujya Swamiji said "Meditation and sanitation should go hand in hand."

Sadhvi Bhagawatiji spoke about the role of religion and faith in the sanitation solution and said there needs to be a 3-pronged approach: Inspiration, Implementation and Participation. Inspiration (by faith leaders, religious congregations, national leaders, social leaders, celebrities) to create the awareness of the NEED for sanitation, to create a wave of demand, then Implementation (by Governments, NGOs, CSOs and the private sector) in actually installing toilets, sewage systems, etc. and finally Participation by the general public, by actually using the toilets, not throwing trash in the water bodies, etc. For this, educational campaigns are crucial.

INTERFAITH LEADERS PLAN FOR AN OASIS OF HARMONY



Pujya Shankaracharya Divyanand Teerthji and Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji graced a special celebration for a new interfaith centre in Delhi. On this occasion, Ms. Sumitra Mahajanji, Hon'ble Speaker of Lok Sabha, Dr. BK Modiji, Global Citizens Forum, Respected Interfaith Leaders, Father Dominic, Imam Umer Ilyasiji, Lokesh Muniji, Shri AK Merchantji, Mahamantra Dasji and many others were present.

During the occasion, the interfaith leaders planned for the creation of *Aastha Kunj*, a center planned as an oasis of interfaith harmony, in which all major faiths of India will find representation and a sacred space that will exemplify interfaith harmony and peace. As a symbol of their pledge for the centre, they



collectively planted a sacred Rudraksha sapling.

Next, a special kalash (sacred pot) filled with the soil of many countries of the world was mixed with the soil of the Aastha Kunj as a powerful symbol of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam: the world is one family. The kalash was from an extensive Dharma Yatra carried out in 2001 and 2003 by Pujya Shankarcharyaji, Pujya Swamiji, and many other revered saints and leaders, sponsored by Dr. B.K. Modiji, in which they traveled across the world and inspired and encouraged people from all walks of life and all faiths to serve together for Interfaith Harmony and World Peace. During the yatra, some of the sacred soil of the countries they had visited were collected and brought back in the kalash as a symbol of our harmony amidst our diversity.

Pujya Swamiji said, “Let this Aastha Kunj be dedicated to Respected Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayeeji, a man of great faith and vision, and let it serve his great mission to bring all people, of all faiths together in a spirit of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam. I hope that this sacred space for interfaith worship will also bring much reflection and introspection on our inner faith. May everyone who experiences the center learn to become better human beings and find deeper meaning and purpose in their lives.”

Pujya Swamiji also gave the beautiful mantra, *Atal Bharat. Sabhal Bharat. Akhand Bharat*. He shared, “It is fitting that this center is being started in the capital of India, the heart of the nation. Let it stand as a symbol of our great heritage, culture and values. Let India not only be an economic capital of the world but let it also be a spiritual capital of the world. This center will help serve this purpose by being an international spiritual knowledge center. In this way it will be a great gift to Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayeeji’s vision.”

Referring to Hon’ble Shri Narendra Modiji’s slogan *Sabka Saath. Sabka Vikas*, ensuring everyone’s participation in progress and development of the nation, Pujya Swamiji added that we must also ensure that progress should be sustainable and secure, therefore *Satat Vikas* and *Surakshit Vikas* were also vital. He said the secret to India’s formula to sustainable, secure and consistent growth will be based on the foundation of interfaith harmony and mutual understanding.



GOVERNOR, EDUCATION MINISTER AND SANSKRIT SCHOLARS *Celebrate Mother Ganga*



Uttarakhand Governor, His Excellency, Dr. Aziz Qureshiji, attended the evening Ganga Aarti at Parmarth Niketan with 250 Sanskrit Scholars who came to participate in a three-day International Sanskrit Conference at Dehradun.

The scholars were from diverse backgrounds and many countries, including India, Japan, China, USA, Canada, Bhutan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Thailand, Spain, and Belgium, attended.

The Ganga Aarti was also attended by Education Minister Hon'ble Shri Mantri Prasad Naithani, Upper Chief Secretary and Chief Secretary of Sanskrit Education, Hon'ble Shri S. Raju, Secretary to The Governor Shri Arun Daundiya, and many other distinguished dignitaries.

A GREEN BIRTHDAY WITH MANANIYA LK ADVANIJI



Pujya Swamiji congratulated Mananiya LK Advaniji on His 87th birthday and honoured him for being a very strong and stable pillar in Indian political history.

While presenting Shri Advaniji with a sacred Rudraksha Tree sapling, Pujya Swamiji lauded his contributions to shaping India in changing times.

Also attending the birthday meeting was renowned American solar and renewable energy expert, Dr. Darshan Goswamiji, who discussed the potential of scaling-up and expanding India's renewable energy potential, especially through harvesting solar energy.

SPEAKING TREE'S AKASHA EVENT

A Divine Talk by Sadhvi Bhagawatiji



On November 16th, Sadhvi Bhagawatiji, President of the Divine Shakti Foundation, gave a talk at the opening session of Speaking Tree's Akasha 2014, a conference on spirituality, wellness and well-being, entitled "Spirituality in the Age of Smartphones and Status Updates." In her talk, Sadhviiji highlighted the current obsession with taking selfies, which she explained was a sign of our craving to exist, and how it should not be mixed with spirituality. She added that when we are practicing – whether it be doing yoga, meditating, or anything else – we should take the time to really do those things, not wondering what our next status update should be. Those who had gathered were truly inspired and touched by Sadhvi Bhagawatiji's talk.

RALLY TO CLEAN THE GOMTI RIVER

Gomti Action Parivar Brings Together the Masses



Thousands of Lucknow residents came out on the streets in Hazartganj, Uttar Pradesh, for a rally to clean up the lifeline of the city, the scared River Gomti for the beginning of a new Gomti Awareness Month.

The event was flagged off in the morning by the Irrigation, Public Works and Revenue Minister Shri Shivpal Singh Yadavji, Vocational Education and Skill Development Minister, Prof. Abhishek Mishraji, and the President of Gomti Action Parivar, Shri Jai Shanker Mishraji. The march culminated as a meeting in Jhulelal Park on the banks of the Gomti River, where people took the pledge to restore the state river to her free-flowing and clean state.

At the conclusion of the march, everyone was deeply grateful for Pujya Swamiji's great vision and leadership in inspiring the creation of Gomti Action Parivar.

State Cabinet Minister, Shri Shivpal Singh Yadav said that the Gomti River is not only the lifeline of Lucknow but is also pride of Lucknow. He lauded Gomti Action Parivar for raising awareness about importance of clean rivers and water bodies amongst the masses.



PUJYA SWAMIJI GRACES GANESH UTSAV IN INDORE



Pujya Swamiji served as the Chief Guest at a special *Ganesh Utsav* in Indore, organized by Bunty Sharma and his family.

During His highly-anticipated visit, Pujya Swamiji spoke to thousands of faithful devotees on the importance of not only worshipping the Creator but also serving the creation, especially as it relates to ensuring that all people have access to healthy water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH).

After a divine worship service, He led everyone in a pledge to not only perform poojas and Hanuman Chalisas in their temples, but to also come together with their communities to perform clean-ups of the streets around the temples.



WATCH PUJYA SWAMIJI'S
INSPIRING SPEECH! CLICK HERE:
[HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/
WATCH?V=0LMLTHQBQ9M#T=2669](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0LMLTHQBQ9M#t=2669)

PRESTIGIOUS HONOURS *from the* WORLD BRAHMAN ORGANIZATION



Pujya Swamiji and Sadhvi Bhagawatiji were each awarded recently with honours from the World Brahman Organization. Pujya Swamiji was awarded with the “International Peace Award” for outstanding contributions to humanity, and Sadhvi Bhagawati was the “Women’s Empowerment Award” for outstanding contributions to society.

These awards were to be presented at the House of Commons in London on October 1st to Pujya Swamiji and Sadhvi Bhagawati. However, they could not make it to London during that time, so officials from the World Brahman Organization traveled to Rishikesh to present the honours in person.



SARASWATI RASHTRIYA MANAV SEWA RATNA SAMMAN



HH Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji was honored with a Saraswati Rashtriya Manav Sewa Ratna Samman by Prem Shukh International Charitable Trust in a fabulous program held at the Shah Auditorium New Delhi.

On this occasion, Pujya Swamiji lauded the social work initiatives of the Prem Sukh International Trust in the field of education, sports, health, art, environment, cow protection, and more. He emphasized that service was to Him worship in action and that dedicating our time, talent and technology to the welfare of all was the best way to honour the Creator.

The program was attended by Pujya Swami Eshwar Dasji Maharaj, President of the National Youth Plan, Dr. SN Subbarao, the President of the Earth Savors Foundation, Dr. Ravi Kalra, Pujya Swami Devendra Giriji Maharaj, Padmashri Satpalji, and many other dignitaries.

ALL INDIA AYURVEDA CONGRESS

Sadhvi Bhagawatiji Presents on Ancient Ways for Health



Sadhvi Bhagawatiji, President of Divine Shakti Foundation, spoke recently at the All India Congress of Ayurveda in New Delhi for the launch of “Friends of Ayurveda” a new international organization.

Sadhviji spoke about the importance and power of Ayurveda, not only as an effective, holistic mode of healthcare, but also as an affordable and accessible system.

Present for the Valedictory Session of the Conference were the Hon’ble Prime Minister of India, Hon’ble Shri Narendra Modiji, the Hon’ble Health Minister of India and many others. Shri Modiji shared that just as Yoga had acquired global recognition for people who wanted a stress-free life, Ayurveda also needed to reach that level of recognition. He called to all Ayurveda students and practitioners to deepen their practice and work together to raise Ayurveda for the masses.

Shri Modiji also declared the creation of a separate independent charge AYUSH Ministry to take the task of propagation of the science of Ayurveda more effectively.

KRISHNA DAS AND BELINDA CARLISLE VISIT PARMARTH NIKETAN



Thoughts of beautiful music filled hearts and minds as Parmarth Niketan was coincidentally honoured by the visits of famed kirtan singer, Krishna Das, and the renowned lead singer of the Go Go's, Belinda Carlisle, on the same night.

Both artists participated in a beautiful Ganga Aarti, followed by a holy darshan with Pujya Swamiji, in which He blessed them by giving them saplings of sacred Rudraksha Trees from His own hand.

It was an evening to be remembered and cherished by music lovers of all ages.



UPHOLDERS OF GREEN DHARMA

Dignitaries from Kauai's Hindu Monastery Visit Parmarth



Pujya Paramacharya Sadasivanatha Palaniswami, editor-in-chief of Hinduism Today, and Pujya Sannyasin Yoginathaswami, the leader of the Siddhidatta Kulam of Kauai's Hindu Monastery, paid a visit to Parmarth Niketan to visit Pujya Swaji recently, where they attended a beautiful Ganga Aarti ceremony. Afterwards, they were presented with holy rudraksha saplings from the hands of Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji and had many beautiful discussions with Pujya Swamiji regarding Hindu culture and spirituality and how to protect and preserve it. The beautiful Hawaiian ashram from where they come is known for its sacred publications, which inform and inspire people from around the world. The ashram also features a holy grove of rudraksha trees and beautiful temple gardens that exemplify green Vedic traditions.

ANUP JALOTA AT MOTHER GANGA

The King of Bhajans Performs Sacred Rites



Shri Anup Jalota, acclaimed as India's king of Bhajans (devotional songs), visited Parmarth Niketan recently with his family to perform a sacred last rites ceremony and pooja in honour of his beloved late wife.

The holy rituals were followed by heart-felt, beautiful bhajans sung by the great musician in honour of his dear wife. As his melodious voice filled Parmarth's ghats at dusk, hundreds of hearts were deeply touched.

During his visit, Pujya Swamiji encouraged Shri Jalotaji to also inspire awareness through his divine voice for the benefit of a cleaner, greener India and River Ganga. As a symbol of his commitment to a Swachh Bharat and WASH for all, he joined Pujya Swamiji and Sadhviji in a sacred water blessing ceremony.

Anoop Jalotaji and his whole family were deeply moved by their experience and expressed their intent to return to these beautiful banks of Mother Ganga again.

A TRIBUTE TO OUR BELOVED SWAMI YOGANANDA

He Spread Love and Laughter to the World



At the start of this beautiful New Year, Parmarth Niketan would like to offer its warmest tribute to Swami Yoganandaji, 103 years old Yogacharya, who left his physical body recently.

He called Parmarth Niketan his home and stayed here for many years as a teacher of Sukshma Vyayam Yoga (an ancient simple form of yoga and stretching-induced relaxation), which he had been practicing since the age of seventeen.

His friendly, warm and childlike personality immediately welcomed and connected everyone. His passion for spreading the art and the science of Yoga with a spirit of infectious joy had been experienced by countless people from all walks of life.

His contributions in keeping the ancient style of Sukshma Yoga alive and sharing the secrets of wellness with everyone he came across made him a beloved figure in Rishikesh. He used to tell everyone, “Look, I am 103 years old and I still don’t wear glasses or need a hearing aid and I haven’t lost my teeth. See this is all due to the magic of practicing Yoga.” One of his famous practices was to teach everyone to practice Laughing Yoga in their everyday lives. His Yogi spirit and love for Yoga will live on for countless years in the hearts of everyone he touched and filled with love and laughter.

He will forever be remembered here at the banks of Mother Ganga fondly, with love.

CELEBRATING TOGETHER.



With the divine inspiration and green vision of Pujya Swamiji, holidays transform into “holy-days,” becoming celebrations that are redefined to bring a new vision and illustrating innovative spirituality. Pujya Swamiji shares, spreads and simplifies every holiday and every festival as a clean, green and serene one one that could not only keep our bodies and minds renewed but preserve and protect our environment as well.

A CLEAN, GREEN & SERENE NEW YEAR ON THE BANKS OF MOTHER GANGA



On New Year's Eve, the Parmarth Parivar came together for a very special night of music and inspiration.

To usher in the New Year, Sadhvi Bhagawatiji shared that just as we get ready to bring in new calendars, clean up our homes and pledge for new resolutions, so too should we clean and renew our inner selves from all that is old, everything that is impeding our growth and preventing us from living to our infinite potential.



Beautiful musical performances were next offered by the beautiful sisters, Shreya and Roshni Lakhani. Shreya sang a bhakti-filled song and Roshni played the flute, filling the air with their gratitude for their Guru, Pujya Swamiji, and for Mother Ganga.

Rishikumars of the Parmarth Gurukul performed a special Kali dance on the occasion to portray the spirit of the Divine Mother, known as the Goddess of Destruction. Sadhviji later explained that in order to make room for the new the old had to be dissolved and so the Goddess Kali is actually a symbol of the divine energy, divine shakti, that helps us make room for grace to flow uninterrupted and unpolluted.



All were deeply touched by the evening's events, vowing together to usher forth a joyous, clean and green New Year in peace and harmony.

MAHA SHIVARATRI

at the Banks of Mother Ganga



A glorious Maha Shivaratri was celebrated at the beautiful banks of Mother Ganga with the Divine blessings of HH Pujya Swamiji. The evening was resplendent with the melodies of Vedic hymns as abhishekam was performed to a rare and precious Shiva Lingam. Attending were devotees from around the world, including renowned Kundalini Yoga acharyas, Gurmukh Kaur Khalsaji and Gurushabd Singh Khalsaji.





www.dainikjaagaran.com
 दैनिक जागरण
 पृष्ठ सं. १
 दिल्ली, मुंबई
 अहमदाबाद
 पृष्ठ सं. ४/६
 पृष्ठ सं. १०/१२/१३/१४/१५/१६/१७/१८/१९/२०/२१/२२/२३/२४/२५/२६/२७/२८/२९/३०/३१/३२/३३/३४/३५/३६/३७/३८/३९/४०/४१/४२/४३/४४/४५/४६/४७/४८/४९/५०/५१/५२/५३/५४/५५/५६/५७/५८/५९/६०/६१/६२/६३/६४/६५/६६/६७/६८/६९/७०/७१/७२/७३/७४/७५/७६/७७/७८/७९/८०/८१/८२/८३/८४/८५/८६/८७/८८/८९/९०/९१/९२/९३/९४/९५/९६/९७/९८/९९/१००

दैनिक जागरण

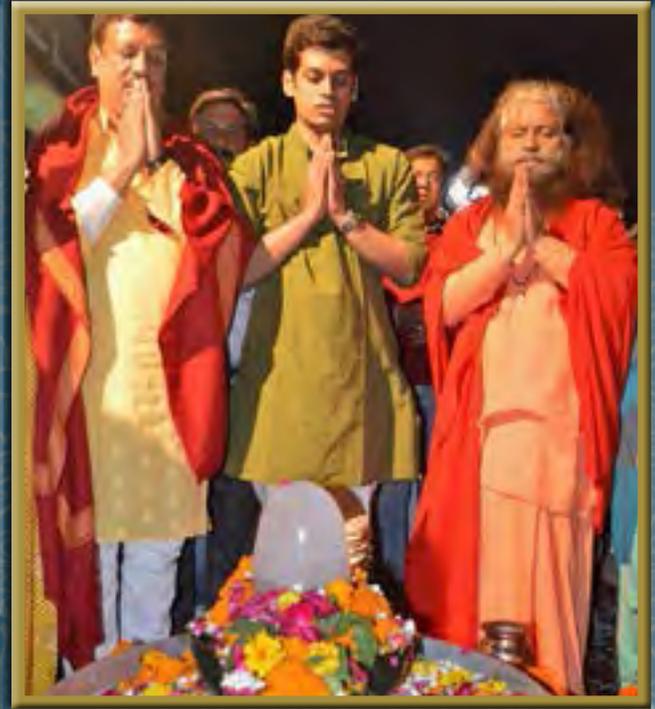
विश्व का सर्वप्रथम पत्र होने का दावा



दार्शनिक विवेकानंद जी की १५० वीं जयन्ती के अवसर पर आयोजित कार्यक्रम में भाग ले रहे लोग

परमार्थ निकेतन आश्रम में विदेशी साधकों ने मनाया महाशिवरात्रि पर्व

दार्शनिक विवेकानंद जी की १५० वीं जयन्ती के अवसर पर आयोजित कार्यक्रम में भाग ले रहे लोग



अमर उजाला

विश्व का सर्वप्रथम पत्र होने का दावा

विदेशी साधकों ने भी मनाया पर्व

दार्शनिक विवेकानंद जी की १५० वीं जयन्ती के अवसर पर आयोजित कार्यक्रम में भाग ले रहे लोग




दार्शनिक विवेकानंद जी की १५० वीं जयन्ती के अवसर पर आयोजित कार्यक्रम में भाग ले रहे लोग



राष्ट्रीय सहारा

विश्व का सर्वप्रथम पत्र होने का दावा

शिवालयों में जलार्पण को उमड़े श्रद्धालु

दार्शनिक विवेकानंद जी की १५० वीं जयन्ती के अवसर पर आयोजित कार्यक्रम में भाग ले रहे लोग




THE SOLANKI FAMILY COMES HOME

Three Generations Come to Parmarth



Members of the Solanki Family— all seventeen of them, encompassing three generations— visited Parmarth Niketan during their holidays recently. They deeply cherished and enjoyed Pujya Swamiji presence and blessings, Sadhviji's compassion and wisdom, as well as being part of Parmarth's Divine Ganga Aarti ceremonies. During their stay, they took part in Gau Seva, caring for and feeding cows of the Parmarth Gaushala (Cow Shelter). They were deeply touched and inspired by their time in Rishikesh, and expressed their eagerness to come back soon with all of their children to not only receive the teachings but the touch of the sacred heritage and timeless values of the Indian tradition. They also pledged to take Pujya Swamiji's message of environmental preservation and access to improved WASH to London to inspire even more families to dedicate themselves to vital actions and awareness for the sake of our beautiful world.

CELEBRATING ONENESS

The World Comes Together with Pujya Swamiji



A Beautiful Yoga group from China, led by Ms. Lin Lin, joins Sadhvi Bhagawati in Water Blessing Ceremony for clean water for the world



Army General Shri Rajiv Guptaji's daughter gets married on the banks of Mother Ganga



Environmentalist and anti-GMO activist, and founder of Kids Right to Know, Rachael Parent, plants a holy Rudraksha tree with Sadhviji



Pujya Swamiji gifts a sacred sapling to Chinese delegates to celebrate a Green Chinese New Year on the banks of Mother Ganga



Pujya Swamiji and Respected Yogi Ganesh Nathji's group from Argentina pledge for healthy WASH for all



Pujya Swamiji is warmly welcomed by NSS Scouts during celebrations of National NSS Scout Day



Pujya Swamiji and Sadhvi Bhagawatiji are guests of honour at a beautiful function at New Delhi's Green Fields School



Pujya Swamiji leads NSS members in a pledge for selfless service for people and nature



A Delegation from St. Catherine University, USA Pray for healthy water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) for all



A loving couple from France get married on the banks of Mother Ganga



The Lakhani Family from London and Claudine from Brazil join as one world family for a sacred water blessing ceremony

SERVING HUMANITY.



In serving humanity, we are serving the Creator Himself. Pujya Swamiji's many projects in direct service to our fellow brothers and sisters enable people from all walks of life from around the globe to join forces in order to help ensure the poor and marginalized receive access to the loving care and support they need to live happier, healthier, more self-sufficient lives.

LIVLIEHOOD CENTRE FOR DISASTER-IMPACTED WOMEN CONSTRUCTED



In the wake of the 2013 Uttarkahand floods, countless women who had no vocational skills were tragically widowed and plunged into deeper threats of poverty.

At their request, under the guidance of Pujya Swamiji and Sadhvi Bhagawatiji, the The Divine Shakti Foundation (DSF) joined forces with Mandakini Women Weavers of Garhwal, the Government of Uttarakhand, and Panchachuli Women Weavers of Kumaon to help some 300 disaster-impacted families to get on their feet.

As a result, recently, DSF's Triyuginarayan Livelihood Centre was constructed 25 kilometres from the sacred shrine of Kedarnath. The Centre is now training 100 families from the region to spin and weave shawls, knit sweaters, as well as produce many more textile products for a global market. Disaster-impacted women are now producing a range of gorgeous hand loomed products in Cashmere and Lambswool, which will be proudly sold and displayed by them during Parmarth Niketan's upcoming International Yoga Festival. The purchase of these products, as well as support of this initiative, will provide the means to empower hundreds of women to weave their lives with hope for brighter, self-sufficient futures.



For more information, or to learn how you can help, visit www.divineshaktifoundation.org

THE GIFT OF EDUCATION

Through the Divine Shakti Foundation



Recently, Pujya Swamiji and Sadhvi Bhagawatiji visited a series of schools sponsored by the Divine Shakti Foundation to interact with the children, assess progress and plan for scaling up and expanding the scope of help that DSF could provide. The Divine Shakti Foundation, of which Sadhvi Bhagawatiji is President, provides on the ground initiatives to ensure a happier, healthier world for all.



To learn more about DSF, Click:
www.divineshaktifoundation.org

SAKSHAM WORKSHOP

An invaluable opportunity enabled Uttarakhand's youth to learn healthcare skills at Parmarth Niketan



Some 70 students, social workers and local volunteers came together for a capacity building workshop which provided basic training in healthcare skills. The majority of the participants were young students from underprivileged backgrounds who were gladdened to learn valuable skills that they could use to diversify their employment opportunities. The skills included healthcare practices such as wound dressing, checking BP, general knowledge about the biological systems of their body, and more.

During the inauguration of the event, Pujya Swamiji lauded Saksham's Dr. PP Bose and his team and inspired them to give WASH a more prominent role within Saksham's curriculum.



TEAMING UP FOR CLEANING

Students from 25 Nations Roll up their Sleeves



Over 40 students, who came from Miri Piri Academic Institutes from around the world, joined Pujya Swamiji for a clean-up of the outskirts of the Rajaji National Park, within the Rishikesh area. Joining them was a large number of participants of Gurumaa Anandamurtiji's end of the year retreat.

Participants hailed from nations including the USA, Canada, Mexico, Brazil, Peru, Chile, Bolivia, Argentina, Europe, England, Norway, Spain, Germany, Italy, France, Russia, China, Japan, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Kazhakstan, Australia, Thailand and South Africa.

All of participants were deeply anguished by the amount of litter strewn in the beautiful Himalayan area and pledged to inspire and encourage the local administration to join them in honouring and cleaning up Swargashram.

After the clean-up, all pledged to take the messages of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) back with them to their individual countries for the welfare of those in desperate need of improved WASH. As a symbol of their pledges, they took part in a very special Global Interfaith WASH Alliance Water Blessing Ceremony with prayers for improved WASH for all.



THE GIFT OF SIGHT

A Divine Camp Enables the Poor to See



580 impoverished patients were treated recently at Parmarth Niketan free of cost, thanks to the work of caring volunteer doctors and healthcare providers who came from Australia, under the inspiration of Pujya Swamiji. Treatments included free cataract surgeries, eye examinations, eye glasses and more.



FROM RUSSIA WITH LOVE

Siberian Veterenarians Provide Free Surgeries, Care and More for the Street Dogs of Rishikesh



The Rishikesh Animal Rescue Project has brought to Parmarth trained and talented veterinarians from Siberia, Russia, through the support of Parmarth Niketan and the Divine Shakti Foundation (DSF). The project is being lovingly coordinated through the Animal Liberty organization of Siberia, and involves caring volunteers from the community.

The goal of the project is to bring “ABC” (Animal Birth Control) or “family planning” options – spaying and neutering – to the dogs in the Rishikesh area, a service which until now has been unavailable for the dogs here. In addition to providing “family planning” procedures for these dogs, the medical team has been vaccinating all the dogs against rabies and treating the dogs for any other medical issues they come in with, whether that be mange, worms, or even broken bones.

The veterinary team includes Nastya Batueva, Aleksandr Tareev, Dr. Ivan Donetc, Dr. Marina Bortcova, Dr. Ekaterina Polyakova and Sofie Oshochenko.

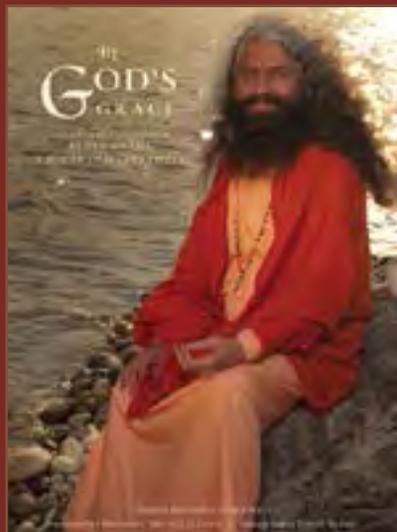


SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS



BY GOD'S GRACE

The Life & Teachings of Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswati



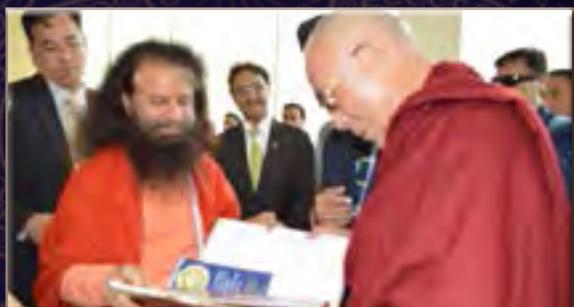
In this compelling biography, **Pujya Swamiji's** divine life is beautifully detailed chronologically. Upon its release, this book held the **NUMBER ONE** position as the best-seller in Amazon.com's Hindusim section, out of a total of over 17,000 books!

Illustrated with exquisite photos of Ganga, the Himalayas, and all of the saints and world leaders with who Pujya Swamiji has spent the first 60 years of His life, it 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 of 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.

Pujya Swamiji's very life is His message; the book also includes special "teaching" sections. 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.

Published by Mandala Earth Publications of California, USA, 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.

For more information including ordering information for this beautiful book, please click: www.bygodsgracebook.org.



VOLUNTEER WITH US

Join hands in a global interfaith mission of peace



We are always looking for caring, hard-working volunteers to join us here at Parmarth Niketan, Rishikesh.

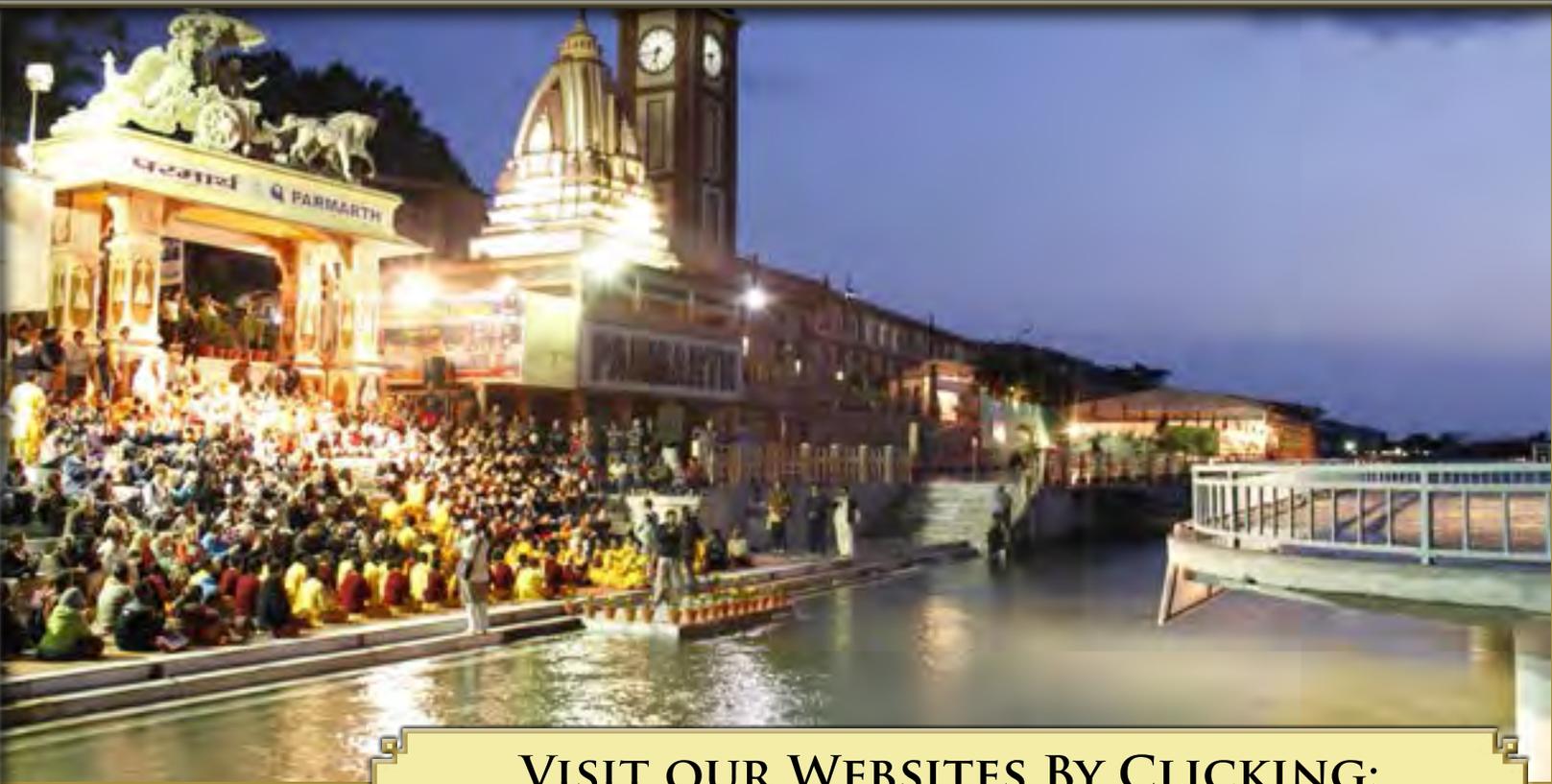
As our projects grow, so has our need for professional, inspiring, and productive individuals who wish to dedicate their time, talent, technology and tenacity for our mission to achieve a greener, cleaner, and safer tomorrow for all humanity.

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 application.



VISIT US ONLINE



VISIT OUR WEBSITES BY CLICKING:

WWW.PARMARTH.COM (PARMARTH NIKETAN RISHIKESH)
WWW.PUJYASWAMIJI.ORG (HH PUJYA SWAMI CHIDANAND SARASWATIJI)
WWW.GANGAACTION.ORG (GANGA ACTION PARIVAR)
WWW.WASHALLIANCE.ORG (GLOBAL INTERFAITH WASH ALLIANCE)
WWW.DIVINESHAKTIFOUNDATION.ORG (DIVINE SHAKTI FOUNDATION),
WWW.PROJECTHOPE-INDIA.ORG (PROJECT HOPE),
WWW.IHRE.COM (INDIA HERITAGE RESEARCH FOUNDATION)
WWW.INTERNATIONALYOGAFESTIVAL.COM (INT'L YOGA FESTIVAL)



FIND US ON FACEBOOK

PARMARTH NIKETAN RISHIKESH: [FACEBOOK.COM/PARMARTHASHRAM](https://www.facebook.com/parmarthashram)
GANGA ACTION PARIVAR: [FACEBOOK.COM/GANGAACTION](https://www.facebook.com/gangaaction)
GLOBAL INTERFAITH WASH ALLIANCE: [FACEBOOK.COM/WASHALLIANCE](https://www.facebook.com/washalliance)
INTERNATIONAL YOGA FESTIVAL: [FACEBOOK.COM/INTERNATIONALYOGAFESTIVAL](https://www.facebook.com/internationalyogafestival)
HH PUJYA SWAMI CHIDANAND SARASWATIJI: [FACEBOOK.COM/PUJYASWAMIJI](https://www.facebook.com/pujyaswamiji)
SADHVI BHAGAWATIJI: [FACEBOOK.COM/SADHVI BHAGAWATISARASWATI](https://www.facebook.com/sadhvibhagawatisaraswati)



WATCH OUR VIDEOS

CLICK HERE: WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/PARMARTHNIKETAN

