



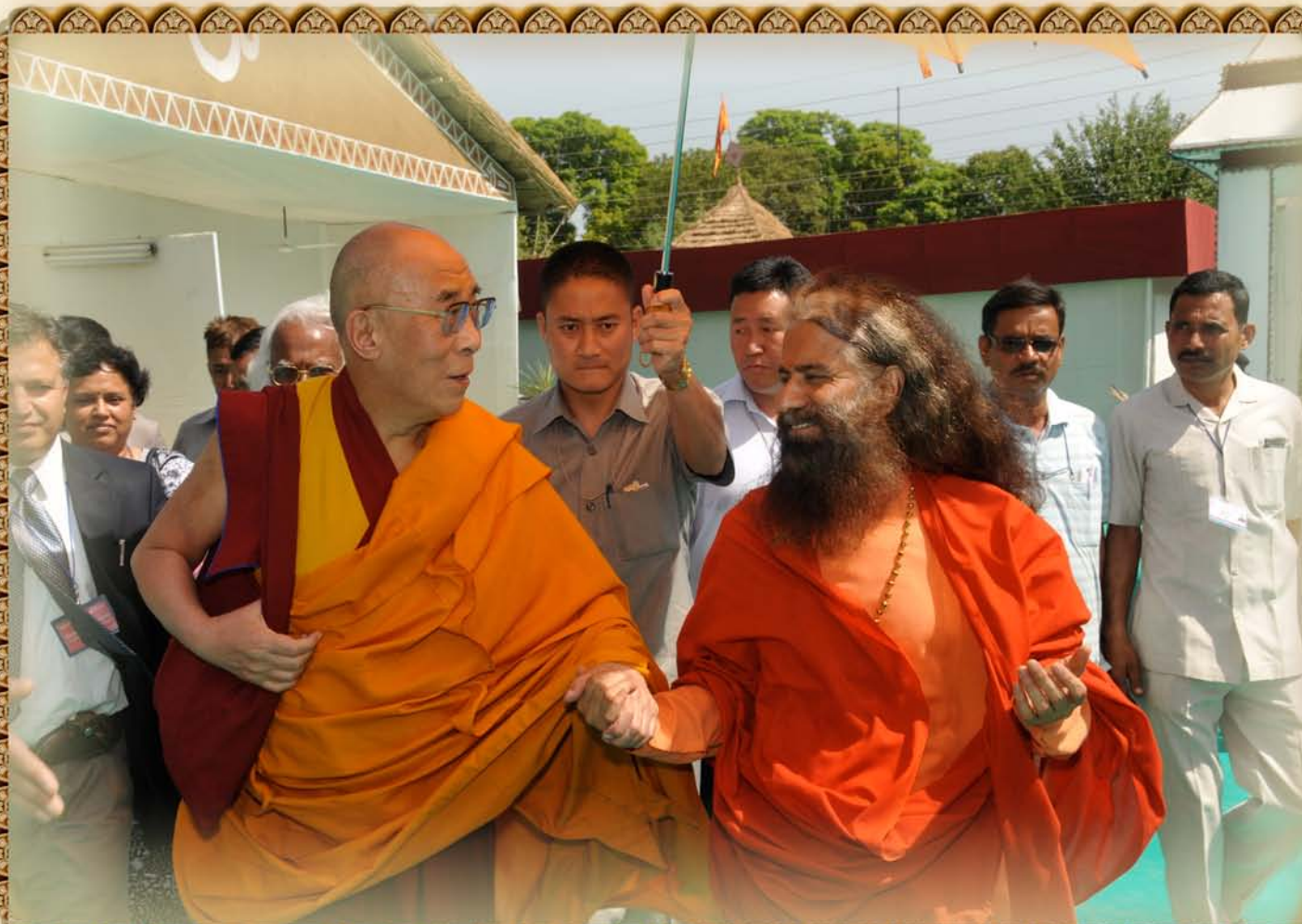
PARMARTH NEWSLETTER

❧ APRIL 2010 ❧

(featuring special events with His Holiness the Dalai Lama)

Encyclopedia of Hinduism Preview

at the Kumbh Mela in Haridwar
Blessed by His Holiness the Dalai Lama

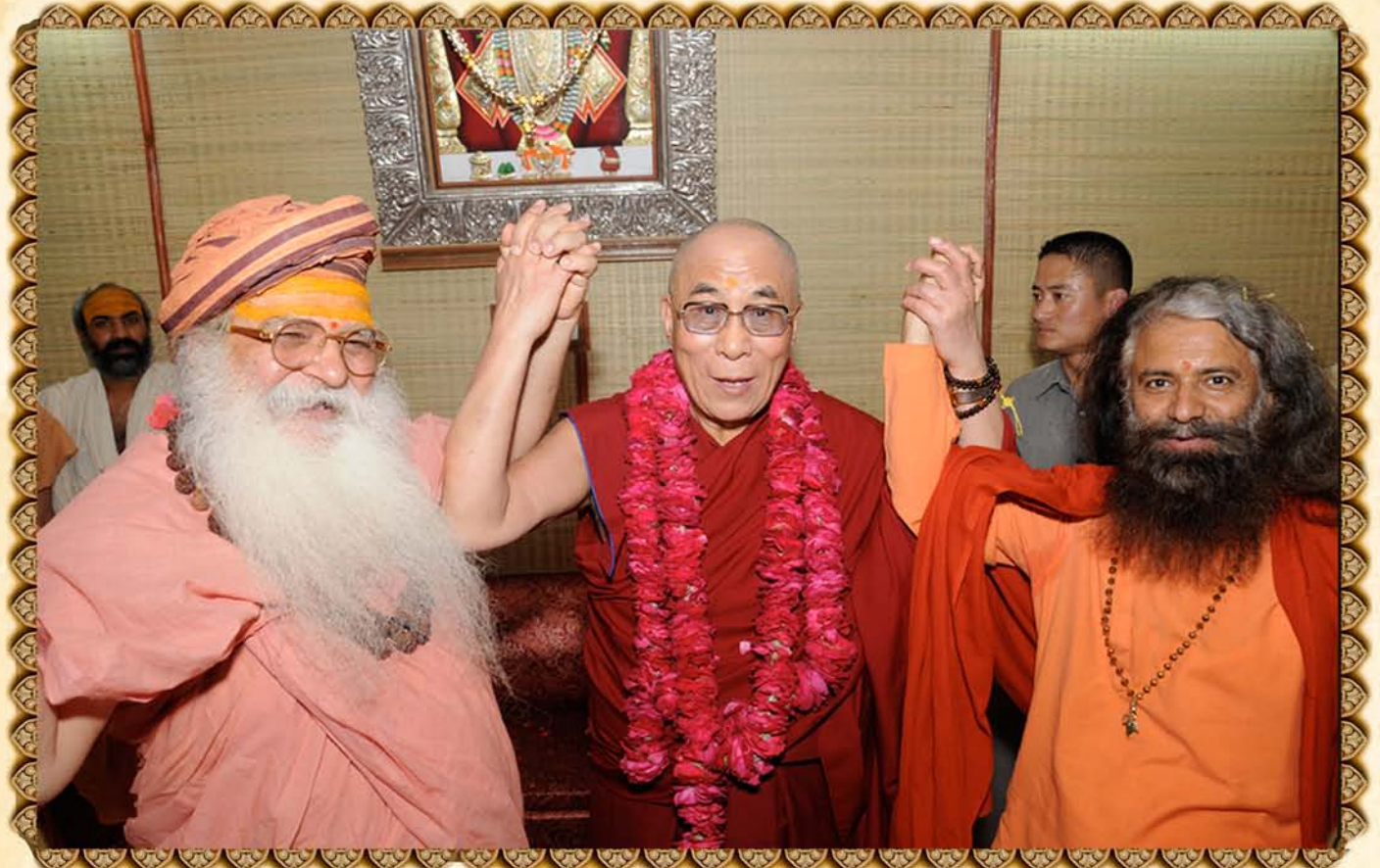


On 3rd-4th April, His Holiness the Dalai Lama visited Parmarth Niketan Ashram, Rishikesh for two very special events:

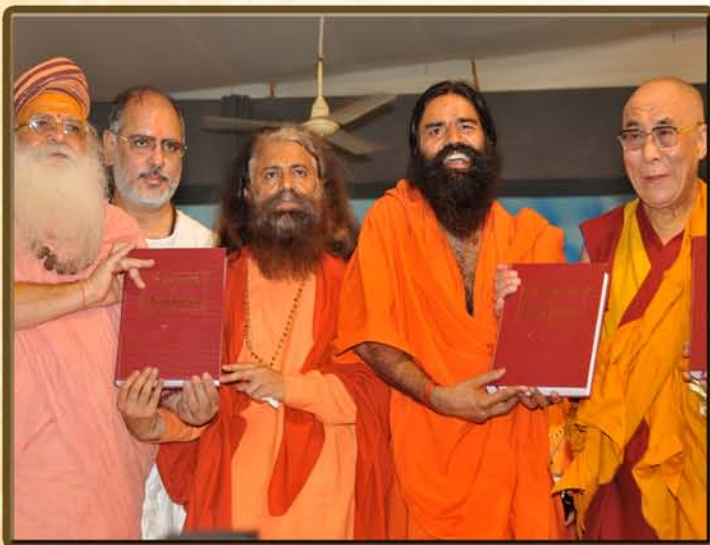
- The unveiling of India Heritage Research Foundation's Encyclopedia of Hinduism.
- An Interfaith Harmony Dialogue and launch of a Ganga clean-up program.

~ April 3 ~

On the 3rd April was the Special Preview and Blessings Ceremony for the Encyclopedia of Hinduism, an eleven-volume compendium founded, inspired and blessed by Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji. The Encyclopedia encompasses for the first time in history, the depth and breadth of Hindu civilization, culture, art, and spirituality -- a truly comprehensive compilation of the vast ocean of knowledge, history and experience that is Indian culture!



Pujya M.M. Swami Gurusharananandaji, His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Pujya Swami Chidanandji



The revered saints bless the new Encyclopedia.



Thousands gather to watch the divine ceremony.

Encyclopedia of Hinduism Launch

The Encyclopedia was blessed by the hands of H.H. the Dalai Lama and revered saints and leaders of different world religions, including (in alphabetical order):

Respected Shri L.K. Advaniji, Puja Swami Agniveshji, Puja Swami Avdheshanand Giriji, Puja Acharya Balkrishanji, Puja Sant Shri Morari Bapuji, Puja Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji, Puja Swami Divyanand Teerthji, Puja M.M. Swami Gurusharananandji, Puja M.M. Swami Harichetananandji, Respected Shri Nishankji, Puja Sant Shri Rameshbhai Ozaji (Bhaishri), Puja Mahant Rajendradasji, Puja Swami Ramdevji, Puja Mahant Ravindra Puriji, Puja Roopchandra Muniji, Puja Swami Satyamitranandji, Puja Mahant Tryambakbharatiji as well as by IHRF President Shri Hasubhai Shah and numerous officers of the Board and trustees.



HH. the Dalai Lama, Puja Swami Ramdevji, Puja Sant Shri Rameshbhai Ozaji (Bhaishri), Puja Swami. Chidanandji, and Puja M.M. Swami. Gurusharananandaji.

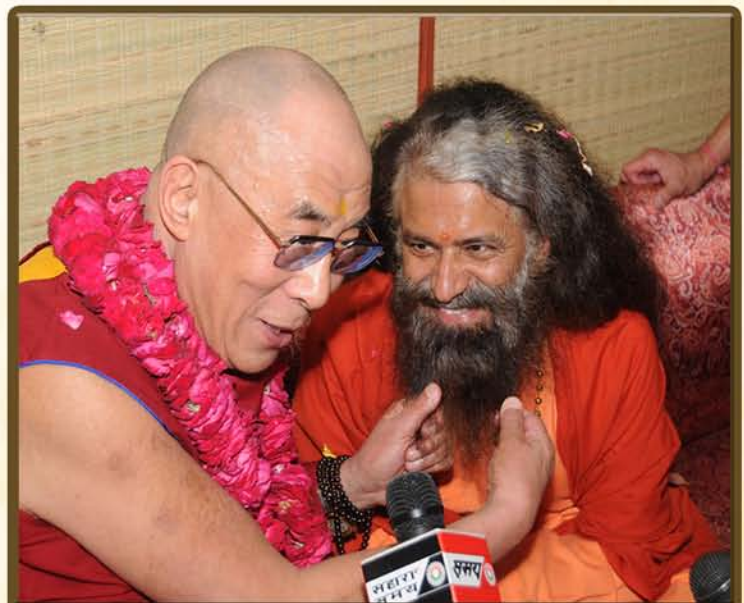
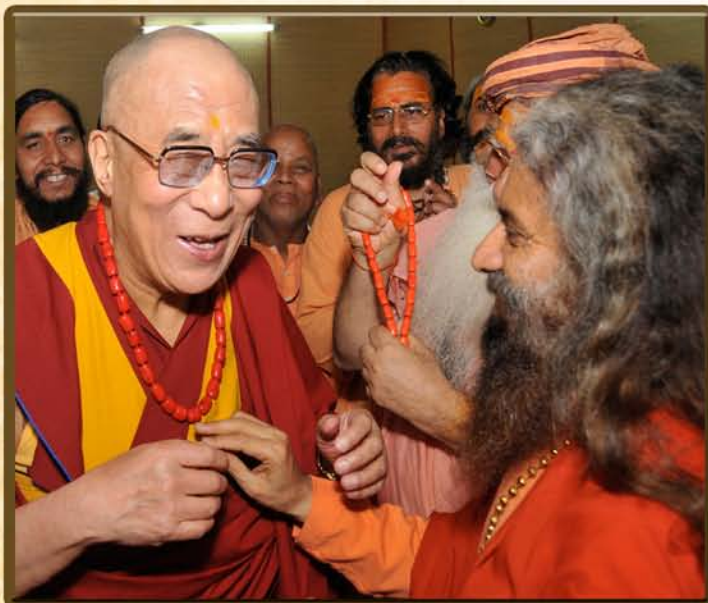
In his speech, the Dalai Lama called himself “a son of India,” expressing gratitude for India’s hospitality, and even her daal and chapatis! Referring to the ancient wisdom revealed in the Encyclopedia, His Holiness called India “Tibet’s guru.” No speaker has ever expressed more tender words about Mother Bharat.

April 3 - HARIDWAR

Afterwards, the books were lavishly presented to the Dalai Lamaji by the Chief Editor, Dr. KLS Rao, the Editor-in-Chief, Dr. Kapil Kapoor, the publisher, Shri R. K. Mehra and officers of the Board of IHRF from USA and Canada.



M.M. Swami Gurusharananandaji, Swami Avdheshanand Giriji, Sant Shri Rameshbhai Ozaji, Swami Chidanandji, Swami Ramdevji, HH. the Dalai Lama, Shri L.K. Advaniji, and Shri Nishankji



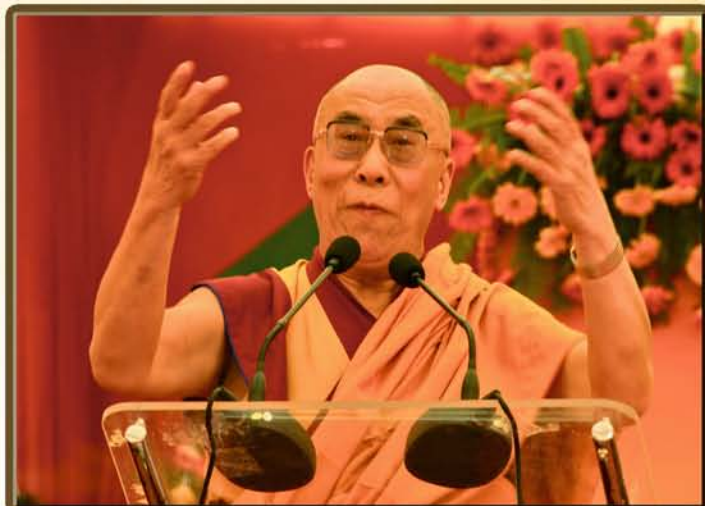
His Holiness the Dalai Lama shares precious moments with his dear friend Pujya Swami Chidanandji.

April 3 - HARIDWAR

The event took place during the auspicious Maha-Kumbha Mela (the largest spiritual gathering on Earth, which takes place every twelve years). Over a thousand top scholars from across the world worked for more than fifteen years to bring this historic publication to fruition! It is the first complete Encyclopedia of Hinduism in history.



Pujya Sant Shri Morari Bapu gives a stirring speech.



Inspiring words by H.H. the Dalai Lama.



The ceremony was attended by an audience of many thousands and received world-wide media coverage.



Bollywood star Vivek Oberoi shares beautiful words.

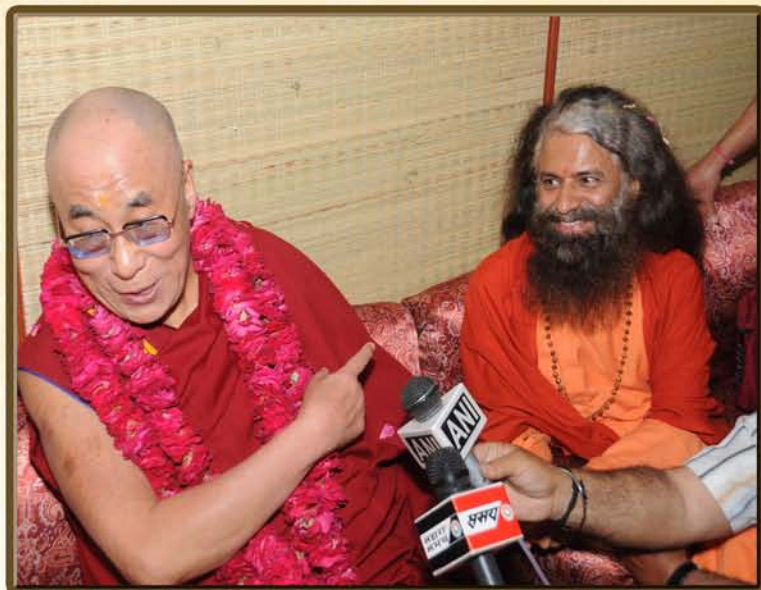


Worldwide press coverage.

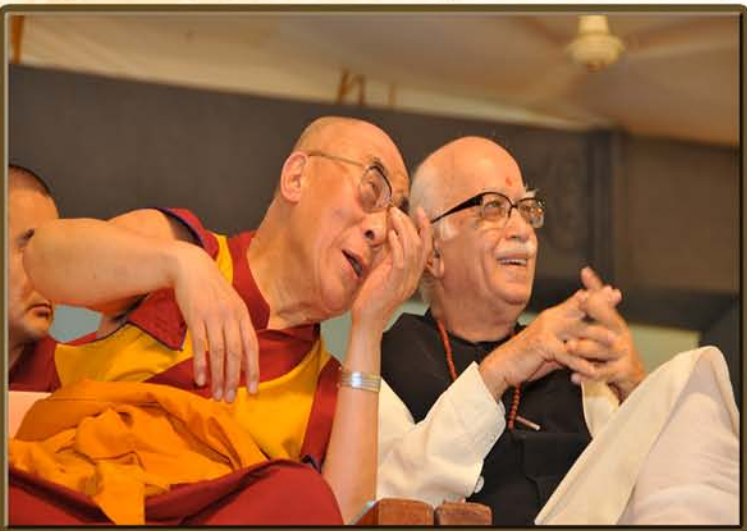
❧ Encyclopedia of Hinduism Preview ❧



Pujya Swamiji opens the ceremony with a divine blessing.



Joyous moments with His Holiness the Dalai Lama..



His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Shri L.K. Advaniji.



.Shri Hasubhai Shah and Dr. Naval Kant, top.



Two souls joined in Divine friendship.



Pujya Swami Ramdevji gives the final blessings.

❧ April 3 ❧



The Haridwar ceremony ended with a final blessing from His Holiness the Dalai Lama. Afterwards, the saints, dignitaries and devotees returned to Parmarth Niketan for dinner and a divine aarti celebration.



❧ April 3 - At Parmarth Niketan ❧



Back in Rishikesh, the tranquil ashram overflowed with pilgrims and press. Gala arrangements were made to celebrate the arrival of the special guests!



Thousands of well-wishers and devotees crowded around, hoping for a glance or a blessing from His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

All hearts were moved by his warm and gracious presence.



Shri L.K. Advaniji.



❧ April 3 - Aarti ❧



His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Shri L.K. Advaniji and Shri Ramesh Pokhariyalji join in the Ganga aarti.



Thousands of onlookers flocked to the Ganga. The crowd was overflowing out of the ghat and onto the streets!



Divine bhajans by world-famous Bhajan Sandhya Anup Jalota.



His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Pujya Swami Chidanandji.



Vivek Oberoi and Sadhvi Bhagawatiiji.



❧ April 4 ❧
Interfaith Harmony Gathering



The divine festivities continued in Rishikesh on the morning of the 4th at Parmarth Niketan with an interfaith harmony dialogue. Leaders of various world's religious traditions, (Hinduism, Christianity, Islam, Sikhism, Jainism), spoke about peace and harmony between faiths.



Pujya Sant Shri Rameshbhai Ozaji (Bhaishri)



Pujya Lokesh Muniji



Father Dominic Emmanuel



Shri Satpalji (son of Pujya Siri Singh Sahib, Yogi Bhajanji)

April 4 Ganga Clean-Up Program

Also, the revered saints and dignitaries launched a huge A-Z Ganga Clean Up Program called Ganga Sparsh, initiated by Pujya Swami Chidanandji and supported by the Government of Uttarakhand. The function and the programs were blessed by the presence and words of H.H. the Dalai Lama, Respected Shri L.K. Advaniji, and so many revered saints and respected dignitaries.

His Holiness the Dalai Lama spoke about the importance of spirituality for people of all faiths, stressing the importance of tolerance and love for those whose views differ from one's own tradition.

His Holiness gave a moving first-hand testimony of the damage he's witnessed in the Tibetan mountains as a result of global warming, and urged us not to ignore this pressing global problem.

(To see clips of his speech, please go to the Parmarth website or YouTube page.)



The saints and special guests take sankalp -- a pledge to protect and preserve Mother Ganga.

❧ April 4 ❧

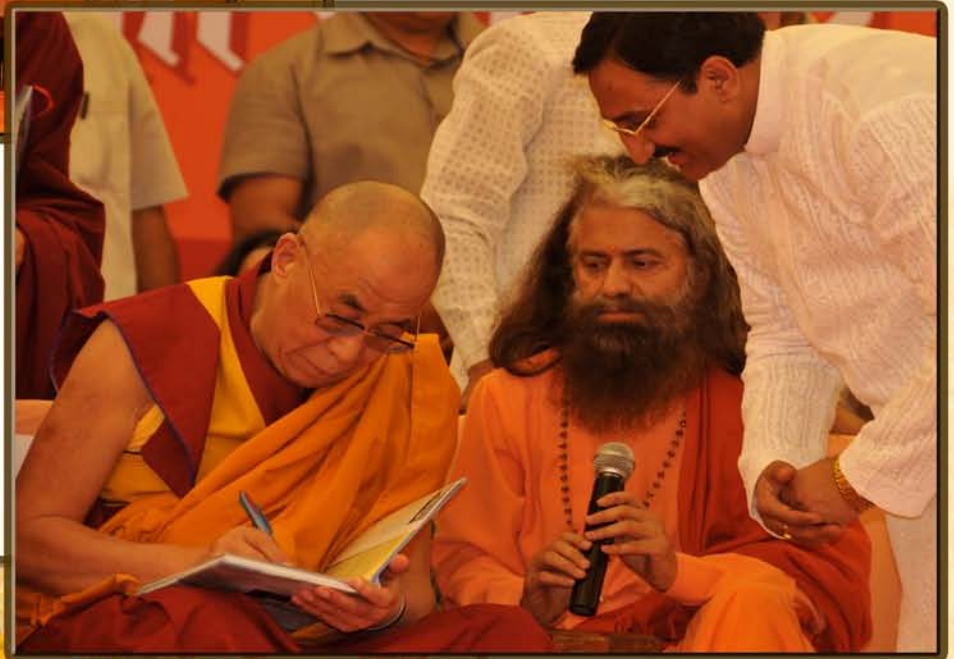
Interfaith Gathering & Ganga Clean-Up Program



The program ended with a pledge led by Pujya Swami Chidanandji and Pujya Swami Ramdevji, who led the audience in a vow to preserve, protect, and keep Mother Ganga clean.

All of the saints and dignitaries, as well as the devotees and media representatives, participated wholeheartedly in this sacred pledge!

His Holiness the Dalai Lama signed the book written by Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal, Nishankji, the Chief Minister of Uttarakhand. The book, "Ganga Sparsh" was presented to all of the saints and dignitaries.



The crowd raised its hands in support of the Ganga Clean-Up Initiative sponsored by Pujya Swami Chidanandji.

The Dalai Lama called this initiative and Pujya Swamiji's "Encyclopedia of Hinduism" "The two highlights of this year's Maha Kumbha Mela."

❧ April 4 ❧

The evening ended with a memorable Bhajan Sandhya by Shri Anup Jalota and a beautiful dance performance by Smt. Sonal Mansingh.



Shri Anup Jalota.



The revered saints enjoy the performances.



Shri Anup Jalota.



Smt. Sonal Mansingh with Pujya Swamiji.



Smt. Sonal Mansingh's divine interpretive dance.

❧ Highlights of Both Programs ❧



❧ April 4 ❧

The revered saints honored the IHRF board members, scholars, platinum pioneers and the team from University of South Carolina with shawls to commemorate the hard work and dedication they brought to the Encyclopedia. Their love and support is what brought this historic project to fruition.



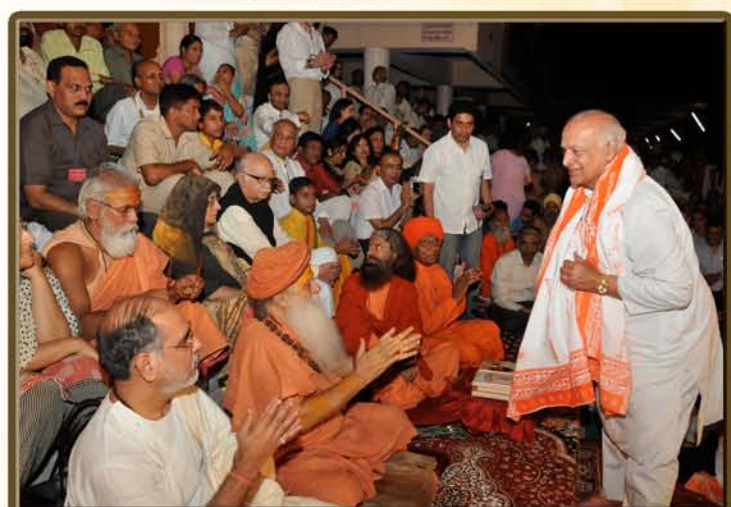
Jayshree and Dr. Rajan Amin.



Rekha & Atul Mashruwala.



Dr. Kaushal and Arunima Sinha.



Shri Shyam Sunder Shah.



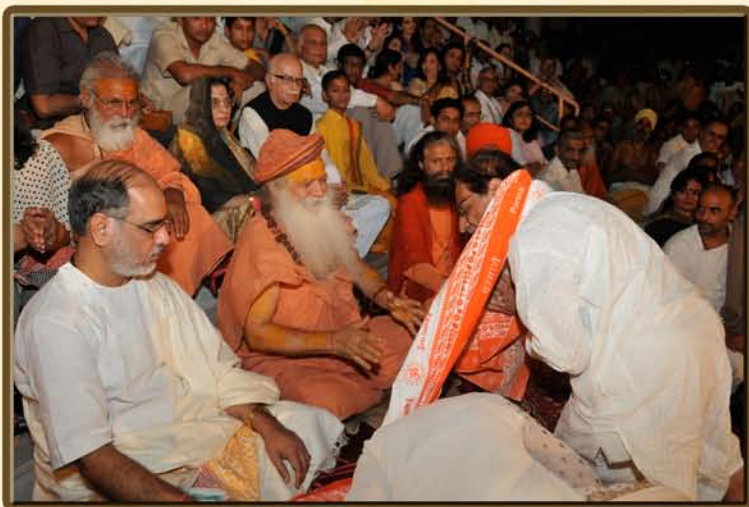
Dr. Kirinbhai and Dr. Pallaviben Patel.



Dr. Naval and Dr. Nila Kant.

❧ April 4 ❧

❧ Blessings for a job beautifully done. ❧



Hasubhai and Harshaben Shah



Dr. Budhendra Doobay



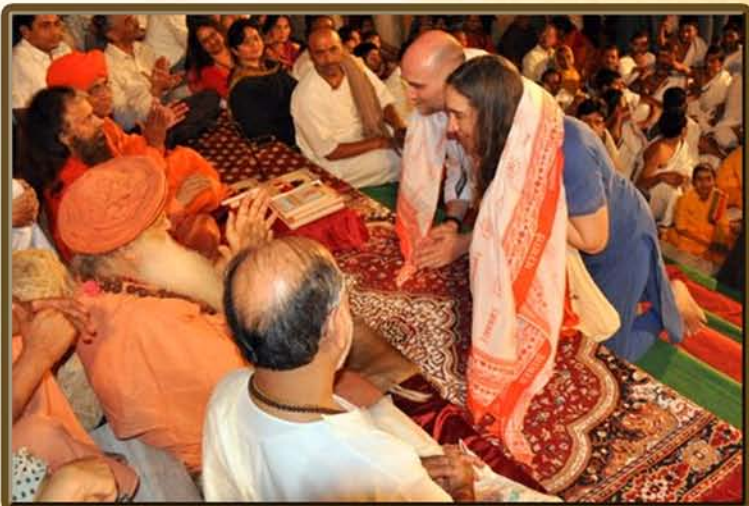
Shakuntalaben and Dr. Ramanbhai Patel



Satya Kalra



Veena and Kishan Khandelwal



Dawn and Clive Baillie

April 3-4

Highlights of Both Programs



Divine friendship overflowed all weekend, bringing joy to the hearts of all.



Dignitaries and Bollywood stars turn into adoring fans in the sunny presence of Tibet's spiritual leader!



Respected Smt.. Najma Heptullahji offered devotional words.

Links



To VIEW VIDEOS of these special programs, please check our video links!



Parmarth's
YouTube



Eros'
YouTube

