The Global Interfaith WASH Alliance’s (GIWA) leaders, were led by GIWA’s Co-Founder HH Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji, to join the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Assam, Shri Sarbananda Sonowalji and Hon’ble Minister of State Drinking Water & Sanitation, Government of India Shri Ramesh Jigajinagiji to inaugurate a state led, two day Assam Sanitation Conference with an Interfaith Pledge for Swachh Assam, Swachh Bharat.
CONTENTS

04 Sanitation Conference in Assam Begins with Interfaith Pledge
10 Meetings for Scaling and Sharing the Mission of GIWA in Assam
12 Welcoming UNICEF India’s New Team
14 Meeting with Members of the Harijan Seva Sangh and Tribal Leaders in Assam
16 Make in India & Make India Come Together
18 Assam Se Asman Tak: Building an Assam that Reaches the Heights of the Sky
20 Inspiring Media Coverage

VISIT OUR WEBSITES
www.washalliance.org (Global Interfaith WASH Alliance)
www.parmarth.org (Parmarth Niketan, Rishikesh)
www.gangaaction.org (Ganga Action Parivar)
www.divineshaktifoundation.org (Divine Shakti Foundation)
www.projecthope-india.org (Project Hope)
Sanitation Conference in Assam Begins with Interfaith Pledge

GUWAHATI: Renowned faith leaders of the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance (GIWA) inaugurated the two-day Assam Sanitation Conference in Khanapara Field, Guwahati, with the Hon’ble Chief Minister, Shri Sarbananda Sonowali and Hon’ble Minister of State Drinking Water & Sanitation, Shri Ramesh C Jigajjinagi, along with many other ministers, secretaries and eminent representatives of UNICEF India. The GIWA India delegation was led by its founder, HH Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji and included prominent and revered interfaith leaders, including HH Jagadguru Shankaracharya, Swami Divyanand Teerthi, HH Maulana Mahmood Madaniji, HH Ven Lama Lobzangji, HH Acharya Lokesh Munji, HH Rev Dr Rogerji and many others (please find the full list of faith leaders below).

The event was designed to engage and inspire gram panchayat heads, local faith leaders and stakeholders in the efforts to make Assam completely open defecation free by and/or before October 2017 and to support the Swachh Assam, Swachh Bharat Mission.

Interfaith WASH Alliance Summits in Rishikesh, Uttarakhand, Ladakh, Jammu & Kashmir and Patna, Bihar, the state of Assam had invited GIWA to host a Sarva Dharma Swachhta Evam Sadbhavana Sankalp (Interfaith Pledge for Harmony and Cleanliness) in Assam.

The highlight of this historic event was a mass Swachhta Pledge led by the Hon’ble Chief Minister, HH Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji and GIWA’s interfaith leaders, as well as a Swachh Assam declaration and oath to inspire the thousands of village heads (sarpanchs of gram panchayats) to take this mission forward with full commitment and conviction.

GUWAHATI: Renowned faith leaders of the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance (GIWA) inaugurated the two-day Assam Sanitation Conference in Khanapara Field, Guwahati, with the Hon’ble Chief Minister, Shri Sarbananda Sonowali and Hon’ble Minister of State Drinking Water & Sanitation, Shri Ramesh C Jigajjinagi, along with many other ministers, secretaries and eminent representatives of UNICEF India. The GIWA India delegation was led by its founder, HH Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji and included prominent and revered interfaith leaders, including HH Jagadguru Shankaracharya, Swami Divyanand Teerthi, HH Maulana Mahmood Madaniji, HH Ven Lama Lobzangji, HH Acharya Lokesh Munji, HH Rev Dr Rogerji and many others (please find the full list of faith leaders below).

The event was designed to engage and inspire gram panchayat heads, local faith leaders and stakeholders in the efforts to make Assam completely open defecation free by and/or before October 2017 and to support the Swachh Assam, Swachh Bharat Mission.

After the success and impact of the Global#ASCOSAN2017

Interfaith WASH Alliance Summits in Rishikesh, Uttarakhand, Ladakh, Jammu & Kashmir and Patna, Bihar, the state of Assam had invited GIWA to host a Sarva Dharma Swachhta Evam Sadbhavana Sankalp (Interfaith Pledge for Harmony and Cleanliness) in Assam.

The event began with a beautiful lamp lighting ceremony and water blessing ceremony, in which GIWA’s interfaith leaders were joined by the Hon’ble Chief Minister and other dignitaries. They offered sacred water onto the globe as a symbol that people all around the world should have access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene. GIWA’s interfaith leaders also blessed the Hon’ble Chief Minister with a sacred tree sapling, as a symbol of his green, dynamic and dedicated leadership.

The highlight of this historic event was a mass Swachhta Pledge led by the Hon’ble Chief Minister, HH Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji and GIWA’s interfaith leaders, as well as a Swachh Assam declaration and oath to inspire the thousands of village heads (sarpanchs of gram panchayats) to take this mission forward with full commitment and conviction.
HH Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji, Founder/Chair, Global Interfaith WASH Alliance India said, “Assam will reach the heights of the asman (sky)! I am confident that the Swachh Assam pledge to achieve a complete open defecation state will be achieved sooner than the target date. This is why GIWA's interfaith leaders have come together to emphasize that total sanitation should be our meditation. No longer can we neglect high infant and maternal mortality rates to go on due largely to poor water, sanitation and hygiene. Our presence here today is a powerful message of oneness and our commitment to this vital cause and our support to your mission.”

Said Hon'ble Chief Minister of Assam, “While a person may have to go through the cycle of birth and death, a cause of truth is immortal. Let this cause of Swachh Assam be such an immortal and vital cause. Today, our conviction is strengthened by the presence of India's revered interfaith leaders showing us that we are not alone, even the faiths and even all forms of the divine and the Creator also love cleanliness. I am grateful to Pujya Swamiji and GIWA's faith leaders for telling us that today nothing can stop Assam from progressing or growing to truly touch the asman (sky).”
GIWA and UNICEF dignitaries present for the inaugural ceremony:

Shankaracharya Swami Divyanand Teerthji, Bhanpura Pereth,

Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji, Founder/Chairman, Global Interfaith WASH Alliance (GIWA) India, President, Parmarth Niketan and Founder, Ganga Action Parivar,

Mahmood A. Madaniji, Secretary-General, Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind,

Ven Lama Lobzangji, Secretary General, International Buddhist Confederation, President, Asoka Mission, India,

Rev. Dr. Roger Gaikwadji, General Secretary, National Council of Churches in India,

Sadhuji Bhagawati Sarasvatiji, Secretary-General, Global Interfaith WASH Alliance, President, Divine Shakti Foundation,

Sufi Shah Peer Mushahid Uz Zaman Khan Chishtiji, Founder and President of International Islamic Sufi Foundation,

Sadhvi Kalpanaji, Sadbhavana Ashram, Madhya Pradesh,

Swamini Adityananda Saraswatiji, Director, Programmes, Policy and Development of the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance,

Giani Sant Singh, Head Priest Guru Sri Guru Singh Sahib, Guwahati,

Sankar Kumar Sanyalji, President of Harijan Sevak Sangh (HSS),

Mufti Nasihur Rahmanji, Principal Al Jamiatul Islamia Banat, Madrasa, Mangaldai, Darrang, Assam,

Acharya Lokesh Muniji, President, Ahimsa Vishwa Bharti,

Dr. Tushar Rane, Chief of Field Office, UNICEF Assam,

Nicolas Osbert, Chief of WASH, UNICEF India,

Mr James Gitau, Deputy Representative Operations, UNICEF India.
Meetings for Scaling and Sharing the Mission of GIWA
GIWA’s Founder Inspires and Engages Peace Makers and Policy Makers for Improved WASH

Mahmood A. Madaniji and Pujya Swamiji discuss bringing namaz to the samaj (bringing our prayers and teachings to the masses).

Pujya Swamiji speaks to Sankar Sanyalji, President of HSS, to engage harijan and tribal leaders in GIWA’s efforts to improve WASH in India.

Hon’ble Chief Minister of Assam listens intently to the exciting and innovative work being undertaken by GIWA.

Pujya Swamiji meets the Hon’ble PHE Minister of Assam Rihon Daimari and officials to discuss WASH in Assam.

Pujya Swamiji meets with Deepak Vohra, Special Advisor to Hon’ble Prime Minister, with Tushar Rane, Chief of UNICEF Bihar, and Swamiji to discuss tying state and national efforts for Clean India.

Discussion for GIWA Bhopal launch are underway with Sufi Mushahid Uz Zaman Khanji.

Pujya Swamiji meets with Shri Rahul Devji, Managing Trustee, Samyak Foundation and media family to discuss Media’s important role in improving WASH.

Pujya Swamiji meets and greets Mr James Gitau, Deputy Representative Operations, UNICEF India.
UNICEF India welcomed Global Interfaith WASH Alliance (GIWA) with Founder Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji - Muniji, General Secretary Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswatiji, Director of Programmes Swamini Adityananda Saraswatiji and Director of Implementation Nandini Tripathi to the UNICEF India office in Delhi.

The meeting was to welcome the new Chief of WASH Nicolas Osbert and Ms Alexandra Westerbeek (Sacha) - Chief of Advocacy and Communication to India with a water blessing ceremony and also to discuss the work the two organizations will be doing together in 2017 for children.

Ms Henriette Ahrens, Deputy Representative Programmes, UNICEF India presided over the meeting and Mr Louis Georges Arsenault, UNICEF Representative for India joined the second half of the meeting, adding his valuable insights to the discussion.
Meeting with Members of Harijan Seva Sangh in Assam

GIWA’s Faith Leaders discuss plans for a GIWA Assam Chapter

Pujiya Swamiji, GIWA’s Co-Founder, and GIWA’s Inter-faith Leaders with Venerable Lama Lobzang, Acharya Dr Lokesh Muniji, Sufi Mushahidji, Sadhvi Kalpanaji and others met with Harijan Seva Sangh Assam members, led by Shri Sankar Sanyal, National President of Harijan Seva Sangh, an organization founded by Mahatma Gandhi in 1932 to eradicate untouchability in India. Tribal leaders of Assam and local faith leaders also were in attendance to better understand their challenges and concerns towards improving access to water, sanitation and hygiene in their state. During the group meeting, a road map was laid, ideas were shared and the concept of a GIWA Assam Chapter was planned.
GIWA’s Interfaith Leaders joined Pujya Swamiji and Emami Limited Shri Sushil Goenkaji, MD Emami Ltd, to visit a new Emami Limited plant coming up in Pachari, Assam. The plant would cater to Ayurvedic, healthcare and cosmetic products, bringing in many more jobs and opportunities to the people of Assam.

Pujya Swamiji shared His vision that in addition to Make in India we must also focus on Making India. For that, He shared, improving water, sanitation and hygiene, providing access to toilets and ensuring the use and maintenance of these toilets was critical need.

Shri Sushil Goenkaji who leads many of Emami’s CSR’s initiative and who shares GIWA’s mission for Swachh Bharat and improved WASH expressed his full support to this cause, not only in Assam but nationwide.
On their way back to the airport from their two day short Assam Yatra (journey), GIWA’s interfaith leaders met with students of Assam’s only Aeronautic College in Guwahati. A group of more than 30 eager and enthusiastic students welcomed them and eagerly listened to the respected interfaith leader’s blessings for progress in their lives, both personal and professional. They were also deeply inspired by GIWA’s pledge for Sanitation led by GIWA’s Founder. They joined Him in chanting the slogan that He had shared during the inauguration of the Assam Sanitation Conference, held the previous day, “Assam se Asman Tak,” inspiring them to work tenaciously to build an Assam that could reach the heights of the sky. He inspired them not only to strive high but at the same time stay deeply rooted to the ground realities of their state and to serve tirelessly to ensure health and hygiene for all.
Inspiring Media Coverage
Connect with us on Social Media

Parmarth Niketan

Global Interfaith Wash Alliance

Ganga Action Parivar

H.H Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji

Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswatiji

International Yoga Festival

Divine Shakti Foundation

The Encyclopedia of Hinduism
“You have the power to bring the song of peace to the world.”

- Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji