PARMARTH

H.H. Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji
Autumn 2014 News Magazine



INSIDE



HH the Dalai Lama and HH Pujya Swamiji in Delhi for a divine meeting of India's faith leaders



The Encyclopedia of Hinduism is Launched in India with H.E. Vice President Shri M. Hamid Ansari and Mananiya Dr. Mohan Bhagwat



The Encyclopedia of Hinduism is Launched in the UK with Hon'ble Prime Minister David Cameron

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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 Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Pujya Swamiji Meet

During historic first trip to the United States as PM



Pujya Swamiji and Sadhvi Bhagawatiji had traveled to New York at the end of September for two major summits on Climate Change and faith leaders (read more on this on page 23). Serendipitously, Shri Narendra Modiji's plan to visit the United States for the United Nations General Assembly Week was finalized and Pujya Swamiji was invited and requested to stay back in New York for the programs with Shri Narendra Modiji. Those programs included the famous Madison Square Garden event and a much smaller, VVIP dinner at the Pierre Hotel. While there Pujya Swamiji spoke with Shri Modiji about plans for Ganga and for bringing improved Water, Sanitation and Hygiene to India. Shri

Modiji was so glad to see Pujya Swamiji, and they spent beautiful time together.

Pujya Swamiji and Sadhvi Bhagawatiji were interviewed by ANI and Zee TV after the event as well, regarding the impact of Shri Modiji's visit. Pujya Swamiji emphasized that "Shri Modiji turned Madison Square into Modison square today." When asked "What happened today?" He replied, "India happened today!" Sadhvi Bhagawatiji explained: "Everyone knows about the success of India; Shri Modiji showed also the spirit of India! he is truly a global leader with space shuttles on one hand and toilets on the other."

Today, Madison Square became Modi-son Square. What happened? India Happened." -HH Pujya Swamiji





See Videos and News at:

http://tinyurl.com/modison-square http://tinyurl.com/ani-video-report http://tinyurl.com/full-interviews



England's Hon'ble Prime Minister Mr. David Cameron

Launches the Encyclopedia of Hindusim in the UK





October 27th saw the historic launch of the Encyclopeia of Hinduism in London by the Prime Minister of Great Britain, Mr. David Cameron.

The program took place at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Center in Westminster, London, in a special function hosted by Lord Andrew Feldman, the Chairman of the Conservative Party, and organized by the Conservative Party, the Conservative Party Friends of India and Asian Media and Marketing Group, publishers of Garavi Gujarat, Eastern Eye, Asian Trader, Pharmacy Business and Asian Hospitality.

The function was graced by the presence of the Honourable Prime Minister, Mr. David Cameron, His Holiness Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji, Founder/Chairman of India Heritage Research Foundation and President of Parmarth Niketan Ashram, Rishikesh, India, where Prince Charles and Duchess Camilla recently visited and performed the sacred evening Aarti ceremony,







many cabinet ministers, high level diplomats and eminent Indian industrialists.

Filled to capacity with more than 1000 guests, the function began with the lighting of a special diya, in honor of Diwali. The diya (lamp) was lit by the Honourable Prime Minister, Mr. David Cameron, H.H. Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji, Lord Feldman of Elstree, the Chairman of the Conservative Party, Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswati, the managing editor of the Encyclopedia of Hinduism, and Samantha Cameron, the wife of the Prime Minister.

Following the lamp lighting, speeches were given by the Honourable Prime Minister, Mr. David Cameron, Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji and Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswatiji.

Quotations from the evening are:

Mr. David Cameron, Hon'ble Prime Minister: "This

Encyclopedia is a great contribution to humanity." Later, after Pujya Swamiji's speech he said, "I love this saying of 'Let all the noble thoughts come from all directions.' I am going to use this. This is beautiful."

H.H. Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji said, "Indian culture says, 'Let all the noble thoughts come from all directions.' We are an inclusive culture, not an exclusive culture. We are a culture that embraces all, excludes none. In our prayers, we pray 'Sarve bhavantu sukhinah. Sarve santo niramaya.' It means, 'May all be happy, may all be healthy.' We never pray 'May Hindus be happy,' or 'May Indians be healthy.' No, we pray for all. Our scriptures remind us, 'Vasudhaiv Kutumbakam' the world is one family. We pray not only for all of human life, but also for the animals, the plants and nature. Our culture teaches us --- Do not only worship the Creator, but also serve the Creation. This encyclopedia was created with that in mind – service of creation, service of those who didn't know or understand or have access to these timeless truths and insights."



Lord Andrew Feldman of Elstree, Chairman of the Conservative Party: "It is an incredible honour for the Conservative Party that His Holiness Swamiji graciously agreed to launch the magnificent Encyclopaedia of Hinduism on the occasion of our Diwali Party in the presence of the Prime Minister and Mrs. Cameron. This work of 1000 scholars over 25 years is a phenomenal achievement. The Party wants to deepen and broaden our links with the British Indian community and with India and this event is one important step on our journey."

Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswati, Managing Editor of the Encyclopedia of Hinduism and President of Divine Shakti Foundation, who said: "Nowhere in the Hindu scriptures does one even find the word Hindu – the term used to describe these ancient yet timeless teachings is Sanatan Dharma – or eternal way of life. Hinduism emphasizes the very oneness of Creation and of paths to the Divine. Hinduism is not simply theology; rather the teachings truly encompass every area of life and are inextricably linked to the cultural fabric of India. So the Encyclopedia includes not only theology but also history, art, architecture, music, medicine and science, dance and drama."

The first volume of the Encyclopedia was unveiled ceremonially by the Honourable Prime Minister and H.H. Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji. The remaining 10 volumes were then held and displayed ceremonially by them along with the following dignitaries:

- Samantha Cameron
- Lord Andrew Feldman
- Mr. Ramniklal Solanki, Editor-in-Chief Asian Media and Marketing Group (AMG)
- Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswatiji
- Mr. Gopichand Hinduja, renowned Industrialist
- Mr. Chandroo Kewalramani, renowned Industrialist
- Kalpesh Solanki, Managing Editor, AMG
- Shailesh Solanki, Executive Editor, AMG
- Lord Dolar Popat, Lord in Waiting (HM Household) (Whip)
- Priti Patel, MP, Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury
- Raoul Goff, CEO of Mandala Earth Publications, publisher of the Encyclopedia

Other government dignitaries present at the event included:

- The Rt Hon Eric Pickles, MP Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and Minister for Faith
- The Rt Hon Michael Gove, MP Chief Whip and Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasury
- The Rt Hon Theresa May, MP Secretary of State for the Home Department
- Shailesh Vara, MP Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Minister for the Courts and Legal Aid
- Paul Uppal, MP
- Bob Blackman, MP



ऋषिकेश जागरण

हिंदू धर्म विश्वकोष को ब्रिटिश पीएम ने सराहा

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क्षिपालन ने पार जाने लाइन के क्षेत्रहर्माना in call parties primarily demand more बिटन को कामगारिक पार्टी को बोप से अवस्था अस्तर । केल में अस्तर का विवास तमानेक कि व वसमा कि समाने में धारत भारतीय सरकृति और दिन् धार्म वा ब्रिटिश प्राज्यमधी त्रीवड केम्परम, कार्यास्टिक कर्त के अध्यक्ष कार्र ग्रीहव फेल्डमेन और nealt im promor a realed breow žfitu trod vrećas ie megrai स्वामी चित्रानद स्थासवती ने विचार गर्वे । इस मोक पर ब्रिटिश क्रायनगर्थ में बादा कि वह विकास में प्राचन से जिल कहा जीता है। इसमें करने धंतों न दिशाओं से बेच्डनम रिराहर काम्पित फिल् गर्भ हैं। मैं इसका गर्म श्राप्तव लेख पाइंचा।

एक और पर स्थान विदास्य साम्बार ने was for excellent mapping forest out all बाने में दा नहीं बाने की करते राज्युरीयमं अर्थे अपने में समाहित कर लेकी हैं :



लंदन में अनवीजित कार्यक्रम के दौरान हिंदू धर्म विरुद्धनेव किताब कर विमोधन करते. ब्रिटेन के प्रधानमंत्री डेविड केमरन, साथ में हैं पिदानंद सरस्वती मुनि महाराज़ व अन्य।

इस न केवल मनुष्यें के लिए बरिक यह गकी, पेब की प्रकृति और पर्यावरण के रिक्ट पार्थना करते हैं।

इन्तर्ने क्या कि इन्तर्ग अंस्कृति हमें मिलाने हैं कि हम सुजन प्रधान द्विता की स्टा बनाने के जिल्हा उसकी रोजा करें। क्षेत्राब्द्रिय करी है अध्यक्ष कर प्रमुख फेलडमेन ने विश्व के एक हातार विदानों द्वार तेपार इस विश्वकाष को अनोको उपनाना वताया। इत्साधकां बीचवा जाम हिट्टम की मेनेरिका एडिटर सामग्री भगवती ने करा कि तिह नमें की कराई गताई दिखान और नावत के जार तक र का वर्षाच्या और ८० THE RICK WAS THE PROPERTY OF

अस्तराज्येय साम्बरता ग्रांबन्द धर भी सेवा के लिए जनाएक को गया है। यह एकिस्ट्रिक क्षण हैं । इसमें जिल्ला संगत की सास्कृतियां का आदमात दलेश सम्मातित है। इस दीवन присмен в минисформации из विकास भी किया गया विकास केर्रिय है 85 HR, 1789A SEM WED 15 वाकेट्स युर के राज्याक क्षत्रमा प्राचीक क्या नातंत्री, प्रकार भारतंत्र उद्यापना गांपीयद सिंद्जा. सी. बीचे सोदी. यह अप्रोत्ती ग्राहेशको संस माध्यानी, मादाना धर्म अध्यक्षणाच क नीरियो राज्य तीफ बार्ट मारात क





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David Cameron celebrates Diwali with launch of Hinduism encyclopedia

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CAMERON HAILS EPIC ENCYCLOPAEDIA OF HINDUISM

by SHAILESH SOLANKI and RITHIKA SIDDHARTHA

PRIME MINISTER David Cameron launched the ground-breaklag. 11-volume Encyclopaedla of Hinduism at a ceremony in
London on Monday (27).
Accompanied by his wife Samantha, who dazzled in a deep
blue sarl, Cameron lit the symbolic lamp of knowledge with His
Holiness Pulya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji (HH Pulya Muniji),
who is the inspiration behind the encyclopaedia project.
"This encyclopedia is a great contribution to humanity," said
the prime minister as he unveiled the books which have been
over 20 years in the making.

The home secretary Theresa May and chief whip Michael Gove joined more than 1,000 leading Asians for the launch at the Queen Blizabeth Conference Center in central Landon.
Organised by the Conservative Party, Conservative Priends of India and the Asian Media and Marketing Group (AMG) – publishers of Eastern Bye and Garaaf Gujarat – the event also marked the festival of lights, Diwali.

HH Pujay Muniji, the founder and chairman of the India Herita Ashram in Rishikesh, north India, said: "In Indian culture we say, It at all the noble thoughts come from all directions." We are an inclusive culture.

"In our prayers, we say Sarve bhawantu sukhinah, Sarve santo nizaway which means, 'May all be happy, may all be healthy? Cut scriptures resind us, 'Wasudhaw' Kusuuhaw' Kusu



'Asian community embodies spirit of Big Society'

DAVID CAMERON PRAISES VALUES OF BRITISH INDIANS AS REASONS FOR THEIR SUCCESS IN UK PUBLIC LIFE









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Encyclopedia a 'celebration of peace and togetherness'







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Encyclopaedia of Hinduism launched by Cameron

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HISTORIC LAUNCH IN INDIA OF THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF HINDUISM

With H.E. Vice President Shri M. Hamid Ansari and Mananiya Dr. Mohan Bhagwat





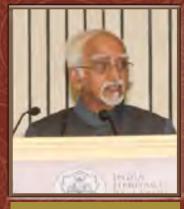
Pujya Swamiji with Mananiya Dr. Mohan Bhagwatji, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh Sarsanghchalak



The evening of October 10th marked a historic moment in the cultural history of India: the launch of the International Edition of the Encyclopedia of Hinduism at a glorious function in Vigyan Bhavan, organized by India Heritage Research Foundation and Global Citizen Forum. The Chief Guest of the function was the Hon'ble Vice President of India, Shri M. Hamid Ansariji; the Special Guest of Honour was Mananiya Dr. Mohan Bhagwatji. The program was also graced by the presence of numerous revered interfaith leaders, honourable cabinet ministers, distinguished dignitaries and celebrities.

The International Edition of the Encyclopedia of Hinduism was presented by India Heritage Research Foundation to the Honourable President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjeeji on the 23rd June at a huge event at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji, founder/ chairman of India Heritage Research Foundation, Founder of the Encyclopedia of Hinduism project explains: "The wisdom, truths, teachings and



Hon'ble Vice President Shri M. Hamid Ansariji



Hon'ble Dr. Mohan Bhagwatji Sarsanghchalak of RSS



Hon'ble Smt. Smriti Iraniji Minister of HRD, Government of India



Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji Founder, Encyclopedia of Hinduism



Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswatiji, Managing Editor, Encyclopedia of Hinduism



Shri Vivek Oberoiji Bollywood Actor



Deewan Syed Zainul Abedin Ali Khanji Ajmer Dargah Sharif



Dr. B.K. Modiji President of the Global Citizen Forum

insights of Indian and Hindu culture are not limited to or applicable to only Hindus or Indians. Rather they belong to the world and can deeply benefit the world. It is, therefore, our aim that the richness of this ancient yet timeless culture and heritage should be made available to the entire world, in a way that is authentic, academic, comprehensive and illuminating. However, of course, the teachings, truths, tenets and insights of Sanatan Dharma took birth in India. Therefore, to have the Encyclopedia of Hinduism launched in the presence of such esteemed political, social, national and religious leaders of India is a beautiful and most-fitting symbol of the 'Unity in Diversity' which is our Mother India."

Mananiya Dr. Mohan Bhagawatji said, "Hindusim is not the property of just Hindus, it is their legacy and it is for the world. Today, the world wants it." He also shared, 'I strongly believe that as crucial as it is for the world to have the correct understanding of Hinduism, it is far more crucial for the people of India to have this understanding. I am thankful to Pujya Swamiji and Sadhviji for creating this Encyclopedia, after 25 years of tireless efforts, for

people to turn to as an authentic source to connect with and understand their roots. Now what we decide to do with it is what really matters. Will we just place it in our libraries, in our museums or will we apply its message in our lives. Today I call to all of you to not only read this compendium but to apply the universal values of Hindusim to your lives."

The Hon'ble Vice President, Shri M. Hamid Ansariji shared, "allow me to mention a specific feature of the publication before us. The selection of entries on different concepts, religious and philosophical streams, identities of geographical and historical significance, is comprehensive. There is, in addition, a conflation of India as a country of great antiquity and Hinduism as an ancient and universal faith having its own philosophy, practices and rituals."

Hon'ble HRD Minister, Smt. Smriti Iraniji said, "I offer my humble respect to Pujya Swamiji for His tremendous commitment in spearheading this project. Pujya Swamiji mentioned divine design but i think that it is your divine intervention that in the field of science the darshan and introduction







of spirituality is happening today. This in itself is the biggest tribute to Hinduism. In Hinduism, spirituality and science have never been separate and by offering this encyclopedia to the world you have illustrated this." She also said, 'Pujya Swamiji you mentioned that you plan to bring this encyclopedia to the global community, but as a mother and a minister, I hope to, with all of your blessings, bring it to the children of this nation."

Ajmer Dargah Sharif said, "the essence of all faiths is to unite people and not to divide them. Just as our blood is the same color no matter what our religion so to must we learn to live together in harmony understanding and respecting each other's religion. It is commendable that this encyclopedia offers this understanding in a comprehensive and inclusive way." {

Dr. Pranav Pandyaji said, "I am glad that today eminent personalities from all faiths are here in

release of a unique encyclopedia on Hinduism. This is a revolutionary step by India Heritage Research Foundation under the leadership of Pujya Swami Chidanandji and Sadhwi Bhagwatiji. I congratulate them."

Acharya Lokesh Muniji said, "the Encyclopedia is a much needed bridge between science and spirituality."

Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswatiji, Managing Editor of the Encyclopedia explains, "this is a great moment in history. The depth and breadth of the world's oldest living culture, civilization, philosophy and theology has finally, for the first time, been encapsulated in encyclopedic form. This launch is such a great symbol of the diversity of India, in which for thousands of years all the major faiths of the world including Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, Sikhism, Jainism, Buddhism and Jainism have co-existed peacefully and harmoniously together."



राष्ट्रीय/अंतरराष्ट्रीय

बान्त व्यवस्था दनिक जागरण । 17

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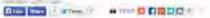




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* Von President Hamist Americ (left) with RSS charl Melian Bragmat in New Dolhi on Friday.

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NATION

Bhagwat says Hinduism not 'ancestral property' of Indians



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Addressing the gathering. Ethiopical end that thindress is not 'assessful property' of Indian, but it is for everyone

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Swam Chidanard Saarwett, the founder that man of the HHRS and opinional head of Permarch in Richalesh, willood Bhaywara recomments and said that the wordern, truth, teachings and insights can not only benefit looks but the entire world.

imum Cuser Ahmed Dynes president All India Immus Organization, and Deven Stell Zeinel Abelin All Man, A tract Durgs Startif spoke about Hipdamus is maintilistic entrue.

Vice Provident Hemid Annet, slabousted upon the importance of Encylopedia. The VP hinted that the rate at which the number of encyllopedia is increasing, soon there will be used for eacylopedia of encylopedia.

Business Standard Hinduism a global legacy, for everyone: RSS Carry and the Steel Company of the DESCRIPTION. brigh hire o life more washing to a suited experi-The defection frames and force, always "flower services from the property of some care." Spiriting at the books of the resonance of Statute Explicit of the line has Disput and that in the section of take had been disput from the section of take as I in being lighter; being set back half none thereof person districts if a same to be less to it is a series of the less of less to it is a series of the less of less to it is a series of the less of less to it is a series of less This is willied, to us. In the game, the fraction records from part for earth of particular, in Affircial conductor the extrapolate at the principal districts and the properties of the continues of the SHOW THE PARTY OF THE PARTY. Per last last the Andready or province produces has it an east out in the control family in pulsed regarding year books gloods Thirty, I so you ship a special features of the same as a second Present and that preside after tay that a covered and control principally ingless a weighted tay. PETER WILLIAM SHIP TAX MAN TO SHIP COM WALTHAY STOWARD. tion of "Black" has seen member with read no its resemble return. Indeptil and that invariant house, had maye, "to let and the same and the Court and the court of market place. The way of company for it, "Networkship in other than he became a larger Plantar had able it is resolved by responsible reside have cover insulate based property, a secretar response tracking the plantar tracking has the insulate A today had their assistant off through the four lyttle distallance become nation for each functional, speed and forget and fight, and broudfloor brings parties, while it "or subsecti, science; and ellerade form?"





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World Alliance of Religions Peace Summit in Seoul, South Korea



A message of peace, unity and oneness resounded in Seoul, South Korea when over 120 interfaith leaders joined together with ambassadors and representatives of over 24 countries for the World Alliance of Religions to sign a petition for peace and pledge their commitment to serve together for world peace. Over three hundred thousand participants gathered together in South Korea's capital from over 50 countries, a majority of them from the International Youth Association as well as International Women's Association.

Representing India, HH Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji, President of Parmarth Niketan (Rishikesh), Founder of Ganga Action Parivar and the Co-founder of Global Interfaith WASH Allaince, shared that India has always stood for peace, recognizing the world is one family in a spirit of Vashudhaiv Kutumbakam. He said, 'Just as in a family one may have arguments



and differences but at the end of the day you are still one. So to amongst the alliance of different religions and countries we are all one. Therefore, let us dedicate 3H's to our global family, aligning our Head, Heart and Hands to serve and spread the message of peace not pieces."

He also shared that India is a country of many faiths and that their is unity amongst the diversity. He said that Indian values teach us to 'worship our own but respect all.' He emphasized that we must move away from creating more borders and boundaries to becoming bridges and filling the chasms that separate us. He inspired all participants and people from all over the world to put aside their differences and work together for the betterment of all, especially to come together to prevent global warming, preserve our sacred environment and ensure access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene for all.

Pujya Swamiji warmly welcomed the Chairman of the World Alliance of Religions to visit the banks of Mother Ganga in Rishikesh, India and shared that India is not merely a piece of land but a land of peace.







CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE AT THE UNITED NATIONS

The Faiths Meet for Togetherness in the Face of An Ever-Warming Planet



From Seoul, Pujya Swamiji and Sadhvi Bhagawatiji flew to New York to take part in the Religions for the Earth Summit from the 19th – 21st, organized by Karenna Gore (Al Gore's daughter) and Union Theological Seminary. The Summit brought together about 250 religious leaders (including incredibly inspiring and deeply touching leaders from the indigenous and eskimo populations), national leaders (including Al Gore) and scientists (including nobel laureate Dr. RK Pachauri and Dr. Vandana Shiva). On the 19th, Sadhviji also spent a few hours on a panel of religious leaders for the United Planet Faith and Science Initiative talking about climate change and faith.

Then, on the 21st and 22nd Pujya Swamiji and Sadhviji were part of the Climate Change Summit organized by Dr. William Vendley, the head of Religions for Peace and Rev. Dr. Olav Fykse Tveit, head of the World Council of Churches which was a very small, select gathering of 30-35 top religious leaders of the world's religions from many countries in which the first aim was to sign a declaration to be handed to Ban-ki-Moon the Secretary General of the United Nations, on the stance of faith leaders regarding Climate Change. Pujya Swamiji was one of the signatories to the Declaration. The second day focused on specific actions and commitments the leaders themselves could make to bring the message

and the peril of climate change back to their congregations and to help reduce our carbon footprint, reduce our dependence on fossil fuels, reduce our need for "more, more and more" which fuels the factories and otherwise embrace a green and sustainable vision and model for the future. Pujya Swamiji and Sadhviji also had a wonderful meeting with Anthony Lake, the head of UNICEF in which they shared with him the progress being made by the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance which was launched last year at the UNICEF headquarters at the UN in New York.

Sadhviji said, "I found it both terrifying to hear again and again the undisputable facts of where our planet is headed, and exhilarating to realize the potential we have -- each of us individually and exponentially if we work together -- to truly save the planet and ourselves. I feel so inspired and also awed by the sheer magnitude of what lies before us.... But together we can save the planet, and from what I've seen this week, the planet is full of people fully committed to doing so. I feel honored and humbled to be amongst them."



Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswati with Rabbi Awraham Soetendorp and the Patriarch Bartholomew, Archbishop of Constantinople, New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch



United Planet Faith and Science Initiative panelists, Rev. Richard Cizik, Fr. Sergei Kapral, Fazlun Khalid, Fred Krueger, Rev. Owen Owens, Dawud Price, Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswati ,
Dr. Lise Van Susteren, Dr. Mark Axelrod and Rabbi Yonatan Neril Rabbi Yonatan Neril





UNICEF Executive Director, Tony Lake, is presented with GIWA's Annual Report by Pujya Swamiji and Sadhvi Bhagawatiji.

To see GIWA's Annual Report, visit www.washalliance.org



Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji with former Vice President of the United States of America, Al Gore



Pujya Swamiji with Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit, General Secretary, World Council of Churches



Speaking with Christiana Figueres, Executive Secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, at the Climate Change Summit



Faith leaders come together to plan steps towards combatting climate change for a more sustinable future for all



Religions for Peace Executive Director, Dr. William Vendley, GIWA Co-Founder, Rabbi Awaham Soetendorp (R) and other delehates listen to Pujya Swamiji's inspiration

THE GLOBAL CITIZEN FORUM MEETS AT THE UNITED NATIONS



In August, Pujya Swamiji flew from California -- after the programs in Los Angeles, San Diego and Ojai -- to New York for a meeting of the Global Citizen Forum at UN Plaza, organized by Dr. BK Modi. The meeting focused on the role of India in leading the world of the 21st century as a global thought leader. Heads of various Indian organizations from across USA were present. Also there was Gabriela Isler, Miss Universe from Venezuela, with whom Pujya Swamiji shared the work of the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance and invited her to come for the "Women for WASH" Summit taking place at Parmarth Niketan at the end of November. She was deeply touched and impressed and pledged her support for this great mission.



Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji discusses GIWA's brochure with Miss Universe, Gabriela Isler, in New York City, USA. See the brochure at www.washalliance.org

MEETING WITH US CONGRESSWOMAN TULSI GABBARD AND OTHER DIGNITARIES



Pujya Swamiji and Sadhvi Bhagawati meet with and explain the work of the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance to US Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard and invite her for the Worship to WASH Summit at Parmarth Niketan in November (in photos above and below)







Pujya Swamiji and Shri Mukesh Ambaniji discuss sustainable, "green" and renewable energy solutions for India

After the Madison Square Garden mega event, there was a special smaller VVIP dinner arranged and hosted by the Indian Embassy at the Pierre Hotel in New York. At that dinner, Pujya Swamiji spent time speaking with leaders from India, USA and from across the world, in business, politics and social sector, including Shri Mukesh Ambaniji, Sadhvi Ritambharaji and Congresswomen Tulsi Gabbard.



Pujya Swamiji & Pujya Sadhvi Ritambharaji discuss plans for divine work in India for empowering and uplifting women and girls

DELIVERING INSPIRATION AT THE UNITED NATIONS









A beautiful programme was held at the United Nations recently with the UN Alliance of Civilizations, Global Citizen Forum and United Peace Federation on Sustainable Development.

Said Sadhvi Bhagawatiji, "it was inspiring and uplifting to be together with so many people, from so many different fields -- government, UN, NGO, media, news -- all of whom are working to bring about a world that truly embodies sustainability. In Indian culture we are told "Vasudhaiv Kutumbakam," the world is one family. If we're all a family then clearly none of us has any right to more than our individual personal share of food, water, resources, energy, etc. Every person on earth, then, has equal right to the resources, as everyone in a family has equal right to the food in the fridge or water from the tap... How can we, the "developed" and "developing" nations, ensure that our development is not in a vacuum, but rather takes all of our world family into consideration? This is the challenge, but I fervently believe it's doable if we all commit to stop living in such a way that we're eating up all the food, drinking up all the water, and sleeping in every bed in the house!"

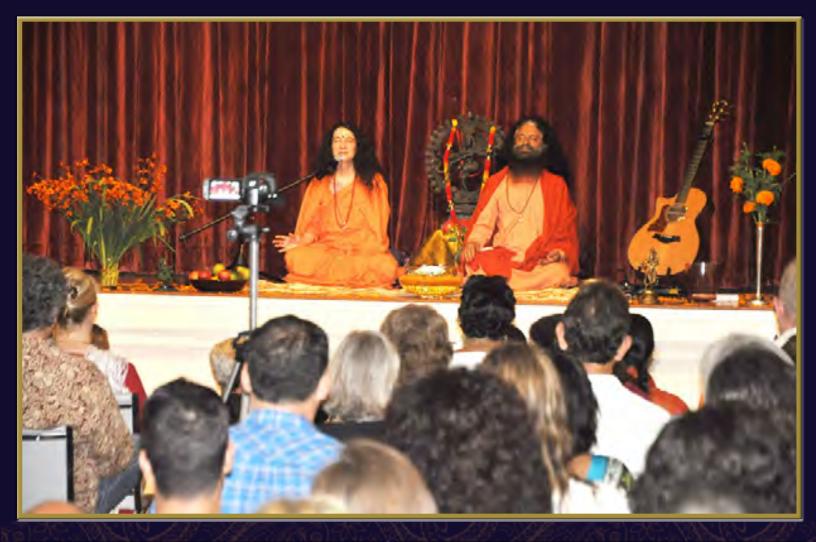
A beautiful Programme in San Diego FINDING PEACE IN LIFE

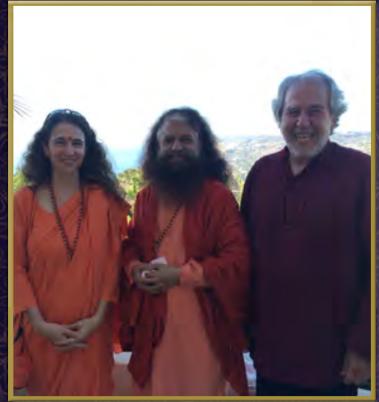




On the 22nd of August, Pujya Swamiji and Sadhvi Bhagawatiji went from Los Angeles to San Diego, where Divine Souls Bhava Ram and Laura (Sundari) Plumb of Deep Yoga organized a beautiful event at the Mission United Church. It opened with divine kirtan led by Bhava Ram and the Pujya Swamiji and Sadhvi Bhagawatiji gave discourses on finding the path and the way to deep happiness, peace and fulfillment in life. Pujya Swamiji loved the name of the church and also spoke about how we should live with our "Mission - United." Renowned scientist and evolutionary expert Dr. Bruce Lipton also came from Santa Cruz to San Diego to see Pujya Swamiji and so they had beautiful moments together as well.

See videos of the uplifting and inspiring discourses at: www.tinyurl.com/Pujyaswamiji-SD and www.tinyurl.com/sadhviji-SD







The Path of Joy in Beautiful Ojai, California







On the 9th of August Pujya Swamiji and Sadhvi Bhagawatiji arrived into California and traveled straight to the beautiful inland oasis of Ojai where Divine Soul Jessica Cauffiel and Dastan Khalli had organized a satsang on the theme of "The Path of Joy" at the Healing in America Center. Pujya Swamiji enlightened the audience on the two paths in life - the path of Shreyas and the path of Preyas -- living a life of decadence dedicated to momentary, transitory pleasures or a life of deep meaning and fulfillment, and how to choose shreyas over preyas. Sadhvi Bhagawatiji spoke about how there really isn't any "path" to joy, because joy must be found in the present moment, not in a far off destination, and she explained how to find the "state of joy."

See the videos of the beautiful talks and question-answer session which followed the discourses! Click:

http://tinyurl.com/PujyaSwamiji-Ojai
and http://tinyurl.com/Sadhviji-ojai.

Krishna Janmasthami Celebrations in California



To celebrate Krishna Janmasthami, Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswati and Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswati lead a special program in Los Angeles. Janmasthami is the sacred and divine time when Lord Krishna came onto the Earth and it was a beautiful event to welcome His presence on Earth as well as into our own hearts and lives. The program included the sacred fire ceremony (yagna), devotional chanting (kirtan), spiritual discourses, satsang, question-answer and meditation. The following day there was a beach clean up on the Santa Monica beach near the crowded pier titled, "Clean the Sea, Clean the Self."











See the videos of these divine events! Click: http://tinyurl.com/PujyaSwamiji-LA and http://tinyurl.com/sadhviji-LA





CALIFORNIA
BEACH
CLEAN UP:
Clean the Sea,
Clean the Self



MAKE INDIA.



Just as Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modiji has launched the innovative new campaign, "Make in India," inviting businesses and foreign investments to manufacture their products in India, Pujya Swamiji inspires the people of India to come together to support this campaign at home by inspiring the people of India to come together to "Make India."

PUJYA SWAMIJI MEETS WITH UNION MINISTERS FOR MOTHER GANGA, IMPROVED WASH AND A GREEN INDIA









Pujya Swamiji said recently that if Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modiji can make "India happen" time has come that "Indians need to happen" and He explains that this will be the best way we can support a new era of nationbuilding and peace-building.

With the determination and inspired vision to "Make India," Pujya Swamiji met with Hon'ble Union Home Minister, Shri Rajnath Singhji, Hon'ble Union Rural Development and Highways, Transportation and Roads

Minister, Shri Nitin Gadkariji, Hon'ble Union Human Resource Development Minister, Smt Smriti Iraniji, and Hon'ble Union Water Resources Minister, Uma Shri Bhartiji to discuss, amongst many things, new ideas and plans to create a clean, green and serene India.

They spoke about the vital and urgent need to focus on the larger Water, Sanitation and Hygiene issue that India faces to ensure that children are not only allowed to survive but also thrive, as they are truly the GDP of India.







They shared concrete ways and innovative new technologies in which the River"s Ganga, Yamuna and Gomti can be cleaned and restored as a model of hope and symbol of a New India. The discussed ways in which the River Ganga could remain completely separated from sewerage and how this untreated water could be treated and reused to meet the water demands of the Ganga River Basin.

They also discussed in detail creating a unique model along the banks of Mother Ganga in which volunteers would be trained to involve and inspire all stakeholders in actively and consciously protecting and preserving their national heritage and sacred lifeline.

Pujya Swamiji also met with Hon'ble Union Agriculture Minister, Shri Radha Mohan Singhji, Hon'ble Union Environment and Forests Minister, Shri Prakash Javadekarji, and Hon'ble Union Micro, Small, Medium Enterprises Minister, Shri Kalraj Mishraji to discuss a variety of innovative ideas and solutions.

Pujya Swamiji spoke in detail about creating and sustaining an Organic Revolution in India. Inspired by His visit, the Hon'ble Ministers, invited Pujya Swamiji and experts from Organic India, top scientists and scholars to discuss viable alternatives to GMO Technology as well as sustaining an Organic India that not only provides for the farmer but for their farms also.













In Pujya Swamiji's meeting with the ministers He also spoke in detail about creating and sustaining an Organic Revolution in India. A few weeks later, He brought Shri Bharat Mitra, the founder and president of Organic India and renowned scientists and agriculture experts from the U.S., England and Australia to meet with the ministers of agriculture, the environment, and Ganga Revitalization, as well as with the deputy secretary of agriculture to discuss viable alternatives to GMO Technology as well as sustaining an organic India that not only provides for the farmer but for their farms also.









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केदीच कारता संस्तावर विकास संस्त स्पृति ईसर्ज को ब्रह्मात का चीका मेर करते विकास पुनि ।

कः पिकशः (एसएनबी)। urend follows in premient कार्यो जिल्लाह सरकार्यो ने कान के काम के लिए में केराव मानव गावाचा सक्ता रक्षी हेठना में गुलाक्ता की (परमार्ग प्रवक्त ने बताया कि नतामी विद्यालय messi rine ste facesta ताने स्पृति हेराने के क्रिन राष्ट्र निर्माण के विभिन्न मुद्दूरी पर गर्भा हुई। भी स्वामी में नीमां। प्रधानी से पर्याच्या को क्षित्र में व्यक्तित med un anne linter swebt वित्र स्वतित विकास अहित्रे तथा क संस्था की प्रमान क NAME OF TAXABLE PARTY OF PARTY AND शुक्रक दिया। रम्हर्ग होरानी में क्सानी विकास अस्ति के स eggelf of fiver and 30 mg कारियाई क्य अवस्थायन विचान

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SHE CITYLE SPREAGUE

अधिकार प्राप्त विकास के स्टाल्यक कार्य विकास पूर्व बहारक में मेलावर के बी दिल्ली किया वर्ष अस्ता में के बीच पुरस्ता प्राप्त कर के बीच पुरस्ता

ाजनान जिंद से गुराजना जेंद्रे। विकास के शामतान में जिल् प्रमुख्य केर गोधनी तीर्थ को क्यूका गुज्या करने में जिल्हा सामता के सामता की सीच्या पराच्या की सामता के सामता कि मीचा पराच्या की सामता के सामता कि मीचा जमुला की सामता को कर आका गंगी है। नायम प्रकार एन कोंग मिस ने करूर कि स्वामी जिल्ला पूर्व पूर्व में गंग, पूर्व और गोकों को नो क्याना के पूर्व पा करूरा से बार्च की स्वाम ने सम्बन्ध को बीकर रहा कों को पाने कोंगी ने पर का स्वाम के लिए का स्वाम को के साथ ही सम्बन्ध में में स्वाम कर की मेंच व सुना पर्दे के निया का चित्रांनस महाराज ने की कोन्द्रीय गृहमंत्री से मुलाकात चे सरकार के सकल्प को धरातल पर उतारने का आग्रह

है। विभावर क्षेप काम जुट दिक्क आप्ता, शांक क्षिपेक प्रान्ताक में मुंदी चर्चा को दिवा पूका रका का त्रावें अपनेते करों कि चेन्य आपता को संभावी आदि चरियों की अधिकार का को प्रदूरण गुट्टा क्षाव अधिकार का स्थावन गुट्टा क्षाव मुंदी में रोजनाय से कामह करते हुए कर्म देव जाना को उपनक्ष करते हुए कर्म करते के दिवा जाने को प्रदूरण पूजा करते के दिवा जाने को अपनेत सार के द्वारा का सार्थक मनाने के प्राप्त करते के दिवा जानिक मनाने को प्राप्त करते के दिवा जानिक को प्रदूरण सरकार करते के दिवा जानिक को प्रदूरण सरकार करते के दिवा जानिक को प्रदूरण





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Celebrating India's Spiritual Traditions with HH THE DALAI LAMA & OTHER LEADERS







From the 20-21st of September, HH the Dalai Lamaji invited hundreds of spiritual and religious leaders for a two-day 'Meeting of Diverse Spiritual Traditions in India.' The interfaith dialogue discussed the promotion of human values with a secular, inclusive and innovative approach as well as suggestions to foster inter-religious harmony.

On the occasion HH the Dalai Lama personally welcomed and addressed the participants. HH Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji, President of Parmarth Niketan (Rishikesh), Founder of Ganga Action Parivar and the Cofounder of Global Interfaith WASH Alliance, was warmly welcomed as a representative of not only the Hindu faith but for being a torch-bearer for interfaith dialogue and discussions. Some of the other eminent interfaith speakers included Rabbi Ezekiel Isaac Malekar of the Jewish faith, Dadi E Mistry of the Zoroastrian, Nazneen Rowhani of the Bahai faith, Dr. Mufti M. Mukarram Ahmed of the Islam faith, Swami Avimuktesharanand Saraswati of the Hindu faith, His Eminence Oswald Cardinal Gracias of the Christian faith, Prof Manjit Singh Sahib of Sikkihism, His

Eminence Gaden Tripa Rizong Sras-Trul Thupten Nyima of Buddhism as well Hon'ble Lt Gov Shri Najeeb Jung of Delhi and so many others.

Addressing the august gathering HH the Dalai Lamaji said, 'I believe that my principle responsibility is as a human being. I am just one of 7 billion others and therefore I strongly believe that in order to combat the growing violence and climate change in the world, which are issues that affect all of humanity, we must work differently. We must start now, moving beyond our individual identities, to share a message of compassion, love and understanding that resonates with all human beings, even those who don't identify with any particular faith. I believe that India is the only country that not only can lead this dialogue but be a true model of interfaith harmony, as it has been home to all various spiritual traditions living together in harmony for so many years.'

On the occasion Pujya Swamiji said that 'Today everyone is speaking about the vital importance of combating climate







change. However, I believe that we need to strengthen the inner climate to change the outer climate, the balance needs to strike within to resound without.' He also addressed the participating leaders and said, 'Time has come that we must worship your own but respect all. Time has come that we but our prayer into practice and come together to collectively address the challenges that we face, especially on vital issues pollution as well as on issues of water, sanitation and hygiene.'

There were a host of beautiful speeches and profound points made by the various spiritual leaders, a majority of which emphasized and praised the diversity and heritage of India as well as the need for India to come forward as a leader of peace and harmony. Eminent leaders agreed that the conference being held in Delhi, the capital of India and also the cradle of all of India's main religions, was a most suitable location for HH the Dalai Lama to initiate these vital discussions.

The two day long meeting was organized with inspiring speeches of revered saints and leaders as well as break out sessions and group discussions. Key points and suggestions from the discussions were shared at the end of the conference as concrete ways in which the continual efforts for peace and harmony can be expanded and brought into our day to day life and thereby shared with our communities.



Oswald Cardinal Gracias, Archbishop of Bombay and advisor to HH Pope Francis, lovingly greets Pujya Swamiji with a warm embrace



Archbishop Kuriakose Bharanikulangara, from the Diocese of Faridabad, shares a warm discussion with Pujya Swamiji



Pujya Swamiji meets with Venerable Professor Samdhong Rinpoche, former Tibetan Prime Minister in Exile



Acharya Shri Mahashraman, Respected Jain Saint, and his disciples share a warm reunion with Pujya Swamiji



Maulanna Wahiduddin Khan Sahib and Pujya Swamiji exchange a loving moment after so long



Shri Tarun Sagarji Maharaj, Respected Jain leader, receives a green gift from Pujya Swamiji

SAINTS MAKE HOLY PLEDGE TO PLANT ONE MILLION TREES

For a Green and Beautiful World



During the time of Pitri Paksha, people from all over India pay tribute and perform tarpan (sacred ritual) to honour their ancestors. Ganga Action Parivar, Parmarth Niketan (Rishikesh) and Panchnad Smarak Trust, Panjabi Mahasabha (Uttarakhand) performed this ritual on Parmarth's Ganga Ghat in honour of those who had lost their lives during the massacre in 1947 partition of India and Pakistan as well as to honour those who lost their lives in the recent floods of Jammu Kashmir as well as last year's floods in Uttarakhand.

On the occasion, Pujya Swamiji inspired everyone to plant a tree in the memory of the deceased so that they will be remembered and honoured and also so that our land and our environment would

continue to be protected in their memory.

Pujya Swamiji, Pujya Ramananandacharya Swami Hansdevacharyaji and Pujya Swami Dharmdevji have committed to planting one million trees in Haridwar, Rishikesh, Kurukshetra and other areas in the memory of the lost lives. Pujya Swamiji explained that the plantation on a large scale will improve the environment which in turn will purify our internal environment. The deeper message offered on the special occasion was that like the branches of the same tree we must learn to live together-as One- instead of fighting to increase the borders and boundaries between ourselves. Over 500 devotees joined to celebrate the two day event from the 13th and 14th September.









UNICEF MEETINGS AT PARMARTH

In Advance of the Upcoming from Worship to WASH Summit of Leaders







The Global Interfaith WASH Alliance was delighted to host a delegation from UNICEF-India, which came to GIWA's Southern Secretariat (at Parmarth Niketan, Rishikesh, India) to discuss plans for the upcoming high-level Worship to WASH and Women for WASH Summits.

Said GIWA Co-Founder, Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji, "Here in India, 1100 children die every day due to problems with water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH). It is time we expand our concept of worship to include addressing the most pressing issues of our society and begin a Clean Revolution-- a WASH Revolution-- for a healthier India."

In light of the Government of India's upcoming announcement of the Clean India campaign on the 2nd October by Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modiji, the GIWA Summits will be the first ever effort to empower and engage leaders to become involved in a WASH Revolution to make the dream of a Clean and Green India a reality for all.

GIWA is also pledging to serve and support the Government of India to help ensure that adequate clean water, sanitation and hygiene facilities are accessible within India's schools and households.

Attending the meetings were Ms. Sue Coates, Ms. Shalini Prasad, Ms Manisha Mishra and several other members of the UNICEF team. GIWA's Sadhvi Bhagawatiji lauded the efforts of UNICEF, stating, "Today more children are suffering and dying due to of lack of clean water and adequate sanitation than wars. It is time that we all must come together as one to address this grave issue and ensure that our children, and all the children of the world, of all countries, cultures, colors and creeds, are only able to survive but also thrive."

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. This season, Pujya Swamiji shared, spread and simplified 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 GLORIOUS BIRTHDAY Celebrated for Pujya Bhaishri







On the auspicious and divine occasion of Pujya Bhaishri's birthday, the Sanskruti Parivar of Ahmedabad organised a Shrimad Bhagavad Gita discourse by Pujya Bhaishri from 26 August to 30 August. This was followed by the gathering of religious leaders from various religions, including Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji and Pujya Swami Gurusharananandji Maharaj, in the presence of Pujya Bhaishri, on 31 August 2014.

The gathered leaders presented eloquent remarks about Pujya Bhaishri during a live telecast on the Sanskar channel.

As a symbol of Pujya Swamiji's great love and affection for Pujya Bhaishri, Pujya Swamiji gifted him with a sacred chandhan sapling and said, "just as the chandhan from this tree provides sacred scent to the world, cools and purifies the mind, so to may you continue to spread the glories, the divine perfume, of the Lord so that it can purify and sanctify the world."

He also offered him a shawl woven with love by the widowed women affected by the floods in Uttarakhand last year, for whom the Divine Shakti Foundation, Ganga Action Parivar are sponsoring livelihood and training.

See the Video of this Event! Click: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jN9IZ1QuO4s

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INDEPENDENCE (FROM TRASH) DAY for a revitalized India

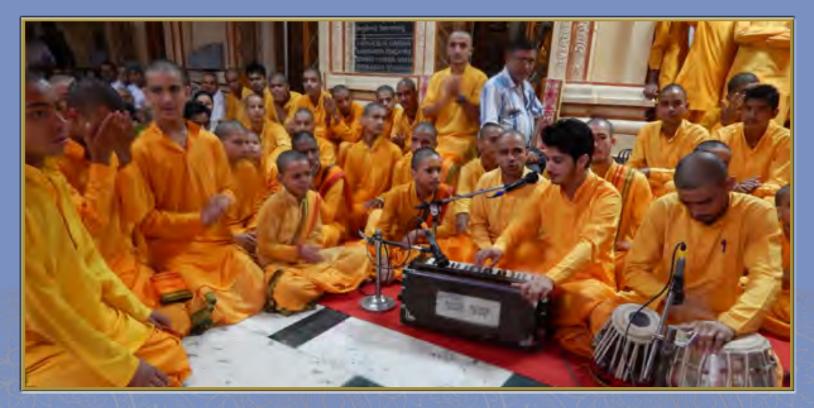






Inspired by Pujya Swamiji's vision of Clean, Green and Serene India the Parmarth Rishikumars (students of the Parmarth Gurukul), took the Independence Day as an opportunity to demonstrate their relentless commitment in serving our nation. They marched into the neighborhood and the adjoining forest, digging out the heaps of trash and plastic, which are not only an aesthetic insult but also contribute significantly to the pollution of the sacred waterways. The Rishikumars cleaned up the heavily polluted route, up to the Neelkanth Temple, which remained strewn with trash after the recent Kanwad Mela.

It was exhilarating and invigorating to hear similar ideology of a Clean, Green and Serene India being reiterated and emphasized by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India in his maiden, yet thought-provoking Independence Day speech. He emphasized the importance of cleaning our sacred land of trash, ensuring sanitation and basic facilities of toilets to everyone. He was also elequent as he discussed the protection of India's divine feminine - in the form of the girl child and Mother Ganga - which is the necessity of the hour.











GREEN RAKSHA BANDHAN FESTIVAL CELEBRATED







A very special Raksha Bandhan ceremony took place at Parmarth Niketan (Rishikesh) on August 10th. The Rishikumars (students of the Parmarth Gurukul) underwent a yagno pavit (sacred thread) ceremony in the morning.

The Rishikumars then, along with their Ganga Action and Parmarth Parivar (family) tied rakhi threads to nearly 200 Rudraksh trees that would be sent out the next day to Uttarakashi to start the first Memorial Garden, to serve as a growing and thriving symbol of our commitment to remember the lesson we have learnt by the loss of thousands of lives in last year's floods. The planting of trees will additionally serve to protect our planet, by helping to offset that which causes global warming, whilst also preventing soil erosion, loss of precious fertile topsoil as well as purifying and sanctifying the environment.

NAVARATRI AND DUSSEHRA Holy Celebrations on a Doubly-Blessed Day









Navratri is the nine nights in which the divine feminine- Divine Shakti- in all its forms is celebrated and worshipped at Parmarth Niketan (Rishikesh) with special readings from the holy scriptures and sacred morning yagnas. The chanting of the mantras and the smell of the divine yagnas filled and purified the air. The last day of Navratri ended with a special Vijayadashami/ Dussehra celebration in which Pujya Swamiji was invited as a Guest of Honor at the special celebrations organized by the Rishikesh Administration and Trade Association. He inspired thousands of attending participants to do their part in keeping Mother Ganga and Mother Earth clean and green. He also led them in a special "Swaach Bharat" (Clean India) pledge, especially in honour of the recent launch of the Swaach Bharat campaign on the auspicious occasion of Gandhi Jayanti, which came just a day before Dusshera this year.

RISHIKESH RAILWAY STATION ADOPTED ON GANDHI JAYANTI

On the auspicous day of Gandhi Jayanti, Pujya Swamiji announced the adoption of the local Rishikesh Railway Station. As the gateway to the city of Yoga, the station currently is in a neglected and dilapidated state. Pujya Swamiji envisions it being transformed to illustrate the spirit and the essence of the city of the Rishis (Sages), so that pilgrims and tourists alike can enjoy the beauty of the station.

Under His leadership, vision and guidance, GIWA and GAP will adopt the station and transform the premises, which used to be strewn with trash, into a beautiful park. They will plan a tree plantation and the installation of a waterfall with a gorgeous Lord Shiva statue.

After the announcement, Pujya Swamiji led a team of Parmarth Rishikumars, staff and volunteers along with

members of other NGOs, in a clean-up the railway station.

Plans were also made to train workers of the municipality, as a longer-term effort, to effectively separate and dispose of all waste. The MLA of Rishikesh, Shri Premchandra Agarwalji, MLA of Yamkeshwar, Smt Vijaya Barathwal, Chairman of Rishikesh, Shri Deep Sharmaji, Rail Superintendent, Shri Gajendra Singhji, and DPO Northern Railway Muradabad, Shri RK Kaushikji were inspired to join in the cleaning efforts, along with several local organizations (detailed below).

A Rudrakash sapling was also planted at the sation premises at the time, as a symbol of new life. for the station.







Respected officials: Deep Sharmaji, Chairman of Rishikesh, members of the Rishikesh Railway Administration, Prem Chand Agarwalji, MLA of Rishikesh, and Smt. Vijaya Bharthwalji, MLA of Yamkeshwarv (from left to right) join Pujya Swamiji to plant trees and herald in a greener India.



AN ENCHANTING DIWALI

Celebrating the Light Within on the Banks of Mother Ganga



The festival of lights was celebrated with a special Lakshmi and Ganesha Pooja in the evening, which was lead by Pujya Swamiji. During the beautiful ceremony, flowers, fruits, sweets and prayers were offered in gratitude for the abundance and grace that the Divine Mother fills our lives with every moment and minute of our lives.

Pujya Swamiji emphasized the need to transform our holidays into Green Festivals and consciously transform actions during these festivities so that they are less damaging to our bodies, our minds and our environment. Pujya Swamiji emphasized that earthen lights and traditional lights should be used rather than electricity dependent lights and fire-crackers. He emphasized the need to limit the number of sweets we indulge in and choose to go organic and home made. He also emphasized that just as we clean our homes we must also learn to clean our streets and our surroundings as our very own and work together with our communities to keep them clean.











A GREEN TEACHERS' DAY

Pujya Swamiji Travels to Uttarkashi, Brings Inspiration to Thousands of Students & Teachers





Pujya Swamiji travelled to Uttarkashi on the occasion of Teacher's Day and addressed over 2,000 students at the Ganesh Dutt Secondary School. The function celebrated Pujya Swamiji's much anticipated arrival with a beautiful cultural programme highlighting the recent Nanda Raj Jat Yatra and other folk dances. Pujya Swamiji inspired students, teachers and every citizen to celebrate all festivals and holidays with a green touch and a green message.

He said, "mother Nature is the best teacher and on this special day when the whole nation is celebrating Teacher's day, let us celebrate by planting more and more trees and reaffirming our commitment to give back to Mother Earth, offering our gratitude for the priceless lessons that She teaches us." A special Ganga Aarti that was lead by Pujya Swamiji and Parmarth Rishikumars on the banks of the River Ganga in Uttarakashi as yet another celebration of the Divine Mother and Divine Teacher- which as Pujya Swamiji also shared, gives us a example of how to serve, serve and serve with no hesitation, no discrimination, no expectation and no vacation.

Uttarakhand's Minister of Urban Development, Shri Pritam Panwarji, joined Pujya Swamiji on His visit to the Varunavat Mountain. They collectively took part in tree plantation; nearly 551 Rudraksh trees were planted and sponsored by the Ganga Action Parivar.

With Pujya Swamiji's divine vision and leadership, GAP is working with local groups and experts to establish a sacred Rudraksh Van (Forest of Sacred Rudraksh trees) in Uttarakashi as a memorial garden in honour of those who lost their lives in last year's tragic floods. He said that Rudraksh forests should be established in key spots along the pilgrimage and pilgrims should be offered the divine prashad of the Rudraksh seeds to take home with them in memory of their green pilgrimage and as a symbol of the seed of their commitment and pledge to Mother Ganga.

Pujya Swamiji inspired Shri Pritam Panwarji to plan green pilgrimage in such a way so that when pilgrims travelling through Uttarakashi, on their way to Gangotri and/or Yamunotri, should get a sacred sapling that they can plant along their yatra. The next day, Pujya Swamiji visited the Vishwanath Sanskrit Mahavidyala where He inspired another large group of students with His green vision and green mission. Saints from the Shivananda Ashram joined him on the occasion and welcomed Him home.

A bhandara was also organized at the Kailash Ashram for all saints and locals and Pujya Swamiji personally served and blessed the divine feast as well as inspired them to join together on this green pilgrimage to make Uttarakashi clean, green and serene for all.







GLOBAL HAND-WASHING DAY CELEBRATED



Global Handwashing Day was celebrated by the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance's Secretariat at Parmarth Niketan with outreach to regional schools by dedicated GIWA volunteers.

Children were taught the crucial importance of washing their hands, which can protect them from disease and keep them in school. They also learned how to properly suds-up and scrub, to ensure all germs are washed away.



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.

NEW LIMBS, NEW LIFE

a divine prosthetics camp brings hope and healing



This October, a special prosthetics camp was held at Parmarth Niketan, Rishikesh by Mahavir Seva Sadan from Kolkata. The camp was coordinated and lead by the compassionate vision and dedication of Shri Vinod Bagrodiaji. Parmarth Niketan's compassionate volunteers and Rishikumars also provided loving support.

Prior to the camp week, technical teams from Mahavir Seva Sadan and volunteers from Parmarth Niketan visited locations including special schools for disabled youth and children, to assess the condition of potential patients and inform them about the camp.

Board and food were offered to patients and their helpers. Prosthetics and calliphers were forged on-site for each patient, and free crutches and medical care were also provided. The patients were furthermore provided with physical therapy and other forms of assistance, so that they could learn how to walk or use their new arms and hands. All family members of the patients were also offered free medical care, according to their own unique needs.

During the camp, we saw shining example of selfless seva. A divine soul from Brazil, for example, went to great strides, riding his scooter around Rishikesh to pick-up disabled people and bring them to the camp. All were also deeply inspired by the divine presence of Pujya Swamiji, who offered healing words of encouragement for all participants.















OUR HEART-FELT THANKS TO

Mahavir Seva Sadan, led by Shri Vinod Bagrodiaji and Shri Vinod Lodhiaji

for this life-renewing, miraculous prosthetics camp

THE WORLD JOINS HANDS FOR TREES: Saying, "there Can be a Plan B but No Planet B"



As the monsoons came to an end, we concluded another very successful year of monsoon plantations. Led by Pujya Swamiji, the Divine Shakti Foundaton and Ganga Action Parivar inspired and encouraged students and their communities to understand that tree plantation and care is the single most powerful and simple act we can engage in to abate climate change, purify our air, protect Mother Ganga and safeguard against soil erosion of our fertile and precious land.

This year, the efforts were especially driven by Pujya Swamiji's innovative Mid-Day Fruit programme, which enables children to plant and nurture their own fruit trees, so they can learn about nature whilst being nourished by fruit.

This year, the Divine Shakti Foundation and GAP planted over 2000 trees in 25 schools, benefitting more than 8800 students! In addition, nearly 3000 trees, as well as more than 500 sacred rudraksh trees have been planted in dozens of locations throughout Uttarakhand, including in parks, community centres and protected village areas.







Smt. Kiran Bali, Global Chair of the world's largest interfaith organisation, the United Religions Initiative, plants the first tree of URI's new Tree Planting intitiative with Swamini Lakshmi Saraswati (Adityananda)



Above and below: young volunteers join Ganga Action Parivar to plant tulsi, a healing and holy herb, in Veerpur, Rishikesh.



Mr. Nishit and Ms. Sonal Kotecha celebrate Krishna Janmasthmi with Mr. Vinod Lodhia in London by planting trees with children



Mr. Parth Sarathi and Ms. Mona Parthsarathi came to Parmarth to celebrate their son, Sid's, green birthday, personally planting 11 trees, and inspiring the plantation of 100 more trees on the special day.



Relief for Yamkashwar

200 Flood-Stricken Families Are Provided with Aid



Just as monsoons were nearing an end, in late August, due to heavy rainfall in regions of Yamkeshwar and Kotdwar, many villages were devastated by landslides and floods. Coming quickly into action, nearly 200 families were provided for by the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance, Ganga Action Parivar and the Divine Shakti Foundation, under the umbrella of Project Hope, by distributing relief materials, providing medical care and ensuring that the displaced populations were properly provided for during their tragic time of need.



A SPECIAL THANKS TO PATHVIJAY JAIN DHARMACHAKRA CHARITABLE TRUST, VACHUBHAI AND HIS TEAM, FOR THEIR COMPASSIONATE DEDICATION TO THIS CRUCIAL RELIEF WORK IN YAMKESHWAR









BIO-SAND WATER FILTERS

for the Health of the Children of India





Pujya Swamiji met with South Asian Pure Water Inc President, Mr. Mike Lipman and India Coordinator, Ms. Shivani Kumar, along with Shri Rakesh Khareji, Former Executive Director of THDC and Ms. Rachna Bimalji, dedicated Ganga Action Parivar member and Professor at Delhi University, to discuss bringing Biosand Filters to all over India.

This season, 5 Biosand Filters were installed in three Dehradun-based schools, providing clean water to over 600 children. Plans are underway to provide every school in Uttarakhand with clean water through these filters. Pujya Swamiji gave the beautiful slogan "sudh jal aur sudh phal is key to swasth tan aur swasth maan," explaining that pure water and fresh fruit are the keys to healthy bodies and minds.

FICCI YOUNG LADIES ORGANISATION Discusses Projects for the Greater Good



The Young FICCI Ladies Organisation (YFLO) from Kolkatta visited Parmarth Niketan for satsang and Ganga Aarti. YFLO is the youth wing of the FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO), established in 1983 as a division of the Federation of Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), with the vision of The Power to Empower. FLO is a non-profit organization, with over 2000 members across 8 chapters nationwide. The group had a beautiful satsang and darshan in which Pujya Swamiji inspired them to help turn the world into a better place.



THE PARMARTH NIKETAN FAMILY CLEANS SWARGASHRAM









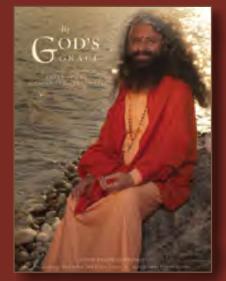


SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS



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:

<u>www.parmarth.com</u> (Parmarth Niketan Rishikesh) <u>www.gangaaction.org</u> (Ganga Action Parivar) <u>www.washalliance.org</u> (Global Interfaith WASH Alliance) <u>www.divineshaktifoundation.org</u> (Divine Shakti Foundation),

<u>www.projecthope-india.org</u> (Project Hope), <u>www.ihrf.com</u> (India Heritage Research Foundation)



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WATCH OUR VIDEOS

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