

International Yoga Festival

Jointly Organized by Uttarakhand Tourism and Parmarth Niketan
& World Water Day Celebrated in Devprayag

H.H. Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji
Devprayag – March 2016







On 22 March, we took a beautiful yatra up to Devprayag, where the River Ganga is formed from the confluence of the Bhagirathi and Alakananda Rivers, to celebrate World Water Day. This annual international observance provides an opportunity for people everywhere to not only learn about water-related issues, but to be inspired to take action and make a difference.







Globally, 1 out of every 10 people do not have access to clean drinking water. Every 90 seconds, a child somewhere in the world dies from a water-related disease. In India alone 1, 600 children die every day because they lack access to clean water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH). In Deyprayag,

our Global Interfaith WASH Alliance (GIWA) was joined by UPLIFT Connect, Unify, and musicians from the United States, Israel, Iran and many other countries to meditate, pray, and take pledges to protect and preserve our blessed and divine water everywhere.



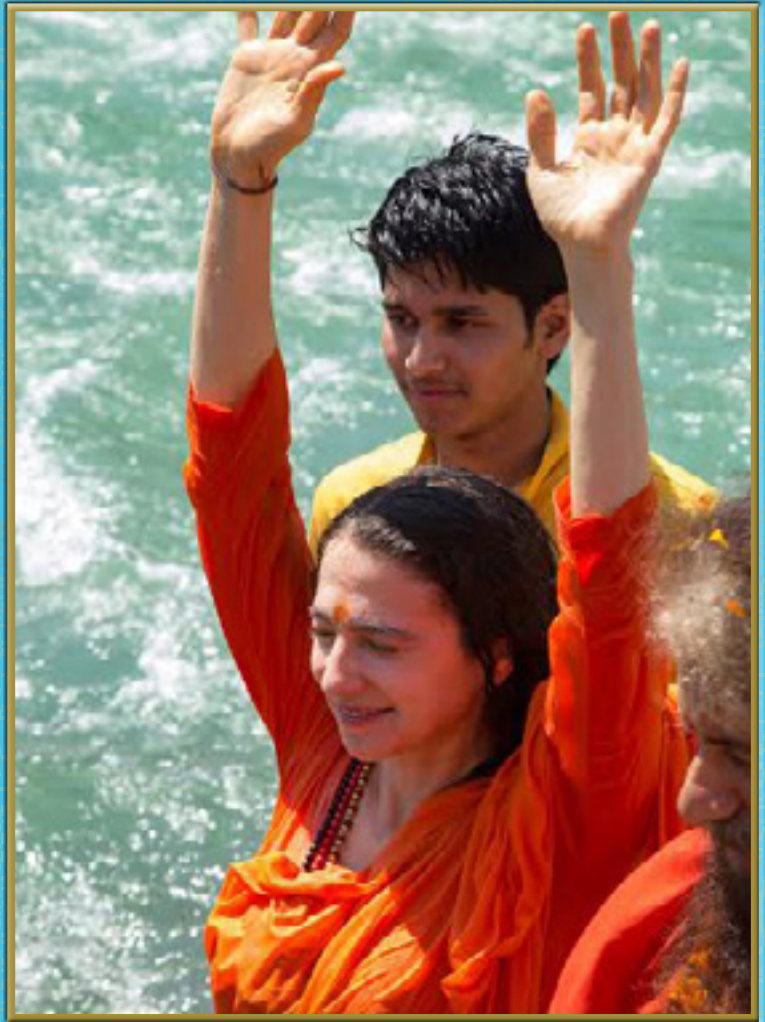


This year we celebrated World Water Day by taking a sacred journey to the place where Ganga is formed. We began the evening with a sacred yagna and aarti ceremony, and then Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji and Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswatiji led us in prayers and pledges to protect and preserve our blessed and divine water, wherever we are living on the planet. The following day, we started with morning meditation and



a rejuvenating Yoga asana session that overlooked the gorgeous confluence in the natural surroundings of Devprayag. Afterwards, we also visited the holy ancient Raghunathji Mandir, which lies above the sangam and is where Lord Rama Himself came and performed sadhana and tapasya after killing Ravana in the battle at Lanka. The trip concluded with baths in the sangam and we returned to Rishikesh in time for the sacred ceremonial burning of the Holika effigy on the night before Holi.



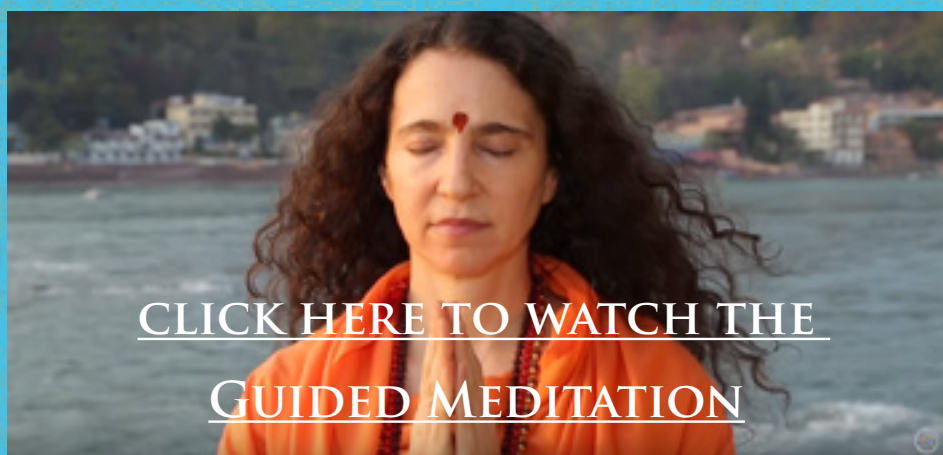
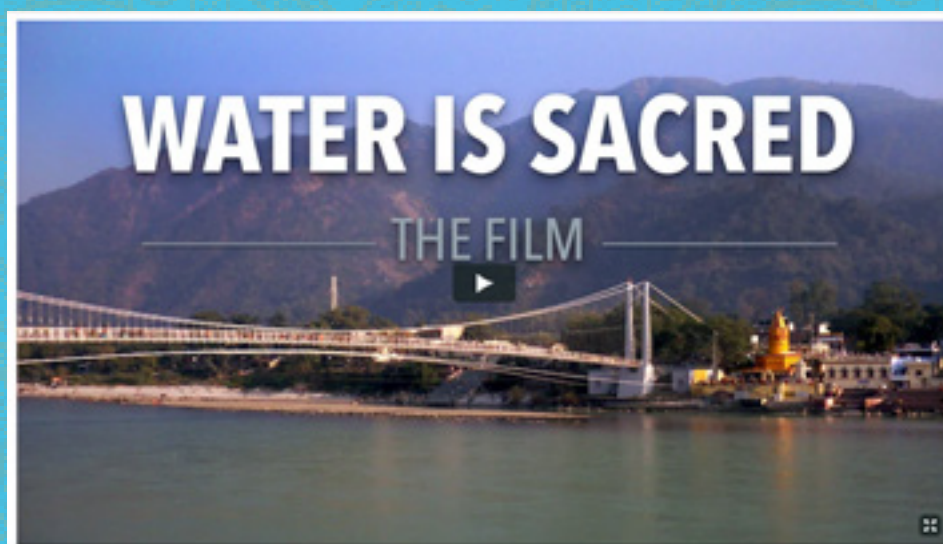


GIWA, co-founded by Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji, is the world's first initiative to engage leaders from all faiths as allies to create a world where every human being has access to WASH. GIWA made its voice heard throughout 2015 at the United Nations, World Bank, the Parliament of World's Religions, and the Kumbh Mela. The group erected toilets, started educational facilities, and worked on water filter systems.





At the auspicious time of World Water Day a beautiful Global Synchronized Meditation and Water Blessing was broadcast online and a new Uplift Connect film, entitled 'Water is Sacred' was launched. The film and meditation feature Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswati and Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswati along with many global leaders. As part of the #BlessTheWater campaign the film was shown in a special event on the banks of the Ganges River in Rishikesh, India at Parmarth Niketan Ashram. Watch the film online now:



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