

# PARMARTH

January 2018 Newsletter



*The end of 2017 inspired the beginning of another incredible year ahead. Highlights included Pujya Swamiji being honoured with the Mahatma Gandhi Lifetime Peace & Service Award by the Hon'ble President of India for His divine vision, leadership and tireless service to the nation; a large inspiring event of new vision in Udupi, Karnataka with Mananiya Mohan Bhagwatiji; and several large-scale events with all major faith communities in India, inspiring them to pledge and act to protect our planet and to work together towards a Swachh Bharat (Clean India) with Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for all. Sadhvi Bhagawatiji also gave several inspiring and powerful talks at the Hindustan Shikar Samagam event as well as at multiple events around the highly anticipated Global Entrepreneurship Summit.*



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Sadhvi Bhagawati  
Saraswati

Welcome All



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## VISIT OUR WEBSITES

[www.washalliance.org](http://www.washalliance.org) (Global Interfaith WASH Alliance)  
[www.parmarth.org](http://www.parmarth.org) (Parmarth Niketan, Rishikesh)  
[www.gangaaction.org](http://www.gangaaction.org) (Ganga Action Parivar)  
[www.divineshaktifoundation.org](http://www.divineshaktifoundation.org) (Divine Shakti Foundation)  
[www.projecthope-india.org](http://www.projecthope-india.org) (Project Hope)





## Puja Swamiji Receives Award from President of India

During the All Indian Gandhian Constructive Workers Conference in Delhi, Puja Swamiji was presented with the Mahatma Gandhi Life-time Peace and Service Award from the Harijan Sevak Sangh by the hands of HE the President of India Ram Nath Kovind for his unparalleled

work for interfaith harmony and service for all of humanity, with no discrimination, no expectation, no hesitation and no vacation.

As a symbol of compassion, oneness and unity, as emphasized by Mahatma Gandhiji, a piece of the Bodhi Tree from Bodh Gaya was planted by HE the President with Puja Swamiji and the other faith leaders and HSS leaders, to send an important message on environmental conservation and preservation.

The Honourable President emphasized in his speech how Puja Swamiji is renowned for bringing saplings from Rishikesh as gifts, to bring the green message to the masses.



**Stay tuned for a very special newsletter on this event, to be released on January 30th - Mahatma Gandhi Punyathithi - as a homage to his life and his message.**

## Puja Swamiji's Warm Meeting with HE the President of India



Puja Swamiji had a beautiful meeting with His Excellency the President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovindji on November 13 at the Rashtrapati Bhawan. Puja Swamiji was accompanied by Shri Sankar Kumar Sanyalji, President, Harijan Sevak Sangh (HSS), other esteemed officers of HSS, and Sushri Nandini Tripathi, Director of Implementation & Integration, GIWA. They briefed the Hon'ble President regarding the National Summit of HSS, being held in association with GIWA, on the 25 and 26 November in

which more than 5,000 members of HSS and tribal leaders from across India would be pledging together to work towards a clean and green India. The Hon'ble President invited Puja Swamiji and Shri Sanyalji to bring 100 of the leaders to President House on the 27th November for the official conclusion and he would graciously welcome and address them.



## National Religious Parliament in Udupi

Inspiring Religious Social Responsibility and Innovation in Religion  
to bring about a Clean & Green India

A high level National Religious Parliament was held in Udupi, Karnataka in which India's revered Shankaracharya and Acharyas from many peeths as well as saints and spiritual leaders joined Mananiya Mohan Bhagawatji, Chief (Sarsanghchalak) of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). On this occasion President of Parmarth Niketan Ashram, Puja Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji shared His inspiring and passionate views on the spiritual cultural heritage of India and how the saints and rishis of India are like moving temples

and a source of great inspiration for millions in India and across the world. He encouraged the revered saints attending the mega-confluence to bring their teachings to change people's thoughts and behaviours. He shared that time had come for Religious Social Responsibility and to bring innovation in our traditions, ritual and practices so that they could truly bring about a cleaner, greener and more serene nation for all Indians.

He also spoke about the need to bring together people from all

religious to protect their places of worship. He shared that the Ram Mandir should be developed as a Rashtriya Mandir (National Temple), re-constructed on its original place with everyone's support.

In concluding, He presented a sapling of Rudraksha to RSS Chief Mananiya Mohan Bhagwat ji, VHP Chief Praveen Togadia ji and Pejawar Mutt Head Vishweshwar Maharaj ji and also invited them to visit Rishikesh soon.





Click to watch video  
from the event

# Sadhvi Bhagawatiji Speaks at Hindustan Shikar Samagam in Lucknow

Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswatiji graced and inspired the Hindustan Times prestigious Shikar Samagam mega event in Lucknow on November 11.

The event had power-packed discussions by Hon'ble Home Minister of India Shri Rajnath Singhji, Hon'ble Chief Minister of UP Yogi Adityanathji, Hon'ble Government of India Law & Justice Minister Shri Ravi Shankar Prasadji, Hon'ble

Chief Minister of Uttarakhand Shri Trivendra Singh Rawatji, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Jharkhand Shri Raghubar Dasji, Former Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Shri Akhilesh Yadavji, famous Bollywood Actor Ajay Devgnji, Actress Vidya Balanji and many others on the theme of "Vision 2020: A New Vision for Development and Progress In India."

Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswatiji was on a

special panel with Amrit Sadhanaji, senior OSHO meditation teacher, moderated by Senior Anchor Ritul Joshiji. It was the only spiritual session of the day, placed in a beautiful prime-time slot between India's highest level political leaders. Sadhviji and Amrit Sadhanaji spoke on the spiritual perspective of Vision 2020, also yoga, meditation, dharma and living in divine connection in our daily lives.



Click here to see more





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# Historic Summit for Peace and Unity Motivates Pledges by 30,000



Pujya Swamiji was the Chief Guest at the mega Aman Evam Ekta Sammelan (Peace and Unity Summit), organised by the Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind, at the Indra Gandhi Stadium on the occasion of their centenary celebrations, with over 30,000 members to spread and share peace, harmony and work together towards a more sustainable/green world.

During the event a historic declaration was made. All assembled unanimously pledged to a historic proclamation, declaring, among other matters, "Islam preaches that the real Jihad means protecting all of humanity against bloodshed and establishing peace. In this spirit, we resolve to strongly condemn terrorism in all its forms.....We herein also declare that violence of any kind against innocent women, children and men—in word or in action—is anti-India, anti-human and anti-Islam. We condemn it, and undertake that we will perform our roles to stop violence, hatred, radicalism and divisive

acts wherever we may see it."

The historic declaration was read by Maulana Mahmood Madaniji, Secretary General, Jamiat Ulama I Hind, and he concluded by adding that "The majority of Indian people are peace-loving. Peace and oneness is in the DNA of this country and we pledge today that Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind will stand besides and work together to this end."

Pujya Swamiji lauded the efforts of the organisation for the past 100 years and said, "Time has come for all of us to work together to light the lamp of peace, oneness and unity. No longer should a few people taint an entire religion or an entire community. Today we must all work together as one family to create a strong, resilient nation that illustrates to the world the power of unity amidst our diversity. This is truly the need of the hour!"

Jathedar Akal Thakt Giani Gurbachan Singhji of the Golden Temple said that all religious texts and founders of religions have stressed on peace and urged people of different faiths to live like a family. He said that India equally belongs to people of all faiths and sects and not to any single community or faith. "Faiths may be different but they all lead to one ultimate truth, much like the purpose of water is to quench thirst no matter if it is called pani, aab or water," he said.

The Declaration adopted at, and ratified, by the conference amidst slogans of 'Hindustan zindabad' said: "In this crucial time...no longer shall words and acts of hatred and division be tolerated. We pledge to unify across all sects, faiths, castes and creeds to lend our hands and hearts for a new era dedicated to greener and more harmonious future, in which all are included, none is excluded and fellowship reigns true."





# Sadhvi Bhagawatiji Speaks at the Road to GES Event

*"For success in entrepreneurialship, 3C's: Creativity, Courage, Connectivity are absolutely necessary." - Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswati*



# enGENDERED Dialogues at Global Entrepreneurship Summit



"enGENDERed Dialogues 2.0 ...Empowering the Feminine" was held in Hyderabad, which gave rise to and stimulated conversations around the central theme of women leading initiatives, actualizing their unlimited potential and taking their place in the world.

Entrepreneurship Summit (GES), which organized a series of events highlighting the role that women have in changing the world.

The day featured a wide variety of women leaders from many different fields. Sadhviji inspired the audience, which included delegates attending the Global Entrepreneurship Summit hailing from an expansive array of social and professional fields, about her own spiritual journey in her talk "Stanford to Spirituality."

enGENDERed Dialogues was part of The Shift Series in association with NITI Aayog and tGELF (The Global Education and Leadership Foundation), as a part of the Road to Global

In partnership with the Government of the United States of America, NITI Aayog hosted the eighth annual Global Entrepreneurship Summit (GES) in Hyderabad, India during November 28-30, 2017. This was the first time GES was hosted in South Asia, and the event highlighted India's enabling environment for innovation and entrepreneurship – including actions by the government to increase the ease of doing business, eliminating unnecessary regulations, and supporting startups. The theme of the Summit was "Women First, Prosperity for All", highlighting the critical role women play in fostering global growth and prosperity and to celebrate entrepreneurial spirit in all its strength, diversity, and entirety.

The Road to GES (Global Entrepreneurship Summit) was organized at the Taj Mahal Palace in Mumbai, jointly organized by the Government of Maharashtra, Niti Aayog and FICCI, in which leaders from India and the world participated. The Road to GES Series were organized into six interactive entrepreneurial events. These events, aligned with the theme of the main summit "Women First, Prosperity for All", each provided entrepreneurs an opportunity to develop valuable people-to-people relationships, interact with industry leaders and pitch

their solutions to investors.

During the inaugural session of the program, GIWA International Secretary and President of the Divine Shakti Foundation Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswatiji said, "India is a country that believes in the principle of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (the world is a family). When we are talking about entrepreneurship in India, we are not talking about our business and profits, but rather what the energetic Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, has given as the form of development to everyone. With that vision we move forward. He said that talking about profits does not mean you have to open an NGO or take sanyas, but do business that is beneficial for everyone and that we can supply to the entire world.

Sadhviji also said that the key for success in entrepreneurship is "Three C's": Creativity, Courage, and Connectivity, instead of Competition, and that you should assess your success on these three sources. She emphasized strong participation in the area of women's entrepreneurship.







[Click here to see more](#)

## Interfaith Leaders Join Together for Prakash Parv in Patna

Message of unity during the grand concluding ceremony of the 350th Birth Year Celebrations of Sri Guru Gobind Singhji

Pujya Swamiji and leaders representing all faiths, including Acharya Lokesh Muniji (Jain faith), Fredrick De Souza (Christian faith), Ven. Dhammajyotiji (Buddhist faith), and Maulana Nehal Ahmad Khanji (Muslim faith), along with UNICEF Bihar Head Mr. Anisur Rahman, joined Jathedar Patna Sahib Giani Iqbal Singhji and the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Bihar in Patna at the grand concluding ceremony of the historic Prakash Parv, the completion of the 350th Birth Year Celebrations of Sri Guru Gobind Singhji.

## Pujya Swamiji inspires Lakhs of our Sisters & Brothers from the Muslim Community in Supaul, Bihar

When we speak the language of love, then the world is our home & all of creation is our family.

Pujya Swamiji and Maulana Mahmood Madani reached the Gandhi Maidan Supaul, Bihar to address and inspire an estimated 2 lakh members of the Jamiat Ulama I Hind, Bihar Chapter with a message of peace, unity & improved WASH. His highly anticipated visit was warmly welcomed by the Muslim youth amidst cheers and chants for interfaith harmony!

Pujya Swamiji shared about the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance's Swachh Bihar Yatra and His support of the Govern-

ment of Bihar's initiatives to herald an inclusive, cleaner and greener Bihar for all. He lauded the great leadership and vision of the Chief Minister of Bihar but encouraged everyone to support with their commitment, conviction and action to make the state flourish and thrive. He shared that by working together as one, across borders and boundaries, there would definitely be a Bahaar (season of fertility, growth and progress) in Bihar. He led everyone in a pledge to work together towards building a cleaner and greener nation for all.







[Click here to watch Pujya Swamiji's full speech](#)

**Pujya Swamiji shared:** "We need to move from temples to toilets. To pollute the water is a green crime, it is violence. Let sanitation and meditation go together. Service should be based on need and not based on religion. God is the first volunteer, with no discrimination, no vacation. We sleep but He breathes for us, you close your eyes and He is there. When we chant, we pray for all - not for me, but for all. Hence, even if you cannot go to mosque, masjid or church sometimes, become a volunteer, give your service."



# All India Conference on Volunteering with Caritas India

Christian and Hindu Leaders inspire pledge for service for a better future for all



The All India Conference for Volunteering for Change, organised by Caritas India, was held at the United Service Institution of India in New Delhi, on November 9th and 10th, 2017. There were over 200 delegates, interfaith, and movement leaders, from India and abroad. Pujya Swamiji and Sadhvi Bhagawatiiji graced the event with inspiration and wisdom, along with other such eminent speakers as, H.E. Most Rev. Glambattista Diquattro, Apostolic Nuncio, Ap-

ostolic Nunciature, H.E. Most Rev. Jacob Mar Barnabos, Bishop of Gurgaon, Mr. Tony Castleman, South Asia Representative, Catholic Relief Services, India Health Break and many other esteemed participants.

The importance of volunteering as a means of social change, promotion of equality, and development of sustainable long-term goals was an important theme at this conference.



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# 150th Birth Anniversary of Param Krupalu Dev Shrimad Rajchandraji

Pujya Rakeshbhai Javerji welcomes Pujya Morari Bapuji, Pujya Swamiji and other eminent interfaith leaders for this special celebrations in Dharampur, Gujarat

On the blessed occasion of Kartik Purnima (full moon of the month of Kartik), Pujya Swamiji graced the 150th Birth Anniversary of Param Krupalu Dev Shrimad Rajchandraji. He was warmly welcomed by Pujya Rakeshbhai Javeriji, eminent Jain monk, to Dharampur, Gujarat for the grand finale of the three day celebrations. During the celebration, the foundation stone of the Shrimad Rajchandra Hospital was blessed and inaugurated by Pujya Morari Bapuji, Pujya Rakeshbhaiji, Pujya Swamiji, Ven Bhikkhu Sanghasenaji, Pujya Acharya Lokesh Muniji and other respected dignitaries. They also visited the hospital site where the 250 bed multi specialist healthcare centre would be established and performed a special bhoomi poojan or ground breaking

ceremony. They then offered their respects to the largest statue of Pujya Shrimad Rajchandra ji, which had been unveiled on the first day of the celebrations, performing pooja and abhishek to him, and shared beautiful speeches of love and compassion.

Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji said on the occasion, "On the auspicious occasion of Kartik Purnima, it is the divine example of Guru Nanakji, Yugpurush Shrimad Rajchandraji & our great spiritual leaders -our rich spiritual heritage- that allows not only to celebrate the full moon but also inspires us to reach the fullness of our own beings. In this state of fullness selfless service, compassion and love flows forth."



# Go Green, Go Organic Drive in Dehradun

HH Drikung Kyabgon Chetsang Rinpoche and Pujya Swamiji's friendship blossoms into thousands of Lamas taking a massive pledge to Go Green and Go Organic in Dehradun

The Go Green, Go Organic Clean Up Drive Event, organized by the International Drikung Kagyu Council, as a part of their 800th Mahaparinirvana of Lord Jigten Sumgon at Drikung Kagyu Institute, Kulhan, Sahastradhara, Dehradun, was led by HH Drikung Kyabgon Chetsang Rinpoche and was inspired by a mutual discussion that he had had with Pujya Swamiji in Myanmar. Pujya Swamiji said, "Respected Drikung Chetsang Rinpocheji and I share a beautiful friendship and have agreed to

work together, hand in hand and heart in heart, for the cause of protecting our environment, planting trees, purifying, preserving our rivers and helping create & sustain a Swachh, Sundar and Swasth Dehradun and Uttarakhand. In this spirit, during their week-long mega celebrations in Dehradun, having you welcome thousands of devotees from around the world to our great Himalayan state and having you share your great commitment and conviction to this cause of environmental conservation and river restoration will

send a deeply meaningful and powerful message to them and to the countries that they represent."

After the flag off ceremony thousands of participants came together to clean up various parts of Dehradun (i.e. Kulhan, IT Park, Sahastradhara and river side, Nagal village, Mussorie by-pass, Rajpur, Doon, ISBT Doon, Clock Tower, etc.), as well as to distribute hygiene kits, medicinal supplies, utensils, and blankets to people in need.



[Click here to see more](#)





## Interfaith Meeting in Delhi

Faiths discuss technology, environment and interfaith harmony

As ambassadors of World Peace, Security and Nation Building, religious leaders discussed in a closed door meeting in Delhi how they could lead their followers in understanding other religions, religious sensitivities and working together towards common amity.

In keeping with this focus, an interfaith

meeting was hosted by Acharya Sabha, under Chairman H.H. Swami Avadheshananda Giriji and SG Swami Paramatmanand Saraswatiji in Delhi. This was a follow up meeting to the last meeting in Myanmar. The agenda focused on social and economic globalization, environmental protection, the use of new technologies of communication for the

dissemination of information, and social media.

Pujya Swamiji, HH Drikung Rinpocheji, Father Paul of Caritas India, Sufi Salman Chisthy of the Ajmer Dargah, and many others were present at the round table discussions.



## Panchayat Mahakumbh

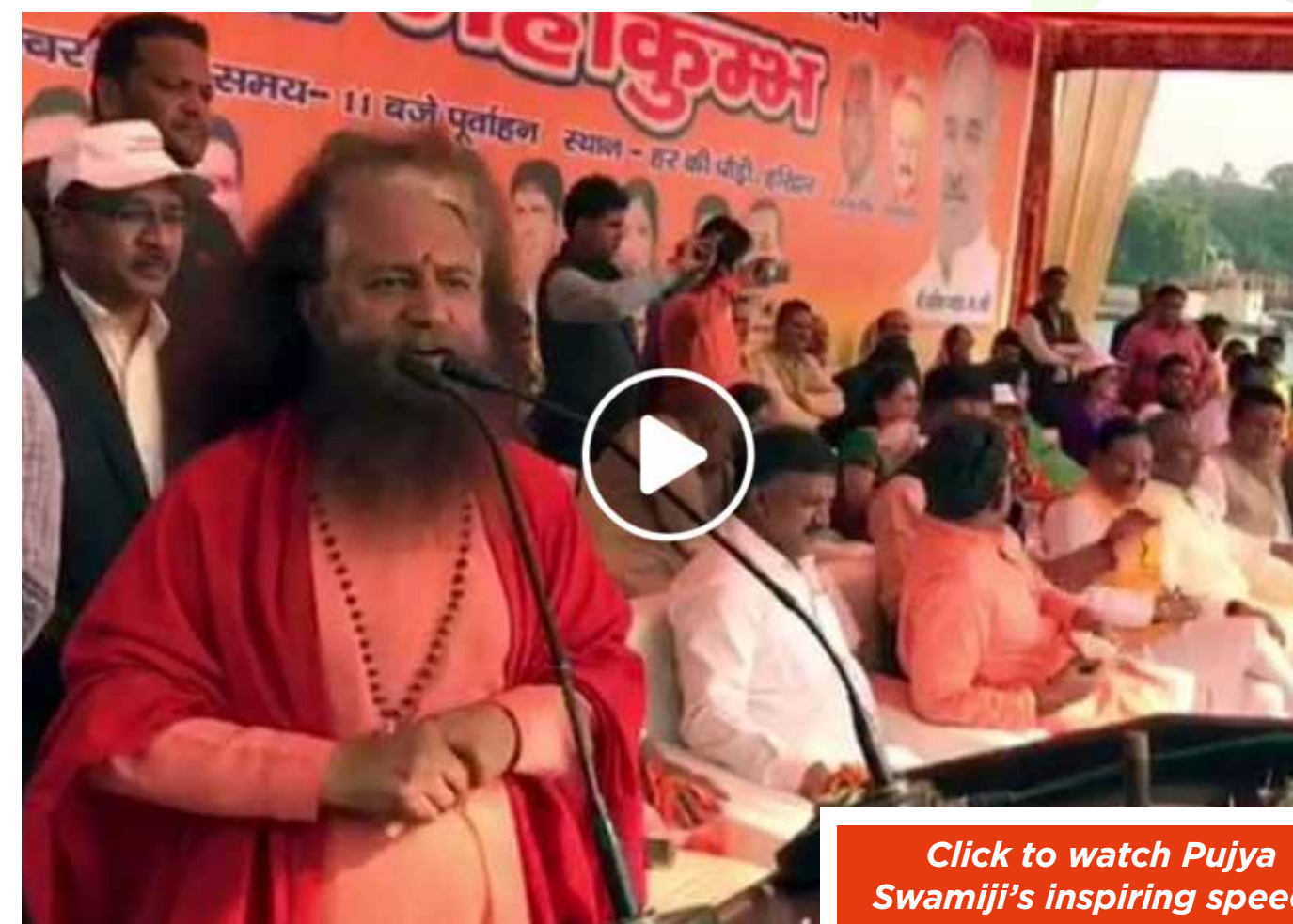
Thousands of village leaders gather from across Uttarakhand for a massive campaign for Clean Uttarakhand and Clean Ganga by the State Government

Thousands of gram pradhans, block pramukhs and urban local body leaders gather during the Panchayat Mahakumbh in Haridwar and are inspired by Pujya Swamiji powerful and passionate speech about the gifts of nature that Uttarakhand brings to the world. Gracing the occasion was the Education Minister,

Government of Uttarakhand and several MPs and MLAs.

Pujya Swamiji emphasizes the great need for clean water for all beings and shares that in the origin state of the National River Ganga we should be drinking Gangajal not bottled water. Hence, He encourag-

es us to work to preserve the pristine and pure quality of the river. He also shares that with rising air pollution the Himalayan state can become the Oxygen Tourism Destination of the world! He encourages every representative of the villages in Uttarakhand to protect their rivers, forests and natural heritage.



[Click to watch Pujya Swamiji's inspiring speech](#)





# Women Pledge for Swachh Bharat and Empowerment in Uttar Pradesh

[Click here to see more](#)

A unique celebration of the divine feminine and women's critical role in the Swachh Bharat Mission took place in Vindhyachal, Uttar Pradesh recently. Tens of thousands of women from local village areas across Uttar Pradesh gathered with great excitement and enthusiasm for the Shakti Sammelan, focused on women's empowerment and upliftment. The sammelan concluded with a mega event graced by the presence and inspiring words of HH Pujya Swamiji and Sadhvi Bhagawatiiji. The Central Government Minister of State for Health and Family

Welfare, Ms Anupriya Patel traveled from Delhi back to her home constituency for this special event. The programme was also blessed with the participation of many other experts and dignitaries leading this movement.

The Global Interfaith WASH Alliance's (GIWA) team and WASH on Wheels information, entertainment and behavior-change campaign truck and street show puppets also traveled to Mirzapur from the villages of Bihar where they have been traveling through the slums

and villages since October, teaching local villagers and townspeople how to lead their own communities towards a Swachhta Kranti or Clean Revolution. A mass pledge led by Pujya Swamiji and Sadhvi Bhagawatiiji to work to ensure universal access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene was made and another Maha Shakti Kumbha is planned in the upcoming Kumbha Mela in 2019 in Allahabad.



# GIWA's Swachh Bharat/Swachh Bihar Yatra Campaign Rallies the Masses for Inspired Change

From Small Villages to Booming Metropolises, GIWA's Clean Revolution Campaign Inspires Every Day to Take Action for a Clean and Healthy India

Thousands of people at the massive Saras Mela Festival in Bihar, India were drawn to the main stage by a matchless vision of the Gods, Shiva, Ganga and Saraswati as they performed in flowing robes. Their performance was unique: compelling the masses to build and use toilets as a call of faith.

The show is part of the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance's historic Clean Revolution Campaign, which is currently in three large Indian states to inspire a clean and healthy India through its 35-person team of social workers, community educators and performers.

The reason is crucial: over 400 million people in India don't have toilets, leading to a public health crisis that results in countless lives lost or impaired due to contaminated water and land. Studies also find that many people who do have toilets are still not using them due to the lack of understanding of their importance. Using its trucks and travelling theatres, GIWA's Clean Revolution campaign is igniting new waves of understanding, so that the cause for clean sanitation can be taken up by all as a call of faith.

And the campaign is working. According to evaluations, over 90% of participants agree afterwards that they are more likely to compel their neighbours to build and use toilets as a result of the multi-day programme, which includes stage shows, community meetings, children's rallies, classes for community motivators and masons and more.

GIWA's unique approach interweaves faith-based messaging with conventional interventions in order to leverage impact. Understanding that on-ground change is essential in light of rapidly-approaching SBM and deadlines, GIWA's Swachh Bihar Yatra is taking into account the entire landscape: from the grand level of mass events to ground level meetings, early-morning interventions and more.

Swachh Bihar Yatra Activities Include:

- Dynamic live performances
- Lively audience interactions
- The screening of motivational videos featuring India's foremost faith leaders
- CLTS triggering techniques
- Children's rallies and marches
- Early-morning follow-ups/individual discussions
- Community meetings
- Planning sessions with community leaders
- Mass and personal pledges
- Special events
- Data collection for planning of follow-up interventions in coordination with relevant governmental agencies
- and more

To strengthen the campaign's on-ground impact, a special GIWA team will also provide follow-up classes to help promote the fast and effective building of toilets. These will include:

- CLTS (Community-Led Total Sanitation) triggering activities
- Community outreach training for community leaders and officials
- The training of local faith leaders
- The training of women as toilet masons for their communities
- and more

As an intriguing feature of the programme is the screening of videos of some of India's foremost faith leaders, as they share their inspirational words on the importance of toilets and cleanliness for the health of our children and the future of India.



## Inspiring Hope...

Said Balamurugan D., Chief Executive Officer-Cum-Mission Director, LSBA (SBM Bihar), "Whatever has been done by GIWA has proven to be very good because each method has a different effect... the help that has been received through GIWA's efforts has been every effective and useful in creating awareness about sanitation."

Said the District Administration of Nalanda in an endorsement of GIWA's work, "Engagement of [GIWA] in the district has resulted in bringing about a remarkable behavioural change among the people and is playing a pivotal role in the making of a Nirmal Nalanda."

Said HH Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji, Founder/Chair, Global Interfaith WASH Alliance, "To me, sanitation is more important than meditation, and the Swachh Bharat Yatra represents this philosophy in action. From the grand level to the ground level, the campaign is meant not to just inspire, but to equip every-day people to champion the cause in their own communities. By empowering the people in such a way, you are also empowering a cleaner, greener, healthier future for all."

Said Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswatiji, GIWA Secretary General, "we are so happy to see village gates thrown open for our Swachh Bharat Yatra, which is touching the hearts of countless people as it travels through the state. It shows the faith-based approach can make the difference that is needed."

Said Swamini Adityananda Saraswatiji, GIWA Director of Programmes, Partnerships and Development, "now is the time to go forth from home to hamlet, village to city and rally all towards a mass social movement for lasting change. Together, it can be done. Together, it will be done."



# Rejuvenating Rispina River in Dehradun Begins



[Click here to see more](#)

The Uttarakhand government launched a campaign to revive the Rispina and Kosi rivers on the 6th of November. As per the plan, saplings would be planted near the banks of the rivers and efforts are underway to ensure the rivers flow. During the function, Pujya Swamiji blessed the efforts and pledged to provide Rs 1 crore financial assistance from Parmarth Niketan in the campaign to revive Rispina, originally known

as the Rishiparna river. Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawatji along with Rajendra Singh - known as 'Jal Purush' and Chief Secretary Utpal Kumar Singh, took a pledge to keep the rivers clean. With the support of Uttarakhand Science Education and Research Centre, the government has formed a junior task force of students. The aim is to bring together experts and students in the revival process. Pujya Swamiji provided His

wise suggestions/guidance to this process. He said, "We must work on the ground level, encouraging and engaging the locals, but we must also work on the grand level to ensure every water body in Uttarakhand flows clean and pristine..."



## Follow up meeting and visit of HESCO Anil Joshiji



Himalaya Putra Dr Anil Joshiji, Indian green activist and the founder of Himalayan Environmental Studies and Conservation Organization (HESCO), was recently welcomed home to Parmarth Niketan(Rishikesh), on the holy banks of Mother Ganga, for the divine Ganga Aarti recently. He had fruitful discussions with Pujya Swamiji on river conservation, protection and preservation of the Himalayan mountain range, working together to rejuvenate the River Ganga and its tributaries. We also planned to start for Uttarakhand as a model for the world by engaging the people at the grassroots

level to be connected and to actively contribute in this movement. We spoke about how the divine Ganga Aarti is an opportunity to generate mass awareness and connection with our rivers. We also discussed establishing trainings to create individuals who can inspire the change in their communities. I honoured him as a truly green leader and a Karma Yogi with a sacred Rudraksha sapling. Global Interfaith WASH Alliance (GIWA) and Ganga Action Parivar (GAP) will work closely with HESCO in the days to come to bring about this vital and much needed change.



# 100 Years of The Yoga Institute Celebrated in Mumbai

Pujya Swamiji and Sadhvi Bhagawati graced the 100th anniversary of The Yoga Institute in Mumbai, one of the oldest yoga schools of the world, alongside Hon'ble Vice President of India, Shri M Venkaiah Naidu; Hon'ble Governor of Maharashtra, Shri C Vidyasagar Rao; Dr HR Nagendra, Chancellor Svasya; Dr DR Kartikeyan, Former CBI Chief; Honble Minister of Education, Government of Maharashtra, Shri Vinod Tawde; Dr Ishwar Basavaraddiji, Morarji Desai Yoga Institute; Acharya Lokesh Muniji; Shri Subodh Tiwari, Kaivalyadhama Ashram; Pt Radheshyam Mishra, Ujjain Yoga Life society; and many others.

The Hon'ble Vice President gave a deeply inspiring and even humorous speech, in which he shared, "If work, knowledge and devotion are combined, the work we do gets transformed into something quite extraordinary. The Yoga Institute has combined these three aspects and have become pace setters. They have designed the Yoga Institute as a 'Life School' and have been spreading the

'yoga for the householder' movement in the world. I hope many more institutes will also follow the example set by this Institute and continue to make our lives healthier and more fulfilling."

Pujya Swamiji gave a riveting speech in which He said, "Yoga is not just meant to be practiced in the caves but can be practiced in California or anywhere in the world, at any time and in every moment. Yoga is beyond religion. It's for all and provides immense benefits to all. It's spiritual, secular & scientific."

Pujya Swamiji also gave modern yogic sutras that touched everyone, especially the youth, at the event: "Yoga connects us to our inner net which is much more important than the internet. People always ask me when they come to the ashram if we have WiFi, but I remind them that the real question when one comes to the Himalayas should be 'Why I?', not 'WiFi'. The answer to this question lies in Yoga. Yoga is not what you do but who you are. I am so proud of the entire lineage and three generations who have served

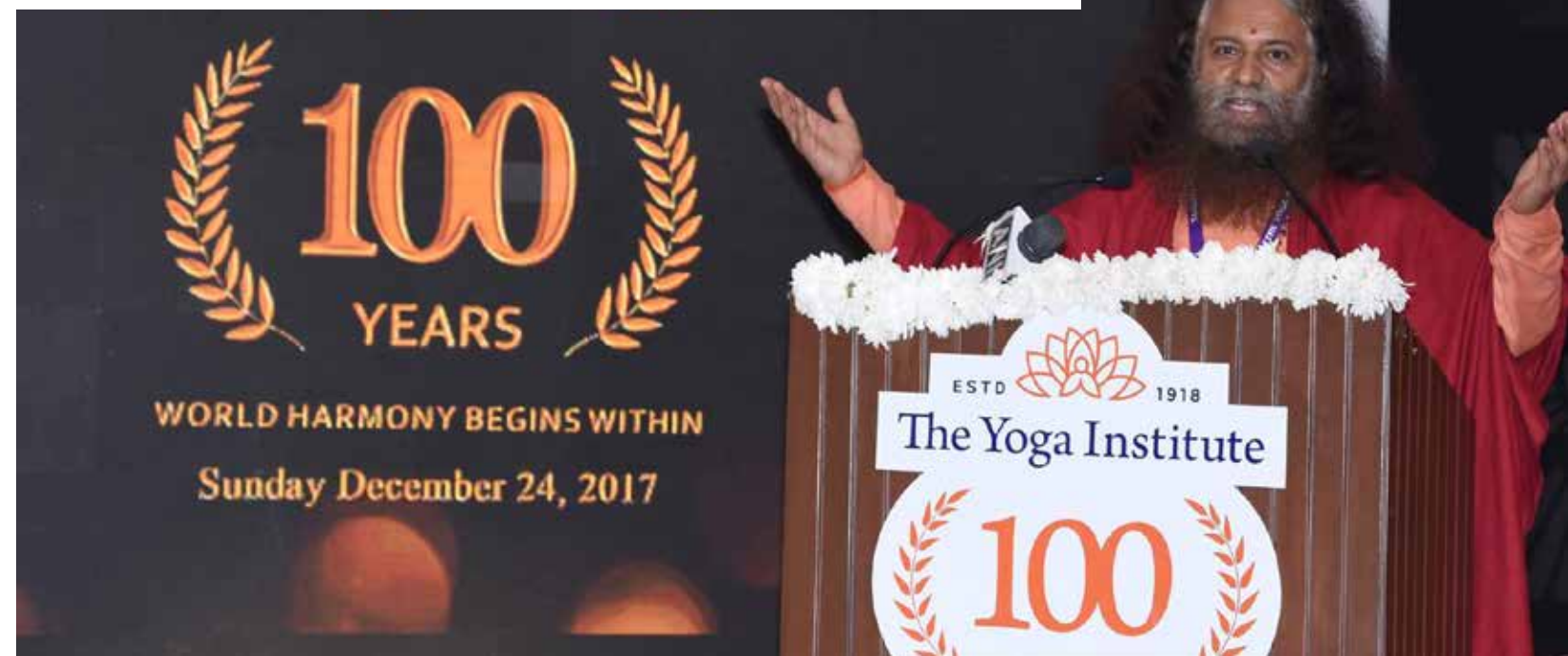
these 100 years of the Yoga Institute. I am especially proud of our Hrishhi Yogendra for being a true example of Yoga, his decision to serve and live up to his parents great legacy of Yoga is one that sets an example for every youth."

Smt Hansa Yogendraji shared about The Yoga Institute's #100years young journey as well as their commitment to share and spread yoga far and wide. She also spoke about the great contributions of her husband Dr Jayadev Yogendra and the seed planted by his father Shri Yogendra in 1918 at "The Sands," the residence of the 'Grand Old Man of India' Dadabhai Naoroji, at Versova beach near Bombay. It was the first yoga center to offer courses for free to men, women and children of any caste or creed. A special movie was premiered on the occasion sharing this inspiring journey.

All speakers lauded the contributions of the Yoga Institute and shared how Yoga cuts across borders and boundaries, uniting people from every walk of life.



[Click here to see more](#)





Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswati gave a beautiful keynote address at the International Yoga Seminar, during the second day of the two day inaugural celebration of The Yoga Institute's 100th anniversary, at St. Xavier's College, Mumbai's yesterday.

Sadhvi Bhagawatiji said so beautifully, "What we need is a culture of harmony for a better tomorrow. However, that true and complete harmony has to come from within. We can only share with the world that which we have ourselves. Yoga gives us that internal union, internal harmony with which we can then be tools of bringing harmony and union to the world. Therefore, absolutely the culture of tomorrow is the culture of yoga, which will ensure we live in harmony with ourselves, with others and with our planet."

Other eminent speakers that evening included Dr Hegde, world renowned cardiologist, medical scientist, educationist and author; Dr Ishwar Basavaraddiji, Director of MDNYI, representing the Ministry of AYUSH, and the Indian Yoga Association; and Vineet Chander, Coordinator Hindu Life Programme, Princeton University. Padmashri Dr DR Karthikeyanji, Former CBI Chief, chaired the event. Padmashri Dr HR Nagendraji, Chancellor of SVASYA, presided over the event, in the divine presence of Dr Hansa Yogendraji, Director of the Yoga Institute, Mumbai. Sadhviji also warmly invited the yoga luminaries to join for the International Yoga Festival, in the first week of March 2018, at Parmarth Niketan.

She also attended the advisory committee meeting on the first day with Shri DR Kartikeyan, Acharya Lokesh Muniji, Shri Subodh Tiwariji, Dr Ishwar Basavaraddiji, Smt Hansa Yogendraji and her son Shri Hrishi Yogendraji at the Yoga Institute, Mumbai to plan for the events and activities throughout the upcoming Centenary Celebrations.

They brainstormed ideas for year-long yoga awareness events, art exhibitions, educational institutes involvement and camps that will take place all over the India and the world. They also shared many other ideas of how they could propagate and spread the message and purpose of yoga with the world by involving and engaging all yoga institutes.



[Click here to see more](#)



[Click to watch Sadhvi Bhagawatiji's keynote address](#)







# World Vedas Conference

*"Knowledge from the Web must be combined with Wisdom from the Vedas for speed as well as direction." Pujya Swamiji*

Honble Vice-President Venkaiah Naiduji joined Pujya Swami Agniveshji, Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji, Pujya Acharya Bal Krishna ji and many others to inaugurate the World Vedas Conference at the Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts (IGNCA) today.

The three-day 'Vishwa Ved Sammelan' (World Vedas Conference) had in-depth discussions on the universal message of the ancient scriptures to bring world peace, ensure human rights and work towards the Sustainable Development Goals. It will also have in-depth discussions on de-mystifying various myths and fallacies surrounding the Vedas and Manu Smriti.

The event started with a beautiful havan (fire ceremony) for world peace and environmental preservation, amid chanting of the Vedic hymns by Hindu and Muslim women and girls to showcase that the ancient scriptures are available for the whole of mankind to derive its benefits. Thereafter there was a beautiful lamp lighting ceremony with all of the dignitaries and words of inspiration and motivation.

Hon'ble Vice President of India, underlining that the Vedas are the earliest works of ancient knowledge and philosophy in India, said our civilization, culture, thoughts and philosophy are rooted in the Vedas. He said the Vedas are the source of knowledge and guide us to advance in economic, social, educational and political fields and also maintain high moral and ethical standards. The Vedic philosophy states that truth, non-violence, patience, penance and spiritual uplift are the foundations of a human life. The Vedas

convey the message of religious harmony, equality and nation's progress. Quoting the Rigveda, Verse 5.60.5, Shri Venkaiah Naidu said no individual in the society is either big or small. The Vice President noted how Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati, the builder of modern India and Founder of Arya Samaj, had given the message "Back to the Vedas" to the world, how the Vedas had been endorsed by the renowned Orientalist Max Mueller, and how renowned philosopher and Nobel Laureate Maurice Maeterlinck had said the Vedas are the only and incomparable source of all knowledge.

Pujya Swami Agniveshji said, "All the major religions of the world have been inspired by the core spiritual values of the Vedas - one God, one Universe, one human family - but the clarion call for Humanism, *Manurbhva* - that is to be Human - has become distorted. We Indians should be proud of the fact that the efforts of our Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and his government has succeeded in making Yoga an international household buzzword and practice and our new mission should be to make Vedas and *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam* [the world is one family] a global mission. Finally, I support the main resolution of this Conference to introduce the Universal Spiritual Values of the ancient scriptures, the Vedas in the Education system towards value orientation inculcating Humanism as Dharma."

Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji said, "Along with surfing web pages we must not forget to read and reflect upon our ancient and timeless Ved pages. India is a country where knowledge from the web can be combined with wisdom from the Ved. This will

ensure that our speed and growth has a direction and is truly sustainable. This will also ensure that our development is one that is in harmony with our environment and is inclusive of all humanity regardless of caste, colour, creed, race, religion and region. We must also not just read and know the Vedas but we must live the Vedas."

Each day of the conference began with the sacred fire ceremony. Many couples having interfaith and intercaste marriages were also felicitated during the three-day event.

Special sessions on the World Parliament and endorsement of the Constitution for the Federation of Earth, the Vedas, the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and declaration on human rights were other salient features of the conference.

Eminent speakers of the event included Sadhvi Bhagawatiiji; Rajya Sabha Vice Chairman P J Kurien; Surdarshan Jugessur; Arif Mohammad Khan; Acharya Nardeva; the President of World Constitution and Parliament Association, Dr. Glen T. Martin; and his dedicated team of distinguished Advisors including Swami Chaturvedi of Sri Ramanuja Mission Trust Chennai; Dr Vishwanath Karad Chancellor of World Peace University MIT Pune; DR C Rajkumar, Vice Chancellor of Jindal Global University Sonapat; Dr. P. V. N Murthy, Chairman of Vedic Science Research Institute; and the great scientist and Chancellor of Nalanda University Dr Vijay P. Bhatkar of supercomputer fame were also congratulated for contributing to these efforts.





[Click here to see more](#)

On the second day of the inspiring World Vedas Conference, Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswatiji gave a rousing speech on the Vedas & the environment. Speaking on the incomprehensible overconsumption of water, Sadhviji cited, “The amount of water that goes into the production of one family’s meal of meat is about 10,000 litres of water. The amount of water that we use in two months of bathing

is used to produce one meal of chicken. There is no global food shortage, there is no global water shortage. What we have is a global consciousness shortage. Expand your consciousness, not your consumptions.”

Sadhviji then encouraged the crowd to not just speak the Vedas, not just study the Vedas, but actually live the Vedas.



## Pujya Swamiji Speaks About Talaq at World Vedas Conference

Pujya Swamiji’s speaks passionately and compassionately on the issue of triple talaq at the World Vedas Conference. He says we must give “talaq to talaq” (divorce and end the triple talaq practice). He shared the pain and anguish of many of His muslim sisters and honoured their spirit and their sacrifices by giving them a sacred sapling!



[Click to watch Pujya Swamiji’s inspiring speech](#)





# Sach Bharat: World Confluence of Humanity, Power & Spirituality

A beautiful two day conclave entitled “Sach Bharat: the World Confluence of Humanity, Power and Spirituality - Enlightenment: A Journey Within Through Service” took place at the Westin Hotel in Kolkata.

The conference was inaugurated by Hon’ble Governor of Tripura, Shri Tathagata Roy and HE Rosalia Artega Serrano, Former President of Ecuador, and blessed by Pujya Swamiji, Imam Umer Ilyasiji, Mananiya Indresh Kumarji, Acharya Dr Lokesh Muniji, Swami Supranandji Maharaj, Sadhvi Bhagawatiji, Sardar Paramjit Chandhok, Ven Bhikkhu Sanghasenaji, Archbishop Cardinal Teleshore Toppo and presided by Dr HP Kanoriaji.

The assembly of luminaries speaking also included: HH Princess Maria Amor DD, Founder-President of We Care for Humanity; Sir Mark Tully, Former Bureau Chief BBC; Dr M Aslam Parvaiz; and many others.

Pujya Swamiji & Sadhvi Bhagawatiji addressed the august gathering in two sessions -- the morning interfaith session on “Spirituality Unfolds Humanity” and the afternoon in-depth session on “Spirituality & Climate Change” moderated by Sir William Mark Tully.

In the morning session, Pujya Swamiji inspired the distinguished audience by

sharing, “All religions tell us first and foremost to be better human beings. We must join our hands and our hearts together to protect Shakti, our divine feminine, the power of creation, in the form of our Mothers and our Mother Nature. To me the true form of worship is in the service of the creation - that is the true Confluence of Humanity, Power & Spirituality.”

Sadhvi Bhagawatiji said, “This is really Sach Bharat (True India): to celebrate spirituality, shakti and service. When we live truly spiritual lives, we see the Self in all. Thus, service becomes automatic and an extension of our deepest nature. Humanity is not just a random assortment of 7.3 billion people any more than the human body is a random assortment of 50 trillion cells. In order to experience the true divine possibility of humanity, those 7.3 billion people have to work together in harmony the way the 50 trillion cells of our bodies do. That is why we need spirituality to help us truly unfold the possibility of humanity.”

In the afternoon session with leaders of Islam and Christianity taking part as well to discuss what their religions say about protection of the Earth, Pujya Swamiji explained that Hinduism teaches us to live as a yagna, to live by giving and serving, to live with the mantra “*Idam namam* - not for me but for you.” He said, “Sanatan Dharma teaches us that life is not about getting more but about BEING more. It is about filling our Self,

not just filling our shelves. When we focus on filling the Self not the shelves we will move back into a balanced and healthy way of living for all.” He ended by explaining, “When our focus shifts from selfish consumerism to living as a global family, when our priority shifts from “I” to “We” then Illness (of our own bodies and of the planet) becomes Wellness [when the I in Illness is changed to We then the word Illness becomes the word Wellness].”

Sadhvi Bhagawatiji gave an impassioned talk on the role of our actions and decisions on the state of the planet. She said, “Our scriptures and ancient rishis told us that the mind is the source of both our bondage and our freedom -- that pertains both to our own spiritual lives and the life of our planet. As the mind yells “more, more,” industries race to supply to our demand, thereby destroying our water, land and air. Spirituality teaches us *Santushti* - contentment, how we can be deeply content in our inner world so we don’t have to destroy the outer world in our attempt to fill our emptiness.”

She spoke about the role of the meat industry on global warming and the world’s water resources. She emphasized, “We do not have a global water shortage, food shortage or land shortage. We have a global consciousness shortage, and spirituality is that which should restore and revitalize our consciousness so we can truly live as one global, healthy family.”



[Click here to see more](#)



# Swachhta & Samrasta Sammelan

Political Leaders & Interfaith Leaders Unite for a Clean, Healthy & Harmonious India at Parmarth Niketan



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A two day massive Virat Hindustan Sangam was held at Parmarth Niketan with a special Swachhta Aur Samrasta Sammelan (Cleanliness & Equality Summit) that was led by Pujya Swamiji and Dr. Subramaniam Swamyji, Rajya Sabha MP and Former Cabinet Minister with eminent political and spiritual leaders from Uttarakhand.

Inspiring speeches on the message of cleanliness, interfaith harmony and equality were delivered to participants from across India, inclusive of followers from both South India and North India, and delegates from more than 12 countries.

Pujya Swamiji shared in His inspiring address, "This Virat Hindustan Sangam exemplifies the majestic and magnanimous principles which are nation is rooted in. It reminds us that only by remembering our virasat, our great cultural, spiritual and natural heritage, can we stay rooted in these core values of oneness, equality and cleanliness. Today, let us pledge to imbibe and live these values as well as ensure that we join together to find solutions to the various challenges facing our nation so that we may rise resilient and strong to guide the world towards a more peaceful and harmonious future.."

Dr Subramaniam Swamyji said, "Its great to see such a diverse gathering here. This truly illustrates the spirit of Hinduism to welcome all. I call to the youth of our country to learn and understand their culture. On the subject of cleanliness, the theme of this session, the lack of cleanliness that is seen today is not at all a symbol of our values or traditions. Our values and traditions have always emphasized and been rooted in cleanliness. Time has come to reconnect with these values. Hinduism has also always given a lot of respect to women. Hence, ensuring the security and equality of women, especially in regards to ensuring adequate sanitation facilities, is another key value we must uphold as Hindus. To this end, I am willing to serve with Pujya Swamiji's guidance and leadership towards improving cleanliness and sanitation in our country."

A beautiful water blessing ceremony and massive pledge for Swachhata and Samrasta followed. The two day conference also included participation in the Ganga Aarti ceremony at Parmarth, and was filled with cultural performances and dances that emphasised the urgent need to protect Mother Nature. It also included songs in Garhwali and Ghazals emphasizing the message of our inherent oneness with all of creation and all of humanity.

# Startup Investors Summit 2017 in Mumbai

Sadhvi Bhagawatiiji gave the keynote address at the Startup Investors Summit 2017 in Mumbai on the topic of "The Future is Now: Betting on A Startup India", organized and supported by NAMAN and #StartUpIndia and managed by Zoom Media.

The Startup Investors Summit focused on what is happening in and with startup investments

throughout India and how to enliven the space for more. This summit was for and by investors for creating a common platform to engage, discuss, debate, explain and envisage the past, present, and future of startups in India. The two-day summit gathered more than 100 speakers and thought leaders, over 500 investors, venture capitalists, private equity professionals, startups, representatives from the government and academicians.



[Click here to watch Sadhvi Bhagawatiiji's keynote address](#)





# Meeting of International Partnership on Religious & Sustainable Development (PaRD)

GIWA's work shared at PaRD's second annual meeting

Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswati, Secretary-General of Global Interfaith WASH Alliance (GIWA), represented GIWA at the International Partnership on Religious and Sustainable Development (PaRD)'s second annual meeting in the world-famous Wilton Park in England, co-sponsored by the Development wing of the Government of the United Kingdom.

PaRD is voluntary and open to all government and intergovernment entities active in the field of religion and development as well as humanitarian assistance. Current members include, Germany, the United Kingdom, the United States, Finland, the African Union, Canada, Norway, Denmark, the Global Fund, the Kaiciid Dialogue Centre, the World Bank, and the United Nations.

Sadhviji gave a presentation on the work being done by the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance in several major states of India, bringing about a true Clean Revolution for water, sanitation and hygiene. Other esteemed presenters spoke representing their respective organization's good works including: The Salvation Army, The World Bank, World Vision, Islamic Relief Worldwide and many others.



# International Society for Gene & Cell Therapy Conference in Bangalore

The International Society for Gene & Cell Therapy held its first Stem Cell Conference in India at the Indian Institute of Science's (IISc), Tata Auditorium, in Bangalore. Pujya Swamiji and Sadhvi Bhagawatiiji both sit on the advisory committee of the ISGCT and both graced the event with their presence as well as gave inspiring speeches.

There were nearly 50 renowned speakers from across the globe from Iran to the USA to the Netherlands. Such auspicious and diverse topics as Cooking and Diet, Holistic Stress Management, Astrology, to Gene Therapy in Surgery, Blood Cell Banking, and Stem Cells in Cancer, were on the programs of discussion.







[Click here to see more](#)

## International Human Rights Awards Ceremony

Pujya Swamiji was honoured with the Global Peace Award and Sadhvi Bhagwati Saraswati with the Ambassador of Peace Award at the 7th International Human Rights Awards Ceremony in Delhi, organised by the All India Council of Human Rights, Liberties and Social Justice (AICHLS, with National Council Of News & Broadcasting (NCNB), Asian Human Rights Council (AHRC), Amnesty Worldwide (AW), Universal Mission For Peace And Harmony (UMPH) and International Institute Of Human Rights Stud-

ies (IIHRS). Pujya Swamiji was honoured for His tireless service to humanity as well as His unparalleled efforts to bring peace, interfaith harmony and spirit of togetherness to the world. His inspired service initiatives such as GIWA, GAP and DSF were shared and were also recognized as truly contributing a great deal to protect human rights and serve all of humanity. Sadhvi Bhagawatiji was awarded for promoting peace through inspirational and exceptional leadership, distinguished services to the humanity. On the occasion,

Pujya Swamiji shared, “There can be no Human Rights without simultaneously ensuring Nature’s Rights and rights of all living beings...” Sadhvi Bhagawatiji shared with great clarity and compassion, “Human Rights also come with our collective Human Responsibility to uphold these rights for our whole human family. We cannot talk about human rights without talking about human responsibility...” The event was organized Dr Anthony Raju, Advocate of the Supreme Court of India, President of AICHLS.



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## National Gaurav Bharat Awards



The National Bharat Gaurav Awards (Pride of India Awards), organised by the Brave Hearts, were given out by Pujya Swamiji, Mananiya Indresh Kumarji, Sadhvi Bhagawatiji, and other eminent dignitaries at the Vigyan Bhawan. The Awards were given to individuals and institutions for their excellence and service in the fields of business, healthcare, yoga, arts, academics, civil service and government service. The theme of the awards was the spirit of the nation.

Addressing the gathering, Pujya Swamiji said, “Our dynamic Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given us the ‘Make in India’ programme, but today we are honouring those who are also making India into a strong and spirited

nation. His closing line, especially, in Hindi got everyone so enthusiastic and energized: “Jisko Dil Se Karte Hai to Sach Maniye Delhi hi hahi puri Duniya Badalgati hai,” meaning, “When we work together - as one family - with our hearts and our minds, then not only Delhi but the whole world changes.”

Sadhvi Bhagawatiji said, “The spirit of India is not only our innovative science and technology but it’s our spirituality and culture, it’s our traditions and our values that drive this innovation and growth. Therefore, the true pride is our spiritual-cultural values, which are rooted in giving rather than getting, in serving others. When we live with this spirit then not only can we progress sustainably but we can

also play our vital role in making a better world for all. In the west, we may have made great progress but the pursuit is always for more and more, for bigger and bigger, but in the Indian value system, it’s not about having more but being more, it’s not about getting bigger and bigger but being better and better.”

Mananiya Indreshji said, “Love your nation. Love your language. Love your country and love your community. When we serve from a space of love with an ever present smile on our face, as instruments of the Divine, then we become truly the wealthiest beings on this planet. Therefore, through your actions, words and thoughts work to build the nation into a strong and resilient one.”





# Uttarkashi Skills Training Centre Inauguration & Ganga Aarti

Paropkar Sansthan & Divine Shakti Foundation-Parmarth Niketan open new training centre and lead all in inspiring pledges for WASH

Pujya Swamiji graced and blessed a special inauguration ceremony of the Paropkar-Parmarth Niketan Skills Training Centre, that was beautifully constructed by the joint partnership of Paropkar Sansthan and the Divine Shakti Foundation-Parmarth Niketan.

A delegation of 20 members of Paropkar led by Shri

Shanker Kejriwal joined Pujya Swamiji and the Parmarth Rishikumars for this special ceremony. They also inaugurated a beautiful Ganga Yagyashala rebuilt by DSF after it had been washed away in the floods of 2013.

Pujya Swamiji inspired thousands of students and women gathered for the inaugural celebrations to

protect and preserve their sacred rivers from pollution and open defecation. He also inspired a pledge for clean water, sanitation and hygiene as well making Uttarkashi open defecation-free.

He interacted with locals and led everyone in an extraordinary Ganga Aarti on the banks of the River Ganga.





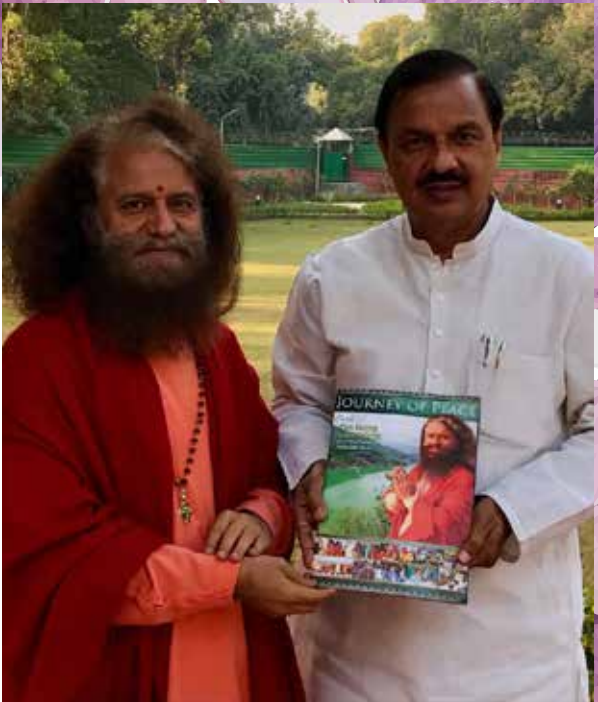
[Click here to see more](#)



# Gopasthami: Message to Save Cows & Protect the Environment

A special Gopasthami celebrations organised by Sriji Gausadan, Noida warmly welcomed HH Pujya Swamiji to bless and grace the occasion with Dr. Mahesh Sharma ji, Union Minister of Culture and Minister of State for Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India. Also joining them were several industry leaders. Hundreds of students as well as hundreds of

Gau Sevaks (cow lovers) participated in the celebrations. The organization had been hosting programmes to help raise awareness about the need to protect the Mother Cow, end cow slaughter and increase the consumption and use of products made from desi cow milk, cow dung and cow urine, all of which are of immense medicinal value.



# Meeting with Culture Minister about Ganga World Heritage Site

In a meeting today with Pujya Swamiji, a historic proposal was put forward to Hon'ble Union Cultural Minister, Shri Mahesh Sharma, to declare the River Ganga a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Recently, the Kumbha Mela, which takes place in two locations on the Ganga, was formally recognized on UNESCO's Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. Recognizing the Ganga itself for its cultural heritage would be an important next step towards preserving the riverine system, which supports some 500 million human lives.

While crucial for life itself, the Ganga River is considered one of the most endangered in the world, due to over-extraction and pollution. Every day, some 3 billion litres of sewage and one billion litres of toxic chemicals contaminate the river, leading to patriotic calls to action for its revitalization from the highest levels of government.

The proposal was cordially presented to Hon'ble Shri Mahesh Sharmaji, who expressed his appreciation of the noble concept and noted that the Ganga represents an important cultural heri-

tage for our nation and our world.

Prior to this meeting, the concept was discussed with the Executive Director of UNSECO, Ms. Irina Bokova, when she and Pujya Swamiji were in Istanbul for the World Humanitarian Summit.

Said Pujya Swamiji, "the Ganga gives the cultural touch to the world. From hut culture to high culture, can one imagine our nation without it? For this reason, now is the time it become formally recognized by UNESCO as irreplaceable to global heritage."



# Meeting with Tourism Minister



Pujya Swamiji and Sadhvi Bhagawatiji had a wonderful meeting with Union Tourism Minister, Shri KJ Alphonsji recently in which they discussed Green Tourism, Yoga Tourism and Wellness Tourism. They also spoke about promoting India as the Yoga Capital of the World. Pujya Swamiji and Sadhviji warmly invited him home to the banks of Mother Ganga to inaugurate the 30th Annual International Yoga Festival at Parmarth Niketan from the 1-7th March. Shri Aphonsji expressed his interest to meet again soon to discuss these plans in greater detail.



## 22nd Anniversary of the Tiens Private Ltd



## Amar Ujala Uttarakhand Uday Mahotsav 2017

*Pujya Swamiji, the Hon'ble CM of Uttarakhand, and many others honour Kailash Kher with Uttarakhand Uday Ratna Honour*



On the occasion of Uttarakhand's Foundation Day, Amar Ujala Uttarakhand Uday Mahotsav 2017 was organized in Parade Ground, Dehradun. The grand celebrations were blessed by Pujya Swamiji and graced by Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Trivendra Singh Rawatji, BJP State President Ajay Bhattji, State Cabinet Minister Arvind Pandeyji, State Minister Dr. Dhan Singh Rawatji and Smt Rekha Aryaji, MLA Khajan Dass and Former MLA Tarun Vijay and other guests. The program was started by famous Sufi Artist Kailash Kher's performance "Jai Jai Kedara" along with the other performances by Sonia Anand, Neha Khankriyal and Wasim Khan. On this occasion Kailash Kher ji and Ut-

tranchal University Chancellor Shri Jitendra Joshi ji were honored with "Uttarakhand Uday Ratna" for their contribution in the development of the state.

Pujya Swamiji inspired the participants and citizens of the Himalayan state to work hard to protect their spiritual, cultural and natural heritage just like those who had been awarded the Uttarakhand Udhay Ratna award had done. He shared that by living our lives with reverence and honour of our ancestors and our rich heritage we could truly celebrate our state in every minute and every moment of our lives. The occasion also included the cutting of the 18 feet long cake to mark the day.

A beautiful event was held at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium in which over 10,000 employees of the Tiens Private Ltd\* company came together, mainly from China, to celebrate their 22nd Anniversary. The Chairman of the group, Mr Lee, had sent several invitations to invite Pujya Swamiji and Sadhvi Bhagawatiji to China but they were not able to come, however, He warmly invited them to grace and bless this occasion in Delhi.

Pujya Swamiji and Sadhvi Bhagawatiji spoke about the numerous

benefits of Yoga and also shared that the Indian culture teaches us that the world is not a bazaar (marketplace) but rather a parivaar (family). In this spirit the goal of life was not to have or acquire more and more material wealth but to be more, give more and hence, to truly live more. They shared that this practice was Yoga and lauded the Chairman for treating his employees like his family and flying them all in to India for this mega celebration. They then honoured Wendy and Chelsea, the Chairman's daughters, with a beautiful Rudraksha sapling

and white flower malas fresh from South India with a warm welcome to the sacred soils of India.

On the occasion, Sushri Nandini Tripathi also led a special yoga session, engaging and involving everyone and honing in the message of Pujya Swamiji and Sadhvi's speech. She lead everyone in a pledge to be conscious yogis, conscious consumers and utilise the practice of Yoga to not only improve health and fitness in their body but also stability and peace in their minds.





## Ganga Aarti visit of the Former President of Ecuador

The first women Former President and Vice President of Ecuador Ms. Rosalia Arteaga Serrano and her sister Claudia Arteaga came to visit Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji - Muniji and joined Him for divine Ganga Aarti recently. Pujya Swamiji welcomed them with a special flower mala and honoured them in Ganga Aarti with a sacred Rudraksha sapling. Being their

first time in Rishikesh, they were incredibly touched and moved by the experience and expressed their desire to return to their Himalayan home again soon.

Pujya Swamiji shared about Mrs Serrano's contribution to the Amazon region and inspired a green pledge to plant and protect trees, our envi-

ronment and work together towards the SDGs. He shared that when divine shaktis (divine feminine) come forward to lead the way and be the change then great strides are made to not only protect our world's greatest oxygen and green banks, the Himalayas and the Amazon, but also to build a cleaner and greener world for everyone everywhere.



## Sattva Summit

Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswati gave a blessed and inspired satsang at the Sattva Retreat Centre during their boutique Sattva Summit. She spoke on many topics including:

The Spiritual Essence of India, The Core of Hinduism, Values, Truth, Our Subconscious Conditioning, Staying Peaceful and Connected from Anywhere, The Power of Satsang,

Helping Children Be Rather than Do, and Sadhviji's personal journey toward Spirituality. See the links below to watch these uplifting, moving, and humor-filled satsangs.

*The Spiritual Essence of India*

*Mind & Conditioning*

*Stay peaceful and connected  
anywhere in the world*

*Identifying with your soul*

*Sadhvi Bhagawatiji's journey  
toward spirituality*

*Click here to watch more of  
Sadhviji's satsangs*



# Sri Sathya Sai Devotees Welcomed to Parmarth

Working together to spread and share the joy of service and peace to the world



[Click to watch the inspirational satsang](#)



[Click here to see more](#)

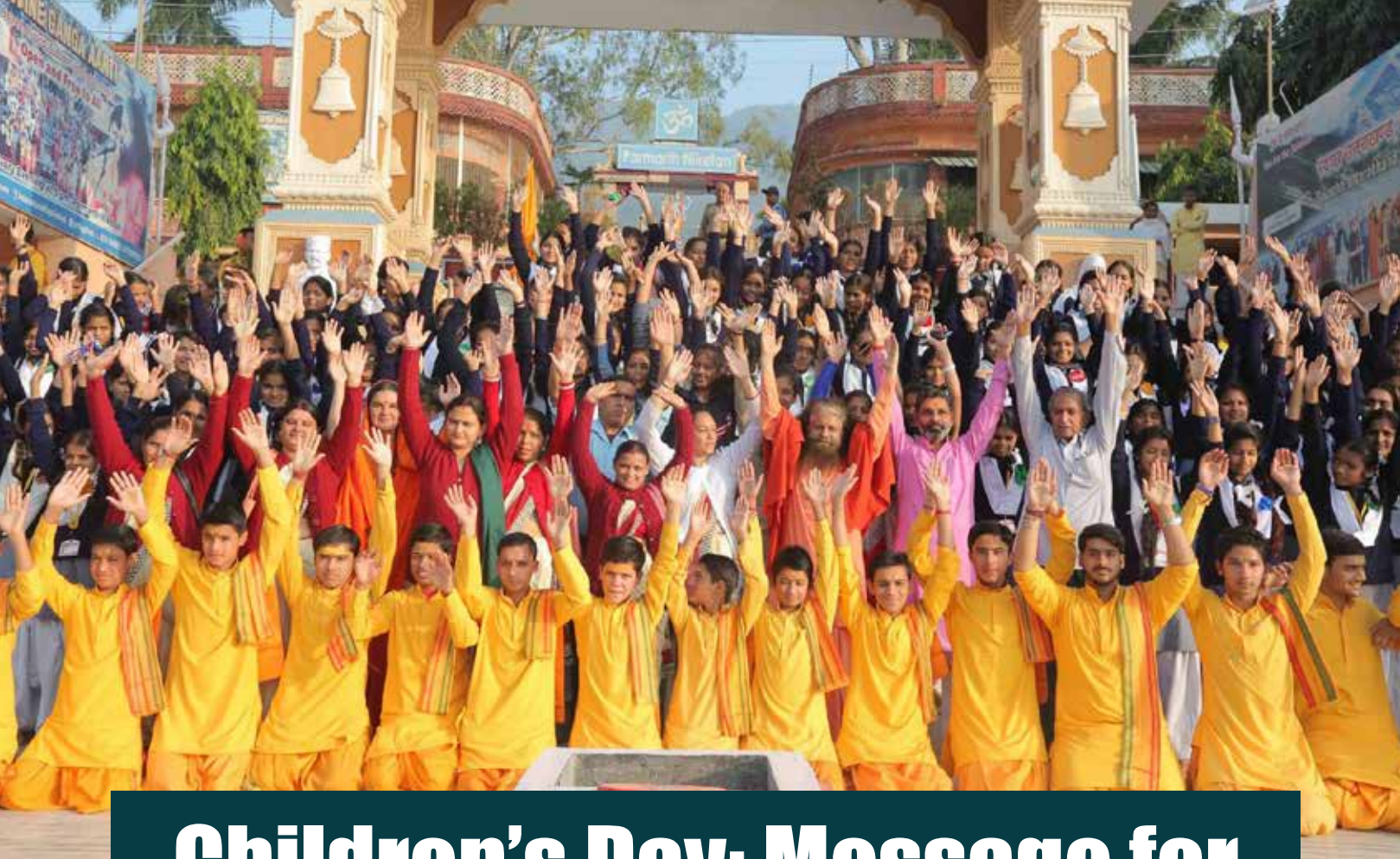


A divine, uplifting, and unforgettable visit by the Sri Sathya Sai devotees, from over 35 countries, from the Divine Will family, led by Swami Madusudhan Naiduji, was warmly welcomed home to the holy banks of Mother Ganga, in the lap of the Himalayas, at Parmarth Niketan by Pujya Swamiji and Sadhvi Bhagawatiji.

They conducted beautiful satsang and kirtan on the banks of Mother Ganga during their stay. There was also a special Gita Jayanti satsang on December 1st which included messages on the theme of "Love All. Serve All" and on interfaith harmony. It was attended by Muslim leaders from Delhi and Bihar.

At the conclusion of the 3 day pilgrimage there was a beautiful tree plantation programme in Veerpur with Pujya Swamiji, Respected Swami Madusudhanji, Sri Narsimaha Raoji and Shri Srinivasanji symbolising their commitment to work together to spread and share the joy of service and peace to the world.





## Children's Day: Message for Happy and Healthy Future



Children's Day was celebrated at Parmarth Niketan with young girls from the Saraswati Balika Vidyamandir and young boys from the Parmarth Gurukul joining together, on the banks of Mother Ganga. Pujya Swamiji led them in a sankalp (pledge) for swachh bharat (Clean India) inspired them to make healthy choices, create & sustain a cleaner, greener and more serene planet, and be advocates for clean water, air and soil for everyone, everywhere. He also

encouraged the youngest group of our Parmarth Rishikumars to plant beautiful fruit trees in their school garden. Pujya Swamiji was the motivation and the inspiration behind children volunteering to clean up the banks of Mother Ganga, sending a strong message that children indeed had a significant contribution to make in a Swachh Bharat (Clean India), Sundar Bharat (Beautiful India) & Swasth Bharat (Healthy India).



## Regional Conference “Business Excellence for Sustaining High Performance”

Pujya Swamiji graced the Regional Conference for Business Excellence for Sustaining High Performance at the KDMIPE Campus, in Dehradun, which was attended by many esteemed guests including Dr. KK Paul, the Governor of Uttarakhand, Dr. A K Balyan, CEO Oil and Gas, Reliance Infra and Dr S Rangnekar, Professor DOMS, IIT Roorkee.





## Uttar Pradesh KRC Training

In support of the Swachh Bharat Mission-G Programme of the State of Uttar Pradesh, the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance (GIWA) organised a 5-day Residential Training of Trainer's (TOT) for Knowledge Resource Centres (KRCs). These centres train thousands and therefore mobilize millions of people towards an open defecation-free state of Uttar Pradesh, using Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) approach and principles.

The training session focused on building KRCs to have hands-on, practicable knowledge on behavior change, community-led total sanitation, toilet technologies, and other key areas of learning. This knowledge will help to create OD-free communities, districts & regions.

The 5-day residential training was attended by 51 participants representing 15 KRCs in Lucknow.

The training started with a formal inauguration by the Mission Director of SBM-G Uttar Pradesh, Shri Vijay Kiran Anand, IAS. In his inaugural address, he gave a brief outline about the on-going progress made by the State in SBM-G and the initiatives undertaken by the state to trigger the community towards safe and sustainable sanitation. He welcomed all the participants and requested them to attend the training with a fresh mind, so that ultimately their communities will benefit.

Swamini Adityananda Saraswati, GIWA Director of Programmes and Development, motivated the trainees with insights regarding the problems which humanity might soon be facing unless improved WASH can sustainably be made available for all. She inspired all participants to come forward, unite and work for WASH, so that a clean and healthy future can be realized.

The inauguration session of the training was also marked by the presence of the State consultant of SBM-G and his team members, as well as Mr. Farukh Rahman Khan, Regional Manager Water Aid; Dr. Ravindra Bohra, GIWA National WASH Coordinator; and other dignitaries.

The intensive training included classroom instruction, field visits, discussion on triggering tools, simulation exercises, details on toilet technologies, and much more.

GIWA was proud to have supported this important event, and looks forward to working with the state to help ensure its ODF targets are met.

## Pujya Swamiji Inspires at Ethics, Spirituality & Sustainability Conference



[Click here to see more](#)

An International Conference on Ethics, Sustainability & Spirituality was organized in Rishikesh by the Green Earth Alliance International (GEA), in association with the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance and Parmarth Niketan. Pujya Swamiji graced the occasion with His presence and words of wisdom

about conscious "Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)" rooted first in "Human Social Responsibility." Pujya Swamiji inaugurated the conference by chanting a sacred mantra and lighting the lamp with other eminent dignitaries. Additionally, He gave a sacred Rudraksha sapling to the group to plant there at the prem-

ises of the conference as a symbol of their commitment to green and conscious business. The conference was filled with rich discussions by experts, NGOs, and business leaders.





[Click here to see more](#)



# Harmonization Workshop for Yoga Examiners

A two day Harmonization Workshop for Examiner for Quality Certification for Yoga professionals with the Indian Yoga Association Certification Body was held at Parmarth Niketan (Rishikesh). Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji - Muniji and Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswatiji inaugurated the workshop with members of the

IYA and QCI as well as many representatives from Yoga Institutes and yoga practitioners across India. Over 14,000 applicants have been evaluated since the launch and more than 1500 Yoga Instructors and 1250 Yoga Teachers have been successfully certified in collaboration with their approved Personal Certification Bodies.



## Organic Indore. Organic India.

Pujya Swamiji graced and blessed the Hindu Adhyatmik and Seva Mela held in Indore by Hindu Adhyatmik and Seva Foundation. During this event all respected dignitaries and participants discussed important issues like problems our farmers are facing, as well as environmental degradation and applying religious and spiritual values to address these issues.

In this event Shri Kailash Vijayvargiya ji, Mahamandleshwar Kankeshari Deviji, Swami Ishwaranand ji Maharaj, Shri Gunwant Kothari ji, Shri Rajlaxmi ji, Shri Vinod Aggrawalji, Agriculture Sci-

entists and hundreds of farmers were present.

Pujya Swamiji said that "Hindutva is not confined only to ringing the bells and going to temples but really about connecting with everyone and serving together as one world family. Our tradition have always been of serving. To-day we need to start this service from our homes and our streets. We need to protect our Mother Nature and Mother Earth."

Pujya Swamiji said that "Jai Jawan Jai Kisan" was not only a slogan but a culture. Our farmers are not born to commit suicide, they were born to nourish, nurture and sustain our lives.

He said, "We can have Plan A and Plan B but we have only one Planet and we need to work hard to save this planet for our present and future generations."

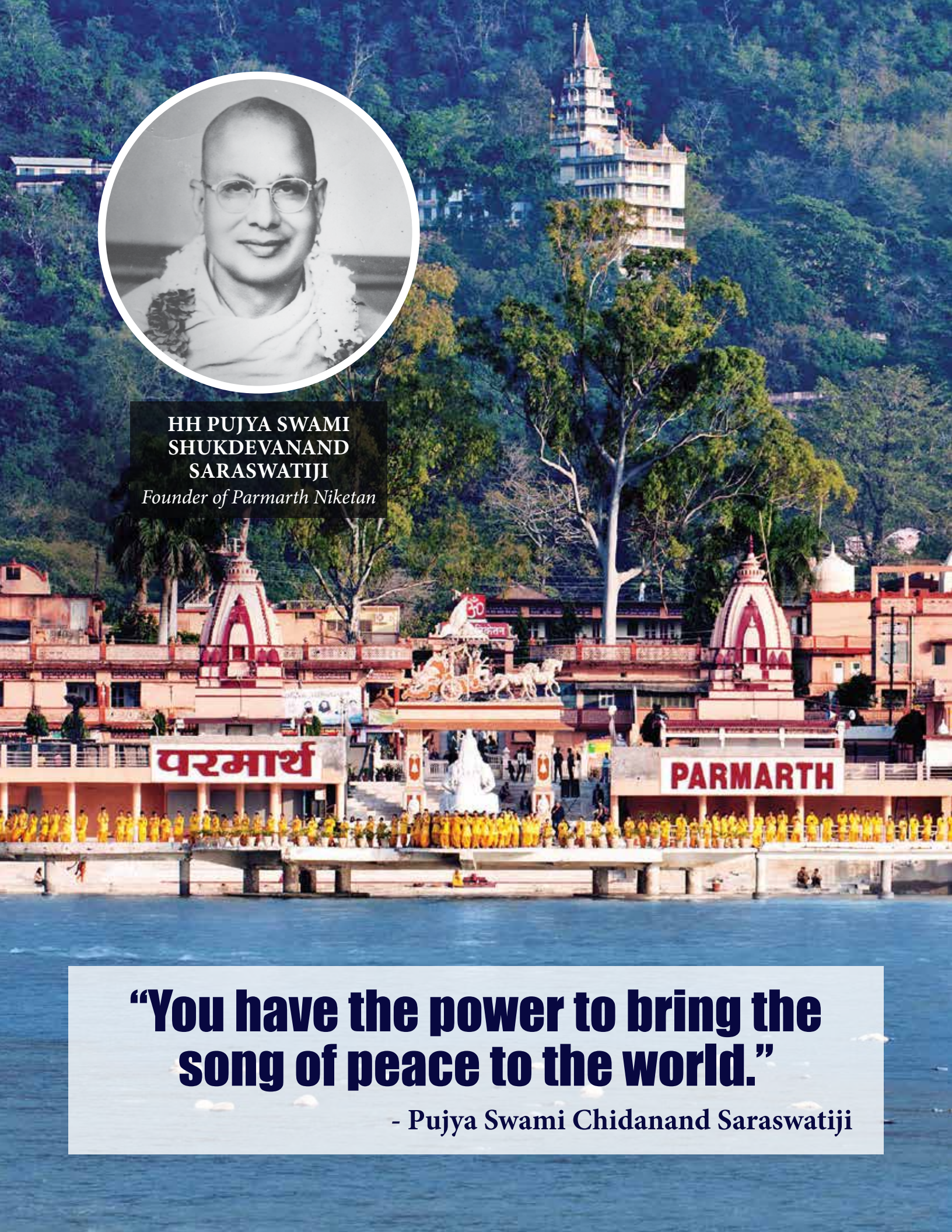
He also emphasized on that keep our nation clean and green is not only governments duty but all of us are equally responsible for it.





HH PUJYA SWAMI  
SHUKDEVANAND  
SARASWATIJI

Founder of Parmarth Niketan



**“You have the power to bring the  
song of peace to the world.”**

- Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji

# Our Inspired Initiatives



## GLOBAL INTERFAITH WASH ALLIANCE

**brings together the world's faith**  
as allies in ensuring everyone,  
everywhere has access to safe,  
life-giving **Water, Sanitation and**  
**Hygiene (WASH).**

[www.WashAlliance.org](http://www.WashAlliance.org)



## INTERNATIONAL YOGA FESTIVAL

**Join us annually from March 1 - 7** for an inspiring  
on the banks of the Ganges River in the lap of the  
Himalayas in Rishikesh, the birthplace of yoga.

[www.InternationalYogaFestival.org](http://www.InternationalYogaFestival.org)



## GANGA ACTION PARIVAR

is a global family dedicated to the  
**preservation of the river Ganga** and  
Her tributaries in their free-flowing  
and pristine state.

[www.GangaAction.org](http://www.GangaAction.org)



## DIVINE SHAKTI FOUNDATION

is dedicated to the holistic well being of  
**women, their children, and orphaned/abandoned**  
**children**, and to all of Mother Nature.

[www.DivineShaktiFoundation.org](http://www.DivineShaktiFoundation.org)



# Stay Connected



**PARMARTH NIKETAN**

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## Welcome to your Himalayan Home!

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