

# PARMARTH

H H PUJYA SWAMI CHIDANAND SARASWATIJI



SIMHASTA KUMBHA MELA IN UJJAIN

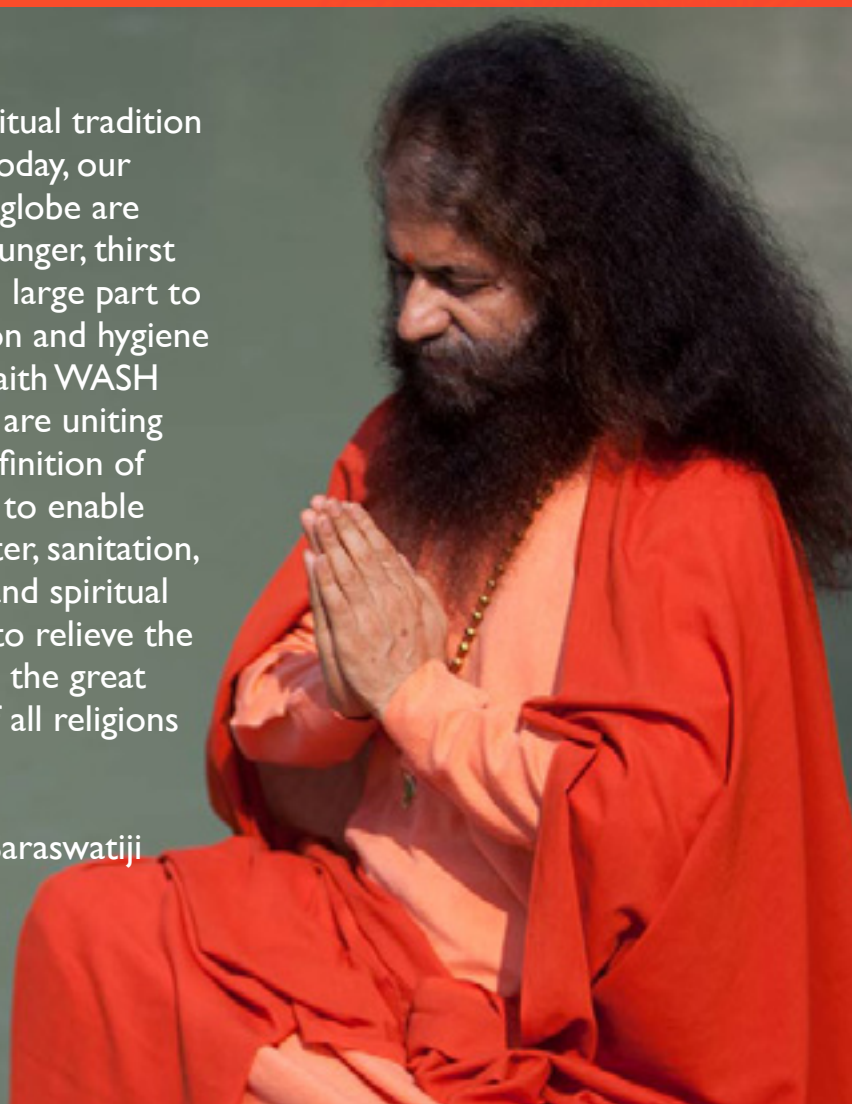


JUNE  
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“A core tenet of the Indian spiritual tradition is that the world is one family. Today, our brothers and sisters across the globe are suffering and perishing due to hunger, thirst and preventable illnesses, due in large part to the lack of clean water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH). Through Global Interfaith WASH Alliance, the faiths of the world are uniting as a global family, with a new definition of “peace,” which includes helping to enable access to safe and sufficient water, sanitation, hygiene for all. It is our moral and spiritual imperative to end poverty and to relieve the needless suffering of all through the great force of the coming together of all religions for this mighty cause.”

– H.H. Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji



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## Simhastha Kumbha Mela in Ujjain

Kumbh Mela is one of the most ancient, and yet still living, traditions of India's glorious past. The festival dates back to the pre-Vedic period, as even in the Vedas Kumbh Mela is described as a tradition that was already well established. The popularity of Kumbh Mela has only increased over the millennia, gathering millions together every twelve years at each of the four holy places, Prayag Raj-Allahabad, Haridwar, Ujjain and Nasik, in which the auspicious event occurs and making it the world's largest gathering of people on Earth. It is said that even those saints and sages who live in divine isolation, high in the Himalayas, engaged only in meditation and austerities, emerge from the mountains to attend the Kumbh. The Kumbh Mela is a world-renowned trademark of India's proud antiquity, and is a matchlessly divine occasion.

Kumbh Mela is a microcosm of the beauty and rich diversity of India. Amidst all the pomp and liveliness, one can drink in the nectar of India's ancient spiritual traditions.

No matter where you go within the Mela, there will be people sitting in satsang with India's saints and sages, bathing in the sacred rivers, meditating at the banks, engaging in yogic practices and attending yoga classes, chanting mantras and singing bhajans. Every corner of the Mela is permeated with ancient tradition and spirituality.

This year, under the divine inspiration and leadership of Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji, efforts were made to make this a "Mela with a Message." The Kumbha Mela became the fertile grounds for a Swachhta Kranti (Clean India Revolution), inspiring people to keep our Mother Earth and our sacred rivers free from pollution, free from open-defecation as well as working to protect and preserve these sacred resources, especially the Kshipra and Narmada River, for future generations.

If you came to the Kumbh Mela, heard or are inspired by any of our incredible initiatives, please share your thoughts, suggestions, pictures and ideas with us at [ganga@gangaaction.org](mailto:ganga@gangaaction.org).

To watch videos of the Simhastha Mahakumbh Ujjain, 2016, [click here](#).

## Swachhta Kranti: Clean Revolution for All





# Sarva Dharma Swachhta Sankalp and Shanti Deep



A grand assembly of prominent religious leaders representing India's many faiths came together for a historic first time at the Ujjain KumbhaMela, to appeal for a SwachhtaKranti (CleanRevolution) for Mother India through a SwachhtaSankalp and by lighting of Sadbhavana Deep.

The beautiful and diverse event echoed with the message of unity and oneness. Leaders of many faiths joined hands at the Datt Akharda Ghat to lead and inspire a pledge to end pollution of our sacred fresh water sources, end open defecation, encourage sanitation practices such as washing our hands before and after meals and to work together in ensuring our communities are once again clean and green for all.

Co-Founder of Global Interfaith WASH Alliance's Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji along with Secretary-General GIWA, Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswati, Pujya Swami Harichetnanand from Haridwar, Maulana Dr. Syed Dr.Kalbe Sadiq Saheb, Founder of Tauheedul Muslimeen Trust, Islamic Scholar (Shia Leader), Chief Imam Umer Ilyasi, President of the All India Imams Council (Sunni Leader), Chief Jathedar, Giani Gurbhachan Singh, Amritsar, Bhai Mohinder Singh Ahluwalia OBE KSG, Chairman, Guru Nanak Nishkam Sewak Jatha (GNNSJ), Paramjit Singh Chandhok, Chairman of DSGMC, Acharya Lokesh Muniji, Founder of Ahimsa Vishwa Bharti, Ven Bhikkhu Sanghasena, Founder-President of Mahabodhi International Centre, Leh-Ladakh, Pujya Baba Hathyogi, Brahmakumari Dr. Binny Sareen, Manager Public Relations & Mass Communications, Mt Abu, His Excellency Bishop Sebastian Vadakel, Bishop of Ujjain, Father Sahil TNT, Director, Samanvay, Centre for Interreligious Dialogue and the Member of Shanti Samiti Ujjain, Raisyani Babaji, Delhi, Anupamji, Art of Living, Sagar, Balabeer Das, Chitrakoot, Sister Veena Behan, Brahmakumaris Bhopal,

Shri Makkan Singhji, Chairman of the Central Committee of Simhastha Kumbha Mela, Ms. Sue Coates, Chief, WASH Section, UNICEF India, Ms. Caroline den Dulk, Chief, Advocacy and Communication, UNICEF India, Mr Manish Mathur, Office in Charge, UNICEF, Madhya Pradesh, Ba Paramadvaiti, Swamini Adityananda Saraswati Director of Programmes, Policy and Development, Global Interfaith WASH Alliance and Ganga Action Parivar and many others joined together to led this historic and remarkable Sarva Dharma Swachhta Sankalp.

*To view album, [click here.](#)*



# Sarva Dharma Swachhta Samvaad



A grand assembly of prominent religious leaders representing many faiths came together for a historic first time at the Ujjain KumbhaMela, to appeal for a SwachhtaKranti (CleanRevolution) for Mother India through a Sadbhavana Sankalp. In so doing, they implored the people of India to rise together so that India may shine as a global example of cleanliness. For this, they harmoniously said that we must do all we can to ensure that our lands and rivers are kept open-defecation free through the use of eco-friendly toilets.

On illuminating a holy lamp at this SarvaDharmaSwachhtaSankalp event, HH Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswati, Co-founder of the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance and President of Parmarth Niketan Ashram Rishikesh, stated, "The world is as we dream it, and it is time for a new dream. Every day, 1,200 children die needlessly in India due to lack of clean water, sanitation and hygiene. The deaths are a result of our bad habits. We can change that. By changing our ways, we change the world."

Representing five religions, the faith leaders were brought together by the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance (GIWA), with technical support from UNICEF, under the inspiration of Pujya Swamiji.

Nearly 600 million people in India are not using toilets. As a result of poor sanitation, it is estimated that a child dies every 20 seconds. In the state of Madhya Pradesh alone, 67% of the population defecates in the open. In rural areas, it is as high as 80%. Yet shining hope on the issue, the state, under the leadership of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of MadhyaPradesh, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhanji, recently declared the rural area of Indore

district, two blocks of Sehore and Narsinghpur as open-defecation free. Over one million people received access to improved sanitation in the last year. Sanitation is becoming people's movement now. Junapeethadishwar Pujya Acharya Mahamandaleshwar Swami Avdheshanand Giri Ji Maharaj, shared his views on water conservation and cleanliness. He said that water is the most basic requirement of all life but only 0.75% is potable; therefore it is crucial to conserve water. Every religion honours the element of water hence it is beautiful that the interfaith and faith community have come together here on the banks of Kshipra to move in the right direction.

Eminent Sunni Leader, Chief Imam Umer Ahmed Ilyasiji, President of All India Imam Organisation, pledged to bring all of India's Imams together to spread vital messages on the importance of health, water, sanitation and hygiene in our homes and communities. "All faiths must come together to promote an end to open-defecation and a clean and healthy India, because cleanliness, purity and respect for nature are embedded in every religion."

Similarly, Shia Leader, Maulana Dr. Syed Kalbe Sadiq, Founder of Tauheedul Muslimeen Trust, who also participated in the Swachhta Sankalp, said, "From today onwards, let dreams become reality. Our hands should be tools for action. In our hearts should be pledges for change." Respected Jain Leader Acharya Dr. Lokesh Muniji shared that ahimsa (non-violence) and sanitation must be seen as going hand-in-hand. "Unclean choices are causing the deaths of countless children every day. This suffering must end. It is up to all of us to be the change."





Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswati, Secretary-General GIWA, "GIWA is founded on the principle that as faith leaders, we must expand our definition of peace to include ensuring that our brothers and sisters from every religion have access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene. More people perish each year due to lack of clean water than due to all forms of violence combined. We must bring our faith into action. The practice of open defecation may be the acceptable norm today, but just as all social revolutions, from ending apartheid to abolishing slavery, which turned once common practices to not only be illegal to practice but socially reprehensible to even fathom, in the same way, open defecation and lack of WASH, with our collective efforts, will become just as socially reprehensible and criminal one day in the near future. There can not be a better place to start this revolution than the largest gathering of humanity, the Ujjain Kumba Mela"



Ms. Sue Coates, Chief, WASH Section, UNICEF India, shared, "Unsafe water and sanitation services and poor hygiene practices contribute to childhood illnesses including diarrhoea, sepsis and pneumonia. These three diseases are major killers in children below five years of age. Evidence tells us that over 80% of diarrhoeal diseases can be prevented by families and mothers using a toilet, drinking safe water and washing hands with soap before food and after defecation. Faith leaders are big influencers at community and household levels by helping to influence and change mind-sets so that everyone, for example, uses a toilet, hence UNICEF support's this movement and their critical role.

Ms. Caroline Den Dulk, Chief, Advocacy and Communication, UNICEF India, said, "A new chapter has begun today for India, with the country's prominent faith leaders coming together for the crucial cause of saving lives of children."



Addressing the concluding session, Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswati, said: "I have had a hand in building temples on five continents. But now, I am emphasizing, let us first build toilets. Without toilets, even the strongest man can fall violently sick, due to the diseases spread by human waste. For the sake of ahimsa (non-violence), every home in India should have a toilet, and everyone, everywhere should use a toilet. In such a way, we are protecting ourselves, our loved-ones and our neighbours from what can become needless suffering."

Respected dignitaries present at the event included:

- Pujya Swami Satyamitranand Giriji, Bharat Mata Mandir, Former Shankaracharya
- Junapeethadishwar Pujya Acharya Mahamandaleshwar Swami Avdheshanand Giriji Maharaj
- Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji, Co-Founder and Co-Chair of Global Interfaith WASH Alliance and President of Parmarth Niketan, Rishikesh
- Pujya Swami Harichetanandji, Haridwar
- Maulana Dr. Syed Kalbe Sadiq Saheb, Founder of Tauheedul Muslimeen Trust, Islamic Scholar (Shia Leader)
- Imam Umer Ilyasi, President of the All India Imams Council (Sunni Leader)
- Chief Jathedar, Giani Gurbhachan Singh, Amritsar

- Bhai Mohinder Singh Ahluwalia OBE KSG, Chairman, Guru Nanak Nishkam Sewak Jatha (GNNSJ)
- Paramjit Singh Chandhok, Chairman of DSGMC
- Acharya Lokesh Muniji, Founder of Ahimsa Vishwa Bharti
- Ven Bhikkhu Sanghasena, Founder-President of Mahabodhi International Centre, Leh-Ladakh
- Pujya Baba Hathiyogi
- Pujya Acharya Sri Pundrik Goswami
- Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswati, Secretary-General, Global Interfaith WASH Alliance
- Brahmakumari Dr. Binny Sareen, Manager Public Relations & Mass Communications, Mt Abu
- His Excellency Bishop Sebastian Vadakel, Bishop of Ujjain
- Father Sahil TNT, Director, Samanvay, Centre for Interreligious Dialogue and the Member of Shanti Samiti Ujjain
- Raisyani Babaji, Delhi
- Anupamji, Art of Living, Sagar
- Balabeer Das, Chitrakoot
- Sister Veena Behan, Brahmakumaris Bhopal
- Shri Makkan Singhji, Chairman of the Central Committee of Simhastha Kumbha Mela
- Ms. Sue Coates, Chief, WASH Section, UNICEF India
- Ms. Caroline den Dulk, Chief, Advocacy and Communication, UNICEF India
- Mr Manish Mathur, Office in Charge, UNICEF, Madhya Pradesh
- Swamini Adityananda Saraswatiji, Director of Programmes, Policy and Development, Global Interfaith WASH Alliance and Ganga Action Parivar
- Swami BA Parmadvaitiji, Germany
- Shri Ram Mahesh Mishra, Director of Programme Implementation, Parmarth Niketan (Rishikesh)
- Mr Hasan from Spandan, NGO
- Mr Qazi Syed Anas Ali Nadvi, Social worker from Bhopal
- Mr. Rajeev Pahwa, Roopantaran, NGO
- Mr. Gunjan Siddha, Earth and Us, NGO

**To view album, [click here.](#)**





# Pujya Morari Bapu Inaugurates GIWA's Swachha Kranti Campaign



Pujya Morari Bapu , Pujya Acharya Sri Pundrik Goswami and Pujya Radha Krishnaji of Jodhpur, were so inspired by Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswati's great dedication and leadership towards sanitation for all and environmental preservation that they specially visited the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance (GIWA)-Parmarth Niketan camp today.

They were deeply touched by how the entire camp was dedicated to the environment, utilizing jute and eco-friendly fabric, as much as possible, for its earthy and elegant decorations. During their visit they learned about the different interventions and activities planned by the GIWA volunteers who had come in from all around the world and all across India to serve in the campaign.

They took part in a beautiful lamp-lighting ceremony to inaugurate the first educational centres and activities that the volunteers would be doing for the duration of the Simhastha Kumbha Mela to make people aware about the harms of open defecation and the need to build and use toilets.

They also performed a special water blessing ceremony, offering the holy waters of the River Kshipra, as a symbol of our collective pledge in a Green Kumbha Mela to take simple actions in our every day lives to live green, to protect our sacred rivers and our planet Earth.

*To view album, [click here.](#)*



# Interfaith Leaders Bid Farewell to Simhastha



HH Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji, President, Interfaith Leaders, bid farewell to Simhastha: Kumbha Mela with a Pledge to work together for Sanitation and Shanti.

As India's eminent and revered faith leaders said goodbye to the two-day Sarva Dharma Swachhta Samvaad and Sankalp event, they pledged to work together for sanitation and shanti (peace). Because nearly 1200 children perish everyday due to lack of adequate clean water, sanitation and hygiene, and nearly half of India's population defecate in the open, a majority due to the lack of access to toilets, it is time that the message from temples, gurudwaras, mosques, synagogues, churches and all places of worship resonate with the message of sanitation for all.

Faith leaders agreed, with HH Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji's leadership and vision, that time had come for meditation and sanitation to work hand in hand. He says that without proper

sanitation there can be no meditation, and while temples are needed to purify our thoughts, toilets are needed to purify our bodies, and both are intimately intertwined to our union with the Divine, in any name, shape or form.

The faith leaders pledged to support the newly installed Global Interfaith WASH Alliance's WASHonWheels centre, bringing the awareness and education of WASH to everyone's doorstep. The centre installed in Junapeethadheswar Pujya Acharya Mahamandaleshwar Swami Avdheshanand Giri Ji Maharaj's camp for pilgrims and devotees to be encouraged and motivated to take the SwachhtaKranti pledge back to their communities.

*To view album, [click here.](#)*





# Vaicharik Mahakumbh International Conference on Living the Right Way Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswati

Pujya Swamiji graced the beautiful and unique Vaicharik Mahakumbh on the 12th May during the Simhastha Kumbha Mela, addressing and inspiring the gathering on the theme of 'Swachhta aur Sarita' with a panel of distinguished speakers including the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Shri Shivraj Chouhanji, Hon'ble Member of Parliament Shri Anil Madhav Daveji, Padma Bhushan Shri Bindeshwar Pathakji and many others.

The large two-day event also is known as the International Conference on Living the Right Way: Universal Message of Simhastha, hence Pujya Swamiji spoke about how the right way of living is about living for the welfare and well-being of others. He spoke about the right way of living being about taking less and giving more.

He also shared how proud He was with the vision and the mission of our Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, whose life is an example of truly living the right way. He spoke about the great need to make this Mela one that has the universal message of cleanliness and oneness.

He said, "I love this topic of Swachhta aur Sarita, as it is one that is very close to my heart. I truly believe that the time has come for Meditation and Sanitation to go hand in hand. It is critical for us to ensure that everyone, everywhere has access to safe and sufficient sanitation and the massive Kumbha Mela is a great opportunity to share this message with all. It is time for us to understand that along with worshipping the Creator, we must also take care and serve the Creation. We cannot simultaneously worship the Creator in a temple or a place of worship and also leave the areas, the streets and the places around it filthy and polluted. Our worship is only complete when we understand that the streets and the nooks and corners around

the place of worship are just as divine and sacred as the temple itself."



He shared that in addition to having a mela along the holy banks of the River Kshipra, we must also work to protect the river so that it flows freely and unpolluted. He encouraged everyone to take the opportunity to pledge to plant thousands of trees along its banks to rejuvenate and revive the sacred river.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister was deeply inspired by Pujya Swamiji's words and gift of a beautiful tree sapling. He led a pledge to bring to fruition Pujya Swamiji's mission and message. He promised that during the monsoon thousands of trees would indeed be planted and efforts to rejuvenate and recover the drying river would be made so that by the next mela, the waters of the River Kshipra would once again flow and there would be no need to channel another river's water to serve the needs of the millions coming to bathe in its holy waters to attain liberation.

***To view album, [click here.](#)***



# Vaicharik Maha Kumbha Shakti Kumbha Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswati



On the second day of the Vaicharik Mahakumbha, Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswati was one of the main speakers in the panel titled Shakti Kumbha -- Kumbha for the upliftment and empowerment of women, and focused on the Divine Feminine or Shakti. The panel consisted of:

H.E. Smt. Mridula Sinha Ji, Governor of Goa,  
Hon'ble Shri Shivraj Singh Chauhanji, Chief Minister Madhya Pradesh  
Sadhvi Ritambharaji (Didi Ma), Vatsalya Gram  
Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswati, President Divine Shakti Foundation, Parmarth Niketan, Rishikesh  
Sushri Gita Gunde Ji, President, All India Mahila Samanvay, Mumbai  
Swamini Vimalananda Ji, Chinmaya Mission, Coimbatore  
Sushri Nivedita Bhide Ji, Vice President, Vivekanand Kendra, Kanyakumari

Sadhvi spoke about how Indian spiritual tradition is the only major faith tradition which worships and highlights the Divine Feminine so pervasively. We say Radha-Krishna, Sita-Rama, Lakshmi-Narayan,

Gauri-Shankar, etc. The Goddess's name is always first! She emphasized also that the true Shakti is an inner one, not a superficial made-up one. Giving the example of Shurpnaka and Shabari from the Ramayan, she said, "Bhagawan swyam Shabari ke pas chel ke gaye...."

Why? Because tyaga, bhavana, bhakti, pavitrata, sanskaron mein bahot Shakti hai, aur Issi Shakti ne Bhagawan Ramo ko kinch-liya." [Lord Rama didn't pay any attention to the beautifully made-up demoness Shurpnaka which He went personally to Shabari. Devotion, faith, love and purity are the true Shakti, the true power, and this Shakti is so strong that it brought God to Shabari's doorstep and home!]

She also emphasized the importance of protection and preservation of the Divine Feminine in the Creation -- our Mother Earth and Mother Nature. It is not enough to pray to the Mother Goddess if we do not also have prayer in action through service of the Mother in all Her forms.

***To view album, [click here.](#)***





# Rashtra Raksha Maha Kumbha

## (Protection and Preservation of Mother India)



Thousands of citizens from various backgrounds came together for an incredible and colourful Rashtra Raksha Maha Kumbha Yatra yesterday in the Ujjain Kumbha Mela, under the able leadership of Mananiya Shri Indresh Kumarji, senior RSS leader, with the inspiration, vision, blessing and graceful presence of HH Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji, President of Parmarth Niketan (Rishikesh), Co-Founder, Global Interfaith WASH Alliance.

The procession was organized by the Rashtriya Suraksha Jagran Manch and Global Interfaith WASH Alliance, Parmarth Niketan. It started early in the morning from the Parmarth Niketan camp, which has been dedicated entirely to Swachhta Kranti (Clean Revolution) efforts, to the Prabhu Premi camp, where it was welcomed and blessed by Junapeethadheshwar Pujya Swami Avdheshanand Giriji Maharaj.

The vast and vibrant procession reverberated with Shakti of the divine feminine dressed in beautiful chunari saris, holding kalashes over their heads, filled with waters of the River Kshipra. They represented that the true shobha (beauty) of Mother India was in the protection of its sacred water sources as well as the protection and education of the women and girl children of the nation.

There were also young women dressed as the beautiful rivers of Kshipra, Narmada, Ganga and Yamuna, representing the Divine Mother dancing amidst the procession. They symbolized the sacred water sources that nurture and nourish Mother India's vast population.

The yatra was followed by a Maha-Yagna, offering

into the sacred fire the chant of 'Idam Rashtrah, Idam Namama' as an affirmation and intention to dedicate one's talent, technology and tenacity to serving the sacred land of this nation while simultaneously working tirelessly for the welfare and well-being of the world.

Several inspiring speeches were given on the occasion by revered saints and dignitaries reflecting the need to create a Bharat Mata free from violence, terrorism, open-defecation, female foeticide, pollution and many other pertinent issues the nation faces.

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'Idam Namama' as an affirmation and intention to dedicate one's talent, technology and tenacity for serving the sacred land of this nation while simulatenously working tirelessly for the welfare and well-being of the world. Several inspiring speeches were given on the occasion by revered saints and dignitaries reflecting the need to create a Bharat Mata free from violence, terrorism, open-defecation, female foeticide, pollution and many other pertinent issues the nation faces.

Mananiya Shri Indresh Kumarji said, "The future belongs to India, and the world is looking to India as not only a global leader, but a leader of peace and prosperity for all. It is time that we stand together for unity and fight against the social evils and injustices that hinder our progress. Today's dialogue is to address and find solutions to these challenges as well as pledge to individual and collective action." HH Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji shared, "Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat reflects the roots and values of our beautiful culture. It reflects our Bharatiya Sanskriti. As I often share, 'worship your own, but respect all.' Because only by 'Sabka Saath' (everyone's contributions) is 'Sabka Vikas' (everyone's progress and growth) truly possible. Therefore, everyone must come forward to contribute to these efforts by starting with their own homes and their own communities, and when everyone makes a change in their own lives and their own surroundings, the entire nation automatically reflects that change."

Pujya Swamiji led an inspiring pledge to action which was focused on protecting Mother India from violence and terrorism, making it free from open defecation and pollution as well as any form of discrimination on the basis of caste or creed, instead to welcome diversity and noble ideas and solutions from all directions.

Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswatiji said, "India is not only our nation; She is our Mother. We say Bharat Mata! Today on Mother's Day, what gift can we give Her? Only to serve and preserve Her land, Her children -- of all colors, castes and creeds,

and Her culture. In the West there is a culture of give and take, of 50/50. Bharatiya Sanskriti teaches us how to give 100%. It is a culture of giving!

It is this culture that teaches us that the world is one family- Vashudhaiv Kutumbakam. Therefore, let us remember that every action we do in our lives must be lived with the awareness that we are in service of this beautiful land, its rich spiritual-cultural heritage, its precious natural resources and all of our beautiful and diverse family."

Chairman and Founder of International Islamic Sufi Foundation, Mushahid Khanji, also present on the occasion, urged all the religious leaders to come together and work

as one to make India open defecation free and pollution free.

Junapeethadheshwar Pujya Swami Avdheshanand Giriji Maharajji welcomed the Rashtra Raksha Samvaad by saying, "It is so beautiful to see the diverse bouquet of India here today. This is truly what the Simhastha, the Kumbha Mela, is all about. It is about the coming together and discussing of the different issues and challenges our glorious nation faces and it is a time to pledge to work together to address these challenges."

Pujya Swami Govind Giriji also blessed the event with his divine presence and words of inspiration. Also present on the occasion were Jammu and Kashmir's Cabinet Minister Diljit Singhji, Senior Journalist Shri Ved Pratap Vaidik, National Secretary of Rashtriya Jagran Manch Ms. Reshma Singhji, as well as many others.

**To view album, [click here.](#)**





# Paryavaran Maha Kumbha (Environmental Day at the Kumbha)



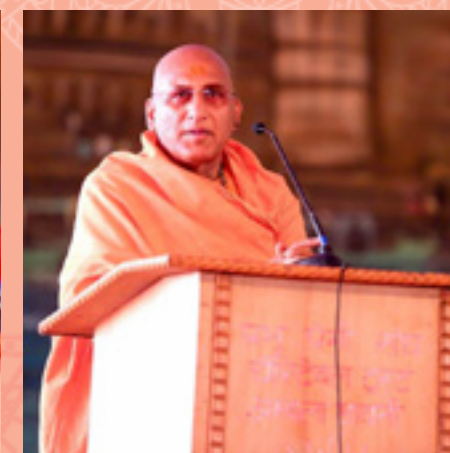
On the 11th of May, in the Ujjain KumbhaMela- Simhashth Kumbh Mahaparv 22nd April to 21st May, we had a beautiful Paryavaran (Environmental) MahaKumbha programme, under the inspiration, vision and blessing of HH Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji, organized by the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), Global Interfaith WASH Alliance, Ganga Action Parivar- Parmarth Niketan Ashram(Rishikesh) at the Prabhu Premi Sangh camp.

The event was blessed by Pujya Acharya M.M. Swami Avdheshanand Giri Ji Maharaj, Pujya Shiv Shankar Dasji, Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswatiji and many other saints. The respected dignitaries and speakers were Shri Sunil Ambekarji, National Organising Mantri, ABVP, Padma Bhushan Dr. Bindeshwar Pathakji, Founder of Sulabh International, Jack Sim, Chairman of World Toilet Organization, Ambassador Deepak Vohra and many other eminent dignitaries.

The event concluded with a huge Paryavaran procession from the Prabhu Premi Sangh camp to the Parmarth Niketan camp with over 4,000 students and members of the ABVP, as well as young children and young adults dressed as sacred rivers, mountains, trees, Lord Shiva and Mother Earth.

It included a mass pledge to protect our sacred rivers from pollution, end open defecation, stop the use of plastic bags and plant thousands of trees along the banks of the sacred River Kshipra to revive and rejuvenate her holy waters so that they may flow, once again, for all to enjoy many more festivals and melas along her banks.

**To view album, [click here.](#)**





# Divyang Swachhta Sankalp and Bhandara



A beautiful Divyang SwachhtaSankalp and Bhandara programme, unfolded under the vision and inspiration of HH Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji, during the Simhasth Kumbh Mahaparv - 2016 in which divinely abled children, or children with special needs, were invited for a special dinner at the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance, Parmarth Niketan Ashram- Ganga Action Parivar camp.

They were honoured and blessed by Pujya Swamiji, Pujya Sadhvi Rithambara - "Didi Maa", Pujya Pu, Madhavpriya Swamiji, Hon'ble Member of Parliament Shri Anil Madhav Daveji, Respected Gandhian and Inspiration behind National Youth

Project Dr.S.N. Subba Raoji, Respected Founder-Director of Sewadham Ashram Ujjain Shri Sudhir Bhai Goyalji.

Pujya Sadhvi Rithambaraji led everyone in a divine pledge to protect and preserve our environment, our sacred water sources, to end open defecation and all other forms of pollution to our environment and water sources.

*To view album, [click here](#).*





# Vanvasis & Dharma Gurus Pledge for Sanitation for All

Parmarth Niketan's camp in the Kumbh Mela was awash in colour and song as members of Vanvasi groups from Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur and Tripura converged together with Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji and Bhajan Samrat, Anup Jalotaji, in a historic show of unity. The representatives were resplendent in shimmering ethnic dress as they held signs, waved flags and chanted messages of unity and peace. Later, all raised their hands and voices to demand an end to needless childhood deaths by ensuring everyone, everywhere has access to clean and healthy water and sanitation.

Every 20 seconds, a child dies due to poor sanitation. India leads the world in the deaths of children under the age of five, primarily for this reason.

Said HH Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji, President of Parmarth Niketan, Rishikesh and Co- Chair/Co-Founder of the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance, "Today we are all here together, with all of our vanvasi sisters and brothers from so many different areas of India. We may be from different states and have different cultures, but fundamentally and essentially we are all Indian and of Indian Culture. In that spirit of Oneness, we dance together, sing together, and come together for our beautiful Mother India in which false differences and discord are erased. We pledge together today to embrace sanitation, hygiene and cleanliness so that everybody, everywhere, may have healthy, happy lives."

Some 600 million people in India have no toilets, while many others don't use them. For this reason, the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance, under the leadership of HH Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji, has been unifying faith leaders and citizens groups for the Swachhta Kranti Movement: India's Clean Revolution.

Said renowned singer, Bhajan Samrat, Shri Anup Jalota, "All hearts are deeply touched as we witness the richness of Indian cultures coming together with the call for fellowship and a Swachh Bharat on all lips. This land is our Mother and we must all come together, in all of our villages, to keep Her clean and healthy. It is clear that sanitation is the call of the day, across all cultures and all religions. Now, we must all rise for this great and noble cause so that India may shine."

Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswatiji, Secretary General of the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance, Parmarth Niketan, Rishikesh emphasized the richness of Indian culture. "Abroad we have a culture of give and take, first we take and then we give. Here in India it is a culture of give, give and give. Now, it is time to give to our Mother India and Mother Earth. Our world is like a house with many rooms. The mother may be in the kitchen, and the children may be in the living room, but they are still one family, under the same roof. In the same way, we are all one family, living under the same sky. Today, I am so glad to join together with our vanvasi sisters and brothers and to sing, dance, and pledge together for a Swachh Bharat and toilets for all."



At the conclusion of the event, a beautiful Water Blessing Ceremony was held in which people from all participating groups and backgrounds lovingly poured water over a globe with prayers that everyone, everywhere may have access to clean and healthy water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH). Afterwards, all danced in cheerful unity to the tune of the Swachh Bharat Anthem with Padma Shri and Famous Folk Singer Smt Malini Awasthiji, who enthusiastically joined for the special occasion. Smt Maliniji and Pujya Swamiji led everyone in a grand pledge to end open defecation, build and use toilets and protect our sacred sources of fresh water from pollution and contamination. Shri Atul Jog, Sahsangathan Mantri of Akhil

Bharatiya Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram, Shri Prakash Kale Kshetra Sangathan Mantri of Akhil Bharatiya Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram and Madan Mohan Mall of Assam visited the Parmarth Niketan camp with the event that took place. Said HH Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji, "The world is one family, and our house must be kept clean for all to be serene. From now on, let sanitation be our meditation until toilets become universally used across India. Let Mother India's soil smell sweet once again. Let Her children live in health, and let all realize peaceful lives of unity and harmony, as was demonstrated today."

*To view album, [click here](#).*





# Siksha Kranti Maha Kumbha (Educational Revolution for Cleanliness and Sanitation at the Kumbha)



A historic Siksha Kranti Maha Kumbha took place in the Simhastha Kumbha Mela today with the leadership and vision of HH Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji, President of Parmarth Niketan, Co-Founder of Global Interfaith WASH Alliance.

The event brought together revered saints and students, parents and principals, gathering nearly 5,000 educationists, teachers and students who took part in the event. The event started with a grand Swachhta procession, a rally dedicated to raising awareness on the need to make India open defecation free, maintain sanitation and hygiene as well as to protect and preserve our sacred environment.

The rally completed as it reached Prabhu Premi camp, where Junapeethadheshwar Pujya Swami Avdheshanand Giri Maharaj blessed the cause. There were inspiring talks and speeches on the need for a revolution in our education system which re-establishes Swachhta (Cleanliness) and environmental preservation as a fundamental and vital sanskar (value). Junapeethadishwar Pujya Acharya Mahamandaleshwar Swami Avdheshanand Giri Maharaj, lauded the innovative initiative and gave his support for the cause.

Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswati, said: "I have had a hand in building temples on five continents. But now, I am emphasizing, let us first build toilets, then let us build schools and then let us build more temples. In fact, let us treat our toilets and our schools as temples for our bodies and our minds. The World Toilet College we are planning will be a beautiful confluence of education and

sanitation, an institute where we can train and empower sanitation professionals. But the time has come that every school must inculcate students with these values of basic sanitation and hygiene as well as to treat those who work in these fields of waste management, with the respect and appreciation they deserve."

The Hon'ble Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, Shri Thawar Chand Gehlotji, gave the keynote address and emphasised the need to ensure sanitation and education come together, as well as to allow education to be a source in which cleanliness of our mind, body and spirit could be taught and practiced.

Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswatiji, Secretary-General of Global Interfaith WASH Alliance, emphasised the importance of toilets in schools, especially for young girls. She said, "Today in the Kumbha Mela we not only must come together to pray, but also to provide, because by simply providing the basic facilities of toilets, clean drinking water and reliable energy we could ensure that children in India not only survive but thrive."



The event concluded with a beautiful and massive pledge for Swachhta Bhi Ek Sanskar inspired and led by the revered faith leaders and the Hon'ble Minister and joined by all teachers, parents and students.

While this Siksha Kranti took place in the Maha Kumbha, on the holy banks of the River Kshipra, there was a simultaneous three-day event that culminated today along the banks of the River Ganga in Rishikesh, jointly organized by the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance, the Institute of Applied System & Rural Development (IASRD), the

International Chamber of Media & Entertainment Industry (ICMEI) and the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Govt. of India. The event engaged over 20,000 students in the Rishikesh and Haridwar area over three days in slogan writing, poster making and an essay writing competition on the theme of preserving and protecting the River Ganga and all sacred rivers of India. Today, the best presentations were awarded, and a pledge was taken to continue to work for protecting and preserving our fresh water sources.

**To view album, [click here.](#)**





# Inauguration of Loo with a View



Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji, President of Parmarth Niketan (Rishikesh) and Co-Founder of Global Interfaith WASH Alliance, and Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswatiji, Secretary-General of the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance, inaugurated the "Loo with a View" at the Ujjain Simhasth Kumbh Mahaparv - 2016.

It is an enclosed toilet stall where the door is a one-way mirror door through which the person on the outside sees a mirror on the door but on the inside, the person using the toilet can look at the outside world. This gives a sense of what it's like to defecate in an open space, which appeals to many men who enjoy the freedom of defecating in the open. Additionally, the creative and innovative toilet concept exposes the embarrassment felt by so many women and girls in this nation when they have no choice but to defecate in the open. In this way, the lack of safe and private toilets was profoundly and intelligently displayed by WaterAid India in association with the Ujjain Municipal Corporation.

The message of 'SwachhSimhastha, SwasthHum' echoed in the hearts of thousands of pilgrims visiting the mela at this event focused on WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) organised by the partnership of Global Interfaith WASH Alliance, WaterAid India, Simhastha Kumbh Mela authority and Bhartiya Grameen Mahila Sangh.

Pujya Swamiji led the pledge of making India OpenDefecationFree. He said, "Nearly 600 million, or half of India's population defecate in the open, resulting in our precious water sources getting contaminated by sewage waste, which leads to

1200-1600 deaths of children under the age of 5 every day." The inauguration was to support the initiative to make Simhastha Kumbha Mela and



India completely open defecation free. On the occasion Pujya Swamiji shared, "Through these innovative new solutions let us spread the message that the time has come for Meditation and Sanitation to go hand in hand. This is a creative and effective move to raise awareness towards the urgent & critical need to end open defecation and pollution of our sacred water bodies with sewage waste and the need for us all to build and to use toilets. From Simhasth Ujjain, let us spread this message to ensure adequate sanitation for all."

Sadhvi Bhagawatiiji shared, "This loo with a view is a great invention and a great innovation to help

end the practice of open defecation. Now we need to have implementation of the innovation, and bring these toilets into every school, every village and every community. With these toilets, those who love to defecate in the open can continue to have the feeling of the open air, and those who are not open defecators can have compassion and understanding for what our 600 million sisters and brothers go through every day. Through this inspired invention, innovation and implementation I am sure we will be able to create a Swachh and Swasth India."

To view album, [click here](#).





# Pujya Swamiji Speaks About Sanitation Best Practices in Simhastha



HH Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji, President, Parmarth Niketan (Rishikesh), Chairman, India Heritage Research Foundation (IHRF), and Co-Founder, Global Interfaith WASH Alliance (GIWA), addressed a press conference at the Kumbh Mela in Ujjain highlighting the importance of behaviour change in driving sanitation best practices. He emphasized that all citizens need to take responsibility for eliminating open defecation in our country and ensure the safe treatment and disposal of human waste in our environment.

Addressing the topic of swachhta (cleanliness) at his camp dedicated entirely to these efforts, Pujya Swamiji urged everyone to protect our precious planet and keep our surroundings clean by always using toilets for defecation and ensuring that untreated human waste is not discharged into our rivers, soil and our environment. He emphasised the importance of safe sanitation practices by saying, "We are all citizens of this planet first, and it is our duty to protect and preserve our Earth. A single act of open defecation can lead to multiple problems of environmental pollution and has a devastating effect on the health of children and adults, causing illness and death. It is important that we all join this national mission to increase our sanitation coverage and make the practice of open defecation and open discharge a social taboo."

Pujya Swamiji also spoke vehemently against the evil practices of treating some of our fellow citizens as pariahs and as beneath our respect because of their profession as sanitation workers. He emphasised that old myths around impurity and

untouchability are not relevant in these times, and that all religions preach equality of all human beings – there is no sanction for relegating any member of society as impure or untouchable by virtue of their profession. In fact, he opined that those who clean our waste should be given the highest respect, since they are performing the most stellar service for the nation in making it Swachh and keeping away deadly diseases like the plague and epidemics that would overwhelm people if they did not do their jobs as diligently as they do.

Further elaborating on initiatives to protect and preserve the Ganga and our planet, Pujya Swamiji urged all pilgrims and devotees to provide support and support the government by acting responsibly and spreading awareness about sanitation best practices, which in turn would help contribute towards the government's national sanitation mission, the Swachh Bharat Mission. He said, "The government has already allocated money and support for each household that does not have a toilet. I urge you to please go to your gram panchayat/ panchayat leader/ municipal corporation and obtain all the information you require on this subject. It is critical for you to ensure that every family member, whether a man, woman or child, uses a toilet at all times. Only then will we be able to keep our environment safe, our rivers clean and our families healthy – this is the yogic way of living."

On the occasion there was also the inauguration of a toilet exhibition at Pujya Swamiji's camp, displaying three toilet models, i.e. the dual composting toilet, the bio-digester toilet and the



septic tank toilet. The exhibitions are prominently built at main entrance of his camp and just alongside the beautiful Char Dham's replica to illustrate one of the key ways to clean and green our sacred pilgrimage sites is to build and use a toilet.

Present with him at the Press Conference were:

- Shri Indreshji, Senior RSS Leader
- Pujya Swami Harichetanandji
- Pujya Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswatiji, Secretary-General Global Interfaith WASH Alliance (GIWA)
- Pujya Swamini Adityananda Saraswatiji, Director of Programmes, Policy and Partnerships, GIWA

HH Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji will be present during the 30-day Kumbh Mela in Ujjain, where he will be organising sermons to spread awareness about sanitation best practices among his followers, particularly on the importance of eliminating open defecation and ensuring that waste is treated and is disposed of safely. He is also leading the efforts to inspire and motivate other spiritual and interfaith leaders to organize these sermons in other camps as well.

**To view album, [click here](#).**





# Hon'ble Shivrajji Leads Green Pledge During First Kshipra Aarti



Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhanji, with the inspiration of Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji, with the blessings and divine presence of Junapeethadheswar Acharya Mahamandleshwar Swami Avdheshanand Giri Ji Maharaj, renowned Ram Charit Manas exponent Pujya Morari babu Akhada Committee's Secretary Pujya Swami Hari Giriji Maharaj, Pujya Swami Harichetanandji Maharaj, Pujya Mahamandleshwar, Sadhvi Naisargika Giriji and Pujya Raghumuniji Maharaj inaugurated the Maha Kshipra Aarti.

Thousands of devotees gathered on both the sides of the sacred River Kshipra, at Datt Ghat and Ram Ghat to seek blessings from the Divine Mother.

During the Aarti a mass pledge was led by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of MP to keep the River Kshipra clean and green as everyone raised hands with the echoes of Jai Maa Kshipra and Jai Mahakaal.

Pujya Acharya MM Swami Avdheshanandji said, "We cannot save our rivers and other water resources unless we take a pledge to increase our awareness towards the creation of a Clean & Green environment."

Pujya Morari Bapuji shared, "This is not just a Kshipra Aarti but the Param (ultimate) Aarti. The greatest form of worship and reverence as it bring all ghats together and everyone together to pledge and serve Maa Kshipra."

Pujya Swamiji inspired all to ensure that during their pilgrimage to the sacred festival they would never pollute the sacred waters or the sacred land by open defecation, but would use a toilet instead, and that no waste and garbage of any kind would pollute the river. He said by keeping the river in its natural state, pristine and free-flowing, we are doing the true Aarti or the true pooja. He also encouraged everyone to plant at least one tree in the memory of their green pilgrimage.

***To view album, [click here.](#)***





# Confluence of Saints Concludes the Simhasth



Just before the last major Shahi Snan of the Kumbha Mela, Pujya Swamiji and Pujya Swami Avdheshanand Giri Ji Maharaj led a beautiful Sant Sammelan, a gathering of eminent and revered saints at the Simhasth Kumbh Mahaparv - 2016, to give their darshan and share their wisdom as the final Kumbha prasad.

The programme followed Pujya Shri Swami Rajendradas Ji Maharaj's katha at the Prabhu Premi Sangh camp and some of the saints who graced the occasion included: Pujya Swami Satyamitranand Giriji, Pujya Baba Ramdevji, Pujya Sadhvi Sadhvi Rithambara - "Didi Maa", Pujya Mahant Narendra Giriji, Pu. Madhavpriya Swamiji, Pujya MM Swami Harichetanandji, Pujya Shri Ravishankar Maharaj of Ravatpura Sarkar, MP, Pujya Swami Anand Giriji and others. The Hon'ble Chief Minister and others joined the special occasion. Both Pujya Swamiji and the Hon'ble Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhanji led massive pledges to commit to a pollution free, open defecation free and green River Kshipra.

To view album, [click here](#).



# Massive Procession for a Clean and Green Kshipra



Pujya Swamiji and Pujya Shri Devkinandan Thakur Ji joined together to lead a massive procession that concluded at the Datt Ghat with a massive Kshipra Aarti.

More than 15,000 pilgrims and devotees held Swachhta Kranti signs and took a pledge along with thousands more for an open defecation-free and pollution-free River Narmada and Kshipra plus massive tree plantations to restore water in the catchments of both rivers.

To view album, [click here](#).





# Simhastha Aarti at Bhukhi Mata Ghat



The Hind Raksha Samiti, under the able leadership of Smt Malini Singh Gaurji, Mayor of Indore, organised a beautiful Kshipra Maha Aarti on the Bhukhi Mata Ghat. Several faith leaders joined to bless and lead the sacred ceremony. Also present at the event were Shri Bhupinder Singh, Minister for Information Technology of Madhya Pradesh who also was in charge of the Kumbha Mela plus Shri Makhan Singhji, Chairman of the Central Committee of Simhastha Kumbha Mela. Pujya Swamiji graced and blessed the occasion, leading the sacred Aarti ceremony and inspiring a massive sankalp to end the pollution of our sacred

rivers, end open defecation and to ensure massive tree plantation drives along both sides of the river banks. Prominent and respected Pujya Swami Satyamitranandji of the Bharat Mata Mandir and Former Shankaracharya, supported and lauded Pujya Swamiji's efforts, saying that he endorsed the greening drive. Many other revered saints, local leaders and stakeholders were present on the occasion.

*To view album, [click here](#).*





# Joining Together for Narmada and Kshipra: Paryavaran Maha Kumbha



Throughout the month-long Simhasth Kumbh Mahaparv - 2016, Pujya Swamiji was garnering support, raising awareness and catalyzing much needed action to rejuvenate and replenish the health and the natural state of the sacred River Kshipra, along whose banks the incredible mela takes place every twelve years.

On Pujya Swamiji's last day of the Simhastha, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhanji and his wife visited Pujya Swamiji's camp, which, under Pujya Swamiji's vision and leadership, has been dedicated to catalyzing a Swachhta Kranti and towards protecting the environment.

Some of Pujya Swamiji's inspired and innovative programmes during the month-long Simhastha Kumbha Mela included: Sarva Dharma Swachhta Sankalp, Rashtra Raksha Kumbha, Siksha Kranti Kumbha, Paryavaran Kumbha, Vanvasi Kumbha, Divyang Kumbha, Karma Yogi Kumbha, Pancha Mahabhut programme and Kshipra Maha Aarti, in which activities like Chunari Mahostav and regular mass Swachhta Sankalp had been led with revered saints, eminent personalities and artists visiting every evening. Along with this, Pujya Swamiji blessed and captivated audiences with His inspiring address during the Vaicharik Maha

Kumbha International Conference organized by the Government of Madhya Pradesh, in which He spoke on the theme of Swachhta aur Sarita and during which He encouraged the Hon'ble Chief Minister to channel his efforts to restore the green cover along the holy banks of the Rivers Kshipra and Narmada.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister and his wife added the last ahuti to this month-long Paryavaran Kumbha, in which the concentration and focus had been on activities and events geared towards raising awareness for a Clean and Green Kumbha and thereby a Clean and Green India, by visiting the beautiful, eco-friendly and saatvic Parmarth Niketan-Ganga Action Parivar camp. They were honoured and blessed by Pujya Swamiji with an elachi mala, a 'green' (eco-friendly) mala for a green leader and led in a green pledge, during the sacred yagna purnahuti, to bring to fruition these plans for a massive plantation and restoration drive of the Rivers Narmada and Kshipra by engaging and involving all the revered saints, schools, students and stakeholders during monsoon and post monsoon season.

Pujya Swamiji shared, "It is due to the great efforts and tremendous dedication of the entire administration, under the able leadership and selfless service of Hon'ble Shri Shivraj Chohanji,



that a very successful, divine and green Kumbha has taken place. As the Clean and Green Kumbha comes to a closing, I strongly believe that the real completion of the Kumbha will be when we join together and act together to ensure that our sacred bodies of water are protected and preserved. The time has come that our melas should not only be focused on what we can take from the River but also how we can give back to them. For this, I am so glad to see the beautiful enthusiasm, dedication and commitment of the Hon'ble Chief Minister and his

entire administration to ensure that the post Kumbh plans include restoring and rejuvenating a clean, green and free-flowing Kshipra for all. My support and my blessings are always with him in these vital efforts, because the sacred rivers Kshipra and Narmada are the very spirit of Madhya Pradesh and if they dry and if they die then the spirit of MP also dies but if they thrive then the spirit of MP thrives."

**To view album, [click here.](#)**





# Kshipra: Post Kumbha Plan



Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji had a special meeting with Mela Administration, led by the dynamic and dedicated Mela Adhikari, Shri Avinash Lavania, to plan post Kumbha efforts, urging the formation of a committee and active involvement of all stakeholders to achieve this crucial task. Pujya Swamiji shared, "It is due to the great efforts of the administration that today we have the beautiful, healthy and holy waters of the River Narmada to bathe in. However, our Kumbha will truly be successful and fruitful if we all can join together to ensure that we no longer need to channel our resources to provide a Rented Kshipra but can actually provide and maintain a Real Kshipra. How long will we be inter-linking rivers without simultaneously working to restore and replenish their natural source. The time has come that our melas should not only be focused on what we can take from the River but also how we can give back to them. It is beautiful to see the great enthusiasm, dedication and commitment of the Hon'ble Chief Minister and the Mela Adhikari to ensure that the post Kumbh plans include a clean, green and real Kshipra for all."

During the recent Vaicharik Maha Kumbha, Pujya Swamiji inspired the Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhanji by giving him a beautiful tree sapling during the closing session of the first day of the International Conference. Upon receiving the plant, the Hon'ble Chief Minister pledged his full support to these efforts.

During the Hon'ble Prime Minister's visit at the concluding day of the International Conference, Respected Shri Shivraj Chouhanji said, "I ask the farmers to start planting fruit-yielding trees. I know it will take at least 3-4 years for the trees to start bearing fruits. I promise that the Madhya Pradesh government will compensate for the losses farmers incur during this period," The chief minister also announced plans to launch a massive plantation drive from Amarkantak. "I will also take to the streets for one day and ask people from different quarters to follow suit to generate awareness about trees," he said, explaining that these are part of the message

that emerged from Simhastha to which the state wants to give shape on the ground. The Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modiji also expressed the great importance of restoring the green cover along rain-fed rivers, such as the sacred River Kshipra and Narmada. Pujya Swamiji connected revered faith leaders, seers and saints to the initiative along with businesses, NGO's and key stakeholders to offer their support to these efforts. When Pujya Swamiji shared these plans with Mananiya Mohan Bhagawatji, Sarsanghchalak RSS, he happily offered the first tree to these greening efforts. Pujya M.M. Swami Satyamitranandji, Pujya M.M. Swami Avdheshanand Giriji, Pujya Jaggi Vasudevji, Pujya Mahant Hari Giriji, Pujya Mahant Ravinder Puriji plus many others have also given their support for these efforts.

At the Mela meeting, Pujya Swamiji recommended the formation of a committee under which the greening efforts would be undertaken. Members could be from the Forest Department, including Ujjain Assistant Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Shri PC Dubey, members of the Ministry of Science and Technology, Director General of Madhya Pradesh Council of Science and Technology, Scientific Advisor to Chief Minister, Shri Pramod Kumar Vermaji, and others. The plantation of plant fruit bearing trees and usable plants like bamboos, tamarind, jamun, neem, peepal, banyan and bael were part of the comprehensive report that was submitted by the committee to the administration.

It was also emphasized that along with wide scale tree plantation during the upcoming monsoon, efforts would be made to ensure maintaining minimum dilution flow, formation of wetland systems, digging deep wells and ponds at spots where the river meanders, which will help collect rainwater, recharge aquifers and maintain adequate flow in the river as well as year-round reaeration and disinfection of the River Kshipra.

**To view album, [click here.](#)**



# Thirty Days of Transformation

Pujya Swamiji led and inspired thirty days of historic, uplifting, educational and innovative events, activities and pledges. Here is a summary, in chronological order, of all that happened.

- 20th April: Flag Hoisting Ceremony and Engaging Faith Leaders to the Swachhta Kranti: Mela with a Message
- 21st-23rd April: Sangeet and Sanitation Come Together
- 22nd April: First Shahi Snan on World Earth Day
- 25th April: Kshipra Maha Aarti Begins with Swachhta Kranti Sankalp
- 26th- 27th April: Ganga Avtaran and Environmental Preservation Dance to Protect our Sacred Rivers
- 27th April: Bhramakumaris Pledge for Clean and Green Mela- Free from Open Defecation and Pollution
- 29th April: Engaging Leaders for
- 30th April: Divyang Kumbha with Hon'ble Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment
- 1st May: Pujya Morari Babu inaugurates GIWA's WASH on Wheels
- 2nd May: Chunari Mahostav held for a clean, free-flowing and OD-free Kshipra River
- 3rd May: Sarva Dharma Swachhta Sankalp and Shanti Deep (Interfaith Pledge and Lamp Lighting for Clean India)
- 4th May: Sarva Dharma Swachhta Samvaad (Interfaith Dialogue for Clean India)
- 5th-6th May: Eminent Faith Leaders Engaged in Swachhta Kranti: Mela with a Message Pledge
- 7th May: Siksha Kranti Kumbha: Swachhta Aur Sanskar (Sanitation and Education: Sanitation in Education)

- 7th May: Press Conference on Swachh Kumbha (Clean Kumbha Mela)
- 8th May: Rashtra Raksha Kumbha (Protect and Serve India)
- 9th May: Major Shahi Snan
- 10th May: Kshipra Aarti and Pledge for Toilets
- 11th May: Paryavaran Kumbha (Environmental Kumbha)
- 12th May: Vaicharik Maha Kumbha: Swachhta aur Sarita- Pujya Swamiji speaks about Sanitation and inspires pledge
- 12th May: Loo with a View Inaugurated
- 13th May: Vaicharik Maha Kumbha: Shakti Kumbha- Sadhvi Bhagawatiji speaks about women empowerment and sanitation
- 14th May: Hon'ble Prime Minister of India at the Vaicharik Maha Kumbha: Supports pledge for restoring and reviving India's sacred rivers
- 15th May: Vanvasi Kumbha: Tribals gather with Anup Jalota and Malini Awasthi to Pledge for Clean India
- 16th May: Special Bhandara with Saints
- 17th May: Engaging Faith Leaders and Saints to lead pledge for Clean India and Clean Kumbha
- 18th May: Divyang Swachhta Sankalp: Interfaith Leaders Bless and Inspire Differently abled Children
- 19th May: Massive Procession and Pledge with Pujya Swamiji and Pujya Devikanand Thakurji
- 20th May: Confluence of Saints Concludes the Kumbha Mela
- 20th May: Meetings for Post Kshipra Plan and Hon'ble Chief Minister visits Pujya Swamiji





# News Highlights

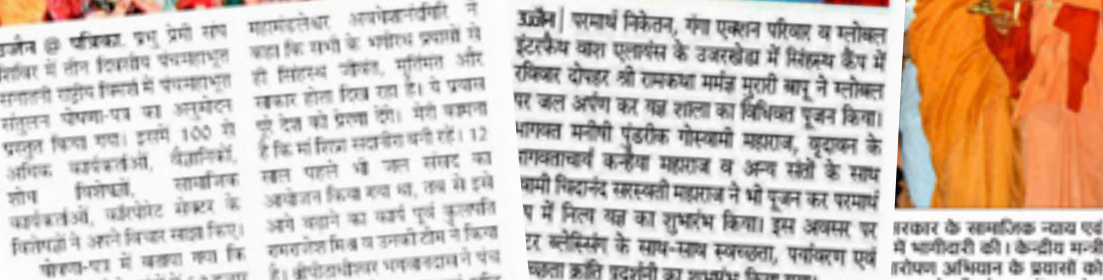
Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji's message has inspired and touched so many throughout the Ujjain Maha Kumbha, during the sacred Simhasth Kumbh Mahaparv - 2016.

His presence, His words and His actions have shared such a beautiful message of oneness and harmony, especially encouraging pilgrims and devotees to start the Swacchta Kranti with themselves, end open defecation, join the efforts for massive tree plantation along the banks of Kshipra and replicate this example for all rivers as well as to work together to address and find solutions to our most pressing challenges.

Some of the highlights from the beautiful coverage His message and His divine efforts have received are given in this album: [click here](#).



## VANVASIS' CONGREGATION PLEDGES TO EMBRACE CLEANLINES

[illegible]

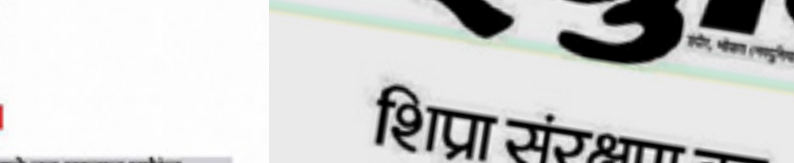
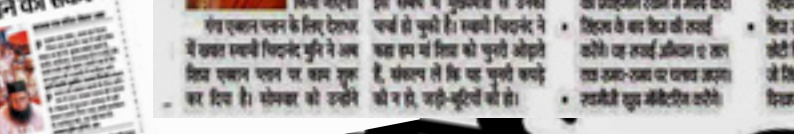
**वैचारिक कुंभ में हो स्विट्जरलैंड पर चर्चा**  
हवाई घातक संस्करणों ने कहा, नदियों का सुदृष्टिकरण बने प्राथमिकता



डाउनलोड करें  
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होता है, जो डिप्लोमाली या इन्फोर्मली कनेक्ट हो जाता है। ऐसे भीक पर अकाल सन्धान और

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Swami Chidanand calls for action on Sanitation Best Practices



FOR A SOCIAL CAUSE: Social justice minister Thawarchand Gehlot, Swami Chidanand and Swamishankar Gurukul Ganga had a word with differently abled children while donating them wheelchairs, in Ujjain on Saturday.



Ujjain. In a rare display of social and spiritual leadership, Swami Chidanand Saraswati, President of the Parmarth Niketan Ashram, called for action on sanitation best practices during a press conference in Ujjain on Saturday.

मुसरी बापू ने किया यज्ञशाला पूजन



उज्जैन। कर्मचारी महाकुम्भ के अवसर पर परमार्थ निकेतन, राव एवमन परिवार व न्यूटन इंटरनेट जॉय एवमन के उज्जैन-उज्जैन में परमार्थ निकेतन के यज्ञशाला पूजन किया। भाग्यश्रम मंत्री मुसरी बापू ने यज्ञशाला का विधिवत पूजन किया। भाग्यश्रम मंत्री मुसरी बापू ने यज्ञशाला का विधिवत पूजन किया। भाग्यश्रम मंत्री मुसरी बापू ने यज्ञशाला का विधिवत पूजन किया।

गंगा की तरह अब शिप्रा

शिप्रा किनारे 13 किमी में पौधे लगेंगे, परमार्थ

उज्जैन 25 अप्रैल। गंगा एक्शन प्लान की तरह ही परमार्थ निकेतन अब यहां शिप्रा एक्शन प्लान के जरिए इस पौराणिक नदी का संरक्षण करने आगे आया है। त्रिवेणी से लेकर चक्रतीर्थ के 13 किमी क्षेत्र में शिप्रा किनारे बड़ी संख्या में पौधे लगाए जाएंगे और इनकी देखभाल को जिम्मा भी परमार्थ निकेतन ही संभालेगा।

गंगा एक्शन प्लान के प्रमुख एवं परमार्थ निकेतन के संस्थापक संत चिदानंद सरस्वती महाराज ने कहा कि शासन की अपनी योजना हो सकती है, लेकिन हम अपने स्तर पर शिप्रा को प्रवाहमान बनाने, इसके किनारों को संरक्षित करने, किनारों पर खराब, फलदार व जल की शुद्धता को दृष्टि से वातावरण विभाग से सलाह लेकर संबंधित पौधे और वृक्ष लगवाएंगे।

दैनिक भास्कर

व्यांग कुंभ : सेवाधाम आश्रम के दिव्य च्यों ने दी धार्मिक व सांस्कृतिक प्रस्तु

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एक परिवार के रूप में दिख रही दुनिया : शिवराज सिंह

आदिवासियों ने लिया राष्ट्र निर्माण और पर्यावरण संरक्षण का संकल्प

दैनिक भास्कर

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# 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.

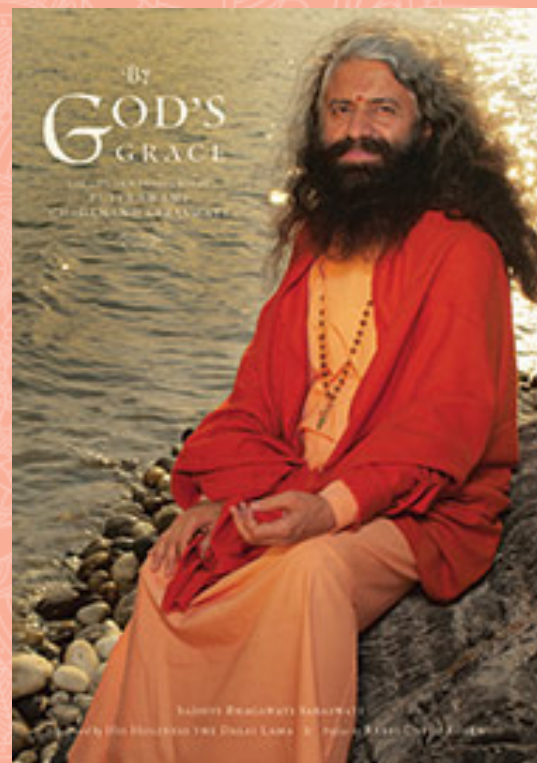
Upon its release, this book held the NUMBER ONE position as the bestseller in Amazon.com's Hindusim section, out of a total of over 17,000 books!

Illustrated with exquisite photos of Ganga, the Himalayas, and all of the saints and world leaders with whom 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 go to: [www.bygodsgracebook.org](http://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 by visiting**

**<http://www.parmarth.org/how-you-can-help>**

### **Global Interfaith WASH Alliance**

The faiths come together to help ensure Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) for all.

### **Parmarth Niketan**

The largest ashram in Rishikesh and one of the largest interfaith spiritual institutions in India, Parmarth is home to the world-renowned evening Ganga Aarti ceremony and the annual International Yoga Festival.

### **Encyclopedia of Hinduism**

An unprecedented encyclopedia, drafted by some 1,000 experts over a 25-year time-span.

### **The Divine Shakti Foundation**

Dedicated to the holistic well being of women, their children, and orphaned/abandoned children, and to all of Mother Nature and Mother Earth.

### **Nepal Earthquake Relief: Project Hope**

Immediate Response in Earthquake-Impacted Nepal

### **Ganga Action Parivar**

Bringing together networks and partnerships of the world's preeminent researchers, environmentalists, engineers, religious and business leaders, as well

as members of the general public. Together, we work towards creating thoughtful solutions to the numerous problems plaguing the Ganga and its tributaries.

### **Project Hope: Disaster Relief**

Continuing Relief to End Suffering and Hardship

### **The Green Kumbh Initiative**

Promoting clean and green festivals and public education for healthier populations and ecosystems.

### **The National Ganga Rights Movement**

Bringing about a new paradigm for the protection of nature.

### **India Heritage Research Foundation**

Committed to education, healthcare, interfaith harmony and the upliftment of women. IHRF has also created ashrams in Mansarovar as well as the world's first comprehensive Encyclopedia of Hinduism







# CONNECT WITH US ONLINE

## VISIT OUR WEBSITES

Parmarth Niketan Rishikesh [www.parmarth.org](http://www.parmarth.org)

HH Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji [www.pujyaswamiji.org](http://www.pujyaswamiji.org)

Ganga Action Parivar [www.gangaaction.org](http://www.gangaaction.org)

Global Interfaith WASH Alliance [www.washalliance.org](http://www.washalliance.org)

Divine Shakti Foundation [www.divineshaktifoundation.org](http://www.divineshaktifoundation.org)

Project Hope [www.projecthope-india.org](http://www.projecthope-india.org)

International Yoga Festival [www.internationalyogafestival.com](http://www.internationalyogafestival.com)

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Sadhvi Bhagawati [facebook.com/sadhvibhagawatisaraswati](https://facebook.com/sadhvibhagawatisaraswati)

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