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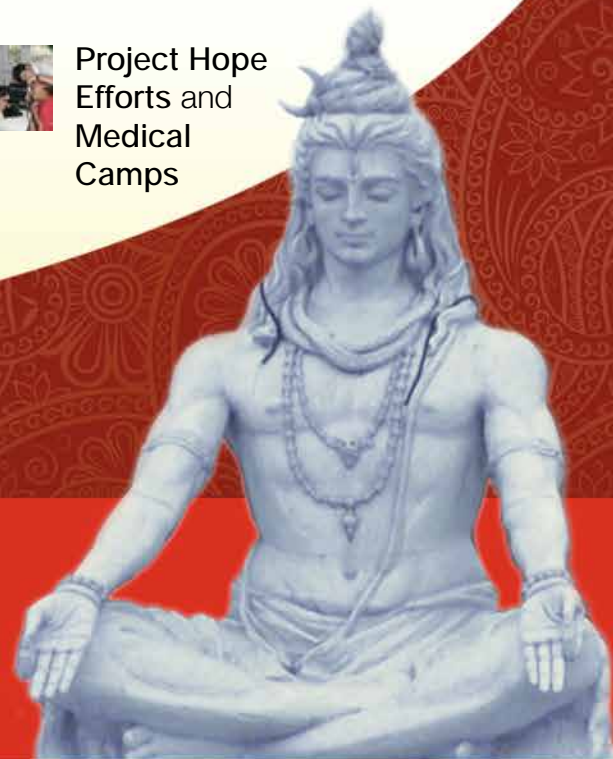
**Launch of
the Global
Interfaith
WASH
Initiative**



**Interfaith
Meetings in
India and US**



**Project Hope
Efforts and
Medical
Camps**



PARMARTH

H.H. SWAMI CHIDANAND
SARASWATIJI
NOVEMBER 2013 NEWSLETTER



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EVENTS

Each month Pujya Swamiji's presence is requested at innumerable events, functions and ceremonies. While He is unable to accept most invitations, due to time constraints, each month He does grace many special events and functions with His presence. A few of these are captured here in these next pages. Wherever He goes, His divine presence and wisdom not only inspire those present, but bring light and upliftment to all.



Launch of Global Interfaith WASH Alliance



On the 25th of September, a special alliance was launched at the UNICEF headquarters at the United Nations. Religious heads from around the world, joined by the Executive Director of UNICEF and representatives of many organizations, officially launched the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance (GIWA), an alliance of leaders of faith working together to bring clean water, sanitation and hygiene to people of the world.

The aim of GIWA is to harness the great power and influence of the world's interfaith leaders of faith in effecting significant and positive change in the areas of water, sanitation and hygiene and helping to achieve these crucial Millennium Development Goals.

Launch of Global Interfaith WASH Alliance

The speakers at the launch were:

- Anthony Lake, UNICEF Executive Director
- H.E. John Agyekum Kufuor, Former President of Ghana and current Chair of Sanitation and Water for All
- Rabbi Awraham Soetendorp, President & Founder, Jacob Soetendorp Institute for Human Values and GIWA co-founder
- Swami Chidanand Saraswati, President of Parmarth Niketan and Founder of Ganga Action Parivar and GIWA co-founder
- Imam Umer Ahmed Ilyasi, Chief Imam of India & President, All India Imam Organization
- Sister Karen Schneider, Religious Sister of Mercy and Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at Johns Hopkins University
- Xihutezcatl Martinez, 12-year-old award-winning environmental champion and "Earth Guardians" founder
- Alexandra V. Destin Pierre, World Youth Parliament for Water, Regional Coordinator for Latin America and the Caribbean
- Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswati, Ph.D, President of Divine Shakti Foundation and member of Ganga Action Parivar
- Moderator: Alfred Ironside, Ford Foundation, Director of Communications



Launch of Global Interfaith WASH Alliance



In attendance were also Lilianne Ploumen, Minister for Foreign Trade and Development, Government of the Netherlands; Christian Holmes, the Global Water Coordinator for USAID, and many other representatives from State Governments and United Nations organizations.

The launch also included a sacred water ceremony in which the leaders offered water, gathered from 20 rivers across the world, to a beautiful crystal globe, representing the world. The ceremony was symbolic of the union of the leaders of many of the world's religions in their commitment to bring clean water, sanitation and hygiene to the world.



Launch of Global Interfaith WASH Alliance





Following the launch of GIWA at UNICEF headquarters, we had a working meeting with the heads of UNICEF and WASH to plan our way forward.



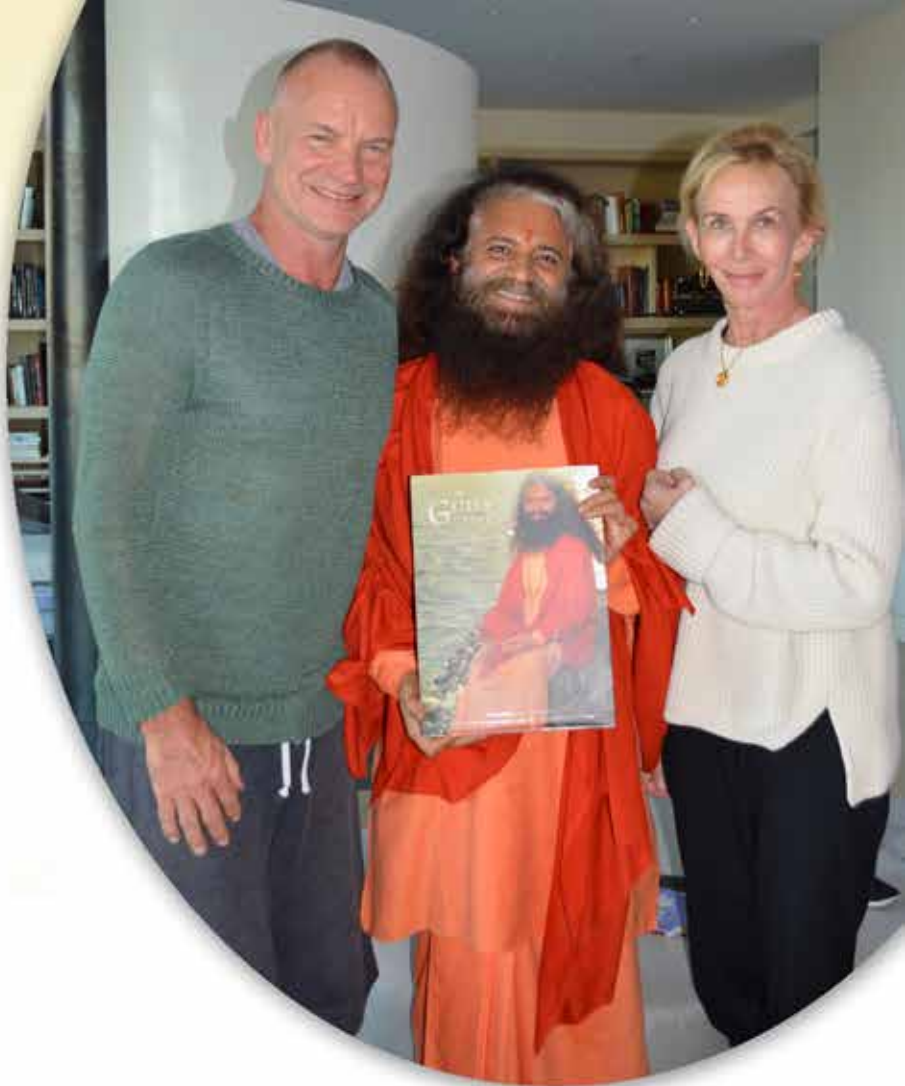
Rev. Jesse Jackson

While in New York for the GIWA launch, Pujya Swamiji met with Rev. Jesse Jackson at the home of the Hinduja family, and discussed the role that religious and political leaders can play in jointly bringing about great, positive change.



Sting

While in New York, Pujya Swamiji met with the famous singer/songwriter Sting and his divine wife Trudie. The afternoon was filled with talk about Ganga, God and the Divine flow of life.





“World Without Borders” in Chicago

On the 27th-28th September, a huge event was held in Chicago in honor of the 150th birth anniversary of Swami Vivekanandaji and the 120th anniversary of his historic speech at the Parliament of World's Religions in Chicago.

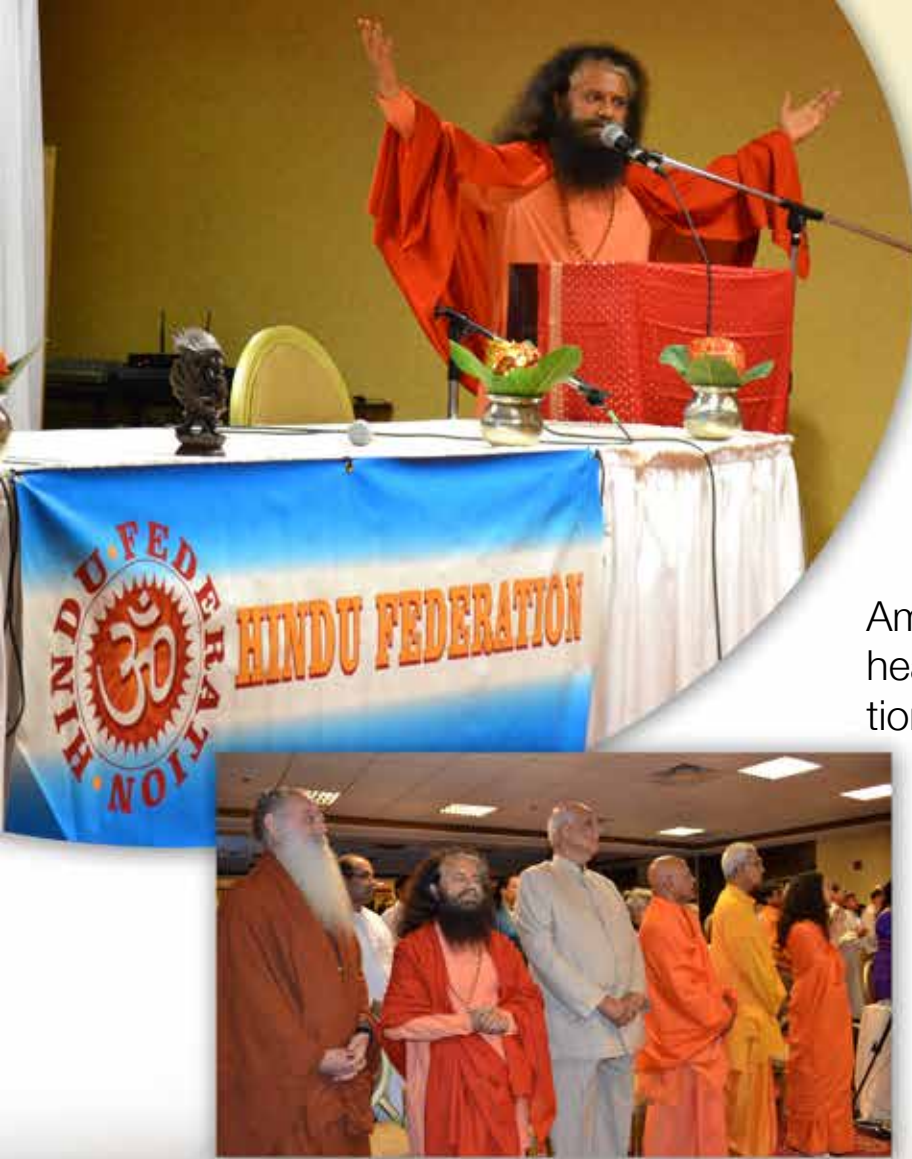
The event was hosted by the Jain Temple of Chicago, and followed a gala reception 27th evening, and a morning procession and event at the Art Institute, the exact location of Swami Vivekanandaji's famous speech.



Hindu Mandir Executives' Conference

Pujya Swamiji graced the Hindu Mandir Executives' Conference annual event with His presence.

Each year, in a different city of North America, hundreds of executives and heads of Hindu temples and organizations throughout North America come together to receive guidance from the spiritual leaders and from each other. Pujya Swamiji, Sadhvi Bhagawatiji and many other renowned leaders gave discourses on maintaining Dharma in our communities and keeping the fire of interest alive in our youth.





Above: The beautiful Swamijis of Hinduism Today magazine, based in Kauai, USA, also attended.

Right: Pujya Swamiji and Pujya Paramacharya Sadasivanathaswami



Pujya Dada J.P. Vaswani

While in Toronto, Pujya Swamiji went to visit Pujya Dada J.P. Vaswani who also was in Toronto at the time. Pujya Swamiji and Pujya Dadaji have a very long, very deep, and very love-filled connection.

While there, Pujya Swamiji shared the completed Encyclopedia of Hinduism and also *By God's Grace*, Pujya Swamiji's biography, with Pujya Dadaji.

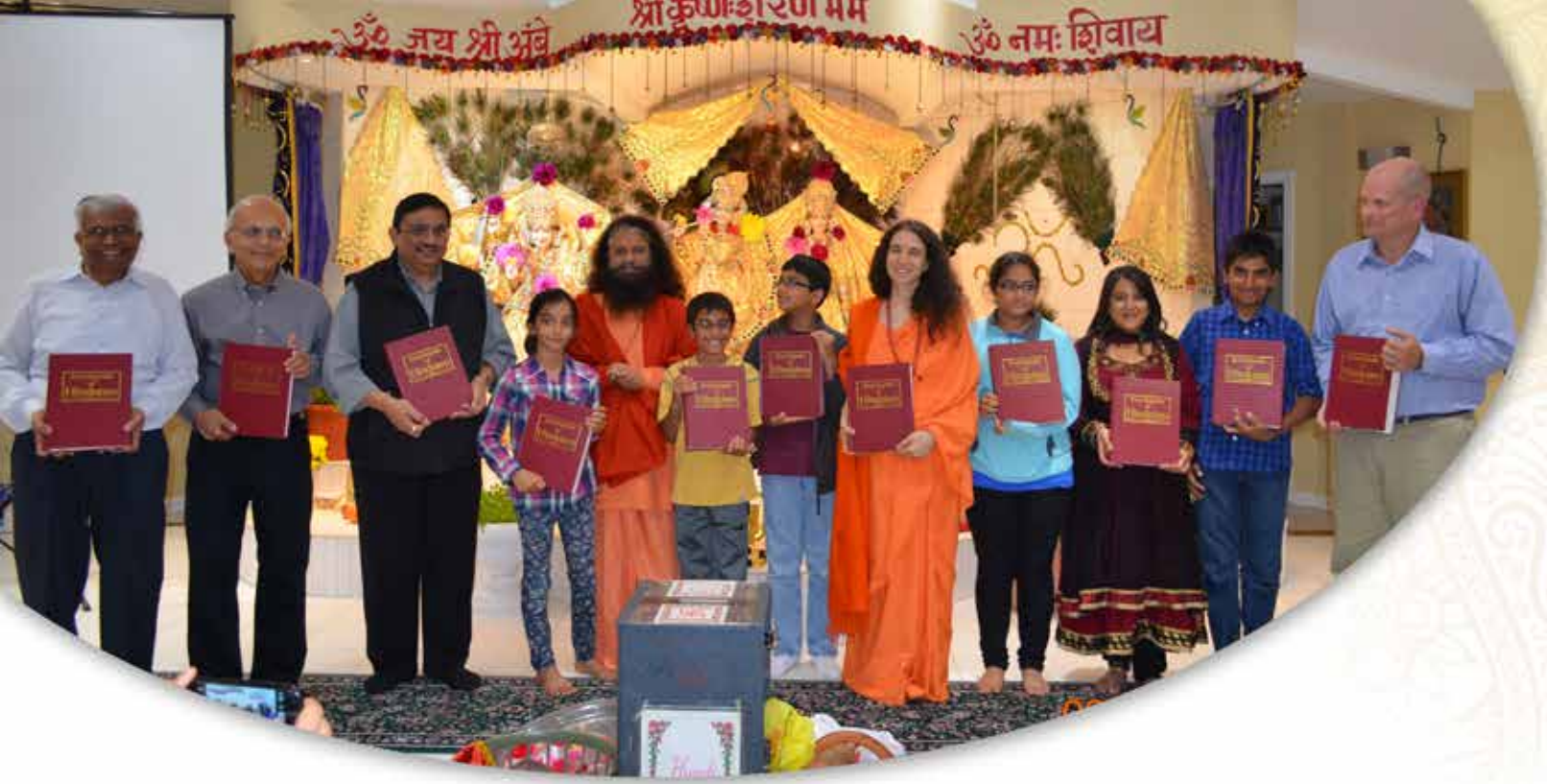




New Jersey

In New Jersey, an interfaith event was held during the katha of Devkinandanji which Pujya Swamiji and other religious leaders graced with their presence and words. The Encyclopedia of Hinduism was unveiled during the program for the community.





Sanatan Mandir, New Jersey

Ashokbhai Mehta, of the Sanatan Mandir in Parsippany New Jersey, has been requesting Pujya Swamiji to come and give a talk there for such a long time. Finally, on this trip it was possible and a beautiful evening was held.





Peace Rally in Muzaffarnagar

In the wake of the communal violence which gripped Muzaffarnagar in August and September, on the 15th September leaders of the Hindu, Muslim and Jain faith traveled there to bring a message of peace and love to the people.

Pujya Swamiji, Imam Umer Ahmed Ilyasi, President of the All India Imams Association, and Acharya Lokesh Muni, head of the Ahimsa Vishwa Bharti in Delhi, traveled together to Muzaffarnagar to urge the people to see one another not as enemies, but as brothers and sisters.



Said Puja Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji: “In this case, yes, wrongs were committed and mistakes happened. But no wrong was ever made right through more violence and it does not matter now who started the fight lets all come together to end it. Let’s not make the sugar-cane capital of India, which brings so much sweetness to the nation, a bitterness and hatred capital. It’s time we bring sweetness to our relationships and to living together in harmony and love. “

A large event was held in which the spiritual leaders met with local masses and urged them to return to peace. Puja Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji emphasized that, ‘We have to stop fighting with one another and work as one family to fight the many grave challenges that we face as human beings- such as poverty, pollution of our environment, neglect of our sacred rivers, global warming amongst others. These are our collective enemies and much greater threat to our existence evident in the recent tragedy that unfolded in Uttarakhand.’ He called for all to come together as one family to serve together for our collective green and peaceful futures.

[Click here to watch a special video of the peace rally.](#)
[Click here to watch news coverage of the peace rally.](#)





Shri AK Merchantji, Dr. BK Modiji, Pujya Swamiji
and Pujya Imam Ilyasiji

Premier of the Life and Story of Buddha

On the 7th of September, renowned and eminent Producer Shri B.K. Modiji presented a show on the life and story of Lord Buddha on Zee TV, in coordination with Spice Group. The show spans over 50 episodes and will be telecasted every

Sunday, conveying the inspirational story and messages of Lord Buddha.

Pujya Swamiji, Pujya Imam Umer Ilyasiji, Head of All India Imams, Shri AK Merchantji, General Secretary of the Temple of Understanding and representative of the Bahai Temple were humbly invited to provide blessings and share their vision with all. Pujya Swamiji commended these efforts and shared that this was a shining example of media social responsibility providing healthy alternatives and holistic entertainment, which is a vital necessity today. Being exposed to examples and stories of visionaries and great leaders in their own living room would be pivotal in molding our future generation and make it easy for them to relate and model these values in their everyday lives.



Peace Meeting in Rajghat

Pujya Swamiji and Head of the All India Organization of Imams graced a peace gathering at Gandhi Rajghat on September 9th to support a resolution of saints the conflict in Muzaffarnagar.

Pujya Swamiji was invited to a closed door meeting with key Muslim leaders and various revered leaders of other major faiths in India. All the venerated leaders agreed to work together to resolve any future conflicts and to be instrumental in persuading the nation to live together as one family - Vasudeva Kutumbukum - as is the very essence of India.

International Buddhist Conference

A special seminar entitled 'Meeting of the Hearts and Minds' brought together key spiritual and religious leaders from the world's top religions such as the Baha'i, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jewish and Islamic faiths, along with thousands of Buddhist monks. They discussed amongst many vital issues their collective condemnation to acts of violence such as the blasts in Bodh Gaya a few months ago, the murder of hundreds in Myanmar and the recent communal strife in Muzaffarnagar. They agreed that these acts were direct insults to humanity and such actions are not in any way supported by any faith, and that they all would to work together to bring people together, connecting the nation and world.





Archbishop of Delhi Rev. Anil J.T. Cuoto, Father Dominic Emmanuel and Pujya Swamiji



Pujya Imam Ilyasiji, Pujya Swamiji and Pujya Shri Karmapaji





Pujya Swamiji meets with Interfaith Leaders

On the 10th September, Pujya Swamiji met with Pujya Sri Sri Ravi Shankarji, Founder of the Art of Living, and Pujya Atmaswaroop Swamiji, Head of Akshardham Temple while in Delhi.

Pujya Swamiji discussed the recent happenings and the future plans of green rehabilitation for Project Hope in Uttarakhand.



Global Spa & Wellness Summit

From the 5-7th October, the annual Global Spa & Wellness Summit was held, for the first time in India. In keeping with the theme of “Inward Wellness” the organizers, Pete and Susie Ellis, brought a spiritual touch to the otherwise business/professional annual summit. H.H. the Dalai Lama opened the day with his divine presence and words. Pujya Swamiji and Sadhvi Bhagawati gave a special session on “From Illness to Wellness” which included discourses and also a deeply touching question-answer session in which owners and CEOs of the world’s top spas and wellness centers had, perhaps, for the first time, the opportunity to truly delve into the spiritual nature of their own lives and businesses.



International Girl Child Day

This year the International Girl Child Day coincidentally was during the auspicious week of Navratri, a Hindu festival of nine days dedicated to the Divine Feminine in its many forms, as well as the divine Shakti in the form of Mother Earth, Mother Ganga, Gau Mata (Mother Cow) and the Girl Child. Pujya Swamiji shared that while our culture has always taught us to revere and respect shakti and prakriti (the divine feminine and Mother Nature) as harbingers of good fortune, prosperity, health, happiness and strength the unfortunate situation today is that in much of India having a girl child is seen as a misfortune and in thus the girl child ratio is quickly deteriorating. Pujya Swamiji says that what is needed today is innovative spirituality and inspires all to pledge to protect and preserve the 3G's: Gau (Cow), Ganga, Gauri (Girls).





Global Handwashing Day

A majority of our world's childhood sicknesses and deaths are due to the lack of good water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH). Many of these deaths can be prevented through the simple act of proper hand washing. October 15th is official Global Hand Washing Day as declared by UNICEF. Under the banner of newly formed Global Interfaith WASH Alliance (GIWA), we organized many activities on that day in India, UK, USA and Canada, bringing together many hundreds of children in order to teach the crucial importance of hand washing with soap. At our free schools here in Rishikesh, bars of soap were distributed to all and each child pledged not only to follow the principles of proper handwashing but to teach and share that life-saving information in their families and villages.



Schoolchildren in Rishikesh hold up bars of soap on Global Handwashing Day

International Federation of Working Journalists Conference



Uttar Pradesh Governor Shri B.L. Joshi, Water Resources Minister Shri Harish Rawat and Puja Swamiji hold the Media Social Responsibility Declaration



Uttarakhand Chief Minister Shri Vijay Bahuguna, Disaster Management Minister Shri Yashpal Arya and other ministers light the inaugural lamp

From October 20th-21st, nearly 1000 journalists from across India and nations abroad pledged their commitment towards working to ensure a clean and free-flowing Ganga River in history's first Media Social Responsibility Declaration. Puja Swamiji explained that last year a green declaration for rivers had taken place in Rio de Janeiro and this year the clean, green revolution has started from Rishikesh. The journalists acknowledged the crucial responsibility that the media bears in the national and international pursuit of keeping vital water sources, especially life-giving rivers, free-flowing and unpolluted.

The Declaration, which was drafted under the inspiration, guidance and leadership of Puja Swamiji was presented to the



Indian Federation of Working Journalists

IFWJ

66th session of National Council

National Symposium on :

Media's Role in making the Ganga clean



Hon'ble

Governor of Uttar

Pradesh Shri B.L. Joshi and Respected

Minister of Water Resources, Government of India, Shri Harish Rawat. It calls for urgent action from all levels of the government, including the passing of a National Ganga Rights Act and the strict enforcement of existing laws, which prohibit toxic chemicals and sewage from being dumped into Ganga as well as providing special, increased subsidies and incentives for organic and water-saving methods of agriculture. Recommendations for subjects including sustainable development and the abatement of rural migration are also outlined in the Declaration.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttarakhand Shri Vijay Bahuguna, Hon'ble Minister of Disaster Management Shri Yashpal Arya and many other respected ministers of the state of Uttarakhand came to inaugurate the conference on the first day and deeply appreciated the gathering of such a large number of media professionals for a cause that truly affects every person of the state, nation and the world.

The last day of the conference was joined by Hon'ble Minister of Irrigation of Uttar Pradesh Shri Shivpal Yadav and Respected Principal Secretary of Uttar Pradesh Shri Deepak Singhal, IAS who pledged their support in making the largest and most populous state of India along the banks of Mother Ganga clean and green.



Pujya Swamiji shows the eco-friendly bio-toilets to Minister of Irrigation of UP Shri Shivpal Yadav



Green Diwali with Puja Sri Sri Ravi Shankarji

Puja Sri Sri Ravi Shankarji came to visit Puja Swamiji at Parmarth Niketan and to be by the holy banks of Mother Ganga from October 25-26th. Together they discussed various seva projects they plan to work together on, including:

- 1) Providing relief and rehabilitation to the disaster affected regions of Uttarakhand
- 2) Working together to bring more awareness and outreach on issues related to water, sanitation and hygiene through the recently launched Global Interfaith WASH Alliance
- 3) Serving for the 3G's programme: Gau, Ganga and Gauri. Protecting and bringing stray cows of the streets and into Gaushalas, restoring the banks of Mother Ganga and Her tributaries as well as preservation of the divine feminine and women's empowerment programmes.



As Puja Sri Sriji departed to Muzaffarnagar to voice a message of peace and harmony after the recent communal riots, Puja Swamiji shared about His recent trip to Muzaffarnagar, and the two echoed a message of peace and love for the auspicious Diwali season.

[Click here to watch a special "Green" Diwali message.](#)

MEETINGS & WORKSHOPS

Just as Mother Ganga flows continuously with no hesitation and no vacation, so too does Pujya Swamiji serve tirelessly for the various causes He has taken up, in particular His efforts to restore and protect Ganga, Yamuna, and the environment.

Every month, Pujya Swamiji graces numerous meetings, conferences and workshops to further these causes, from meetings with top government leaders to small NGOs doing their part to help the environment and spread awareness.





Puja Swamiji meets with Hon'ble Home Minister of India Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde

Puja Swamiji Meets With Ministers to Discuss Green Rehabilitation Work

Upon Puja Swamiji's arrival back to India on 6th September, He was called in for a personal meeting in the capital, Delhi. Members present at the meeting included the Hon'ble Home Minister of India Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttarakhand Shri Vijay Bahuguna, and Additional Principal Secretary of Uttarakhand Shri Rakesh Sharma, along with, Nodal Officer in charge of coordinating the Uttarakhand Relief Efforts from the Center and member of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Shri VK Duggalji and other important officials in Delhi.

Puja Swamiji assured them that Project Hope would be keen to work as one team with the officials and all who are dedicated to the cause of rehabilitation and rebuilding in Uttarakhand. He emphasized the need for re-envisioning green and eco-friendly policies and rehabilitation in this region.

He also shared that Project Hope is developing a eco-sustainable model for the state and the center that protects sanitation, drinking water needs, renewable energy sources, empowers locals, stimulates livelihoods which sustain economy and conserve the fragile and precious Himalayan ecosystem.

Meetings with Project Hope Volunteers

On the 8th of September, Project Hope volunteers and representatives came together in Delhi to seek Pujya Swamiji's blessings and guidance and to share their progress and way forward for the next phase of green rehabilitation in Uttarakhand. Representatives from Uday Foundation, Samarth, ITM Technologies, India Water Portal, Yamuna Waterkeeper as well as others joined together to as one team and planned their role and contribution to the projects and the next important meetings and events in the coming months. Action plan was laid out for setting up a Project Hope Helpline in the coming days and an Emergency Reporting system to help families in the future to report and track emergencies helping them protect and secure their loved ones.





Meetings with DRDO and FICCI

Pujya Swamiji met with Shri Nirankar Saxenaji and members of FICCI on September 10th to

discuss their important role in setting up and planning Green Pilgrimages and Eco-Villages for Uttarakhand. They agreed that in the coming days they would put forward the action plan and Respected Saxenaji expressed his personal commitment to organize and host an event inviting corporate, businesses and industries to host CSR gathering at Parmarth Niketan. He agreed that this would be crucial in reviving and strengthening the environmental capital of the nation-Uttarakhand.

Pujya Swamiji met with members of DRDO and others to discuss how their time, talent, technology and tenacity can be utilized for Project Hope.

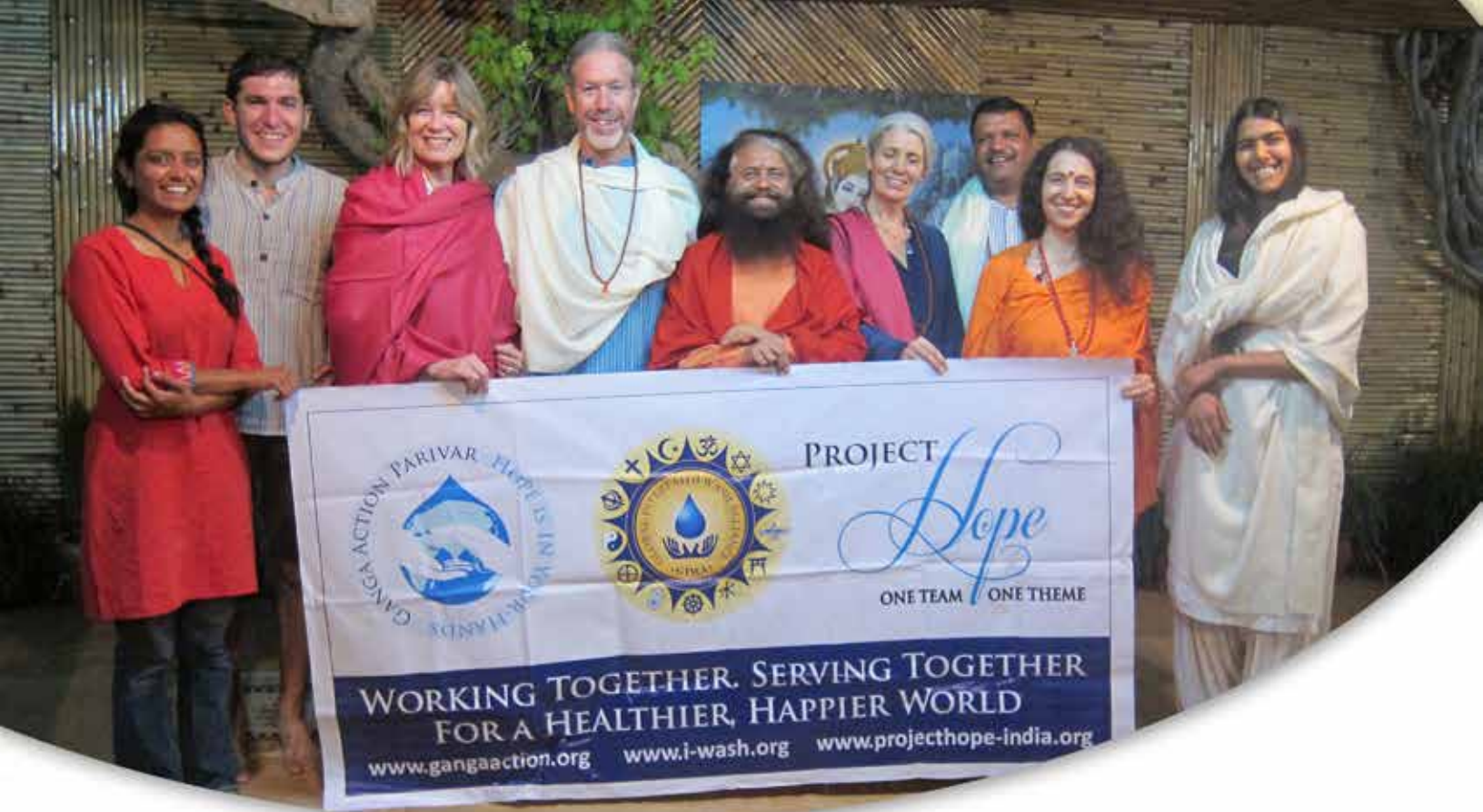
Project Hope Meetings

On October 14th, Pujya Swamiji met with Senior Director of FICCI Dr. Nirankar Saxenaji, experts from IIT-Roorkee and the Project Hope team, consisting of experts of the Owner Driven Rehabilitation Collaborative (ODRC), to discuss plans for the green rehabilitation of villages in Uttarakhand. Some points of their discussion included:

- 1) Creating a model village of green, owner-driven rehabilitation. Work has already been started in the village of Parodi (district Tehri-Garhwal).
- 2) Rebuilding some schools that were damaged and destroyed, and sponsoring bio-toilets, water filters and renewable energy sources in more than one-hundred schools that have been damaged or washed away.
- 3) Creating a model district where community involvement in projects that green the river banks and keep the river water clean will inspire all.

Throughout the course of the month Pujya Swamiji met with many other experts, scientists, professionals, NGOs, etc and discussed plans to work together in service of the survivors of the Himalayan Tsunami.





Organic India & Earth Organization join GIWA, GAP and Project Hope

Founder and President of Organic India Bharat Mitra and President of Earth Organization Barbara Wisemen visited Pujya Swamiji from October 27-28th to discuss plans to bring back organic, herbal and hut culture to the holy banks of Mother Ganga. Among the many important points of discussion were:



- 1) Green rehabilitation of the state of Uttarakhand by offering organic, herbal seeds and plants. Training of Himalayan farmers and offering buy-back programmes that take the produce to the nation and world.
- 2) An organic “greening” pilot plan to be started on the Gomti River in Lucknow to illustrate a success model to all who live along the banks of the rivers of India and the world.
- 3) Bringing experts, scientists and creative minds to co-create innovative solutions to combat the challenges facing our environment, and offer exciting opportunities for our communities to work together

SEVA & SANSKARAS

Each month, numerous activities take place at Parmarth Niketan demonstrating the meaning of Parmarth: “An Abode Dedicated to the Welfare of All.” Health care camps, conferences, environmental projects and other seva activities are ongoing.

Individuals and families also regularly come to Parmarth to perform sacred rites ceremonies (sanskaras), such as mundan (first hair cut), sacred weddings, and the final ash immersion puja. *To see how these events are performed at Parmarth, please [click here](#).*



Free Medical Camp

A free medical camp was conducted at the Parmarth hospital. Gene Research Foundation's Dr. Sunita Agarwal and Pankaj Sondhi from Mumbai came in with their team to offer free eye care, medical care and cutting edge gene therapy technology to all that came in with ailments and in need of help.





Dental Medical Camp

From 5-6th September, over 300 patients were treated in a two-day medical and health camp. Alongside treating special cases in Urology, Gastrology, Orthopedics and Dental, the doctors also provided care to patients for general diseases. The free camp was very valuable and necessary in providing healthcare to patients from financially weak sections and from surrounding rural areas.

Bajaj Family



On September 6th, the members of the Bajaj family traveled to Parmarth to perform an ash immersion ceremony.

In the evening, the Bajaj family attended the Ganga Aarti ceremony and then sat with Pujya Swamiji afterwards. Pujya Swamiji spoke to them about how today we have many relationships in our life but not enough life or depth in these relationships. What was needed today, He said, was to fill our relationships, whether it is to our spouses, children, and parents or to our country and our environment, with life and meaning. He shared that this was possible through service and giving back to humanity in a positive way. The Bajaj Family was deeply inspired by His presence and His words and pledged to help in this noble endeavour by serving for the welfare of all.





Eye Camp

From 12-15th September, a free eye camp was held at Parmarth by the Rotary Eye Institute from Navsari, Gujarat. Hundreds of patients were seen, and numerous eye surgeries were performed for those who would normally not be able to access such medical care.





International Ozone Day Tree Plantation & Clean-Up

On International Ozone Day, on the 16th of September, a clean-up and tree plantation was held at Triveni Ghat, Rishikesh to illustrate how we must come together to address environmental issues such as ozone degradation.



THE CALL OF MOTHER GANGA

Every day the holy waters of Mother Ganga and the sacred atmosphere and othe ashram attract innumerable visitors and pilgrims to Parmarth Niketan. From the daily Ganga Aarti, to spiritual holidays, to various retreats organized at the ashram, revered saints, leaders, industrialists, celebrities and devoted pilgrims of every age, every culture, every religion and every walk of life come daily to the ashram to bathe in the waters of Mother Ganga and be in the holy environment of the Himalayas.





Life Positive Expo

At the end of September, Parmarth hosted a very special Life Positive Expo, put on by Life Positive, a non-profit organization devoted to mind, body and spirit well-being. With the blessings of Pujya Swamiji, this was the second expo Life Positive has organized at Parmarth, on the banks of Mother Ganga. Life Positive is renowned for its beautiful magazine publication which features inspirational messages, stories, recipes and tips on sustaining holistic health and happiness in one's life.



At the start of the workshop, Suma Varughese, editor of Life Positive, thanked all the participants for coming from all over the nation despite the recent tragedy in Uttarakhand. Mr. Aditya Ahuwalia, Chairperson and Managing Trustee of Life Positive Magazine explained, "Although many may question why Mother Ganga, the

ever compassionate and giving Divine Mother, would cause such devastation, if we really look at it, the tragedy is Gangaji reminding us that in order to make Life Positive our relationship with our environment and Mother Ganga must also be positive.”

Swami Santatmanandji from Swami Dayananda Ashram graced the occasion to shower His blessings and share his words of wisdom. He thanked Pujya Swamiji for having warmly welcoming him to his Parmarth home and shared that, “Life becomes positive with knowledge and awareness, which in turn transform our actions to benefit and be for the welfare of all. This transforms our lives, our communities, our nations and the world to be positive.”

Shruti Rana, a renowned musician and sound healer, shared invocations and chanted verses by Adi Shankaracharya. Several workshops on living blissful lives and finding freedom from stress, fear and guilt as well as many other inspirational and uplifting talks were held throughout the two-day workshop.



Special Announcements

PROJECT HOPE

To learn about our relief and rehabilitation efforts, and to learn how you can help, please visit www.projecthope-india.org.



Upon seeing the massive amount of devastation caused by the June Uttarakhand floods and subsequent landslides, Pujya Swamiji, the Founder and inspiration behind Project Hope, without wasting any time, geared into action.

Project Hope has brought together various organizations, NGOS, administration, dedicated volunteers and doctors as one team with one theme—serving to facilitate rescue efforts, provide relief to pilgrims and local residents and finally to help bring long-term rehabilitation and reconstruction of some of the most severely affected regions.



Special Announcements

GANGA RIGHTS CAMPAIGN

To add your name to the petition, please visit www.gangaaction.org.

The National Ganga Rights Movement, which is being spearheaded by Ganga Action Parivar, is advocating for a National Ganga Rights Act to protect and restore one of the world's most precious and beloved river systems.

Mother Ganga is polluted by nearly 3 billion litres of sewage and chemical waste every day. Her rights are being violated, and in turn, our rights to clean water are being violated. People are getting sick. Children are dying. It's time we say no more. Ganga has the right to flow in Her clean, pristine form. Ganga's Rights are Our Rights.

Present environmental laws, which regulate the amount of allowable harm that may occur to ecosystems, have not proven adequate to protect India's National River, which also sustains the lives of some 500 million Indians. The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act of 1974, for example, calls for substantial jail time and fines for repeated polluters, yet pollution levels within the Ganga have grown progressively worse.

The proposed National Ganga Rights Act takes its precedence from other nations. Rights have been bestowed upon nature within the Constitution of Ecuador, have been granted to the Whanganui River in New Zealand, have been recognised for Mother Earth in Bolivia, and have been mandated within municipalities including Pittsburgh, USA.

The Act is necessary because laws decreeing the rights of nature also grant legal authority to residents and governments to enforce and defend those rights. These laws change the status of ecosystems from being regarded as property to being treated as rights-bearing entities.



Special Announcements



Says Pujya Swamiji, Founder of Ganga Action Parivar, "If Ganga dies, India dies. If Ganga thrives, India thrives. In violating Her, we are violating basic human rights, and we are putting at risk the bright futures our children so greatly deserve. Now is the time for action. Let us all stand up and say, it's time for the National Ganga Rights Act."

The National Ganga Rights Act is proposed with the purposes of establishing, securing, and defending the inalienable and inherent rights of the Ganga River, its tributaries, and watershed, and the rights of the people of India to a healthy, thriving river basin. Further, the Act establishes the rights of the people of India and their governments to defend and enforce the rights of the Ganga.

*To add your name to the
petition, please visit
www.gangaaction.org.*



Special Announcements



Special Announcements

GANGA ACTION PARIVAR

Clean Ganga, Green Ganga, Serve Ganga.



Officially launched in April of 2010 by the hands of Pujya Swamiji, H.H. the Dalai Lama and numerous other saints and dignitaries, Ganga Action Parivar is a global family of professionals, environmental engineers, scientists, activists, government leaders and devoted volunteers from all across the world dedicated to serving Mother Ganga. It is a sincere effort to provide effective and sustainable solutions for the millions of people whose lives depends on the purity of the river.

GAP is working in numerous areas - from “Grand Plan” scale to “Ground Plan” scale - to address the many issues that face Ganga and her tributaries, such as creating solid waste and wastewater management programs, building toilets, planting trees, cleaning and beautifying holy pilgrimage sites, spreading awareness on how to be eco-friendly, creating alternative environmentally-friendly energy plans, and so much more. GAP’s projects have been blessed and supported by saints, scholars, yogis, economists, scientists, environmentalists and agriculturalists, among many others.

Log-on to www.gangaaction.org to learn more about Ganga, about the issues, and about the programs and projects GAP is working on. Interact and share your ideas, and find out how you can truly help no matter where you are in the world! Together as a family, we can restore, protect and maintain a free-flowing and unpolluted Ganga!

Special Announcements

VOLUNTEER WITH US!

Parmarth Niketan is happy to announce a 3-month (minimum) residential service program for those interested in engaging themselves in seva (selfless service)! However, volunteers do not have to be residential. Wherever you are, your help is always greatly appreciated.

Currently, we are actively seeking volunteer help with designing (print and website) and database management. If you have skills in these fields, or in other fields you'd like to offer, please email us at parmarth@parmarth.com and cc to ganga@parmarth.com.

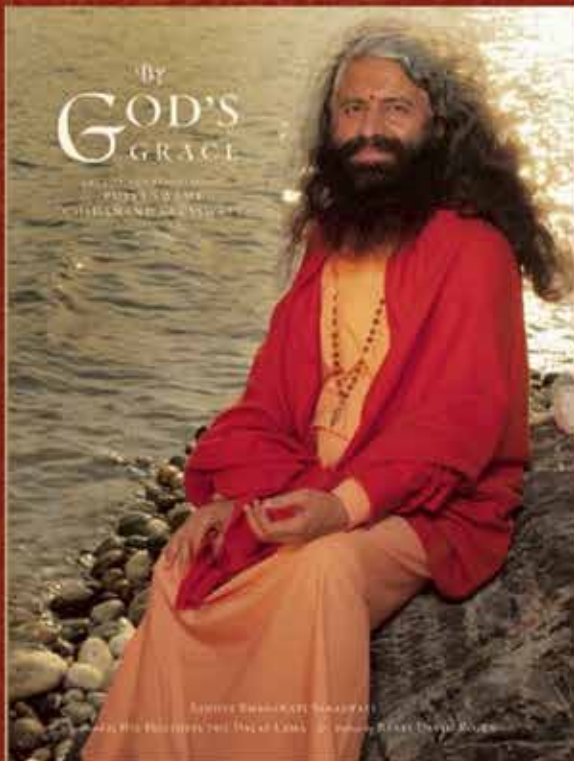
Volunteer in Parmarth and Ganga Action Parivar's numerous projects to restore and protect Ma Ganga, save the girl child, help animals, and much more. As our projects grow, so has our need for professional, inspiring, and productive volunteers who can work with us in our mission to achieve a greener, cleaner, and safer tomorrow for all humanity.

If you would like to get involved and volunteer in any one of our projects, please download our Volunteer Application Packet and send us your application.

[Click here to download the Volunteer Application Packet.](#)



Special Announcements



BY GOD'S GRACE

The Life & Teachings of Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswati

A gorgeous coffee table biography of Pujya Swamiji has been published entitled *By God's Grace*. Upon its release, this book held the **NUMBER ONE** position as a best-seller in Amazon.com's Hinduism section, out of a total of over 17,000 books!

It is a nearly 300 page coffee table book filled 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. However, it is more than just a beautiful beautiful book. It also 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 to 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. The book further details Pujya Swamiji's unparalleled projects and achievements including the eleven volume Encyclopedia of Hinduism, the construction of three ashrams in the sacred land of Lake Mansarovar and Mt. Kailash in Tibet, widespread tsunami relief work and now an unprecedented project to clean, preserve and protect the 2500 kilometer divine Ganga.

Lastly, even though for those blessed to know Him, we all understand that His life is His message, the book also includes special "teaching" sections in between the chronological chapters. 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.

His Holiness the Dalai Lama has written the foreword and shares His own thoughts and experiences with Pujya Swamiji.

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.

Please visit www.bygodsgracebook.org for more information about the book and how to order.



Links

Please visit us on the web for videos and music from Parmarth Niketan, as well as information on upcoming programs and seva opportunities.



Links

Thanks to Bhakti Sagar,
you can now watch videos of Pujya Swamiji online!
Click on the videos below to watch...



Enlightenment:
Living in the Light



Special Guru Purnima
Discourse



The Heart of
Compassion



Let It Go: Finding Freedom
in the Divine Flow



Patotsav



A Divine Life - Pujya Swamiji's
60th Birthday Film

...and click [here](#) to see even more videos online!