

#### H.H. Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji

#### SEPTEMBER 2015 NEWSLETTER



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Meditation, Sanitation & Medication Come Together: Buddhist Fest



GIWA Chapter in Ladakh

Swachh Kumbh Mela



Green Drive One Lakh Trees in Delhi



Banega Swachh India

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www.parmarth.org (Parmarth Niketan Rishikesh), www.gangaaction.org (Ganga Action Parivar),

www.washalliance.org (Global Interfaith WASH Alliance),

www.projecthope-india.org (Project Hope),

www.divineshaktifoundation.org (Divine Shakti Foundation)

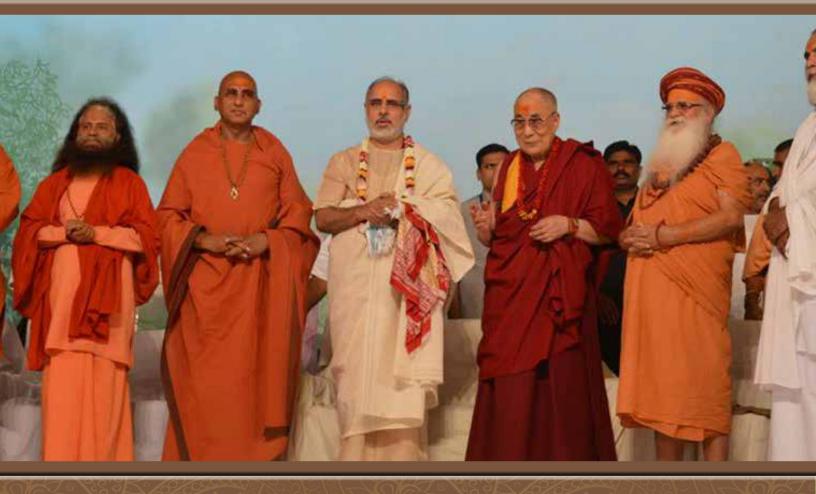
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# COMING TOGETHER.



Wherever Pujya Swamiji goes, His divine presence and wisdom not only inspires those present, but brings light and upliftment to all.
Through His extensive travels throughout the world as well as when He is home in Parmarth Niketan, Rishikesh, thousands of people come together in fellowship and harmony so that they may hear
His timeless wisdom, sit in His loving presence and share their own noble ideas for the betterment of the world.

# GIWA CHAPTER IN LADAKH



A branch/chapter of the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance (GIWA) was launched in Ladakh during the 4th International Festival of Buddhist Heritage, with the divine vision, inspiration and leadership of HH Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji, President of Parmarth Niketan (Rishikesh), Co-founder of Global Interfaith WASH Alliance, Founder of Ganga Action Parivar and Divine Shakti Foundation, and joined by Yoga Guru, HH Pujya Swami Ramdevji, Founder-President of Patanjali Yogpeeth, Pujya Acharya Balkrishanji, renowned Ayurveda Expert of Patanjali Yogpeeth, Venerable Bhikkhu Sanghasenaji, Founder-President of Mahabodhi International Meditation Centre (MIMC), Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswatiji, President of Divine Shakti Foundation and Secretary-General

of GIWA, as well as many, many others. The centre will actively work to to raise awareness for improved Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Ladakh and all over the world.

GIWA is the world's first initiative to engage many faiths to create a world where everyone has access to improved sanitation, safe drinking water and proper hygiene. GIWA was launched globally on September 25, 2013 at UNICEF headquarters during the United Nations General Assembly week, sponsored by the Governments of the Netherlands and USAID, with its International Secretariat in Parmarth Niketan (Rishikesh). (www.washalliance. org)





### Empowerment of Women of Ladakh

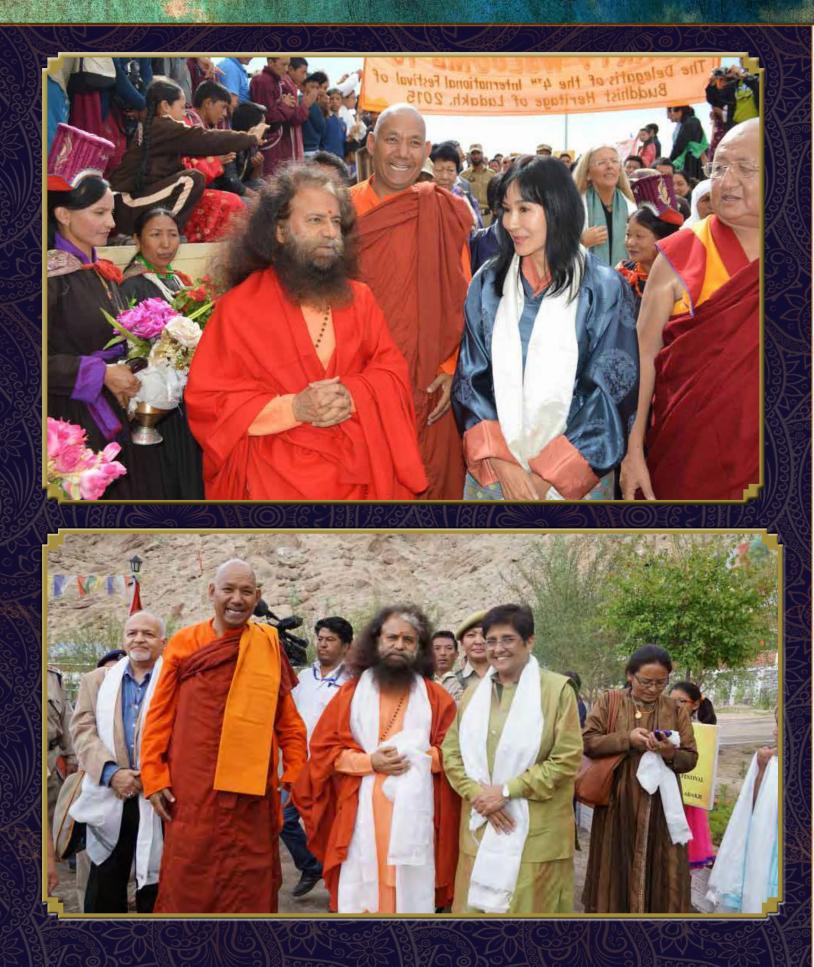


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Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswatiji, President of Divine Shakti Foundation and Director of the International Yoga Festival 2015, was the Guest of Honor and speaker at the International Festival of Buddhist heritage of Ladakh special talk on Empowerment of Women of Ladakh on the 22nd of August, 2015 at the Nagarjuna Auditorium in Leh-Ladakh, The event was organized by the Mahabodhi International Meditation Centre (MIMC) in collaboration with the Ladakh Buddhist Association (Women Wing), Anjuman Moin ul-Islam (Women Wing), Anjuman Imamia (Women Wing), Moravian Church (WW) Leh Mahila Mandal. Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswatiji started the evening by saying, Empowerment is not merely material wealth and tangible financial assets but rather it is the investment of these monetary and material assets into the sharing and spreading our true wealth, our spiritual-cultural and natural heritage. Therefore, let us remember 3C's of culture, connection and compassion."

Dr. Kiran Bedi, First Women IPS Officer, shared a six point action resolution to encourage the women of Ladakh to not only remain empowered in their heritage but to also exercise their political power by holding places within their legislative bodies and running for village elections. She inspired the wife of the Member of Parliament- Ladakh and the wife of the Autunomous Body of Ladakh to encourage their husbands to bring to fruition these actions.

The Chief Guest of the Function was Her Royal Highness Kesang Wangmo Wangchuk, Princess of the World Kingdom of Bhutan, Special Guest of Honour was Her Royal Highness Gyalmo Diskit Wangmo (Rani Parvati Devi), Royal Palace Slok, Ladakh. Also present on the dais were Sarla Chewang, President of Leh Mahila mandal, Helena Norberg Hodge, Founder and Director, Local Futures- Intl Society of Ecology and Culture (USA) and Kiran Bali, Global Council Chairperson, United Religions Initiative, UK.



### Pledge for a Clean and Green Ladakh



Pujya Swamiji's and Sadhvi Bhagawatiji's visit to Ladakh for the week-long 4th International Festival of Buddhist Heritage of Ladakh, from 23-27th August, 2015.The inauguration of the the festival was done by Hon'ble Defence Minister, Government of India, Shri Manohar Parikkarji, HH Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji, President of Parmarth Niketan (Rishikesh), Yoga Guru, HH Pujya Swami Ramdevji, Founder-President of Patanjali Yogpeeth, Pujya Acharya Balkrishanji, renowned Ayurveda Expert of Patanjali Yogpeeth, Venerable Bhikkhu Sanghasenaji, Founder-President of Mahabodhi International Meditation Centre (MIMC)responsible also for organizing the festival, Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswatiji and many, many others.

The festival included the launch of the first GIWA branch in Ladakh, daily yoga classes by Pujya Ramdevji, beautiful meditation classes, cultural programmes and an inspiring 'Empowerment of Women' talk, in which divine shaktis, Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswatiji, President of the Divine Shakti Foundation, General Secretary of Global Interfaith WASH Alliance and Director of the International Yoga Festival- Parmarth Niketan (Rishikesh) was the Guest of Honour, and Dr. Kiran Bedi delivered the Keynote Speaker. The festival was also attended by Her Royal Highness the Princess of Bhutan, Her Royal Highness the Queen of Ladakh and many others.

On the last day Pujya Swamiji lead everyone in a green sankalp for a Swachh Ladakh and improved WASH. He inspired participants from all over India and from countries like America, Bhutan, Canada, England, Japan, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Singapore, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Myanmar and many others to pledge for maintaining sustainable, eco-tourism in places like Ladakh with rich natural and spiritual heritage. He inspired all the students present, in the over



one thousand people gathering, to plant as a many trees as possible, keeping their land green, conserving water and purifying the environment. He also motivated all locals to commit to carrying out regular weekly clean-ups of the streets, temples and communities so that they can remain clean, while serving as an example to all visiting tourists.

Read and See More Pictures from: Empowerment of Women Event at tha Buddhist Fest https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10153527479167698.1073742020.86246862697&type=3

Inauguration of the Buddhist Fest: https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10153531973772698.1073742021.86246862697&type=3

Launch of the GIWA Chapter in Ladakh https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10153524651452698.1073742017.86246862697&type=3

Week Long, 4th Annual Buddhist Festival https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10153527160277698.1073742019.86246862697&type=3



### MEDITATION, SANITATION & MEDICATION COME TOGETHER at Buddhist Fest



The 4th International Festival of Buddhist Heritage of Ladakh, from 23-27th August, 2015, was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Defence Minister, Government of India, Shri Manohar Parikkarji, Pujya Swamiji, Yogarishi Pujya Swami Ramdevji, Pujya Acharya Balkrishanji, Venerable Bhikkhu Sanghasenaji and Sadhvi Bhagawatiji, along with many others. The festival was organized by Mahabodhi International Meditation Centre (MIMC) and supported by Nava Nalanda Mahavihra, Bihar and International Buddhist Confederation New Delhi, J&K Tourism, LAHDC Leh, Hemis Monastery, Spituk Monastery, ICCR New Delhi, Ladakh International Center, All Ladakh Tour Operator Association, All Ladakh Hotel Association.



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The inauguration of the festival included the launch of the first branch of Global Interfaith WASH Alliance (GIWA) in Ladakh, which will actively work to to raise awareness for improved Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) in Ladakh and all over the world. To see more pictures of the GIWA Chapter launch, https://www. facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10153524651452698.10 73742017.86246862697&type=3

The inauguration also included the ground-breaking of a beautiful Yoga Bhawan, and the start of an extraordinary Ayurvedic garden and shop in Ladakh, in joint partnership of MIMC and Patanjali Yogpeeth. This will not only provide livelihoods for the people of Ladakh but it also brought together the meditation capital of the world, Leh-Ladakh, with the yoga capital of the world, Rishikesh-Haridwar.

Pujya Swamiji said, "It is so remarkable to be in this land of Ladakh, which is truly heaven on Earth. Ladakh is also the land of the Sindhu or the Indus River by which our country is known as India or Hindustan. However, today for the first time meditation, sanitation and medication came together. We inaugurated the Global interfaith WASH Alliance (GIWA) Branch here as well as a Yoga Bhawan and Ayurvedic garden and shop with Pujya Swami Ramdevji, Acharya Balkrishnaji, Bhikkhu Sanghasena and so many others. Today has also been a true testament to GIWA's 3H programme of Health,Hygiene and Harmony." Pujya Swami Ramdevji said, "Without being swachha (clean) one cannot attain Bodha. It is paramount, especially as one of the fundamental niyamas in the eight-limbed path of Yoga, to have cleanliness of not only our environment, our bodies, our communities, our homes and our minds. Therefore, it is fitting and vital that the message of cleanliness, of sanitation, should start from the land of meditation and serve as an example for the rest of India."

Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswatiji said, "As citizens of Ladakh we have a great responsibility to preserve the sacred heritage of this land and to truly empower ourselves by rooting our values, our choices in our rich spiritual-cultural wisdom. Today, along with modernizing and welcoming tourists we must also recognize the importance of maintaining a clean, green and serene Ladakh for all. We also must also actively work to ensure adequate and improved Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) to all our brothers and sisters in Ladakh as well as ensure that these basic facilities are available to thousands of tourists that are being attracted and called to this land of Buddha."

Acharya Balkrishnaji commended the diligent research by the DRDO on indigenous plants of Ladakh, such as sea buck thorn and many others, pledged Patanjali Yogpeeth full support to help manufacture and bring to the masses these rich natural herbs and berries to serve for the health and for the well-being of all.





#### कई देतों के लामाओं ने लिया जल संरक्षण, स्वत्सना और स्वारव्य संरक्षण का संकल्प

लाइक्क प्रविदेश, ३३ अगस (अणित सूचे) : आज त्वयुष्ठमा यें (अभिन गुरु): आज लहाज भ लोकन इत्यर्थन बज दर्गरन (जीव) की लहाक प्रकार की विदेशन के प्रत्यप्रस्थ स्वामी विद्यान के प्रत्यप्रस्थ स्वामी बीजुरावे में कई देखें के क्षेत्र लगा भई संख्या में 10 की फ फीज़ा थे। के टर्जन के अधिक देतों के त्यानाओं के जन संख्या, त्यापका और स्वतल्प संस्था का तम उठकर रोकान लिया। गरमार्थ falson is video sube it up जानकरी दें। हा काल कि झाल लाइक में जीवा का कुछ जाम (जीवा) की लाइक साला की



गर चेन, कलकीडण, मध्डेल्स, बहुलिन, म्लेसिस, कर्म, जम्हन, गर पहले, कार्यवाहवा, भारतालय, तावार का कारता वाक्यांकाराज पहलिए, कार्विका, वार्थ, उपारं, के दुराली आजवार्थ वाकुला भी राजवार, इंश्वेषद, कांडार, इंग्रा द्वा वार्यक्रम में सूची थे। कांडर, जानेंस, कांडीरक, काराड, इंग्रानी जानियत्ते में एक वारट कार्य रोग के किन्द्रों इनकार्थ ने करोगित परित्य का कार्यवान केल संगतना, स्वत्यात्रा और राष्ट्राध्या संरक्षणा का साथ अक्षकर संकल्प रित्रण । दी दिव पूर्व परिवरित परिवास

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> किंक सम था। स्थानी सरस्य के बीद्ध त्वानांनी के सार्वनेत की साला की।

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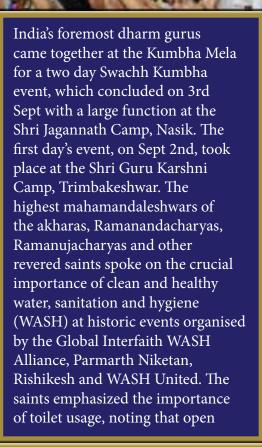
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# Saints Inspire Masses for Swachh Kumbha Mela







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defecation has been especially linked to the poor health of India's children. An estimated 1,200 children under the age of five die every day in India due to the lack of healthy sanitation and hygiene practices. Many more face serious health problems, including stunted growth, largely because of India's rampant lack of toilets.

This event was graced by the presence of: Pujya Mahamandaleshwar Swami Gurusharananandji Maharaj, Raman Reti, Mathura Pujya Swami Avdheshanand Giriji, Acharya Mahamandaleshwar of Juna Akhara Jagadguru Ramandacharya Pujya Swami Hansdevacharyaji, Haridwar Jagadguru Ramanujacharya Pujya Swami Vasudevacharyaji Jagadguru Shri Shridharacharyaji Maharaj Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji, President of Parmarth Niketan (Rishikesh), Co-Chair Global Interfaith WASH Alliance, Founder of Ganga Action Parivar and Divine Shakti Foundation Pujya Sant Shri Rameshbhai Ozaji (Pujya Bhaishri), **Renowned Kathakar** 

Pujya Swami Gyananandji, Gita Manishi Pujya Rajendra Dasji Maharaj, Maluk Peethadheeshwar, Vrindavan

Pujya Acharya Lokesh Muniji, Founder President of Ahimsa Vishwa Bharti (Jain Faith Leader) Pujya Rakeshbhaiji, Founder President of Shreemad Rajchandra Mission (Jain Faith Leader) Pujya Mahamandeleshwar Ishwar Dasji, Mahamandeleshwar from the Digambar Akhara Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswatiji, President of Divine Shakti Foundation, Secretary General of Global Interfaith WASH Alliance Pujya Mahamandeleshwar Shri Janard Hariji Dr. Praveen Gedham, Nasik Commissioner Shri Ashok Murtkadut, Mayor of Nasik Ms. Shweta Shalini, Advisor to CM Maharashtra Ms. Shalini Somane, Excise Tax Commissioner Mumbai Ms. Ina Jurga, Head of Behaviour Change Communication, WASH United

And many others saints from other akharas...

During the two-day event, a new Swachh Kumbha Diwas campaign was launched, which deeply inspired devotees from across India and around the world to personally commit for a clean Kumbh Mela (Swachh Kumbh Mela) and a clean India (Swachh Bharat), using the slogan, "Every Body is a Temple. Respect it. Keep it Clean, and Use Toilets."

The saints took part in a beautiful water blessing ceremony in which they poured holy water from the Godavari River over a globe, symbolizing a prayer for action so that people all around the world have access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH).

See the Public Service Announcement advertisements created for this campaign at the link below

https://www.youtube.com/ watch?v=QGUB-Xw\_aq4&list=PLYp4\_ x0vQTJjkA1k3hY51vfuLeh2glHfa







#### AWARENESS RAISING DRIVE: TOILETS TRANSFORMED INTO A SPACE OF INFORMATION AND INSPIRATION









PARMARTH NIKETAN NEWS

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SPRING-SUMMER 2015 NEWSLETTER



#### **Business Standard**

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#### Holy men call for Swachh Kumbh Mela

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Spiritual leaders on Thursday highlighted the importance of sanitation, hygiene and clean water at an event at the Humon their here.

Speaking at the event organised by Global Interfaith WASH Alliance and WASH United, they spoke about the importance of toilet usage and said open defecation had contributed the poor health of India's children.

On the occasion, a new initiative called Swachh Kumbh Diwas was launched, in which the participants and devotees committed for a clean Kumbh Mela and a Swachh Bharat.

The event was addressed, among others, by Mahamandaleshwar Swami Gurusharananandji Maharaj, Raman Reti, Mathura, Swami Avdhe shanand Giriji, and Acharva Mahamandaleshwar of Juna Akhara

The GIWA, with a secretariat in India, was launched in collaboration with the UNICEF under the sponsorship of USAID and the Netherlands.



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ter a Mattorial a Saints, sears perforces at Kumbh Meaa for cla Saints, seers join forces at Kumbh Mela for clean water

NASHKARAKARAK See 03 2015 DHAS



Religious gurus and s piritual heads came together at the Kumbha Mela is Nashik on ursday to speak on the importance of Water, Sanitation and Hygione (WASH) at a historic event hosted by the Global Interfaith WASH event h Alliance (GNA) and VASH United.

The same booched on points, including the importance of taken usage, noning that open defecution has been kneed to the poor health of index schuldrer: An estimated 1,200 children under the age of five die every day in India due to the lack of heathy WASH. Many face serious health problems including stanted mental and physical growth largely because of lack of to lists.

With its an cretainant in India. GMA was barriched in collaboration with UBCEF under sponsorship of USAID and the Government of the Netherlands. It is the world's first initiative that is engaging many faiths as all as to create a world where everyone. everywhere tak access to improved WASH.

This our essential duty to knop our bodies clean and healthy and that begins with using a toilet because 's eachitta bis dharma har and open defecation polities our exten and internal emvironment. Sanitation and meditation must go hand in hand," said Puga Seare Chidanand Sarasesta

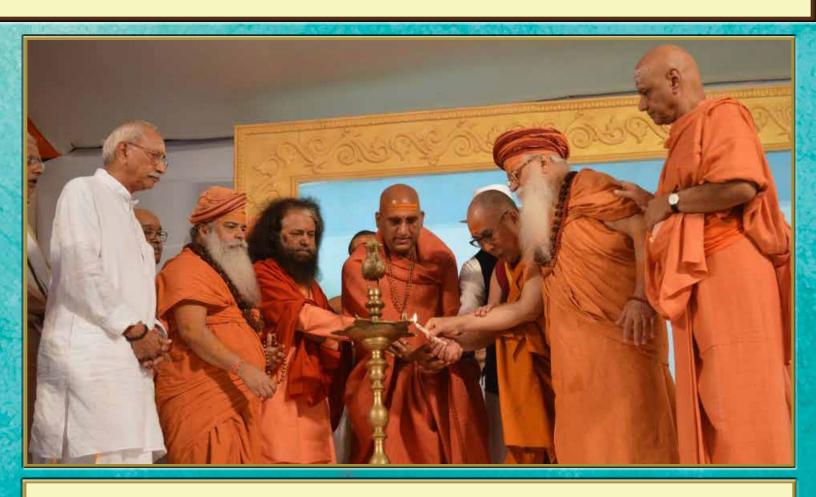
Pugo Swani Archesbarand Giny and -1 personally pledge to inspire all sachus to ros only maintain snachtas (cleariness) but also encourage every sachul to plent a tree during energy feetival and every mila."

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# NASIK SWACHH KUMBH MELA Shanti Aur Kranti



Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswati Ji's visit to Nashik Kumbha Mela was truly remarkable and revolutionary. On the first night of Pujya Swamiji's and Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswati Ji's arrival, He joined HH the Dalai Lama Ji, Pujya Mahamandeleshwar Swami Gurusharanandji Maharaj, and many other revered saints for a sacred Aarti ceremony at the Kushavarta, the holy kund (pond) in Trimbakeshwar.

On the second day of His visit, Pujya Swamiji again joined HH the Dalai Lamaji, Pujya Mahamandeleshwar Swami Gurusharanandji Maharaj, Pujya Bhaishriji, Dr. BK Modiji and many others, speaking about the global challenges that faith leaders must come together to address.

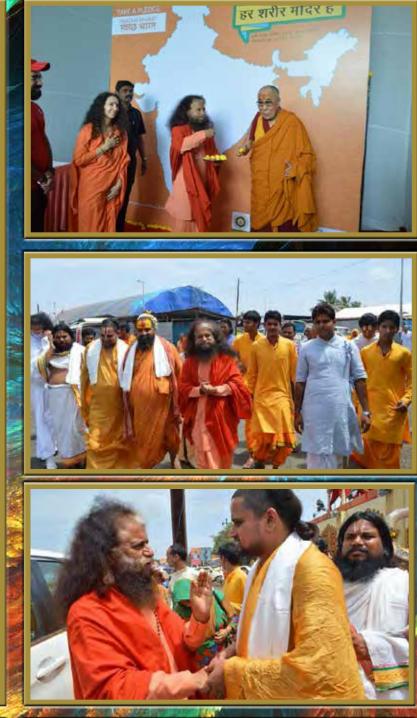
There was a very special green birthday celebration for Pujya Bhaishriji, in which he was given a sacred Rudraksha sapling that was blessed by many of the eminent religious leaders in the sacred land of Trimbakeshwar at the Shri Karshni Camp. A special Bhajan Sandhya took place with Shri Anup Jalotaji (Jalota Anup) on the same day, in which the divine Bhajan Maestro riveted the divine gathering with his beautiful voice, singing the glories of the Lord.

Throughout the Kumbha Mela, Pujya Swamiji and Sadhvi Bhagawatiji inspired all the respected dignitaries, from HH the Dalai Lama, to Shri Anup Jalotaji, and others, to show their support for Swachh Kumbha Mela by encouraging them to apply sacred tilak (mark of kumkum or sandalwood) onto a large map of India, signifying their pledge to work for improved WASH in India by raising awareness and working to change the behaviour of their followers, and to eradicate open defecation. The tilak also signified their blessing that India should become open defecation free.

The visit also included a two day Swachh Day campaign in which faith leaders gathered to express the need for a Swachh Kumbh Mela and Swachh Bharat with the theme that 'Every Body is a Temple. Respect It. Use a Toilet.

During the visit, Pujya Swamiji also gave the message of a Green Katha during Pujya Bhaishriji's sacred Shiv Charitrya Katha, He also visited the sacred jyotirlinga, the Trimabakeshwar Temple, and planned for it to become a green shrine. Pujya Swamiji and Sadhvi Bhagawatiji also visited many saints and faith leaders, sharing the Swachh Kumbh initiative, emphasizing the need for WASH and the need to inspire action by all stakeholders to create a Swachh Bharat for all.

To learn more, click here: https://www.facebook. com/media/set/?set=a.10153543072962698.1073 742023.86246862697&type=3

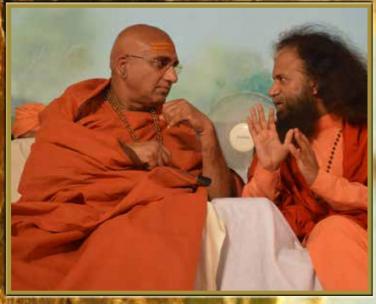










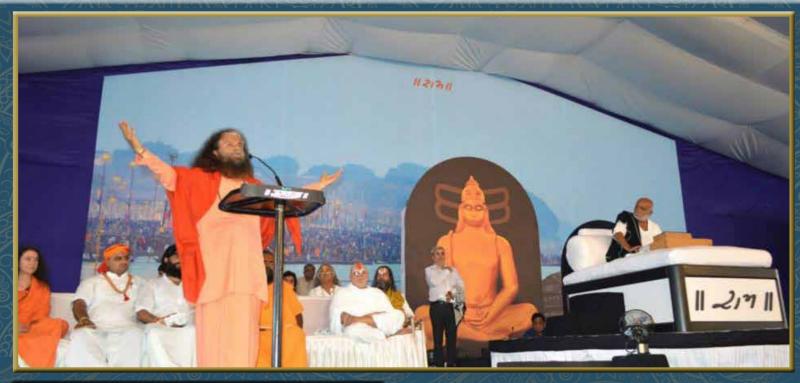








### Ram Katha with Pujya Morari Bapu in Swachh Kumbha Mela



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Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswati and Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswati met with Pujya Morari Bapu on the inauguration of his Ram Katha in Nashik, during the Swachh Kumbh Mela and on the sacred occasion of Janmashtmi.

Pujya Swamiji shared the recent events in Nashik that were organized by the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance and WASH United and invited Pujya Bapu's blessings and support for this initiative. Pujya Bapu was deeply touched by Pujya Swamiji's green vision and selfless spirit of service and agreed to extend his support for this noble cause.







PARMARTH NIKETAN NEWS

SPRING-SUMMER 2015 NEWSLETTER

### BRAND AMBASSADORS OF SWACHH BHARAT MISSION MEET WITH PRESIDENT



Pujya Swami Chidanand SaraswatiJi graced an event at the Rashtrapati Bhavan in which Brand Ambassadors of Swachh Bharat Mission called on the President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee.

The President congratulated Union Minister of Urban Development, Hon'ble M Venkaiah NaiduJi for involving distinguished public figures such as Swachh Bharat Mission's Brand Ambassadors, Pujya Swamiji, Pujya Baba Ramdev Ji, Pujya Dr Pranav Pandya, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Shri Akhilesh Yadav, Shri Sachin Tendulkar, Vivek Oberoi and many others. He said that over the past year, significant strides have been made in the Swachh Bharat Mission. However much more needs to be done. In addition to building affordable

and sustainable Swachh Infrastructure, the mission's success is equally dependent on each individual's action. Hence, the strategy is to engage the country's icons as Swachh Bharat Ambassadors to make it a 'Jan Andolan'.

The President said that Swachh Bharat Ambassadors have a huge potential to influence public to adopt safe sanitation practices and integrate them into their daily lives. An Ambassador not only encourages his/her followers to imbibe the spirit of a Clean India but also motivates them to become Swachh Bharat Ambassadors themselves, making this mission a true form of 'Jan Andolan'. The role of Ambassadors is not only to create awareness and motivate citizens, but to also join hands on-ground and participate in mission activities.

Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, Union Minister of Urban Development, Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation & Parliamentary Affairs released a Coffee Table Book on "Swachh Bharat Mission" and presented its first copy to the President. A curtain raiser of the Swachh Bharat Anthem was also presented by Shri Babul Supriyo , MoS for Urban Development, Shri Prasoon Joshi, Shri Shankar Mahadevan, Shri Ehsaan Noorani and Shri Loy Mendosa on the occasion.

To read HE the President of India's address, click on the link below:

https://www.facebook.com/presidentofindiarb/ posts/707619316004719

# Launch of Banega Swacch India



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Pujya Swamiji, Co-founder of Global Interfaith WASH Alliance (GIWA) and President of Parmarth Niketan (Rishikesh), was cordially invited to be on the steering committee for Jagran Pehel and Reckitt and Benckiser's new campaign entitled 'Banega Swachh India.' The initiative will bring health, hygiene and sanitation in 200 villages across Uttar Pradesh & Bihar. It will do so by creating local Sanitation Change Leaders who will work to ensure sustainable behaviour change for improved water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH).

The official launching of the campaign in Patna, Bihar, was graced and blessed by Pujya Swamiji, along with the presence of esteemed dignitaries Smt Vidya Balanji, famous Bollywood actress and ambassador for the campaign, Shri Jairam Rameshji, Hon'ble Former Union Minister of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Shri Sandeep Gupta, Dainik Jagran Group Executive Editor and Director, Shri Anand Madhabji, Chief Executive Officer- Jagran Pehel, Shri Nitish Kapoorji, Regional Director Reckitt and Benckiser (RB) South Asia, Mr. Shatrughan Sinhaji, veteran actor and politician, Mr. Jack Sim, Founder-President of World Toilet Organization, Shri Radhashyam Gomlaji, Gram Pradhan of ODF free, model village of Gomla, Haryana, and many others. Pujya Swamiji lauded the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) of RB to come together with the Media Social Responsibility (MSR) of Dainik Jagran/Jagran Pehel. He assured GIWA's Religious Social Responsibility (RSR) would be with these noble efforts and inspired the village stakeholder's to embrace Human Social Responsibility (HSR) to help in creating sustainable change for sanitation.

He led hundreds of Gram Pradhans and local representatives in a pledge for improved WASH and commitment to end open defecation in their respective villages. He summarized the key to success for the new Sanitation Change Leaders in a simple green mantra, 'be social, vocal and local'. He said be social and connect with your community to address the stigmas that are preventing ODF. Be vocal, He shared, in reminding others of the need for ending open defecation and improving WASH. He emphasized that with nearly 600 million people in India defecating in the open and over 1200 children perishing daily due to preventable

waterborne illnesses the need for this change is urgent and vital. He said work locally, be and do the change, to create a cleanlier India and a healthier world.

Some highlights of the beautiful event in Lucknow with the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Shri Akhilesh Yadav Ji, whose attendance and presence showd his administration's support and commitment for this vital initiative, can be viewed below.

To see highlights from the Patna event, click here: https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10153 533905057698.1073742022.86246862697&type=3

To see highlights from the Lucknow event, click here:

https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10153 550072707698.1073742026.86246862697&type=3









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PARMARTH NIKETAN NEWS

# BANEGA SWACHH INDIA MEETING AND DINNER IN DELHI



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Global Interfaith WASH Alliance's Co-Founder, Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswati, and Secretary-General, Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswatiji, were warmly received at a dinner meeting hosted and organized by RB, formerly known as Reckitt Benckiser and makers of popular household products Dettol and Harpic.

The Global Board of Directors of RB were present at the dinner, as was the British High Commissioner, Sir James Bevan KCMG, and Nobel Peace Prize winner and Indian children's rights and education advocate, Shri Kailash Satyarthi Last year RB launched a nation-wide initiative, Banega Swacch India, in support of the government's Swacch Bharat (Clean India) programme. Recently they launched Banega Swachh India (BSI) in the states of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar and have an ambitious five year programme to address the urgent need of hygiene and sanitation in India. The campaign aims to create behaviour change by encouraging healthy hand washing habits and sanitation hygiene across the country. Pujya Swamiji was one of the key speakers at the recent launch of BSI in Patna and Lucknow and is part of the BSI's Steering Committee.



Pujya Swamiji's divine presence inspired everyone. RB was looking forward to work with the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance (GIWA) to engage and bring faith leaders together for improved WASH. They also discussed ongoing plans to partner with GIWA and the World Toilet College (WTO) to create the first World Toilet College.

The next morning the first steering committee meeting of the Banega Swachh India initiative took place in Delhi to map out the future course of action and to discuss the implementation of a nation-wide Hygiene Index.

Pujya Swamiji encouraged discussion to create

concrete plans to work in the cities and towns along the banks of Mother Ganga, to start a pilot plan for sanitation and hygiene during the upcoming Kumbha Mela in Haridwar and to create the first World Toilet College, which will be utilized to train sanitation professionals.

The plans for the World Toilet College, as a gift to the nation, with the partnership of GIWA, World Toilet Organization (WTO) and RB, were announced publicly on the auspicious occasion of Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi's birthday, to support and contribute significantly to his vision of a Swachh Bharat (Clean India).



### World Toilet College Gift to Nation on Honourable Narendra Modiji's Birthday



As a gift to the nation, on Hon'ble Shri Narendra Modiji's birthday, HH Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji, President of Parmarth Niketan (Rishikesh) and Co-Founder/Co-Chair of the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance (GIWA), combined forces with Jack Sim, Founder of the World Toilet Organization as well as Shri Nitesh Kapoor, Regional Director – RB South Asia, RB, makers of Dettol and Harpic, announced the creation of the World Toilet College and the GIWA Academy.

The educational institutions, which have been designed to complement and enhance Hon'ble Shri Modiji's acclaimed Swachh Bharat Mission, will be the first in our nation to provide people with the targeted skills and knowledge they need to ensure that the laudable goals of clean and healthy Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) for all can be met. With campuses to be located at Parmarth Niketan, Rishikesh and in Delhi, the World Toilet College will be officially launched on 19 November, which is the United Nations' International World Toilet Day.





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Media &

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### PUJYA SWAMIJI MEETS WITH THE HON'BLE CHIEF MINISTER OF UTTARAKHAND



Pujya Swamiji was invited to bless a special remembrance ceremony of Pujya Bhramaswaroop Brahmachari Brahmaswarupji's Respected Guruji, in which the Hon'ble Chief Minister was the honored guest. During, the event, Pujya Swamiji encouraged and inspired those attending to make all occasions, all holidays, all festivals, a green one, by planting, and giving trees.

Later, Pujya Swamiji met with the Hon'ble Chief Minister to discuss the upcoming Green Kumbha Mela, along with creating a Sustainable and Swachh (Clean) Uttarakhand.

Pujya Swamiji invited expert, engineers and scientists from the USA to share a unique new sustainable housing and construction model that utilizes agricultural waste byproducts, which would normally be burned. This new product creates strong, resilient and sustainable sheets that can be used to make housing and other structures. The Hon'ble CM was very open to the green technology and welcomed the innovation opportunity to the state.

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On a separate occasion this month, Pujya Swamiji and the Hon'ble Chief Minister met global representatives from RB and Save the Children to launch RB's Banega Swachh India-Campaign Challenge in Uttarakhand. More then 46 global representatives of RB from all over the world, had raised 2 crore in funds to serve in the districts of Haridwar-Laksar Area and Udham Singh Nagar for sanitation and hygiene awareness and education.

Separate meetings with other Hon'ble State Ministers and the Kumbha Mela Commissioner occurred where discussions about this and other important initiatives took place.



# COMING HOME TO PARMARTH



At Parmarth Niketan, people from all walks of life and different faiths are welcomed home to their abode that is dedicated to the welfare of all. Pujya Swamiji's teachings, His inspiration and His guidance are of such great, universal value that they apply to all people, from every corner of the Earth. All come as humble devotees of Mother Ganga, offering their sincere respect to Her holy waters, performing Her sacred aarti, taking a holy bath and absorbing Her divine peace and serenity

# Emerging Partnerships and Pledges



Everyday Pujya Swamiji inspires the people that he comes into contact with be they saints, celebrities, public officials or every day people who come to Parmarth Niketan to work for improving WASH, ensuring adequate sanitation, protecting the environment and serving for the welfare of all.

Pujya Swamiji also had follow-up meetings with saints of Swaminarayan Gurukul Parivar (SGVP) who spent a few days at their Himalayan home in Parmarth Niketan recently. They discussed how to educate about WASH and inspire behaviour change in more villages. They shared progress about the 108 villages in which work has already been started after the pledge that Pujya Swami Madhavpriyadasji took during the Worship to WASH Summit in November of 2015 and the launch of the Worship to WASH initiative in January in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

Pujya Swamiji blessed Bollywood actor, Shri Sanjay Mishra and Sadhvi Bhagawatiji met with famous Bollywood playback singer and Sufi artist, Ms. Richa Sharmaji on their visit to Parmarth Niketan (Rishikesh) to inspire and encourage them to use their influence to touch the hearts of their fans with the WASH message. They shared with the celebrities that in India 1200 children under the age of five die every day simply of due to the lack of WASH. They were encouraged to be an example and lead the way for thousands of their fans to work together to make India clean, green and free from open defecation and pollution.





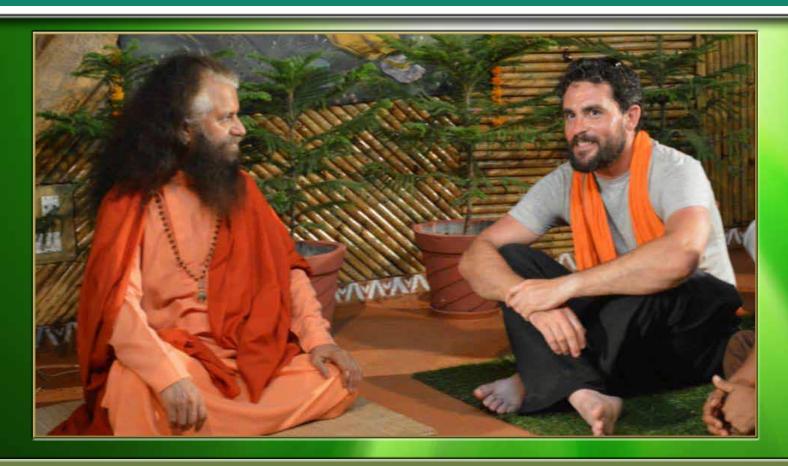
Pujya Swamiji also welcomed Shri Radheshyam Gomlaji, Pradhan of the Gomla village in Haryana, to the banks of Mother Ganga and encouraged him to share his success story of how he made his village open-defecation free and lead them towards holistic development and progress. They jointly planned pilot interventions in a few of the nearby villages to create more Sanitation Change leaders and more inspiring examples for others to follow suit.

Pujya Swamiji also inspired the Intensive Yoga course students who finished their two week course at Parmarth to take the WASH pledge and work for Peace on and off the mat. The Yoga students joyfully took part in a sacred water blessing ceremony with Pujya Swamiji and were so inspired to hear about all the service projects being undertaken under Pujya Swamiji's divine leadership.





## WALKING THE HIMALAYAS Journey to Rishikesh



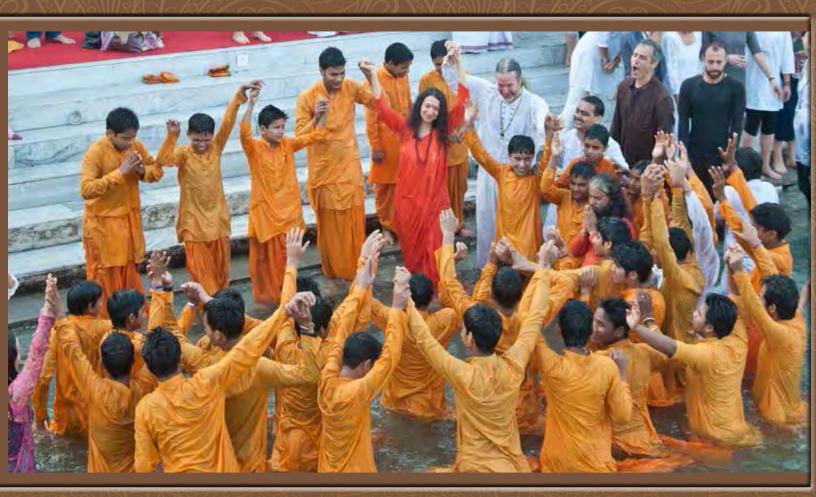
Levison Wood, a 32-year-old British explorer and photojournalist, who walked nearly 4,000 miles along the crocodile-infested Nile River, is now walking the length of the Himalayas (Walking the Himalayas). Along his journey, beginning in Afghanistan and trekking 1700 grueling miles across the roof of the world, Levison and his crew made a special visit to Parmarth Niketan (Rishikesh) to meet with Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswati Ji, take part in Yoga and in the divine Ganga Aarti ceremony.

Levison shared his many experiences with Pujya Swamiji and then had the opportunity to ask Pujya Swamiji about His experience in the Himalayan jungles.

Pujya Swamiji appreciated Lev's beautiful spirit and encouraged him to take the external journey within. He shared that while walking so many miles across the world and meeting people from every walk of life is great, the most meaningful journey is the transformation that happens within. He also encouraged Lev to take his experience in Nature, with both the Nile and Ganges Rivers, to share the vital importance of preserving and protecting these sacred waterways for future generations. Lev and his team were so glad to be home at Parmarth and planned to meet Pujya Swamiji again soon.

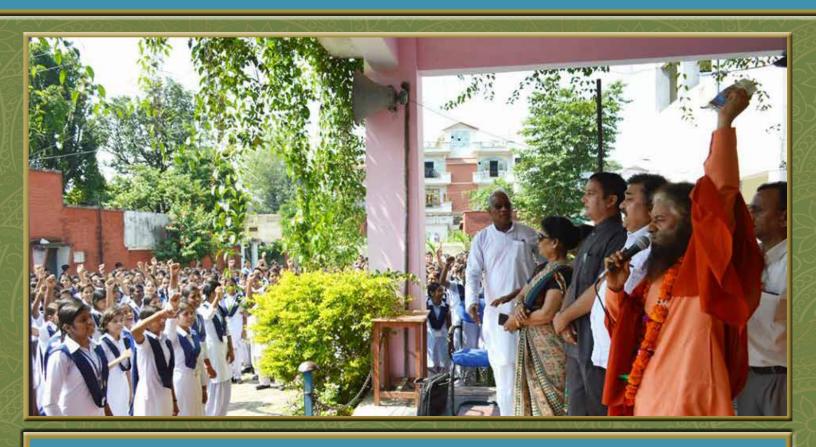


## CELEBRATING TOGETHER



Throughout the year, the world comes to Parmarth Niketan, Rishikesh, to celebrate festivities on the divine banks of Mother Ganga. Many report that the festivities take on a special, even magical feel, bequeathing to people from far and wide a forever-memorable sense of well-being and joy. Other times of year may find Pujya Swamiji in locations across the world, bringing the bliss of Mother Ganga to people of all faiths, cultures and backgrounds

### HIMALAYA DAY: PLEDGE BY 2000 GIRLS TO Protect Himalayas and Mother Ganga



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More than two thousand young girls were inspired to pledge for the conservation of the Himalayas on the auspicious occasion of World Himalaya Day at the Government Girls Inter-college, Rishikesh., Pujya Swamiji shared that the River Ganga's preservation and protection is crucial and fundamental to the conservation of the Himalayas.

He also shared with the students about GIWA, DSF and GAP's commitment to the 3G (Gau, Ganga, Gauri) Programme, serving to bring stray cows of the streets into Gaushalas, restoring the banks of Mother Ganga and Her tributaries as well as preservation of the divine feminine through women's empowerment programmes.

He encouraged the students to plant and grow at least one tree in their communities in honour of their pledge to protect the Himalayas. Pujya Swamiji also pledged GIWA, DSF and GAP's full support to build adequate sanitation facilities, a bio-digester toilet complex, for the girls on the school campus.

On this occasion, SDM Rishikesh Shri Santosh Kumar Panday expressed his appreciation of the service projects that are flourishing and thriving under Pujya Swamiji's leadership at Parmarth Niketan. He said that Rishikesh administration will support the 3G Programme. He thanked the public for cooperating in making a 'Polythene-Free Rishikesh,' emphasizing that no program can succeed without public support. He also shared that under the Harela Program (Green Drive), started by Hon'ble CM Harish Rawatji, 2500 trees had been planted.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\_u0qx7gHZWw





### हिमालय, पर्यावरण, गंगा बचाने की शपथ

हिमालय दिवस पर संस्थाओं ने आयोजित किए कार्यक्रम हिमालय बचाने की शपथ ली









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### Green Drive at the Delhi Public School



Pujya Swamiji and Sadhvi Bhagawatiji were Guests of Honour at a special programme at the Delhi Public School in RK Puram. The programme started with a large-scale tree-plantation on the school campuses. A campaign to support plantation of fruit trees in over 70 other schools was also launched, which DPS, will coordinate and support in the planting of fruit trees on their school campuses.

Sadhvi Bhagawatiji spoke to the auditorium filled with children by sharing, "You must not only grow but you must thrive., You must not only follow but lead. The best tip I can give you to live in the ocean of life is to know your roots, be grounded in your sanskriti- your culture. In our digital era of social media and computers, you must remember the three C's: Culture, Connection and Compassion. Culture helps us stay grounded, connected to our roots, our sacred heritage. Connection to the Divine, in whatever name or form we may worship it is the greatest wealth in our lives and we must remember that while we may gain information and knowledge from so many sources, learning math, science and so many other subjects, we gain inspiration and wisdom to fill our lives with true meaning and purpose from this Divine connection. Lastly, with our connection and culture we gain great compassion towards ourselves and others so that we not only learn, but that we return and serve those in need as well as serving Mother Earth and Mother Nature, as we did by planting trees today.By understanding that another is Self, we see their suffering as our suffering and their hunger as our hunger. As you grow and thrive, remember these three C's and keep them at the center of your consciousness and your awareness."



Pujya Swamiji said, "Sadhviji spoke to you about being leaders, today I would like to give you an example of an exemplary leader who faced great failure in his life but never gave up and one day became the President of our nation. You all must know who I am talking about, none other than the respected Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam. Let us take inspiration from his life. With his passing, it is the first time the U.S. flag was flown at half staff for an Indian President.It was in his honour that on his 79th birth anniversary the UN declared October 15th as World's Students' Day. It is because of visionary leaders like him that Bharat's profile is changing and now it's your turn."

Pujya Swamiji also shared that Global Interfaith WASH Alliance, Ganga Action Parivar and Divine Shakti Foundation took the pledge to plant trees for one whole month in honour of Dr. Abdul Kalam. The one month green yagna saw its first month completion with the DPS tree plantation. Pujya Swamiji inspired the 'Jitne Bache Utne Ped' Initiative (every school should plant at least as many fruit trees as many as the number of students they have) and inspired that from Raksha Bhandan to Krishna Janmastmi the students take up tree plantation in their schools and communities. He also encouraged them to make every birthday, holiday and festival a green one by planting trees.

He honoured and lauded Dr. D.R. Sainiji, President of DPS, and Mr. Ashish Pandit, CEO, Zee News, with a sacred Rudraksha plant and encouraged them to continue the green campaign.

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### Kalam Ko Salam



Pujya Swamiji inspired a very special tribute (shraddhanjali) to the Late President of India, Dr. APJ Abdul Kalamji with a month long plantation drive honouring the Former President for his dynamic, green, extraordinary leadership and divine example. The plantation drive planted thousands of trees in over 200 schools, more than 200 parks, launched the plans to plant 1 million trees in Kurkushetra and completed the first month-long plantation with inspiring a series of plantations supported by the Delhi Public School and a huge Green Drive with 1 lakh trees planted in Delhi, the nation's capital.



### Sai Aur Safai Green Vision for 100th Nirvaan Divas of Sai Baba



Pujya Swamiji was warmly welcomed and invited by Sai Devotees to hold a special darshan at the world-famous temple and pilgrimage site in Shirdi. After touring the premises and hearing about the great love and devotion the followers had for Sai Baba, Pujya Swamiji spoke to the temple authorities to turn the temple into a green one.

He expressed the great need to provide adequate sanitation facilities to thousands of pilgrims that come to the temple every day, especially tfor the women and girls. He also encouraged a plan to install dustbins so that trash can be segregated and contained.. He shared that bio-degradable waste can be composted, and suggested that the tons of flower offerings could be used to make organic, holy fertilizer, incense, and many other products that could help generate livelihoods for the local women and unemployed individuals.





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He also met with with members of the media at a Press Conference at Shirdi and shared the Green Plans with them. He said that for the upcoming 100th Nirvana Divas of Sai Baba, in July 2018, the celebration should include green ideas. He pledged to support temple authorities in building a bio-toilet on the premises. He also shared about the recent Swachh Day events that just took place at the Nashik Kumbha Mela as an example and a call to bring 'Sai aur Safai' together. Pujya Swamiji said that one cannot simultaneously worship Sai Baba while keeping the sacred land he walked on dirty and littered. He inspired the Media to take this initiative of a Swachh Shirdi as their Media Social Responsibility and be a catalyst for the much needed change in the local community, in doing so they would truly be living the teachings of Sai Baba.



## Green Drive One Lakh Trees in Delhi





Pujya Swamiji, Sadhvi Bhagawatiji, Imam Umer Ilyasiji, Acharya Lokesh Muniji and many other revered interfaith leaders gathered together in a massive tree plantation of 1 lakh trees in Delhi. This wasorganized and sponsored by TheTimes of India and Hero MotoCorp Ltd at Tilpat Valley, Block M, Devli (near IGNOU).

Pujya Swamiji encouraged the over 25,000 people gathered at the event to make every birthday and every special occasion a green one, by gifting and planting trees. He shared that the simple yet profound action of planting a tree not only slows climate change but also prevents soil erosion, conserves water and also purifies our air and environment. He shared that trees and Mother Nature are symbols of our inherent oneness and that all faiths must come together to serve for this universal cause of protecting our planet and improving WASH.

# SERVING HUMANITY



A Rishikumar (Parmarth Niketan Gurukul Student) tends to a young boy's cut foot during a Project Give-Back medical camp

In serving humanity, we are serving the Creator Himself. Pujya Swamiji's many projects in direct service to our fellow brothers and sisters enable people from all walks of life from around the globe to join forces in order to help ensure the poor and marginalized receive access to the loving care and support they need to live happier, healthier lives in dignity.

## CANCER AND KACHRA Mukt Bharat

महावीर

Pujya Swamiji was warmly invited to grace and bless the Mahavir Vatsalya Hospital and Maternity Center in Patna, Bihar, by its Founder Acharya Kishore Kunalji, who is also the President of Patna's wellknown Mahavir (Hanuman) Temple. Pujya Swamiji was deeply touched by Acharyaji's dedication and commitment to service, He shared that to Him, this was true meditation and true worship.

Pujya Swamiji addressed the students by saying that just as all parts of the medical instruments were crucial, in the same way, each individual, each healthcare practitioner, every staff member and every student must work as an integral and important part to of the whole. He said

that in working with great dedication and in service to God's creation, they were performing the true pooja(worship).

Pujya Swamiji lead everyone in a pledge to serve individually and collectively to not only work to prevent and treat cancer but also simultaneously work to free India from pollution and preserve Mother Nature.Students and staff gathered together in Patna to plant trees on the premises in honour of Pujya Swamiji's visit.





वात्सल्य



## Eye Camp Goes Green



A three-day eye camp was held at Shukdevanand Charitable Hospital, Parmarth Niketan. Over 250 people registered for free cataract operations, done during the camp free of cost.

Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji, President of Parmarth Niketan, lit the inaugural lamp for the camp, giving a divine launch to the camp and volunteer dorctors.

During the inauguration, Dr. Mustfa Parikh, Dr. Pranay Kapadiya and Dr. Dinsa Dastur from Mumbai were present. Shushri Bhuvneshwari Mashvariya, Mr. K K Singhal, Shyam Krishna, Manas Pant, Ravindra Tandan, Mukund Vas and Archit Kumar helped arrange the eye camp with Parmarth.





## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS



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## HOPE IS IN YOUR HANDS Sign the Petition for the National Ganga River Rights Act Today!



Shri Anna Hazare and Muslim leaders stand with Pujya Swamiji to declare, "Ganga's Rights are Our Rights."

Founded by **Pujya Swamiji**, the National Ganga River Rights Movement is a coalition of concerned citizens and organizations that are taking a stand on behalf of the Ganga River and its tributaries–while there is still time.

For far too long, people have said there is nothing that can be done. But all the while, the water that nourishes us has become so polluted that it has become a hot-spot for cancers and other deadly diseases, such as typhoid and cholera. The beautiful river that has inspired poets and sages has sadly become one of the most endangered rivers in the word.

As a coalition, we bring a new and strong voice. Together, we stand for the National Ganga River Rights Act, which will help protect Mother Ganga and the 500 million people who rely on Her for life itself.

Mother Ganga Needs You. Sign the petition for the National Ganga Rights at <u>www.gangarights.</u> <u>org,</u> and help ensure Her clean and green future.



The National Ganga Rights Act draft bring proudly held by Pujya Swamiji, HE Governor Shri B.L. Joshi of Uttar Pradesh and the Honourable Union Minister of Water Resources, Shri Harish Rawat



Emraan Hashmi, Huma Qureshi and Ekta Kapoor say "Ganga's Rights are Our Rights!"

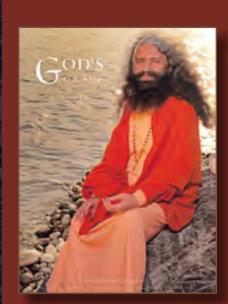


गंगा साम्ट्रीय धरोहर है, नंगा में है Ganga's Rights are Our Rights जंगा के अधिकार जमारे अधिकार

The cast of C.I.D. stands for Ganga's Rights SPRING-SUMMER 2015 NEWSLETTER

PARMARTH NIKETAN NEWS

## BY GOD'S GRACE The Life & Teachings of Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswati



In this compelling biography, **Pujya Swamiji's** divine life is beautifully detailed chronologically. Upon its release, this book held the NUMBER ONE position as the best-seller in Amazon.com's Hinduism section, out of a total of over 17,000 books!

Illustrated with exquisite photos of Ganga, the Himalayas, and all of the saints and world leaders with who Pujya Swamiji has spent the first 60 years of His life, it tells the inspiring, uplifting and transformative stories of Pujya Swamiji's whole life – from meeting His Guru at the tender age of eight, to His youth filled with intense sadhana in the Himalayan forests and jungles, including standing on one leg for 11 hours a day. By God's Grace then goes on to beautifully describe Pujya Swamiji's arrival into Rishikesh and choice of stay there, followed by the history of His life at Parmarth Niketan, first as a young student and then as head of one of India's largest spiritual institutions. You will read about His travels around the world, touching and teaching people of all religions, all cultures and all walks of life.

Pujya Swamiji's very life is His message; the book also includes special "teaching" sections. Each special teaching spread takes one of Pujya Swamiji's most fundamental teachings and shares it, in His own words, through His own voice, on gorgeously illustrated pages.

Published by Mandala Earth Publications of California, USA, this book is perfect for personal reading and for gracing the top of your coffee table, and it is also the perfect gift for any friend or loved one who, whether they know Pujya Swamiji personally or not, is looking for a glimpse into the life of one of history's truest, wisest, deepest, funniest and most down-to-earth spiritual leaders. Laugh, cry, look at yourself and your life in a brand new way.

For more information including ordering information for this beautiful book, please click: <u>www.bygodsgracebook.org</u>.



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## VOLUNTEER WITH US Join hands in a global interfaith mission of peace







We are always looking for caring, hard-working volunteers to join us here at Parmarth Niketan, Rishikesh.

As our projects grow, so has our need for professional, inspiring, and productive individuals who wish to dedicate their time, talent, technology and tenacity for our mission to achieve a greener, cleaner, and safer tomorrow for all humanity.

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

<u>Click here</u> to download the application.





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PARMARTH

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