PARMARTH Creating a Swachh Bharat for and with Everyone

H.H. Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji **Spring Edition 2016**





INSIDE



Haridwar Ardh Kumbha Mela for All



Swachh aur Sundar Gujarat (with Sadhviji and CM of *Gujarat*)



Clean and Green Ujjain Kumbha Mela. Simhastha 2016.

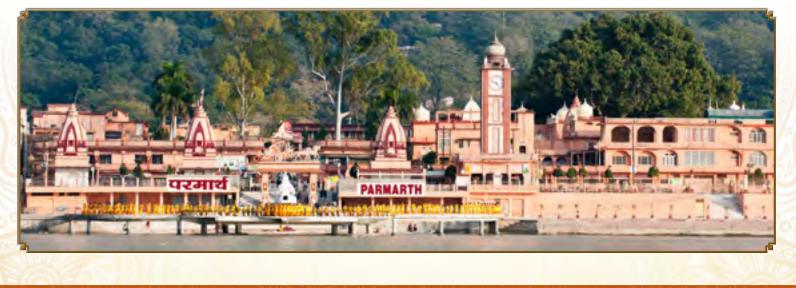


Holi Celebrations: Local Culture Connects to Global Community

CONTENTS

Sarva Dharma Swachhta sankalp	3
Banega Swachh India:12 Hour Cleanathon	8
Maha Ganga Aarti in Kolkata on Makar Sankranti	11
Religions for Peace Conference	15
Swachh aur Sundar Gujarat	16
Giving Light of Vision: Free Eye Camp at Parmarth	18
Shraddhanjali to Respected Smt Kamla Advaniji	19
Memorial for Smt. Kamla Advaniji	21
Ardh Kumbha Mela in Haridwar/Rishikesh	22
Sach Bharat: Make in India and Make India	24
Curtain Raiser for International Yoga Day	25
Visit to Ujjain in Preparation	26
Anuradha Paudwal Plans	28
Holi Celebrations:	29
Poetry for Rivers	31
Gyan Yug Diwas Celebration	32
Wushu Championships at Patanjali Yogpeeth	34
International Yoga Festival	35
Yoga Maha Kumbha	36
Kailash Kher and Sivamani	37
Guru Sangam on the Banks of Ganga	38
KAICIID ADVISORY BOARD MEETING	39

World Water Day Celebrated in Devprayag	40
Learnings Workshop from the Ganga Sagar Mela	42
Rotary International Conference	43
Millennium Alliance Awards	45
Yamuna Action Parivar Pledges	46
Sadhviji's Divine Birthday Celebrations	47
Brahmachari Brahmaswarupji's birthday	4 9
FICCI FLO Annual Event - Hyderabad	50
First Workshop of World Toilet College	51
Chairperson of the Delhi Commission	52
visit of Brahmakumari Sister Shivaniji	53
Life Positive Expo 2016	54
Special Announcements	55
By God's Grace	56
Volunteer With Us	57
Visit us Online	58



LEARN MORE! VISIT OUR WEBSITES BY CLICKING: <u>www.parmarth.com</u> (Parmarth Niketan Rishikesh), <u>www.gangaaction.org</u> (Ganga Action Parivar), <u>www.washalliance.org</u> (Global Interfaith WASH Alliance),

www.projecthope-india.org (Project Hope), www.divineshaktifoundation.org (Divine Shakti Foundation), www.ihrf.com (India Heritage Research Foundation)

Sarva Dharma Swachhta Sankalp



3

In a historic first, India's prominent religious leaders from diverse faiths assembled at this year's Ganga Sagar Mela to pledge their support for Mission Nirmal Bangla and to inspire the masses for the use of toilets and correct sanitation practices.

Ganga Sagar Mela is the largest religious congregation celebrated every year in India at Sagar Island of the South 24 Parganas district in West Bengal on the occasion of Makar Sankranti. A dip in the confluence of Muriganga and the Bay of Bengal is considered to be of great religious significance, particularly on these few days, and draws visitors and recluses from all over the country. This year Ganga Sagar Mela 2016 has been envisioned as a green and clean mela making it the first of its kind in India.

Setting afloat a symbolic holy lamp at the Sarva Dharma Swachhta Sankalp, HH Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswati 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, and changing our ways changes the world."

Representing five faiths, the faith leaders were brought together by the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance (GIWA), with technical support from UNICEF, and under the inspiration of HH Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswati, President, Parmarth Niketan, Rishikesh, and Chairman of GIWA, India.

Eminent Sunni Leader, Imam Umar Ilyasi, 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 do the same; 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 onward, let dreams become reality. In our hands should be tools for action. In our hearts should be pledges for change."

Apart from the Sarva Dharma Swachhta Sankalp, and in order to preserve the sagar environment and prevent a public health hazard, more than 13,000 yellow-coloured sanitary toilets were installed for the use of the pilgrims at different points of Ganga Sagar Mela and transit







5

locations, as well as water. This was done with the help of hundreds of cleaning volunteers. To sensitize the lakhs of pilgrims visiting the mela about the need for cleanliness, an extensive communication strategy was adopted involving both outdoor and personalized one-to-one sensitization through "clean volunteers." Community volunteers were formed into groups for round-the-clock najardari (vigil) of the entire cleanliness drive.

An extensive Safai Abhiyan (Cleanliness Drive) was organized on January 1 at all transit locations and mela areas, followed by a repeat Safai Abhiyaan on January 12, led by the district magistrate and the Mahanth of Ganga Sagar Ashram. To make the mela ground a plastic free zone, anti-plastic campaigns were organized, sensitizing all shop owners of the local areas (not to use plastic bags and cups of less than 40 micron) and making other arrangements. Five exclusive units were set up for solid waste management during this year's Ganga Sagar Mela.

Massive human chains were formed at all four transit points, all four buffer locations and mela grounds involving volunteers and NGOs prior to the Swachhta Sankalp and then followed with a massive cleanliness drive in all these locations. More than 2000 clean volunteers, including NCC volunteers, were deployed for awareness, monitoring and surveillance of these cleanliness initiatives. As a precursor to clean mela, all houses in sagar block were given toilet facilities, and the block was declared the "Open Defecation-Free" block of the district on January 7. Respected Jain Leader Acharya Lokesh Muni shared that ahimsa (non-violence) and sanitation must be seen 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."

India has the largest number of people defecating in the open and not using toilets-more than 595 million people. Poor sanitation can cause diarrhoea, which accounts for 9 percent of the 1.2 million deaths of children under five years annually.

"We have been mobilizing partners and stakeholders, including religious leaders to make this year's Ganga Sagar Mela a clean and green mela. I see this as a platform with huge potential to create awareness and motivate changes in attitudes around elimination of open defecation. Since the pilgrims come from all around the country, I believe that beyond the Mela, the pilgrims will take the message of cleanliness to their respective areas, which will have a rippling effect," shares Dr. P. B. Salim, District Magistrate of South 24 Parganas who has led this entire innovative initiative.

Ms. Caroline Den Dulk, Chief, Advocacy and Communication, UNICEF India, said, "A new chapter has begun today for West Bengal with the country's prominent faith leaders coming together for the crucial cause of saving the 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. No longer should a single child die for lack of proper sanitation. No longer should the modesty of a single woman be put at risk, and no longer should a single girl be forced to drop out of school because of lack of toilets. Every home in India should have a toilet, and everyone, everywhere, should use a toilet. It is that simple."

A water blessing ceremony also took place. The revered faith leaders and dignitaries poured holy water from the Ganga Sagar over a globe, symbolizing a prayer for action for people all around the world to have access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH).

Mr. Asadur Rahman, Chief of Field Office, UNICEF, West Bengal, said, "The unique gathering of all faiths cuts across the barriers of caste, creed, and religion and has set an example for others to follow."



Dignitaries present on the occasion included Pujya Shankaracharyaji, Puri, Odisha (TBC); Pujya Mahant Gyan Dasji, Mahant of Hanumangarhi temple in Ayodhya; Maulana Dr. Syed Kalbe Sadiqji, Founder of Tauheedul Muslimeen Trust, Islamic Scholar (Shia Leader); Imam Umer Ilyasiji, President of the All India Imams Council (Sunni Leader); Acharya Lokesh Muniji, Founder of Ahimsa Vishwa Bharti; Ven Bhikkhu Sanghasenaji, Founder-President of Mahabodhi International Centre, Leh-Ladakh; Pujya Swami Harichetanandji; Pujya Baba Hathyogiji; Pujya Mahant Rishishwaranandji; Pujya Mahant Durgadasji; Shri Sankar Sanyalji, President of Harijan Sevak Sangh; Sardar Tejinder Singh Madanji,Sikh Leader, Educationist; Hon'ble Shri PB Salimji, District Magistrate, Kolkata; Shri Asadur Rahman, Chief of Field Office, UNICEF West Bengal; Swamini Adityananda Saraswatiji, Director of Programmes, Policy and Development, Global Interfaith WASH Alliance and Ganga Action Parivar.

Officers of the District Administration, several NGOs, safai karamacharyis and manual scavengers were honored as the true sanitation ambassadors. They were given a sacred green sapling for their dedication and commitment towards making the Ganga Sagar Mela clean, green and serene.



Pujya Swamiji honours Hon'ble District Magistrate of Kolkata upon His arrival to the Ganga Sagar Mela

Banega Swachh India: 12 Hour Cleanathon



Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji and Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswatiji were expert panelists and speakers on NDTV Dettol India's Banega Swachh India. The lead anchors for their session were the famous and legendary Bollywood actor respected Shri Amitabh Bachchanji and CEO of NDTV Shri Vikram Chandraji. They were also joined in their session by Shri Arvind Guptaji, Head of IT, Social Media, BJP, India, a dynamic leader, thinker and advocate for social entrepreneurship.

The slogan for the season was 'Har Sapna Sach Karega India, Hum Banayenge to Zaroor Banega Swachh India!" (Every dream will come true in India, and we will then become clean India!) - reminding us that by working together and taking ownership for our collective role in making a clean India, this dream would indeed come to fruition.

Pujya Swamiji made a clarion call to action for all religious leaders and pilgrims sharing that, just as there is corporate social responsibility, there must also be religious social responsibility to support the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (Clean India Campaign).





He also wisely said, "The time has come for meditation and sanitation to work hand-in-hand. In fact, until we address the crisis of 1200 children dying daily from lack of adequate WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) and nearly half of India's population defecating in the open, sanitation must also become our meditation in action."

When asked about His thoughts on cleaning up the banks of Mother Ganga in Varanasi, He shared that in addition to the basic facilities, such as adequate toilets, changing rooms and clean drinking water systems, there must also be green crematoriums. He shared that the Mokshda Eco-Crematorium System is an effective and innovative solution as it utilizes 60% less wood and allows loved ones of the deceased to perform all the traditional rituals, as opposed to an electric crematorium.

Pujya Swamiji also suggested that the time has come for us to not just stop putting the ashes of our loved ones into Gangaji, but to bring Gangajal into the ashes; which, when placed inside a bio-degradable urn, mixed in with natural fertilizer. A seed could be planted inside to grow as a lush, life-giving, oxygen-generating, green tree. In this way, not only would we create a new green tradition, but simultaneously abate climate change, protecting our environment, our soil and our rivers. Shri Amitabh Bachchanji lauded this innovative green idea.

Later Pujya Swamiji and Sadhviji met with Shri Amitabhji, cordially inviting him to the upcoming Kumbha Mela in Haridwar or Ujjain and honouring him with a sacred rudraksha plant as a symbol of recognition for being an incredible sanitation ambassador and green inspiration for the nation and for the world.

Other eminent speakers and panelists on the 12-hour special included famous film actresses, Mrs. Jaya Bhachchan and Ms. Dia Mirza; singer, Kailash Kher; and sarod maestro, Ustad Amjad Ali Khan. Prominent government and corporate luminaries and heads of NGOs included the Hon'ble Union Minister of Urban Development, Shri M Venkaiah Naiduji; Hon'ble Chief Minister of Maharasthra, Shri Devendra Fadnavisji; Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, Shri Harish Rawatji; Managing Director of Dettol-RB, Shri Nitish Kapoor; and many others who also shared their thoughts, and pledged countless hours and support for the Swachh Bharat Mission.











अमिताभ बच्चन के आंगन में महकेगा तीर्धनगरी का रुद्राक्ष

And the same state of the same share a sam

Alter of a class of the second second

हरादून, पांच प्रदेश, १८ संस्करण, नगर संस्करण

महानायक अमिताम को अर्द्धकुंम का न्योता

परांती तिप्राणी स्वत्यती प्राण्डती से संवितेषुत संदेश सीवारण्डलाकी संपुर्व से संवितेषु अपनी कियार स्वतान सिंहती के सार्व कि सार स्वतान स्वतान से संवता स्वतान स्वतान के संपूर्णन में पुर्व संप्रतान स्वतान के स्वतान के सिंहत के सिंहतान की प्राण्ड स्वतिन के सिंहतान के सिंहतान की प्राण्ड स्वतिन के सिंहतान का सिंहता की प्राण्ड स्वतीन के सिंहतान स्वतान के सार्व के सिंहतान स्वतान के सिंहतान की प्राण्ड के सिंहतान स्वतान स्वतान के स्वतान के स्वतान का सिंहता की प्राण्ड के सिंहतान स्वतान सिंहता की प्राण्ड के सिंहतान स्वतान के स्वतान का सिंहता की प्राण्ड के सिंहतान स्वतान का सिंहतान सिंहता की प्राण्ड के स्वतान के सीवान का



तरक्की को चाहिए व

www.livehin

SEE MORE PHOTOS! CLICK HERE!

10

SPRING EDITION

Maha Ganga Aarti in Kolkata on Makar Sankranti

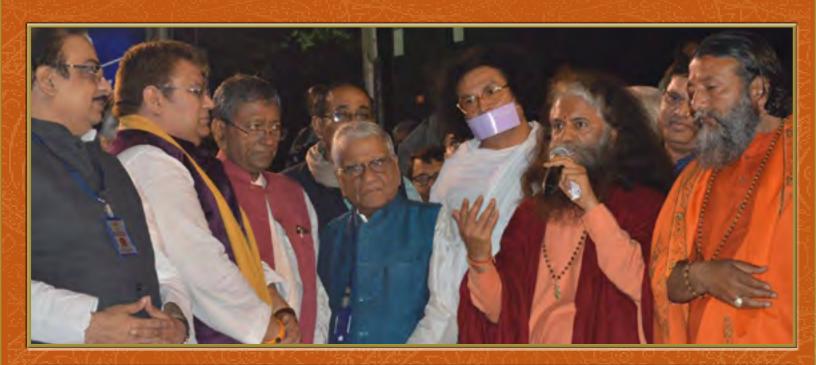






International Marwari Federation, known for their humanitarian activities and selfless service, organized a special Ganga Aarti on the auspicious occasion of Makar Sakranti. More than 2500 people gathered at the beautiful Princep Ghat in Kolkata for the divine interfaith aarti, which was led by Pujya Swamiji, Co-Chair of Global Interfaith WASH Alliance and Founder of Ganga Action Parivar, Parmarth Niketan (Rishikesh). He was joined by the respected Moulana Dr. Kalbe Sadiqji, respected Acharya Lokesh Muniji, venerable Bhikhhu Sanghasenaji, Pujya Swami Harichetanandji, Pujya Baba Hathyogiji, Pujya Mahant Durgadasji, Pujya Mahant Rishishwaranandji and Pujya Anurag Thukur Kanyaji.

Pujya Swamiji said, "It is a historic moment to be gathered together with revered faith leaders from India's major faith traditions in a ceremony of oneness and harmony in the sacred and historic land of Kolkata. Just yesterday we were together at the historic Ganga Sagar Mela



inspiring a Sarvadharma Swachhta Sankalp, performing this sacred ritual to the Ganga Sagar. However, I believe the true aarti will be when we use these ceremonies to commit and act so that we no longer pollute the same rivers we worship and work to restore all water bodies to their pristine and free-flowing state."

READ ABOUT THE HISTORIC PLEDGE IN THE GANGA SAGAR MELA <u>Click Here!</u>

Pujya Swamiji encouraged the International Marwari Federation (IMF) to continue regular Aartis on the Princep Ghat and to utilize these opportunities to inspire a pledge to make the banks of all rivers open defecation and pollution free. He also encouraged the beautification and greening of all ghats in Kolkata and West Bengal, as well as an annual Maha Ganga Aarti that reaffirmed the message of interfaith harmony and collective action for improved WASH.

On the occasion, Shri Pradeep Ruia, President of the IMF shared, "Ganga Aarti is a very powerful and uplifting spiritual ritual. It is our honour to celebrate this auspicious occasion of Makar Sakranti with Pujya Swamiji."







Moulana Dr. Kalbe Sadiqji shared, "I am glad to be here today. This is probably a rare occasions in which a Muslim Faith Leader joins you on an auspicious Hindu Festival like Makar Sakranti. I believe that just like many faith traditions, the Hindu tradition must work to adapt and clarify the misconceptions formed about its traditions, rituals and beliefs." Sharing from his study of the Bhagavad Gita, he said that this core scripture of Hinduism was truly universal, the essence of which resonated with many of the teachings of the Holy Koran. He further stated that the Gita should not be just a National Text but truly an International Text, one that when incorporated in our own lives could bring great peace and harmony in the world.

Many of the faith leaders offered their blessings and their words of inspiration.

Managing Director of Emami, Shri Sushil Goenkaji, who was behind the remarkable organization of the special Ganga Aarti pledged, "The Emami Foundation is already greatly committed to the Swachh Bangla and Swachha Bharat campaigns, but today I also reaffirm my pledge to sponsor and build 11 bio-toilets in schools that are in need of these facilities."

Pujya Swamiji honoured Representative of the Ms. Mamata Banerjeeji, Government of West Bengal Shri Sanjay Baxi, Col Virendra Kumar, Managing Director of Emami Foundation, Shri Sushil Goenkaji and Smt Usha Agarwalji with a sacred rudraksha sapling.

13



SEE MORE PHOTOS! <u>CLICK HERE!</u>



प्रिंसेप घाटः मुनिजी के सान्निध्य में गंगा आरती

आने वाले सभी लोगों के प्रति सम भाव रखती है, कार्यक्रम को अन्य धर्म गुरुओं ने भी सम्योधित किया. सांसद सुब्रत बक्सी, कर्नल लैंड वीर्रंड कमार, उद्योगपति सुशील गोयनका सहित अनेकों अन्य गणमान्य लोगों ने भी कार्यक्रम में उपस्थित दर्ज करावी. चेयरपैन दिनेश बजाज, अध्यक्ष प्रदीप रुईया, प्रधान सचिव राजकुमार शर्मा, उपाध्यक्ष तिलोकचंद डागा ने उपस्थित अतिथियों का स्थागत किया, प्रदीप संघई, प्रदीप देखिया, रविद्र लंदिया, सुशील चौधरी, सुशीला सिंघानिया, जयश्री सराफ, सरिता कमानी, अरुण मोहता, संतोष खेडिया, बनवारी लाल चौधरी, सुशील कोठारी, धर्मपाल शर्मा, सुभाष शर्मा, बजेरंग शर्मा, फुल् राय सहित अनेकों गणमान्य व्यक्ति इस अवसर पर उपस्थति थे, कार्यक्रम का संचालन महाबीर प्रसाद रावत ने किया



होकर स्वयं दर्शन देने के लिए प्रकट हो गई हो और दीमों की लौ में उनका दर्शन भक्तों को मिल रहा हो. गंगा की अधिरलता और स्वच्छता के अक्शुण रहने के भाव के साथ नौकाओं के माध्यम से गंगा में प्रज्जयस्तित दीप प्रवाहित किये गये.कार्यक्रम के आरम्भ में मुनिजी ने उपस्थित सभी धर्मगुरुओं का परिचय कराते हुए सबका स्वागत किया और कहा कि गंगा सबकी है. यहां जात- पात और धर्म-भेदभाव का कोई स्थान नहीं.गंगा अपने दर पर

(मुनिजी) के साथ आठम के अन्य 25 ऋषिकुमारों ने जैसे ही गंगा मैवा की आरती शुरु की प्रिसेंग घाट में उपस्थित सभी भक्तों ने खड़े होकर आयोजन में भागीदारी निभाई. घूप, दीप और धुना की सुंगन्ध से समूचा आयोजन परिसर सुर्खेश्वत हो उठा, गंगा मैवा के प्रति श्रद्धा प्रकट करते हुए दीपों की लौ में गंगा मैवा की बहती धारा झिलमिला उठी, ऐसा लग रहा था मानो जैसे गंगा मैवा अपने बच्चों के आदर-सत्कार और श्रद्धा भक्ति- भाव से प्रफुल्लित

 कई धर्म गुरु हुए शामिल, दिखा सर्व धर्म सज्ज्ञव का नजारा

कोलकाता, अंतराराष्ट्रीय मारवाही सम्मेलन हारा मकर संक्रॉति की पूर्व संख्या पर स्थानीय प्रिसेप चाट पर विशेष गंगा आरती का आयोजन किया गया. अंतराराष्ट्रीय ख्वाति प्राप्त परमार्थ निकेतन आश्रम, ऋषिकेश के स्वामी चिदानंद सरस्वतीजी (मूनिजी) के साथ आश्रम के अन्य 25 ऋषिकमारों ने गंगा मैया की भव्य आरती की, इस अवसर पर काफी तादाद में श्रदाल भक्तजनी ने सपरिवार कार्यक्रम में उपस्थिति दर्ज करायी, आयोजन की सबसे बडी विशेष बात यह रही कि विभिन्न धर्में के गुरुओं ने गंग आरती के इस महा आयोजन में हिस्सा लिया. आयोजन ने राष्ट्र के सर्व-धर्म सद्भाव की संस्कृति को एक बार फिर उजागर किया, स्वामी चिदानंद सरस्वतीजी

SEE MORE PHOTOS! CLICK HERE!

Religions for Peace Conference



In January, Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswatiji traveled to Jakarta for a special conference by Religions for Peace titled, International Consultation on Multi-religious Humanitarian Action: Addressing Violent Extremism, Refugees and Migrant Crisis and Disaster Relief.

In cooperation with The Centre for Dialogue and Cooperation among Civilisations (CDCC) andMuhammadiyah Disaster Management Center (MDMC), The Jakarta Consultation gathered faith-based organizations, religious leaders and representatives from government, UN agencies, and civil society to discuss three thematic issues:

- a) Countering violent religious extremism
- b) Developing a co-operative short- and long-term approach to the refugee and migrant crisis
- c) Strengthening the delivery of humanitarian and development assistance

Sadhviji spoke about the work being done by the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance, Divine Shakti Foundation and India Heritage Research Foundation in the field of disaster relief -- including natural disasters from the South Asian tsunami of 2004 to the tragic floods in Uttarakhand in 2013.

The conference included a special program with the Vice President of Indonesia, His Excellency Dr. Muhammad Jusuf Kalla.



15

SPRING EDITION

Swachh aur Sundar Gujarat



A series of large-scale events was held in Gujarat, building on the momentum of the Swachh Gujarat, Swachh India and Worship to WASH initiative. Taken on by Pujya Swami Madhavpriyadasji after having been deeply inspired by Pujya Swamiji in Rishikesh, people in Surat and Baroda were encouraged to do their part towards cleaning and greening their communities.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Gujarat was the guest of honour in a special female saints sammelan, and Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswatiji was one of the main speakers. Sadhviji joined the Hon'ble Anandiben Patel in the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance's symbolic water blessing ceremony. Pujya Swamiji gifted a sacred green Rudraksha to the Hon'ble Chief Minister.

Pujya Swamiji also led everyone in pledging to pick up our brooms and clean up our communities. He stated, "This is truly the worship needed today."







Sadhviji Bhagawati Saraswati leading Hon'ble Chief Minister of Gujarat, Smt. Anandiben Patel and other dignitaries in a water blessing ceremony











Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswatiji giving rudraksh sapling to Hon'ble Chief Minister of Gujarat, Smt. Anandiben Patel



GIVING LIGHT OF VISION: FREE EYE CAMP AT PARMARTH



A free three-day eye camp was organized at Parmarth Niketan's Charitable Hospital to provide quality and free medical care to underserved populations.

The camp saw more than 240 patients and provided free cataract surgeries to 107 people. A dedicated team of doctors from Mumbai and Rishikesh, including Dr. Mustafa Parekh, Dr. Pranay Kapadia, Dr. Jarna Patel, and Dr. Chitra Singh, joined with a team of volunteers from across India and around the world to serve at the camp. Bhuveshwari and Aparna Makharia, Bharati and Bhagwati Trivedi, from Mumbai, Elisabeth Gilles from France, Claudine Franco from Brazil and many others volunteered their services throughout the camp.

18



See more photos! <u>Click Here!</u>

PARMARTH NIKETAN

Shraddhanjali to Respected Smt Kamla Advaniji



A beautiful green tribute was led and blessed by Pujya Swamiji at Parmarth Niketan RIshikesh in memory of Late Smt Kamla Advaniji.

Mananiya Shri LK Advaniji and his family arrived to the Dehradun Airport and were received by Pujya Swamiji and Pujya Sri Sri Ravi Shankarji.

Respected Shri LK Advaniji first reached the Har Ki Pauri ghat with Pujya Swamiji and his family to perform the last rites ceremony at this sacred ghat.

Then they arrived to Rishikesh to offer their bhavanjali and pushpanjali on the banks of Mother Ganga at Parmarth Niketan, as was the last wish of Smt Kamla Advaniji. She loved the River Ganga, the divine Ganga Aarti and was deeply connected to Parmarth, as it was her very own Himalayan home and she had visited it frequently with Mananiya Shri Advaniji and her whole family.







Pujya Swamiji ensured that her beautiful, divine and loving soul was given a green memorial by the plantation of a sacred Rudraksha sapling at the feet of the iconic Lord Shiva statue in the Parmarth Yoga Garden. Also blessing the memorial plantation and the Ganga Aarti was Pujya Acharya MM Avdheshanand Giriji Maharaj.

Pujya Swamiji shared so many beautiful words to honour the spirit and the essence of Late Smt Kamla Advaniji, especially mentioning how many people she had touched and inspired by her unconditional and bountiful love and affection. He shared that although her physical presence would be greatly missed, she was ever present with us and that 'she had not actually gone, but she was on, just like Mother Ganga, flowing with compassion and love for all."

Pujya Acharya MM Avdheshanand Giriji Maharaj also offered his homage comparing her life to the life of a sacred tree, in which all aspects of the tree are truly for the welfare of all. He shared how Smt Kamlaji's own life was so dedicated and devoted to the welfare of all and supporting her husband in every step of the way in service of the nation.

Mananiya Advaniji expressed his gratitude for the divine shradhanjali ceremony and the blessings offered by all the revered and respected saints. He shared that his trip to Rishikesh had filled him with hope to continue his service to the nation and the courage to deeply miss his beloved wife's physical presence but living with his shakti, the timeless, everpresent essence of his wife, within him.

Hon'ble Water Resources Ministry for Ganga Rejuvenation, Umashri Bhartiji, also joined for the special Ganga Aarti dedicated to divine soul Smt Kamla Advaniji.

SEE MORE PHOTOS! <u>CLICK HERE!</u>

Memorial for Smt. Kamla Advaniji



On April 17 Pujya Swamiji graced the memorial ceremony for beloved Smt Kamla Advaniji. Pujya Swami Ramdevji, Pujya Swami Avdeshanandji and many eminent dignitaries and leaders also graced the occasion. Those in attendance included: former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, Union ministers Rajnath Singh and Venkaiah Naidu, Union ministers Piyush Goel, Ram Vilas Paswan, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, UP Governor Ram Naik, Delhi Lt Governor Najeeb Jung, and Anoop Jalota, Pujya Swamiji lit the sacred lamps with Hon'ble Mananiya Shri Advaniji and Pratibha and Jayant Advani. Pujya Swamiji gave a beautiful speech in which He shared about Smt. Kamlaji's divine life.



ARDH KUMBHA MELA IN Haridwar/Rishikesh



Green Ardha Kumbha Mela Started with Huge Ceremony

A beautiful Ardha Kumbha Mela inaugural ceremony at Har Ki Pauri brought together revered saints, top mahants and mahamandaleshwars and the heads of nearly every major traditional ashram and lineage in Rishikesh and Haridwar with the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttarakhand.



During the course of the ceremony, plans were announced for a special Clean and Green Kumbha Mela. Pujya Swamiji was behind the vision of creating such an event to honour and engage all respected saints. All of the revered faith leaders took the pledge to make this mela with a message of sustainability, swachhta and sadbhava.









See more photos! <u>Click Here!</u>

Sach Bharat: Make in India and Make India



24

Good Governance is Green Governance

Pujya Swamiji inaugurated the two-day Sach Bharat Samman for spirituality@work awards in New Delhi, a joint initiative of Times Foundation and the Assocham and Srei Foundation. The conference brought together industrialists, politicians, and spiritual leaders to discuss how spirituality can change the way we work.

Pujya Swamiji, President of Parmarth Niketan Ashram, said, "Spirituality should not be a weekend or Monday-to-Friday business, but an everyday practice. We can achieve Sach or Truth only if we practice spirituality in our daily life. The prime minister's 'Make in India' campaign is good for material progress, but we also need to 'Make India' so that India can lead in practice of truth so our souls are filled with noble thoughts and deeds."

The welcome address by Assocham President and Vice Chairman, SREI Infrastructure, Sunil Kanoria, linked moral decay in today's world to lack of spirituality. "We must take steps to ensure that strong ethics and values become the DNA of organisations and individuals," he said. Times Foundation Chairman Indu Jain stressed how the Swacch Bharat and Swasth Bharat missions would be incomplete without a Sach Bharat. "If this philosophy is incorporated everywhere, it will be a gift to future generations," she said.

Minister for Women and Child Development, Smt Maneka Gandhi, said we need to "change ourselves into a state of being, rather than having; and do unto others as we would have them do unto us".

Amongst the eminent dignitaries and speakers at the conference were: H P Kanoria, Chairman of SREI Foundation Subramanian Swamy, Former Union Minister Maulana Wahiduddin Khan Swami Shantatmananda of RK Mission, New Delhi Sandeep Jajodia, Senior VP, Assocham Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu Amolak R Kohli, former Mizoram Governor, and Rajita Kulkarni, President, World Forum for Ethics in Business

CURTAIN RAISER FOR International Yoga Day by AYUSH Ministry



April 20th was the curtain raiser for the Government of India AYUSH Ministry International Yoga Day event. Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswatiji was a Guest of Honour at the Inauguration with Hon'ble Minister of AYUSH Shri Shripad Naikji, Dr. HR Nagendraji, Dr. Ishwar Basavaraddiji, BK Sister Shivaniji and heads of all main yoga institutions in India. Sadhviji gave a beautiful address on the meaning of yoga and why so many people from across the world are coming to India and turning toward Indian teachings for the beautiful "touch" and "transformation" of yoga.



VISIT TO UJJAIN IN PREPARATION FOR GREEN KUMBHA MELA



Inauguration of the 'Green Simhastha'

Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji traveled several times to Ujjain in the winter and early spring to plan and inspire local communities for the Ujjain Simhasta Kumbha Mela. He met with the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, the state in which the gathering is taking place, Shri Shivraj Singh Chauhanji and the Hon'ble Chief Minister gifted him a sacred Peepal sapling. He urged Pujya Swamiji to provide his support and enhance public awareness for the ongoing wide and abundant tree plantation program along the banks of Kshipra River.

See more photos! <u>Click HERE!</u>







Judges and Advocates Pledge for Kshipra

Hundreds of judges, senior advocates, lawyers invited Pujya Swamiji as their Chief Guest at a special function of the Bar Association in Ujjain.

SEE MORE PHOTOS! CLICK HERE!

Pujya Swamiji shared about His plans to be there all throughout the month long mela and the unique clean and green interventions the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance would be undertaking, in support of the Mela Adminstration, to make this Mela one that truly has a message.

He led the bar association in a pledge to support these efforts and to dedicate their time, talent, technical expertise and tenacity to revive the endangered river.



Muslim Community Welcomes Pujya Swamiji to Ujjain

As news of Pujya Swamiji's visit spread all over Ujjain, eminent and respected Imams of the region welcomed Him to their Mosque.

They discussed ways in which they would join Pujya Swamiji's vision to plant thousands of trees along both sides of the river, to protect it from soil erosion as well as to support water restoration in the river's catchment.

They joined together in a special prayer in the Masjid to bless this beautiful mission and planted the sacred Rudraksh tree in their premises as a symbol of this pledge.



See more photos! <u>Click HERE!</u>



Anuradha Paudwal Plans to Join Pujya Swamiji for the Ujjain Kumbha Mela



Pujya Swamiji met with Smt Anuradha Paudwal, famous and eminent bhajan singer, to discuss the Ujjain Kumbha Mela.

Amongst the points they discussed were:

1. Making both Ujjain clean and green as well as raising awareness so that pilgrims could take the green pledge back with them.

- 2. Awareness raising through music and media to end open defecation and promote sanitation for all
- 3. Bringing women and girls forward to be change agents and Sanitation Ambassadors

4. They also spoke on the topics of Beti Bachao. Beti Padao. Ped Lagao and Toilet Banao and spreading new innovative

slogans like this throughout the mela to give a new, green message

Anuradhaji was very eager and enthusiastic to work together, with the blessings and vision of Pujya Swamiji, to utilize the festival as an occasion to join efforts of the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance's faith leaders to create Health, Hygiene and Harmony for all.

HOLI CELEBRATIONS: LOCAL CULTURE CONNECTS TO GLOBAL COMMUNITY







A beautiful Holi campfire or Holika Dahan took place in the Yoga Garden at Parmarth Niketan, Rishikesh on the eve of the Indian Festival of Colours, better known as Holi. The sacred fire was blessed and lit by Pujya Swamiji, Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswatiji, members of One Source Waking Up and many other pilgrims and devotees as the symbol of the victory of devotion and faith over ego and false pride.

The sacred fire is burnt all over India as a reminder of the beautiful story of Prahlad and the burning of his aunt Holika who conspired with her brother King Hiranyakashyapu to kill young Prahlad because he had unconditional and unwavering faith in God. King Hiranyakashyapu was a ruler filled with ego and false pride and thus deeply upset that his own son believed God to be more powerful then the king. Holika was unsuccessful in her plan to burn to death young Prahlad but was extinguished in her own fire of evil intentions.





There was a beautiful guided meditation and satsang afterwards.

Sadhvi Bhagawatiji explained, "Holi is a celebration of the vanquishing of evil by good and of the dispelling of darkness by light. It is also celebrated and known as the festival of love. But the goodness, the light and the love are not merely external like the powdered colors! Rather they should color the depths of our hearts and minds as well. Let these powders be a symbol of the coloring of our hearts and minds with light, love, peace and joy. Let the divine rang (colour) connect you deeply in your sangh (connection/association) with the Divine."

Read Pujya Swamiji's divine Holi blessing online: www.facebook.com/notes/parmarthniketan-ashram/holi-the-holi-day-to-let-goflow/10154049038107351









See more photos! <u>Click Here!</u>

POETRY FOR RIVERS ON THE OCCASION OF WORLD POETRY DAY



On the occasion of World Poetry Day, a beautiful poetry conference was held at Parmarth Niketan (Rishikesh), organized by the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance and the Ganga Action Parivar.

Many prominent poets and saints from all across India participated in the poetry event, sharing their poetry and prose to raise awareness on the plight of our sacred water bodies.

There was also a beautiful thought-provoking skit to raise awareness on the threats that Mother Ganga faces.

Pujya Swamiji led a Swachhta Sankalp (Pledge for Cleanliness) and inspired a beautiful water blessing ceremony with all the young children and artists.





SEE MORE PHOTOS! CLICK HERE!

31

PARMARTH NIKETAN

SPRING EDITION

GYAN YUG DIWAS CELEBRATION



Pujya Swamiji traveled to Jabalpur, for the huge Maharishi Age of Enlightenment Day Celebration in honor of the historic and renowned spiritual leader and global luminary, Maharishi Mahesh Yogi. The event was organized and presided over by respected Brahmacharya Girishji. Pujya Swamiji deeply appreciated the vision, the mission and the message of Pujya Maharishiji and the way this is being carried on across India and across the globe by Shri Girishji and so many other dedicated and devoted followers



SPRING EDITION

WUSHU CHAMPIONSHIPS AT Patanjali Yogpeeth



Pujya Swamiji graced the Statewide Wushu Sub Junior Championships that took place at Patanjali Yogpeeth. They were presided over by Pujya Swami Ramdevji. Also in attendance was Congress Leader Shri Digvijay Singh.

Pujya Swamiji inspired all the young Wushu Champions to not only win the medals but also to become models in their own lives--models of integrity, dedication and models for their nation by inspiring all of the other youth of this nation.





INTERNATIONAL YOGA FESTIVAL



More than 1200 participants from more than 85 countries participated in this year's International Yoga Festival. Classes were held from 4:00 am until 9:30 pm with more than 70 revered saints, yogacharyas, presenters and experts from nearly 20 countries around the world. Ashtanga Yoga, Raja Yoga, Bhakti Yoga, Kundalini Yoga, Iyengar Yoga, Vinyasa Yoga, Bharat Yoga, Deep Yoga, Shintoh Yoga and Somatics Yoga are just a few of the more than 150 different offerings throughout the week.



READ THE FULL IYF NEWSLETTER <u>Click Here!</u>

Yoga Maha Kumbha











Read the full iyf and Yoga Maha Kumbha newsletter <u>Click Here!</u>



KAILASH KHER AND SIVAMANI SUPPORT SWACHHTA KRANTI



During the sacred time of the Ardh Kumbha Mela in Haridwar/Rishikesh, before a crowd of many thousands, renowned singer, Kailash Kher, and world famous percussionist Sivamani, stopped their concert to call to the stage Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji, leader of the new Swachhta Kranti (Clean Revolution) movement.

The crowd roared as the Swachhta Kranti graphics were vibrantly displayed on the concert's LED screens. All assembled onstage then unfurled the Swachhta Kranti banner and led the crowd in a rousing show of support for what will surely become a rapidly-growing movement for a clean and healthy India.

Guru Sangam on the Banks of Ganga



The Head of the Juna Akhada, Pujya Mahamandleshwar Swami Avdheshanand Giriji Maharaj, Founder of Art of Living Pujya Sri Sri Ravi Shankarji and President of Parmarth Niketan and Co-Founder of the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji (Pujya Swamiji) met to discuss various pertinent social, national and international issues.

Pujya Swamiji also invited both the saints to come together with many other revered Interfaith Leaders during the Simhastha Kumbh Mela to spread this message of Swachhta and Sadbhava (Cleanliness and Interfaith Harmony).

38

SEE MORE PHOTOS! <u>CLICK HERE!</u>

PARMARTH NIKETAN

SPRING EDITION

KAICIID ADVISORY BOARD MEETING



Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswatiji traveled to Vienna, Austria, on the 10th of April for the special advisory board meeting of the the Advisory Forum, of the King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz International Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue (KAICIID). Pujya Swamiji has been appointed as one of the international advisors for the KAICIID, an organization dedicated to using inter-faith and inter-cultural dialogue to bring about peace and understanding among different religions across the world.

Pujya Swamiji was scheduled to attend the meeting. Due to the visit of the respected Shri LK Advaniji and his family for the sacred ash immersion puja of Honorable Shri Advaniji's wife, Shri Fmt Kamila Advaniji on the same date, Pujya Swamiji was not able to attend the Advisory Forum. However, Sadhviji went on His behalf.





PARMARTH NIKETAN

INTERNATIONAL YOGA FESTIVAL & World Water Day Celebrated in Devprayag



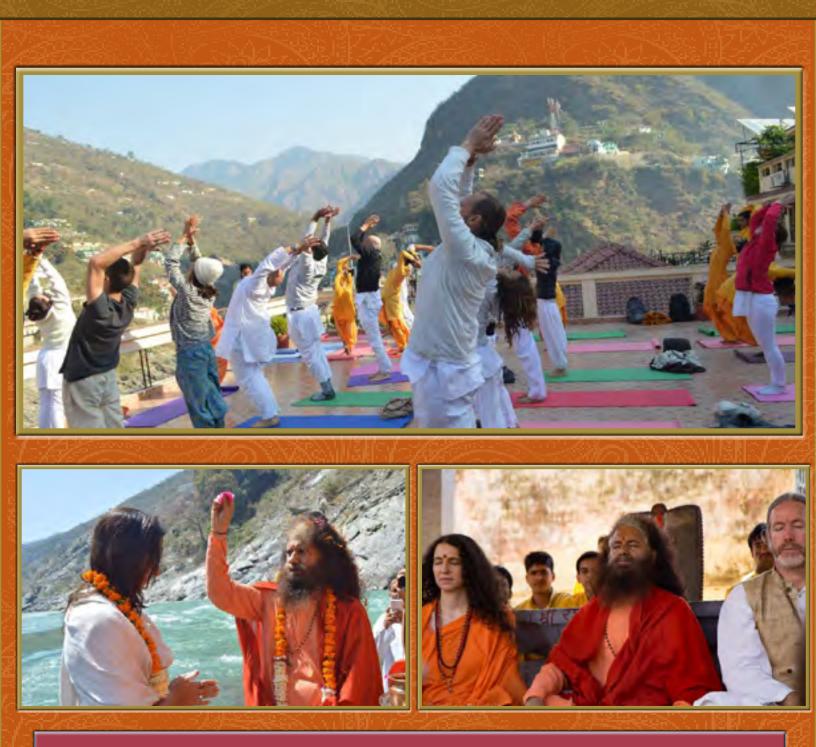
On 22 March, we took a beautiful yatra up to Devprayag, where the River Ganga is formed from the confluence of the Bhagirathi and Alakananda Rivers, to celebrate World Water Day. This annual international observance provides an opportunity for people everywhere to not only learn about water-related issues,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







PARMARTH NIKETAN



Globally, 1 out of every 10 people do not have access to clean drinking water. Every 90 seconds, a child somewhere in the world dies from a waterrelated disease. In India alone 1600 children die every day because they lack access to clean water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH). In Deyprayag, our Global Interfaith WASH Alliance (GIWA) was joined by UPLIFT Connect, Unify, and musicians from the United States, Israel, Iran and many other countries to meditate, pray, and take pledges to protect and preserve our blessed and divine water everywhere.

READ THE FULL DEVPRAYAG NEWSLETTER <u>CLICK HERE!</u>

LEARNINGS WORKSHOP FROM THE Ganga Sagar Mela



A learning and reflective meeting was organized by the Government of West Bengal and UNICEF, in association with the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance (GIWA) and many other NGOs, who participated in making the Ganga Sagar Mela a uniquely Clean and Green Mela. The workshop shared lessons learned from the Mela, steps to take going forward, areas for improvement, as well as what can be shared/replicated in other melas and festivals across the nation.

Pujya Swamiji graced the occasion and blessed it by saying, "Most melas today are a journey from faith to filth, this mela, however, was a journey where faith could be felt. This was a true example of a Mela with a Message, a message of cleanliness, of oneness and of the power of collective collaboration to be the change we wish to see in the world. I laud the Hon'ble DMShri PB Salim and his entire teamfor their extraordinary efforts. He is a man with vision, mission and a man of action. It was his dedication and commitment that has led everyone to say 'Salim ko Salaam' for a successful Clean and Green Ganga Sagar Mela. May we have more leaders like him and may we take these learnings and apply them in the upcoming Ujjain Kumbha Mela to create the first ever Clean and Green Simhastha, inspiring and engaging millions across India."

42



To read more about the event, <u>Click Here!</u>

<u>Watch</u> a beautiful video of the incredible Clean and Green Mela

PARMARTH NIKETAN

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE -ON THE WINGS OF SUCCESS



The first district conference, 'Udaan - The Wings of Success' brought together Rotarians from many different clubs in the District to experience the vastness and expansiveness of Rotary with enriching and enlightening talks and panels. Rotarians are making the world a better place with the many projects the Rotary sponsors.

The theme of this year was "Be a Gift to the World," developed by Shri KR Ravindran, President of Rotary International. Among the eminent dignitaries were: Hon'ble Union Health Minister, Shri JP Naddaji, PRID Rtn Robert A Stuart Jr, RI President's Representative, District Governor Rtn JK Gaur, Past District Governor Rtn Ramesh Aggarwal and many others.

Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswatiji was the Keynote Inspirational Speaker. She said, "My session is entitled 'Service Above the Self', but I think it really should really be 'Service through the Self for the Self'. When we realize that which we are called to serve is none other than the self, then automatically serving selflessly will become natural. Rotarians are exemplary in selfless service. You are true champions of 'Yoga in Action.' You have been the powerful force in the Polio



Free India campaign and now the time has come that you become the force behind Pollution Free India."

After her beautiful talk, plans were discussed to bring the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance together with Rotary in WASH in schools as well as other initiatives bringing WASH to all.



MILLENNIUM ALLIANCE AWARDS



On April 14, Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswatiji represented the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance (GIWA) at the Millennium Alliance Awards Ceremony in Delhi. The award ceremony was organized by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) jointly with the Technology Development Board (Department of Science and Technology, Government of India); United States Agency for International Development (USAID), UK's Department for International Development (DFID); ICCO Cooperation; ICICI Foundation for Inclusive Growth; Wadhwani Initiative for Sustainable Health (WISH) and the World Bank.

The Millennium Alliance, a multilateral consortium led by India recognized and awarded 33 Indian social enterprises selected through a rigorous year long process to identify technologies and innovations that impact bottom of the pyramid population in India and could also be successfully deployed in other developing countries in Africa and



South East Asia.

H.E. Shri Richard R. Verma, United States Ambassador to India was present at the function and distributed the awards along with: Dr A. Didar Singh, Secretary General, FICCI; Shri Nirankar Saxena, Senior Director, FICCI; Dr. Bindu Dey, Secretary, Technology Development Board, Government of India; Ms. Bhavna Bhatia, South Asia Regional Program Coordinator, Leadership, Learning & Innovation, World Bank Group; Shri Soumitro Ghosh, CEO, WISH Foundation; Marshall Elliott, Head-DFID India.

Sadhviji gave a beautiful talk on the the significance and importance of the Millennium Awards and of the organizations who make up the consortium by coming forward to support the initiatives of so many organizations across the world working for the upliftment of humanity.



45

SPRING EDITION

Yamuna Action Parivar Pledges for the Endangered Yamuna



46

Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji, President of Parmarth Niketan Ashram (Rishikesh), Founder of Ganga Action Parivar, and eminent kathakar Pujya Acharya Mridul Krishan Shastriji, from Vrindavan, united on the banks of Mother Ganga. The inspired a mass pledge to protect Mother Nature and all water bodies, especially the endangered River Ganga and the River Yamuna. Their time together was infused with beautiful chants of Radhe-Radhe, ecstatic singing and divine Ganga Aarti. They also had detailed discussions on working together as the Yamuna Action Parivar to restore and protect the sacred Yamuna as well as utilize the upcoming Ujjain Kumbha Mela and other occasions to inspire action for preserving and protecting our endangered natural resources.

SEE MORE PHOTOS! CLICK HERE!





SADHVIJI'S DIVINE BIRTHDAY Celebrations



47



Sadhvi Bhagawatiji's 45th blessed, blissful and beautiful birthday celebration started with her being dedicated, as every day, to the service of God's Divine Grace, with her active engagement in the many projects and programmes which are flourishing and thriving under her leadership and tenacious dedication. In honour of her birthday, many members of the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance and the Divine Shakti Foundation joined together to wish her a green birthday with an organic and green birthday salad, fresh from Parmarth Niketan's organic farm in Veerpur.





PARMARTH NIKETAN

The salad was also a symbol of Sadhvi Bhagawatiji's green living and strong beliefs in leading a life that treads lightly on the planet, while mindfully reducing our carbon and water footprint, and one that is least violent to our external and internal environment. As she often shares, one of the most fundamental and pivotal ways to do so is by leading a vegetarian lifestyle, which is also one of the strongest actions one can take to abate and prevent global warming. To learn more, visit: http://www.gangaaction.org/actions/ vegetarianism/

In the evening at the sacred Ganga Aarti, it was a beautiful Israel meets India event. In addition to receiving blessings from Pujya Swamiji, her beloved Guru, she also received special sacred blessings from Rabbi Awraham Soetendorp of the Netherlands, and beautiful Hebrew songs were song, along with Sanskrit prayers, by beloved Gil Ron Shama from Israel and his interfaith band.





SEE MORE PHOTOS! CLICK HERE!

48

PARMARTH NIKETAN

BRAHMACHARI BRAHMASWARUPJI'S BIRTHDAY AT JAI RAM ASHRAM



Pujya Swamiji graced the beautiful and divine birthday celebrations of His spiritual brother, Pujya Brahmachari Brahmaswarupji, the head of Jai Ram Ashram, Haridwar and Rishikesh.



FICCI FLO Annual Event - Hyderabad - Sadhviji Gives Keynote address



50

The 19th April was the annual function of FICCI FLO (FICCI Ladies Organisation) in Hyderabad at which Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswatiji was the keynote speaker. The theme of her address was Happiness as a Way of Life. The programme was organized by Rekha Lahoti, the chairwoman of Hyderabad FICCI FLO.





FIRST WORKSHOP OF WORLD TOILET COLLEGE



The World Toilet College's first training workshop was organized and conducted by the Sehgal Foundation and the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance. It was inaugurated by Pujya Swamiji, Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswatiji and Swamini Adityananda Saraswatiji. Dr. Vikas Jha, Group Leader and Mr. Navneet Narwal, Programme Leader - Governance and Policy Advocacy Team, Sehgal Foundation, were the key resource persons for the Training.

The purpose of the workshop was to train sevaks and volunteers as outreach Ambassadors for the Kumbh Mela. It was the first course for GIWA's WASH on Wheels Training of the Trainers.

51

The sessions in the workshop included:

Session 1 : Why cleanliness is important in home villages

Session 2: Provisions of the Swachh Bharat Mission, including how to access government funding for toilets Session 3: How to make your own sanitation plan for your home and community

Session 4: How to influence others to change their behaviours and embrace toilets/sanitation

Key stakeholders, especially women leaders, were engaged and involved.





CHAIRPERSON OF THE DELHI COMMISSION FOR WOMEN VISITS HER HIMALAYAN HOME



Parmarth Niketan hosted Chairperson of Delhi Women's Commission, Ms. Swati Malihwal, and her husband, Mr. Naveen JaiHind, at Parmarth Niketan (Rishikesh) recently. Deeply touched by her meeting with Pujya Swamiji during the Global Freedom Network's meeting in Delhi in December, she visited again to discuss upon the following points: Hosting retreats at Parmarth with batches of women who had broken the shackles of slavery to the banks of Mother Ganga, to the Himalayas, participating in the Ganga Aarti, practising Yoga and being in the satsang

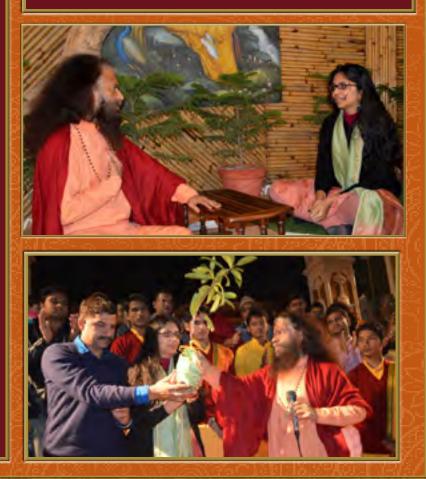
Creating within an existing centre in Delhi a Skills Training Centre for these women.

Listing out good NGO's, groups and volunteers already working in Delhi on these issues, providing shelter, skills training, counseling, etc, whom the Divine Shakti Foundation could support in expanding their resources

Creating WASH Facilities for the Night Shelters that were in need of them.

Organizing Vipassana Workshops, Kriya Yoga and Yoga Training for offenders as well as women survivors

As Pujya Swamiji said, ultimately we should not only teach and reach these women but to give them the divine, healing touch which allows them to rise above their adversities and know that they are pure, divine and capable of anything that they wish to do.



VISIT OF BRAHMAKUMARI Sister Shivaniji



On the 9th of April, renowned Brahmakumari Sister Shivaniji came to Parmarth Niketan for the divine Ganga aarti and to spend time with Pujya Swamiji. Sister Shivaniji is world renowned for her programs, via the Brahmakumaris TV shows, on bringing spirituality into daily life.

Pujya Swamiji blessed her with a sacred rudraksh sapling with his blessing that her teachings and message should reach and touch even more people across the world. He also expressed his great devotion, dedication and love for Pujya Dadi Jankiji, the head of the Brahmakumaris.

Sister Shivaniji gave a beautiful and inspiring talk in which she deeply appreciated Pujya Swamiji and all of the great seva that is being done under his leadership and vision for people in India and all across the world.



53

Parmarth Niketan

LIFE POSITIVE EXPO 2016 INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF HOLISTIC LIVING



On March 27th, Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswatiji gave the keynote address at the valedictory session of the 20th anniversary of Life Positive Magazine's Expo in Delhi. Her talk was "From Pieces to Peace--Finding Serenity in Our Lives." She was felicitated by Aditya Ahluwalia, Suma Varughese and D.R. Karthikeyan.

Other renowned speakers at the Expo included: Pujya Anandmurti Gurumaa and Sister B.K. Shivani.



54

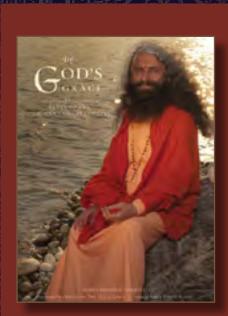
SPRING EDITION

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS



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

THE REPORT OF A DESCRIPTION OF A



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 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 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: **www.bygodsgracebook.org.**



56

SPRING EDITION

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

57







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.





VISIT US ONLINE



VISIT OUR WEBSITES BY CLICKING:

<u>WWW.PARMARTH.ORG</u> (PARMARTH NIKETAN RISHIKESH) <u>WWW.PUJYASWAMIJI.ORG</u> (HH PUJYA SWAMI CHIDANAND SARASWATIJI) <u>WWW.GANGAACTION.ORG</u> (GANGA ACTION PARIVAR) <u>WWW.WASHALLIANCE.ORG</u> (GLOBAL INTERFAITH WASH ALLIANCE) <u>WWW.DIVINESHAKTIFOUNDATION.ORG</u> (DIVINE SHAKTI FOUNDATION), <u>WWW.PROJECTHOPE-INDIA.ORG</u> (PROJECT HOPE), <u>WWW.INTERNATIONALYOGAFESTIVAL.COM</u> (INT'L YOGA FESTIVAL)

FIND US ON FACEBOOK

PARMARTH NIKETAN RISHIKESH: <u>FACEBOOK.COM/PARMARTHASHRAM</u> GANGA ACTION PARIVAR: <u>FACEBOOK.COM/GANGAACTION</u> GLOBAL INTERFAITH WASH ALLIANCE: <u>FACEBOOK.COM/WASHALLIANCE</u> INTERNATIONAL YOGA FESTIVAL: <u>FACEBOOK.COM/</u> <u>INTERNATIONALYOGAFESTIVAL</u> HH PUJYA SWAMI CHIDANAND SARASWATIJI: <u>FACEBOOK.COM/PUJYASWAMIJI</u> SADHVI BHAGAWATIJI: FACEBOOK.COM/SADHVIBHAGAWATISARASWATI

VISIT US ON TWITTER

Parmarth Niketan Rishikesh: www.twitter.com/ParmarthNiketan HH Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji: www.twitter.com/PujyaSwamiji Sadhvi Bhagawatiji: www.twitter.com/SadhviBhagawati InternationalYoga Festival www.twitter.com/InternationalYogaFestival

58

WATCH OUR VIDEOS

CLICK HERE: <u>WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/PARMARTHNIKETAN</u>