

PARMARTH

August 2017 Newsletter



Travels to the USA

This beautiful News Magazine highlights Pujya Swamiji and Sadhvi Bhagawatiji's recent travels to the United States of America, including highlights from the first ever Guru Purnima Retreat and celebrations in Louisville, Kentucky, Sadhvi's high level meeting with the UN Secretary General at the Plan of Action Launch to prevent violence and atrocity crimes at the UN, star studded events in New York, ahead of the IIFA Awards, important meetings, inspiring community events and divine satsangs as well as so much more.

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As our Guru has brought us a new, divine life, let us work to help all of our family on earth – of all colors, all countries, all cultures and all creeds – have a life that is free from hunger, thirst and environmental degradation."

–Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji

Guru Purnima Weekend Retreat in Woodland Glen, Indiana

Come to Nature, Be with Nature and Change Your Nature

A special two day Guru Purnima weekend retreat organised by the Divine Shakti Foundation (DSF) and Parmarth Niketan took place in Henryville, Indiana, USA. Devotees from many states joined with their friends and family to take part in this divine opportunity to be in the presence of HH Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji, President of Parmarth Niketan, and Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswatiji, President of the Divine Shakti Foundation. The location was a beautiful picturesque countryside setting with woods and a

beautiful lake surrounding the retreat site. It was selected to meet Pujya Swamiji's inspired theme for the retreat, *"Celebrating a Green Guru Purnima: Come to Nature, Be with Nature and Change Your Nature."*

The retreat included divine satsang on a range of topics including: practicing no reaction, silence, inner peace, dealing with emotions and answered a range of questions on how to live in the Western culture but staying true to Indian roots and traditions. A number

of the participants were overseas Indians or first generation Indian Americans. Several of the youth participating in the retreat asked questions on how Hindu values apply to their modern life, to which Sadhvi Bhagawati gave simple and profound solutions.

Other activities included: vedic mantra chanting, trekking, walking meditation, yoga, meditation, kirtan and Naad Yoga. A very special Ganga Aarti was organised by the lakeside. The general manager of the retreat centre, Wooded



[Click here to see more!](#)



**If you missed any of the
LIVE satsangs, you can
watch them by clicking
on the links below:**

No Reaction and Silence

Emotions and Relationships

Inner Peace

Glen, was gifted by Pujya Swamiji and Sadhvi Bhagawatiji and some of the youngest participants a beautiful green tree sapling, as a symbol of the green Guru Purnima celebration.

Pujya Swamiji and Sadhvi Bhagawatiji led a special pledge to encourage all present to make every celebration clean and green and to ensure that in their everyday lives they commit to making more sustainable and eco-friendly choices. Pujya Swamiji blessed and inspired everyone saying, "As our Guru has brought us life, let us plant trees in the name and love of our Guru which will bring life to others. As our Guru has quenched our thirst for knowledge, understanding and light, let us work to ensure that all of our brothers and sisters

on earth have safe and sufficient water to drink to quench the thirst of their bodies. As our Guru has brought us a new, divine life, let us work to help all of our family on earth – of all colors, all countries, all cultures and all creeds – have a life that is free from hunger, thirst and environmental degradation."

Sadhvi Bhagawatiji shared, "The Guru is one who removes the darkness of ignorance and illusion from our lives and allows the true, divine light to come through. The Guru brings life and light into our lives and shows us the path to walk. On this Guru Purnima there could not be a better way to honour our Green Guru, Pujya Swamiji, than by planting trees, as trees also bring life to so many today and for the future. Trees protect and preserve the

Earth as our Guru protects and preserves us. Let us take this divine opportunity to recommit ourselves to making all of our holidays and celebrations green and also to making choices in our daily life that are filled with light and life for all of Creation."

At the conclusion, a special thank you was given to the dedicated seva team for their efforts to put together a successful retreat. The team was led by Rekha Mashruwala and included but was not limited to: Seema Singhal, Madhu Gupta, Dr. Naval Kant, Atul Mashruwala, Dr. Anar Mashruwala, Pushpa Patel, Sujal and Shyam Popat and so many more. The retreat was followed by a major Guru Purnima celebration at the Hindu Temple of Kentucky on 9 July.





Plan of Action Launched at UN to Prevent Violence & Atrocity

Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswatiji met with HE Secretary General of the UN, Antonio Guterres

Religious leaders gathered at the United Nations (UN) to launch the plan of action to prevent incitement to violence that could lead to atrocity crimes in the ECOSOC chambers. The event was organized by the United Nations Office on Genocide Prevention and Responsibility to Protect in association with the KAICIID.

The event was inaugurated by Secretary General of the United Nations António Guterres, Under Secretary General,

Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide Adama Dieng and Secretary General of the KAICIID Dialogue Centre Faisal Bin Muammer. Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswatiji, Secretary-General Global Interfaith WASH Alliance, was an honorable speaker on the valedictory panel on the implementation of the plan of action and the way forward. Sadhvi Bhagawati greeted the Honorable Secretary General Guterres and honoured him with a sacred elachi (cardamom) mala, saying

that his leadership and vision was truly bringing the fragrance of oneness to the United Nations and the world, and cited his great, green leadership. He was also invited by Sadhviji to Parmarth Niketan (Rishikesh) next time he visited India.

Sadhviji shared briefly about the work that the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance (GIWA) is engaged in by bringing the world's leaders together to improve water, sanitation and hygiene. She also spoke about the many other

inspired initiatives for environmental preservation, education, healthcare, women empowerment plus the work towards many of the sustainable development goals.

In her inspiring address, Sadhvi Bhagawati shared, “84% of the world subscribes to a religion. So as faith leaders we must harness and channel this great power of faith to prevent more violence. Hate speech, violence and atrocity crimes are rooted in the illusion of separation,

us versus them and dehumanization of the other. The foundation of spirituality is oneness and an appreciation of the sacred humanity of all. It is said that faith can move mountains. We need to use our power as faith leaders to move the minds, hearts, words and actions of our communities. We have found that one of the best ways to address sectarianism and violence between communities is to bring faith leaders and faith communities of different religions together to work against a common enemy, i.e. poverty,

lack of WASH, etc, and this is exactly what GIWA is doing.”

The Deputy Secretary General of the United Nations, Dr. Amina Mohammad, addressed the conference and personally thanked the religious leaders for their dedication and the commitment to this vital task. Sadhviji met with her and deeply appreciated her leadership, and also warmly invited her to come home to Rishikesh.



Sadhvi Bhagawati gifts the UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres a sacred elachi mala from India for his green leadership.



Sadhviji with Dr. Azza Karam Senior Advisor, UNFPA and Coordinator UN Inter-Agency Task Force on Religion and Development and Rabbi Burt Visotzky.



[Click here to watch Sadhviji's Plan of Action speech](#)



Sadhvi Bhagawati and UN Deputy Secretary General Amina J. Mohammed sharing a beautiful moment together in which they discuss ending hate speech and atrocity crimes also with UN Under Secretary General Adama Dieng.

[Click here to see more!](#)

SPECIAL NEWSLETTER INTERNATIONAL DAY OF YOGA *at the United Nations in NY*



Full video of “Conversation on Yoga for Health”



Full video of “Yoga Session with Yoga Masters”

**CLICK HERE TO
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GANGA MA BY
JAI UTTAL**

A beautiful gift from our beloved Jai Uttal, a song in praise of Ganga Ma, to download and share with everyone! We encourage and inspire you to write your own songs, prose, poetry or your own unique expression of love for Mother Ganga and share it with us at ganga@parmarth.com.



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Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI) Convention

From Medication to Meditation: Yoga for Doctors and Healthcare Practitioners

Baba Ramdevji, Brahmakumari Shivaniji and Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswatiji were invited to grace and bless the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI) Convention in Atlantic City, New Jersey, USA, held 21st-24th June 2017. Pandit Jasraji inaugurated the convention. Kailash Kher and comedian Shailesh Lodha both performed. Baba Ramdevji led a morning yoga session and shared “We are all children of the rishis, of the saints and being doctors of Indian origin you must be deeply rooted in your spiritual-cultural heritage of Yoga, Ayurveda, Naturopath, Ved Darshan and the Upanishads. I would like to share with you that one of the most fundamental

and important things Yoga does is that it helps us rise from our lower consciousness to our higher consciousness. Yoga brings about divine transformation. I am a living example of that transformation and each one of you can also be a living example of the transformation of yoga.” Sadhvi Bhagawati emphasized the important connection between mind and body and the role that what we think, feel and believe plays on our physical health, as well as the health of our communities and our nations. She said, “As the Bhagavad Gita reminds us: the mind is the cause of all problems and the mind is, therefore, the solution. So many top research institutes are showing today what our sages and rishis told us thou-

sands of years ago --- jaise beetar vaise bahar (as is the inner condition, so do we create the outer condition.)” She further emphasized that maintaining a connection to Indian culture and heritage is the greatest and most important gift they can give their children and grandchildren.

Brahmakumaris Shivaniji led an introspective talk, in which she shared, “Anger of the doctor and fear of the people working with the doctor dissipates the healing environment that we need in our hospitals. Let us take a collective pledge today that no matter what happens we will not create anger in our lives and in our workplaces.”

American Jewish Committee (AJC) Hosts a Special Reception for Pujya Swamiji & Sadhviji in New York

India and Israel -- two great countries , two ancient cultures, one bright peaceful future



The AJC - Global Jewish Advocacy (AJC) hosted a special reception for Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji, President of Parmarth Niketan, Co-founder of the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance (GIWA), and Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswatiji, Secretary-General of GIWA, at their International headquarters in New York City, led by Rabbi Noam E. Marans, Director, Interreligious and Intergroup Relations, AJC.

Many of the members of the AJC present during the reception reflected on the beautiful and memorable time they

had in India last year at the interfaith events, led by Pujya Swamiji and organised by GIWA, in Varanasi during Dev Diwali and in Rishikesh. They shared how deeply touched they were with Pujya Swamiji and Sadhviji's deep commitment to interfaith harmony, especially towards their efforts to deepen the relationship between the Hindu and Jewish community in India and abroad. They planned for ways in which AJC could partner to support GIWA's efforts to improve WASH for every child.

During the meeting, Pujya Swamiji



[Click here to watch high level reception at the AJC](#)

shared, "Interfaith harmony is the cornerstone of the Indian spiritual tradition. Our tradition tells us that we may worship our own but we must also learn to respect and accept all. I also believe there is a lot to learn from the Jewish community. They may be a small population, as compared to other faith traditions, but their great history of overcoming countless obstacles is an inspiration to everyone. At this time of our Hon'ble Prime Minister's visit to Israel it is a great opportunity to recommit ourselves to working together and serving together to deepen our ties and to work together for health, hygiene

and harmony for all."

Sadhvi Bhagawati shared, "I feel so deeply connected to both my Jewish roots and my Hindu cultural heritage. I am honored to serve as a bridge between these two rich traditions, as there is so much that we can learn and exchange from each other."

Rabbi Noam shared, "We are so thrilled to welcome both of you to our home in New York. It's a small way for us to offer our token of appreciation for the incredible and deeply memorable experience we had in India. I look forward to returning back to our Himalayan home soon."

tGELF Hosts SHURUAAT! Gala in New York for Global Education

Cultivating a Generation of Leaders for a Better, Brighter Future for All



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A star-studded SHURUAAT! gala was organised by the Global Education & Leadership Foundation (tGELF)*, bringing together the biggest celebrities from Bollywood and leaders from faith traditions, business, philanthropy, media, education and the arts, to work together on the challenge of Global Education, to address and achieve the 4th UN Sustainable Development Goal, Quality Education. All proceeds from the Gala will support work with global private and public sector partners to test and scale education innovation.

HH Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji, President of Parmarth Niketan (Rishikesh), Co-founder of the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance (GIWA), was asked to bless the gala with His words of inspiration, “I am so glad to be amongst you today, in a room filled with people who know that the true happiness and meaning in life is in giving and serving others, because to me giving is truly living and

living is giving. You are a group of people who just by being here have said it's not 'What for me?' but 'What through me?' I am certain that with the able leadership of Shiv and Urvashi Khemka we can all join together in this vital cause of instilling our children with the core human values that inspire them to be leaders and problem solvers, where they know that no matter what challenge is in front of them they are the master key. Whether it's poverty, climate change, lack of WASH, gender equality or any of the global goals-together they are the solution.”

Amongst those gracing the event included: the extraordinary A.R. Rahmanji, the talented Anupam Kherji, Gulshan Groverji, celebrity Chef Vikas Khannaji, educator Gowri Ishwaran, Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswatiji and many others.

Everyone was so touched by Pujya Swamiji and Sadhvi Bhagawatiji, their message and their divine presence.



*tGELF is dedicated to creating a movement of ethical and altruistic young leaders to improve our world. Through a variety of programs, it invests in the people and projects with the most potential to transform India in its role as a world leader. tGELF continue to build on our commitment of 13 years, working in 14 countries, to strengthen partnerships with public, private, social and multilateral institutions to testing and utilizing innovative technology to achieve this Global Goal by 2030.

Sadhvi Bhagawatiji graced tGELF's inspiring LIFE Talks event in Delhi in August. Stay tuned for the highlights from this inspiring leadership conference in our next edition...



[Click here to see more!](#)

Stardust Awards: Fashion, Passion & Compassion

Global Icon Awards Get Inspired to be the Torchbearers of Change

Pujya Swamiji and Sadhvi Bhagwatiji were invited to bless and grace the Stardust Global Icon Award Ceremony at the Plaza Hotel in New York.

This year the awards show was also held in support of the Save the Girl Child campaign: Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao, a social campaign that aims to generate awareness and improve the efficiency of welfare services intended for girls.

Amongst those awarded during the event included: Deepak Chopra, Founder of The Chopra Foundation and Co-founder of The Chopra Center for Wellbeing, a world-renowned pioneer in integrative medicine and personal transformation, Raj Naik, CEO of Colors TV, Indira Nooyi, the CEO of Pepsico, Mika Singh,

popular Punjabi Singer, Actress Neetu Chandra, Actor Gulshan Grover, Fashion Designers Asma Gulzar and Sanjana Jon as well as many others.

Pujya Swamiji and Sadhvi Bhagawatiji shared their inspirational message, “If all the ICONS awarded today can pledge that I CAN be the catalyst for change in the world we wish to see, then change is not only possible but it is also inevitable. If we can commit to be the voice of the girl child, who, tragically, much too often never sees the light of day, and pledge to be global, social, local and vocal about this cause then we can start to inspire and connect countless people to be this change as well.”

Sadhvi Bhagawatiji added, “The time has come for fashion, passion and compassion

to join together to protect all forms of the divine feminine and divine Shakti whether in the form of the girl child or in the form of Mother Earth and Mother Nature because fashion to me is not merely about what you wear but really about who you are. Additionally, as Pujya Swamiji has often said so beautifully, without Shakti (divine feminine) there is no Shristi (no creation). Hence, let us join our hands and our hearts today to commit to be the change and to DO the change we want to see in the world.”

Iulia Vântur, Russian singer and TV personality, Singer Mika Singh, Actress Neetu Chandra and Fashion Designer Sanjana Jon and models joined Pujya Swamiji and Sadhvi Bhagawatiji in the pledge.



Pujya Gurusharananandji and Pujya Swamiji Bless Shrimad Bhagwat Katha w/ Pujya Bhaishri on Royal Caribbean Cruise Ship in Alaska



"In the midst of one's busy life, there is a longing in everyone to be united with the Divine, to listen to the spiritual discourses, and read the Scriptures. With the challenges of meeting one's daily needs of work, family, and social life, it's hard to find time for spirituality, prayer, and divine experience."

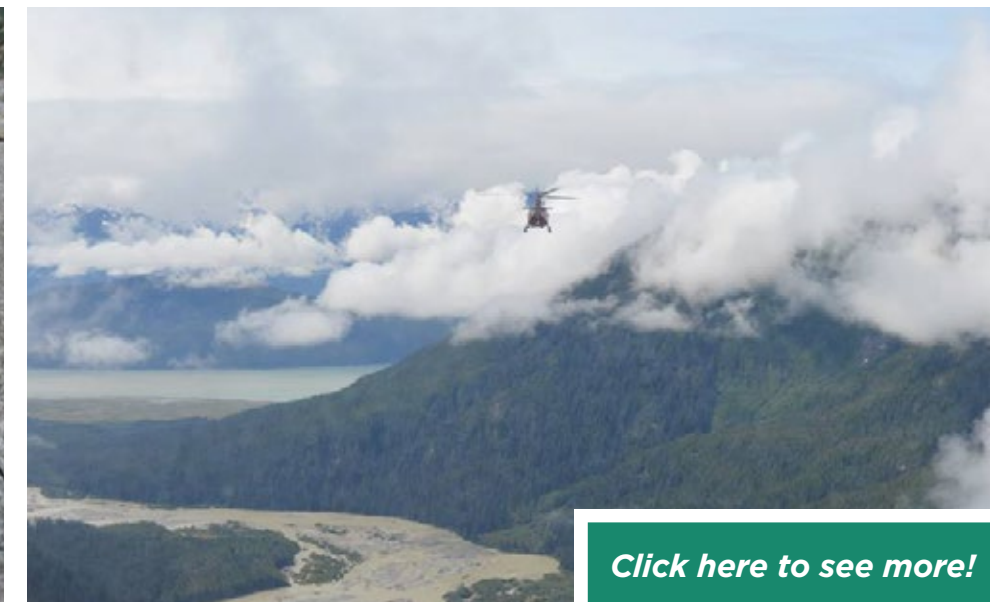
To help fulfill these noble desires, as well as to provide an opportunity for participants to experience the divine in a fun and memorable way, a seven-day cruise with spiritual teachings of Shrimad Bhagvat by Shri Rameshbhai Oza, popularly known as Pujya Bhaishree, was organized aboard a Royal Caribbean cruise ship that departed from Seattle July 14th.

Attended by 800 devotees, this Bhagvat katha was inspired by members of the Board of Trustees of the Sanskruti Foundation USA.

[Click here to see & read more!](#)

Saints Pledge for Abating Climate Change to Prevent Violence & Atrocity

"We exist if the Himalayas exist, Ganga exists if glaciers exist, & India exists if Ganga exists." Pujya Swamiji shares during the pledge



[Click here to see more!](#)

Pujya Bhaishri Rameshbhai Ozaji, renowned kathakar and scholar, Pujya Swami Karshnipeethadishwar Gurusharananandji Maharaj, Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji and Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswatiji, expressed their deep concern over the increasing pollution in Ganga during Pujya Bhaishriji's Shrimad Bhagawat Katha on the Royal Caribbean Cruise. It took place off the shores of Alaska with about eight hundred devotees

from different countries and cities of the world in attendance.

Pujya Swamiji expressed his feelings of deep enchantment on witnessing Alaska's natural beauty. He said that the natural beauty of Goumukh, Gangotri, and the four sacred pilgrimage sites in the Uttarakhand Himalayas are no less divine and splendid. Pujya Swamiji shared that with better planning and provisions,

in addition to Alaska and the Alps in Switzerland, the Simply Heaven State of Uttarakhand had the power to attract people from across the world.

He said, *"Many years of penance and austerity of our saints and rishis has made Uttarakhand a powerhouse of peace, vibrancy and energy, as well as a perfect place for releasing the stress and tension of our lives. I warmly invite you to plan*

your next visit to Uttarakhand, India, soon because if visiting India is a must then Uttarakhand should be first."

He expressed that the glaciers of Alaska have retreated about 12 to 14 km and they are receding quickly every year. He also stated that as a result of fast melting glaciers, one could see fragments of floating glaciers in the ocean and the water bodies that they feed. In the same way,

the Gaumukh Glacier in Uttarakhand has been said to have receded 50 meters and floating broken glaciers can be seen in the sacred river Bhagirathi, which is fed primarily by this glacier.

Pujya Swamiji and all the saints expressed their concern and took a pledge while sitting near a beautiful glacier that they would continue to raise awareness on abating climate change and inspire action

to prevent this tragic phenomenon.

During the pledge Pujya Swamiji said, *"We exist if the Himalayas exist, Ganga exists if glaciers exist, and India exists if Ganga exists. We share an interconnected and intertwined web of life. Hence, to protect one, is to protect our own selves and the time to act is NOW!"* Everyone joined in the pledge to work collectively in India to keep our rivers and our communities clean and green.

Guru Purnima Celebrations

in Hindu Temple Kentucky

Meri Jhopdi Ke Bhag Aaj Khul Jaayenge, Ram Aayenge

Watch Pujya Swamiji and Sadhvi Bhagawatiiji's inspiring message and blessings, [click here!](#)



"Today let us take the example of Shabari's devotion and let our lives be selflessly and completely dedicated to the Guru to God. So let us make your home and your hearts like a temple and you will realise that God is not awaited, He has indeed arrived."

-Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji



On Guru Purnima a beautiful celebration took place at the Hindu Temple of Kentucky. Devotees joined from all across America to warmly welcome Pujya Swamiji and Sadhvi Bhagawatiiji home to the temple and to the community that has truly flourished and thrived with Their love and blessings.

The evening included bhajan/kirtan (devotional singing), satsang (divine discourses), especially focused on the auspicious occasion of Guru Purnima.

Sadhvi Bhagawatiiji started the evening by sharing so beautifully and profoundly, "I invite you all to take this opportunity to reopen ourselves to the possibility of what happens when faith enters into our life. It is said that faith can

move mountains; let us allow that faith to move whatever you have inside yourself that is a barrier to grace and that is a barrier to the light. The moon in the sky may not always be full but at least our moon and we can be full."

Pujya Swamiji said, "Today I want to share the story of Sabri. Sabri was told by her Guru that Ram will come one day and everyday day after day, month after month and year after year she awaited His arrival with full faith. No doubts & no arguments. Everyday she kept cleaning the streets from every direction because she had faith Her Ram would come. There is a beautiful song that illustrates her bhavya (feeling) Meri Jhopdi Ke Bhag Aaj Khul Jaayenge, Ram Aayenge (My hut will be blessed with the arrival of Bhagawan Shri Ram) and

today let us take the example of Sabri's devotion and let our lives be selflessly and completely dedicated to the Guru and to God. So make your home and your hearts like a temple and you will realise that God is not awaited, rather, He has already arrived."

After the beautiful satsang, devotees came forward for special blessings from Pujya Swamiji and Sadhviji, who in turn gifted everyone a sacred tulsi sapling as Green prasad. Sadhviji led everyone in a pledge to give back to their motherland, as a vast majority of the devotees were overseas Indians. The evening concluded with delicious free prasad (divine feast). Plans for expansion of the temple were also shared with Pujya Swamiji and Sadhvi Bhagawatiiji for Their blessing and guidance.



Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji shares a special song of devotion and love with our ever talented and beloved Kailash Kher in New York.

Meeting with UNICEF

GIWA's Co-Founder, Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji met with Caroline Den Dulk, Deputy Director of Communications at UNICEF, in New York to discuss the exciting and ongoing efforts of the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance (GIWA) to improve WASH and END Violence. Caroline had been in Delhi before New York, serving as the Chief, Advocacy and Communication, UNICEF India and had worked closely with GIWA. It was a beautiful reunion and also rekindling of the connection and commitment to work even more closely together for these crucial causes.

Pujya Swamiji and Kailash Kher Meet in the Big Apple

Inspiring Devotees of Shiva During the Kanwad Mela to Contribute Towards a Swachh Bharat

Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji and Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswati had a wonderful meeting with Sufi singer Kailash Kher in New York, ahead of the IIFA Awards. Kailashji shared his newest song “Bhole Chale,” which was recently launched on his birthday, 7 July. It was especially dedicated to the Shiva devotees in the sacred month of shrawan (a month observed by many Hindus, during the monsoon, dedicated to the worship and reverence of Lord Shiva).

Pujya Swamiji encouraged him to inspire Kanwariyas, pilgrims of the Kanwad Mela, to contribute towards a Swachh Bharat and ensure a clean and green Kanwad Mela* for all.

Pujya Swamiji, Kailashji and Sadhviji also discussed the recent success of

the “You Are the Solution” Summit, which honoured and celebrated people, organisations and leaders who have been solutions to the pollution and inspired and empowered others to also become the solution.

They also shared this year's special International Yoga Festival (IYF) newsletter, in which there was a special highlight of Kailash Kher's special homecoming concert. Kailashji shared with great love that his roots are from Parmarth Niketan (Rishikesh) and he has been very fortunate and blessed to have Pujya Swamiji's constant blessings and support. They planned ways in which to work together to spread the message of Yoga in Action and inspire the masses to work towards a Clean India, Clean Ganga for all.

*Kanwar Mela is an annual pilgrimage in which millions of Shiva devotees across India flock to Hindu pilgrimage places of Haridwar, Rishikesh, Varanasi, Gaumukh, Gangotri to fetch waters of Ganga River, which is later offered at their local Shiva temple as way to worship Lord Shiva.



[Click here to see more!](#)





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Madhya Pradesh CM Hon'ble Shivraj Singh Chouhanji's Visit

Reaffirming our Pledge to Restore and Protect All Rivers

With Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji's blessing, inspiration and home-coming reminders during their time together in the Simhastha Kumbha Mela in Ujjain in 2016, the Honorable CM of Madhya Pradesh, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhanji and his wife Smt. Sadhnaji, were inspired to come back home to Parmarth, where they participated in a

Water Blessing, Ganga Aarti and were given a Rudraksh sapling.

The CM spoke about taking his example of the Narmada Seva Yatra, where 3350 km was covered in 148 days and 15 lakh people (1,500,000) took resolutions to make Maa Narmada clean, and to bring that dedication and action to all rivers across India, to create the green corridors

that Pujya Swamiji speaks about.

As Pujya Swamiji was in the U.S. at the time of his visit, they spoke by telephone, where Pujya Swamiji commended Shri Chauhanji for the recent planting of 6.63 crore (60+ million) saplings in his home state. Pujya Swamiji also warmly invited Shri Chouhanji to come back again soon to his Himalayan home.

Mayor Jim Gray inspired by Pujya Swamiji to Go Green

US Mayor invited to Mayors to Share Conference by GIWA in India



James (Jim) Gray, Mayor of Lexington, Kentucky, was inspired by Pujya Swamiji to lead as a truly Green Mayor. Jim Gray was recognized by Pujya Swamiji for his efforts to improve the city's infrastructure and for celebrating the diversity of its community, including appreciating and acknowledging the special achievements and contributions of the Indian community in the city's growth and progress.

Pujya Swamiji shared that he should inspire the plantation of more and more trees to improve not only the quality of air but the overall well-being and serenity of the city.

He also shared, *"By encouraging our cities to conserve water, protect our environment and make all our occasions of celebration green ones, we can truly bring about a green and sustainable world for our future generations. While we can have a plan A and a plan B we only have one planet and if we each take the responsibility of keeping our communities and our daily lives more mindful of our harmonious co-existence with Mother Nature, then that in itself is a significant step to transforming our world. As a Mayor dedicated to this cause, I am certain you will leave a green legacy which may just inspire people to remember you as Jim Green instead of Jim Gray."*

Pujya Swamiji also warmly welcomed Jim to India for the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance's upcoming Mayors to Share conference in which Mayors from some of the major cities and towns, primarily from the States through which the River Ganga flows, would be invited to share experiences and learn best practices from each other.

Jim Gray was deeply touched by Pujya Swamiji's words and reaffirmed his commitment towards green development along with planning a trip to India soon.



[Click here to see more!](#)

[Click here to watch their satsang](#)

[Watch Pujya Swamiji's special message on Seva](#)

[Watch Sadhviji's special message on Seva](#)

Divine Satsang on the Power of Hanuman in Boulder, Colorado



Raj Yoga + Meditation & the Hanuman Academy host an evening filled with devotion

A beautiful group of Americans organize a festival called Hanuman Festival every year in the United States. Two of the main organizers, Yoshi Aono and Dayna Seraye came to Parmarth Niketan, Rishikesh during the International Yoga Festival in March and humbly requested Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji - Muniji and Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswatiji to come to their Festival. Unable to leave India at that time, the organizers requested that whenever they were able to travel to Colorado, they would organize a special Hanuman satsang with all the devotees of the Hanuman Academy.

Pujya Swamiji and Sadhviji led a special satsang, in which they shared the teachings, the inspiration and the divinity of Lord Hanuman's life. They especially emphasized the teachings of 1) Devotion, 2) Surrender and 3) Service.

Pujya Swamiji explained that the Divine Creator exists in all of Creation and that today, true devotion for God can only exist if we also pledge to protect and preserve our natural environment.

They invited the entire community of Hanuman devotees to come to Rishikesh.

Pledge to protect and preserve mother nature in the sacred area of Gold Lake



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During their time in Boulder, Colorado, Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji and Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswatiji spent time in the sacred area of Gold Lake, sharing their wisdom and inspired a pledge to not only

serve the Creator but also all of Creation. They emphasized the great need to protect and preserve Mother Nature, because Pujya Swamiji said, "Coming to Nature, Being with nature, Helps us discover our own true nature!" They also made plans

to bring more and more people there for inspiration and divine connection. They were joined in their visit by Bharat Mitra and Bhavani Lev, founders of ORGANIC INDIA, along with members of the Uplift Connect.

Guru Puja on Guru Purnima

Divine Guru Puja concluded the weekend retreat in Henryville, Indiana.



"I would like us to pledge that today and on everyday we should respect all Shaktis. For the Indian diaspora, I urge you to take this message of reverence and respect to your hometowns and villages in India. We must together to eliminate the crime of female foeticide from our nation."

-Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji

On the last day of the Guru Purnima weekend retreat a very special Guru Puja ceremony took place in which HH Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji was honoured and celebrated for embodying pure light and the divinity in His devotees lives.

Immediately following the bhakti (devotion) filled ceremony in which He was offered flowers, beautiful songs of

reverence, loving offering of the sacred aarti onto Him and He was adorned with fragrant flower malas, He showered all of the flowers and love back onto His devotees.

He shared, *"I would like all of my divine shaktis [the women and girls] to come forward because it is within the divine feminine that lies the Creator and the creation. I also honour all of you as I*

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honour my mother because without her I would not be here in my physical form. In the same way, I would like us to pledge that today and on everyday we should respect all Shaktis. For the Indian diaspora, I urge you to take this message of reverence and respect to your hometowns and villages in India. We must together to eliminate the

crime of female foeticide from our nation."

All of the devotees also joined together to offer Pujya Swamiji a homemade vegan and organic cake to celebrate His recent 65th Birthday and thanked Him for His guidance, direction and compassionate leadership.

Lexington Temple Pranpratistha Anniversary Celebration

25th Pranpratishtapana Anniversary Celebrations of the Lexington Hindu Temple

Pujya Swamiji graced the 25th Anniversary of the Pranpratishtha of the Hindu Temple in Lexington, Kentucky. He had blessed the murti pratishtan of the temple many years ago and had been pivotal in ensuring it thrived and blossomed over the years. Hence, the entire community warmly welcomed Him home and organised a very special yagna on the auspicious occasion.

Pujya Swamiji reminded the temple committee and all the devotees, “We must never forget the 3M’s: Our Mother, Motherland and Mother Tongue. Our temples and community centres serve as hubs to stay connected, rooted and grounded in our spiritual & cultural heritage. However, the time has come that we must not only maintain and sustain these institutions but we must also utilize them to inspire our

communities to serve and give back to their motherland. Today you can contribute to making a better India for all. Let us pledge to plant at least 25 trees, sponsor the building of 25 toilets in communities with the greatest need for sanitation in India and invest in strengthening our villages, in this way we will not only be celebrating our mandir here in America but also strengthening our Rashtra Mandir.”



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Encyclopedia of Hinduism Presentation to Hindu Temple in Lexington

Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji presented priests and leaders of the Hindu Community in Kentucky with a set of the Encyclopedia of Hinduism for their temple and community centre.

Plans are being made to make the Encyclopedia of Hinduism available across America to universities, schools and libraries all across the nation. The digital version of the Encyclopedia is also underway.

Pujya Swamiji explained: “The wisdom, truths, teachings and insights of Indian and Hindu culture are not limited to or applicable to only Hindus or Indians. Rather they belong to the world and can deeply benefit the world. It is, therefore, our aim that the richness of this ancient yet timeless culture and heritage should

be made available to the entire world, in a way that is authentic, academic, comprehensive and illuminating.”

The Encyclopedia of Hinduism* was compiled with the dedicated commitment and contribution of more than 1000 esteemed scholars from around the world, totaling 11-volumes and approximately 7000 entries. It is a compendium of thousands of years of history, science, art, architecture, polity, religion, philosophy and culture.

The Encyclopedia is not limited to Hinduism as a religion, but rather provides thorough treatment of all of India’s indigenous faiths, including Sikhism, Jainism and Buddhism, as well as coverage of the role of the Abrahamic faiths (Islam, Christianity and Judaism) in the culture, civilization, and history of India.

*A nearly twenty five year project of India Heritage Research Foundation, founded, guided and led by Pujya Swamiji, the Encyclopedia and it is the first time in history that the depth and breadth of India’s great spiritual culture has been made available in academic and scholastic form.

Graceful, Grateful & Glorious

How to Bring Grace, Gratitude & Glory into our Lives

Satsang, Meditation & Question-Answer Session with:



Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswatiji

August 1st - 7:30 pm - 9 pm,
after yoga on the labyrinth
Grace Cathedral, 1100 California St
San Francisco, CA 94108

& the blessing
of H.H. Pujya
Swami Chidanand
Saraswatiji

[Click here to watch Sadhviji's satsang](#)

Graceful, Grateful and Glorious: Divine Satsang at Grace Cathedral in San Francisco with Sadhviji

Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswatiji recently spoke at Grace Cathedral, San Francisco, CA, USA, along with the Rev Malcolm Young, Dean of Grace Cathedral. Darren Main moderated the discussion on Grace, Gratitude and Glory and how to bring those aspects into our lives.

Grace Cathedral is an Episcopal church

in the heart of San Francisco and is also the 3rd largest Episcopal cathedral in the US. The Bishop of California, the Rev Marc Handley Andrus, happens to also be seated at Grace as well. It is an amazing and beautiful cathedral along with being a very renown institution that is blessed with phenomenal leadership. Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji and Sadhviji have made it

a tradition to visit Grace Cathedral for the past 3 years.

Sadhviji said that it is so beautiful to see how many people from different walks of life and different traditions come together at Grace Cathedral. They are literally opening their arms to the Divine in every name and every form.

Wedding Blessings by Baba Ramdevji, Pujya Swamiji & Sadhviji



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[Click here to watch Pujya Baba Ramdevji's speech](#)

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

[Click here to watch Sadhviji's speech](#)

Pujya Baba Ramdevji, Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji and Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswatiji blessed and graced the wedding in New Jersey of Vidhi and Romell Bhaala. The couple and their families were inspired by their words on the importance of cultivating divine love and maintaining sanskaras in their lives.

Georgy Bhaala, Editor-in-Chief of *Tathaatsu Magazine*, expressed his deepest gratitude for being blessed by the saints. The wedding celebrations were joined by Head of TV Asia, Shri HR Shah, renowned bhajan singer Shri Anup Jalota, Sufi singer Shri Hans Raj Hans and many others. Pujya Swami Ramdevji blessed

the couple by sharing, *"In business and in our professional lives we may live with our brains but in our personal relationships and at home we must live with our hearts. Remember love is the key and that maintaining a happy and harmonious married life is also yoga and that is the divine union you are beginning today."*

Pujya Swamiji blessed them with his message, *"What truly matters in life is not how many relationships we have in our lives but how much life we have in our relationships. Our Indian traditions teach us that love is the magic key, especially in marriage the greatest mantra is 'Ok Honey.' It doesn't matter who says it to whom but*

it's important that at the end of the day you remember this is the key to maintaining the sweetness in your relationship."

Sadhvi Bhagawati shared in her beautiful blessing, *"I always like to remind people that in marriage you have two choices, either you can be right or you can be happily married. So in every opportunity together you have the opportunity to choose whether it's more important to be right or to choose the path of a peaceful and harmonious marriage. Remember that by doing so you are not giving up anything but rather you are actively playing a crucial role to build a strong and resilient future for yourself and your family."*



**HH PUJYA SWAMI
SHUKDEVANAND
SARASWATIJI**

*Founder of
Swami Shukdevanand Trust*



**H.H. PUJYA
MM SWAMI
ASANGANANDJI**

*Managing Trustee of
Swami Shukdevanand Trust*



**HH PUJYA SWAMI
CHIDANAND
SARASWATIJI**

*President of
Parmarth Niketan (Rishikesh)*



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