

On the Auspicious Occasion of

PUJYA SWAMI CHIDANAND SARASWATIJI'S

60th Jayanti

Environmental Preservation. for World Peace

On November 3rd, 2012, Parmarth Niketan Ashram hosted a huge interfaith gathering in honor of Pujya Swamiji's 60th Janam Utsav, with the top leaders of the world's religions coming together in the name of Environmental Protection for World Peace. There were leaders of Hinduism, Jainism, Sikhism, Islam, Christianity, Buddhism, Judaism and Baha'i from India and from across the world, joining together to discuss the crucial role that religious/ spiritual leaders need to play in protecting and preserving our environment.

Revered religious/spiritual leaders, distinguished dignitaries and industrialists, politicians from both major parties and Bollywood celebrities came together, on this momentous occasion, to join hands on the banks of Mother Ganga, and pledge themselves to the cause of Environmental Protection and Preservation.



November 1st - Day 1 of Mahayagna





The festivities began on the 1st November with a 3-day Mahayagna on the banks of Mother Ganga, for world peace and environmental protection.



November 2012 Special



November 1st - Kavi Sammelan



On the evening of the 1st we had a beautiful Kavi Sammelan (divine poetry reading) as well as the release of Indra Prasad Akelaji's book "Ganga Ma ki Pukar."



Sivamani playing during the Ganga Aarti

November 2012 Special

November 2nd - Day 2 of Mahayagna

On November 2nd, the sacred yagnas for world peace and environmental protection continued for the second day in the morning and the afternoon.



Pujya Swamiji and Rabbi David Rosen during the second day of the Mahayagna

November 2012 Special

November 2nd

From left to right: Pujya Vivek Muniji, Pujya Acharya Lokesh Muniji, Hon'ble Rabbi David Rosen, Pujya Devi Prasad Bapuji, Pujya Swami Madhavpriyadasji, Pujya Shankaracharya Swami Divyanand Teerthji, Pujya Kalbe Sadiq Sahibji, Pujya Swamiji, Pujya Swami Gurusharananandji, Pujya Bhaishri, and Pujya Brahmachari Brahmaswarupji, Shri Dinesh Agarwalji and Pujya Swami Harichetnanandji at the Ganga Aarti

In the evening, at the time of divine Ganga Aarti we had the darshan and words of revered saints and spiritual masters, special prayers by Buddhist monks from Dharamsala, an amazing yogasana demonstration, as well as an incredibly beautiful drumming concert by world famous Sivamani, a beautiful devotee of Pujya Swamiji's who filled the atmosphere with joy and soul-touching music.





November 2nd - Sivamani Concert











November 2012 Special

November 3rd - Purnahuti of Mahayagna



From left to right: Shri K.K. Pittieji, Sivamani, Pujya Bhaishri, Pujya Swamiji, Maulana Imam Ilyasiji, Shri A.K. Merchant, Pujya Swami Agniveshji, Pujya Goswami Sushilji, Pujya Acharya Lokesh Muniji, and other saints and devotees, performing the purnahuti of the 3-day Mahayagna

The morning of November 3rd began with the purnahuti (final offering) of the Mahayagna in 60 kunds and the divine words of many of the saints who attended.





November 2012 Special

Mahayagnas







Pujya Swamiji, Shri A.K. Merchantji, Pujya Swami Agniveshji, Pujya Goswami Sushilji, Pujya Acharya Lokesh Muniji, Pujya Vivek Muniji, Shankaracharya Swami Divyanand Teerthji, Pujya Rasyani Babaji Pujya Shankarcharya SwamiDivyanand Teerthji

Pujya Rameshbhai Ozaji and Pujya Swamiji





Mahayagnas





Pujya Swamiji and Pujya Imam Umar Ahmed Ilyasiji



Pujya Goswami Sushilji, Pujya Lokesh Muniji and Pujya Vivek Muniji















Pujya Vivek Muniji



Pujya Bhaishri and Pujya Swamiji

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After the purnahuti, Pujya Rameshbhai Ozaji (Pujya Bhaishri) and Pujya Madhavpriyadasji bathed Pujya Swamiji with the sacred milk and Ganga water from the sacred yagnas, after which they all had a sacred snan in Mother Ganga to the sound of Vedic mantra chanting.



Pujya Bhaishri and Pujya Madhavpriyadasji bathing Pujya Swamiji with Gangajal and milk before the snan in Ganga

November 2012 Special

November 3rd

Then, the main event began 4:00 pm with the national and international leaders of all major religions as well as esteemed political leaders of both the BJP and Congress parties, renowned dignitaries and Bollywood stars coming together in the name of Environmental Protection for World Peace. Great emphasis was placed by all speakers on the crucial need today for all leaders to join together -- breaking barriers of religion, race and politics -- to save Mother Earth. A special emphasis was placed on the dire need to join hands for the protection and preservation of Mother Ganga.

Everyone deeply and sincerely appreciated Pujya Swamiji for His lifetime of work for the poor and the needy and now for His tireless and huge-scale programs to protect Mother Ganga. Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji was the first one to build ashrams in the holy land of Mansarovar and Mt. Kailash. He was the first one to bring out an Encyclopedia of Hinduism, an 11-volume compendium which was launched by the hands of H.H. the Dalai Lama. Now, in His 60th year, He is giving His life for Mother Ganga. All of the saints and dignitaries were effusive in their praise for Him.

Also, the event included the signing of a historic MOU between Ganga Action Parivar (which Pujya Swamiji founded in 2010) and DRDO and FICCI for the construction of thousands of bio-digester toilets on the banks of Mother Ganga to prevent villagers from having to use the sacred river as their toilet. The event also included the launch of By God's Grace, a beautiful coffee table book biography of Pujya Swamiji's life, published by Mandala Publications of California, USA. The book was launched in USA this summer but this was the first India launch. The foreword has been written by H.H. the Dalai Lama and the preface is by Rabbi David Rosen.

After the Interfaith event, we had a wonderful music program given by MunMun Ratta, Navraj Hans, Parvez Peji and Alam Khan.

November 2012 Special











Pujya Bhaishri, Pujya Morari Bapuji, Pujya Swamiji and Shri Vijay Bahuguna





Pujya Swami Gurusharananandji

Signing of MoU between Ganga Action Parivar, FICCI and DRDO to build toilets in the Ganga Basin



Shri Vijay Bahuguna, Hon'ble CM of Uttarakhand





Pujya Imam Umar Ahmed Ilyasiji, Pujya Swamiji and Shri Vijay Bahugunaji



Pujya Chief Jathedar Sahib Shri Giani Gurubachan Singhji

Pujya Dr. Pranav Pandyaji Pujya Swami Satyamitranandji and Pujya Morari Bapuji

November 2012 Special





Release of Pujya Swamiji's biography By God's Grace



Chief Jathedar Giani Gurubachan Singhji



Pujya Sadhvi Ritambharaji







Pujya Sant Seechewalji



Pujya Swami Satyamitranandji







November 2012 Special

November 3rd



Shri S. Radhakrishnan, Director, DI-TM, DRDO



Pujya Swami Madhavpriyadasji

Pujya Rameshbhai Ozaji

Pujya Imam Umar Ahmed Ilyasiji









Shri Dr. W. Selvamurthy, Chief Controller R&D (LS & IC), DRDO

Shri Vijay Bahugunaji, Hon'ble CM of Uttarakhand

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Pujya Sant Jaggi Vasudevji



Pujya Swami Harichetnanandji





Pujya Swami Gurusharananandji



Pujya Brahmachari Brahmaswarupji



Pujya Swami Agniveshji





Pujya Acharya Balkrishnaji







Pujya Swami Harichetnanandji placing the pagari on Pujya Swamiji's head...



...and Pujya Swamiji placing it on Anil Kapoor!



Ven. Sumedha Theroji







The event was graced by the presence of the following revered saints:

- Pujya Morari Bapuji
- Pujya Rameshbhai Oza Bhaishri
- Pujya Shri Imam Umar Ahmed Iliyasiji, President of All India Imams Organization
- Pujya Kalbe Sadiq Sahib, Vice President, Muslim Law Board
- Pujya Swami Satyamitranandji, Bharat Mata Mandir
- Hon'ble Dr. Rabbi Rosen, Former Chief Rabbi of Ireland and Advisor to the Chief Rabbinate of Israel
- Pujya Swami Divyanand Teerthji, Shankaracharya Bhanpura Peeth
- Pujya Sant Jaggi Vasudevji, Isha Foundation
- Pujya Acharya Sudhanshuji Maharaj
- His Grace Archbishop Vincent Concessao, Archbishop of Delhi
- Father Dominic Emmanuel, Spokesman for the Catholic Diocese
- Pujya Shri Dewan Sahib Syed Zainul, Ajmer Sharif
- Pujya Dr. Pranav Pandya, Shantikunj and Gayatri Parivar
- Pujya Chief Jathedar Sahibji of the Golden Temple, Shri Giani Gurubachan Singhji
- Pujya Swami Gurusharananandji
- Sri Shivarathri Deshikendra Mahaswami (Suttur Swamiji), Pontiff Suttur Math
- Pujya Brahmachari Brahmaswarupji
- Pujya Swami Harichetnanandji
- Pujya Goswami Sushilji
- Pujya Sadhvi Ritambharaji
- Pujya Swami Agniveshji
- Pujya Acharya Lokesh Muniji

- Pujya Sant Seechewalji
- Pujya Swami Madhavpriyadasji
- Pujya Acharya Balkrishanji
- Pujya Sumedha Theroji
- Pujya Mahant Ravindra Puriji
- Pujya Swami Govind Giriji
- Pujya Swami Harinarayanandji
- Pujya M.M. Swami Asanganandji
- Pujya Vivek Muniji
- Dr. AK Merchant, head Baha'i Foundation of India
- Pujya Bhai Sahib Satpal Singh Khalsaji
- Pujya Swami Rishishwaranandji
- Mahant Lalita Giriji
- Mahant Ramanand Puriji
- Mahant Hari Giriji
- Mahant Prem Puriji
- Mahant Kailashanand Brahmachariji
- Mahant Mohan Dassji
- Mahant Balwant Singhji
- Mahant Mitra Prakashji
- Mahant Bhagat Ramji
- Mahant Shiv Shankar Giriji
- Mahant Satish Giriji...Atal Akhara
- Mahant Bhairav Giriji...Anand Akhara
- Mahant Bhagwan Dass Hathayogiji
- Mahant Balram Dassji
- Mahant Raghuvir Dassji
- Mahant Durgadasji Nirvaniv

Plus:

- Shri Anil Kapoor, Bollywood Actor
- Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttarakhand Shri Vijay Bahugunaji
- Many respected ministers and secretaries from Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh

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Pujya Dr. Pranav Pandyaji





Pujya Swamiji and Pujya Bhaishri with His Grace Archbishop Vincent Concessao and Father Dominic Emmanuel



Pujya Swami Satyamitranandji and Pujya Swamiji



Pujya Acharya Sudhanshuji and Pujya Swami Satyamitranandji











Pujya Swamiji and Pujya Brahmachari Brahmaswarupji























Sivamaniji and Pujya Swamiji





Pujya Swami Madhavpriyadasji and Pujya Swamiji



「花田」



World Peace

Hon'ble Rabbi David Rosen and Pujya Swamiji



Gurmukh Kaur Khalsa and Pujya Shankaracharya Swami Divyanand Teerthji



Pujya Imam Umar Ahmed Ilyasiji and Bhai Sahib Satpal Singhji

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In addition to being broadcast all over the world, this major event was covered extensively by local and even national newspapers. *To see and read more articles written on this event, please click here.*



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अधिकेश | हमारे संवाददाता

परमार्थ निकेतन में जिश्व शांति के लिए आयोजित पर्यावरण महोत्सव में जुटे धर्म कुरुओ, राजनेताओं, पर्यावरण प्रेमियो, शिक्षाविदों और फिल्म ऑफनेताओं ने पर्यावरण व मंगा संरक्षण का संकल्प लिया। इस मौके पर 6-टी कार्यक्रमों का भी शुभारें प्रक्रिया गया। मुख्यमंत्री विजय बहुगुणा ने बायो डॉव्येक्टर श्रीचालय वारों भामों में बनाने का सुक्षाव दिया।

परमार्थ निकेतन के परमाध्यक्ष स्वामी चिदानंद सरस्वती के 60वें जन्मदिवस पर आयोजित महोत्सव शानिवार को संगन-हुआ इस मौके पर समी ने दिवस कल्पाण के लिए आहुतियां डालों। मुख्यमंत्री ने कहा कि केंद्र और राज्य सरकार पर्थावरण व मेगा सरक्षण के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है। राज्य सरकार पर्यावरण संरक्षण के लिए गंगा



किल्म अभिनेता अनिल कपूर से गुफलगु करते परमार्थ निकेतन के परमात्यक्ष स्वामी विद्यानंद सरस्वती। • किंगन संस्य विजयर्थ

एक्शन परिवार के साथ कदम से कदम मिलाकर चलेगी। फखा वा चक मुरारी अपू ने कहा कि विश्व शांति के लिए जॉहंसा की जरूरत है। ऑल इंडिया इमाम आगंनाइजेशन के अध्यक्ष इमाम उमर अहमद इलियासी ने कहा कि गंगा को

स्यच्छ रखने का जिम्मा न केवालहिन्दुओं पर है, बलिक सभी धर्मों के लंहों को इसके लिए जाये आने जरूरत है। जैन मुनि आचार्य लोकश मणि ने कहा कि प्रदर्भवरण प्रदूषण से खतरनाक वैचारिक प्रदूषण है। द नाइस जेडस पुस्तक का विमोचन भी हुआ। कार्यक्रम में मौलाना चलीठद्दीन खान, स्वांम प्रेमवर्णी, पूर्व रज्जी प्रमुख डेविड रोजेन, संत बर्लवीर सिंह, सांसद तरुण विजय, कृषि मंत्री हरक सिंह रावत, विधायक प्रेमचंद अधवाल, विधायक सुबोध उनिम्वल, विधायक विजय बङ्गव्याल मौजूद थे। सहमति पत्र पर हस्ताक्षर : प्रदेश में प्रस्तावित 5000 जीयो डायजेस्टर त्रौजालव निर्माण संबंधी सहमति पत्र पर डीआरडीओ, फिक्की एवं गंगा एक्शन परिवार की ओर से संयुवन हस्ताक्षर किए ए। प्रदर्भ चरण में यह जौजालव गंगोजी से हरिदार तक बनाए जाएंगे।

स कार्यप्रात प्रकार मान्द्र गाइरा। स्वामी को सम्मानः प्रकारत्य संरक्षण व सभी भन्नों को एक सूत्र में जोड़ने पर अर्लि इंडिया इसाम आगंनाइजरान ने स्वामी बिदानंद सरस्वती को पीस ऑफ एंबेडसर अखाई से सम्मानित किया गया।

प्रदूषण है। द गाइस ग्रेडस पुस्तक का November 2012 Special

होगा। आश्रम के प्रशासनिक अधिकारी राम महेश मिश्र ने बताया कि परमाध्यक्ष स्वामी चिदानंद मुनि के सानिध्य में आयोजित महोत्सव में पहले दिन गंगा तट पर गुरुकुल के आचायाँ और ऋषिकुमार द्वारा विश्वशांति महायज्ञ का विधिवत ज्ञारंभ किया जाएगा, जो तीन दिनों तक यथावत चलेगा। दूसरे सत्र में सुबे के पूर्व मुख्यमंत्री नित्यानंद और पर्यावरणविद् स्वामी स्ंदरलाल बहुगुणा 'गंगा मां की पकार' सहित दो पुस्तकों का लोकार्पण करेंगे।

Diwali Blessings from Pujya Swamiji



In celebration of this joyous Diwali occasion, one can see beautifully lit oil lamps and candles glowing in the darkness of night throughout India and wherever Indians have settled in the world. We line our homes, our rooms, our offices and our streets with brightly shining diyas.

However, on this day we must not only light beautiful lamps in our homes and offices, but we must light the lamp in our hearts.

The Divine Light Within

Within each of us shines the Divine Light. The Divine Presence is not only everywhere outside of us, it is also within us. In the Bhagavad Gita, Bhagawan Krishna reminds us, over and over, that He resides within our very hearts. When we light the lamp within it is not creating light. No, that Divine Light is already there, always there, the very core of who we are. No matter how dark or how long the night, that Divine Light is present. That Divine Light is inextricable from the Truth of our own existence.

However, in the darkness of ignorance, in the darkness of our own egos, in the darkness of our attachment to external things, in the darkness of our petty jealousies, competitions, complaints and comparisons, we block that Light from our awareness. We identify ourselves with that which is dark rather than with that which is Light. We start to think that the illusion is real. We start to believe our own stories, to believe our own illusions which have been constructed only by our own egos. Thus, we lose sight of the Light and we live in darkness.

Today we have a plague of darkness, a plague of ignorance, a plague of illusions. Each of us is living within our own constructed selfish reality which supports our own egos, our own illusions, our own desires, our own attachments. It is this darkness that leads to crime, war and violence on every level from the individual to the international. If I am able to truly see the Divine Light within then it eclipses everything else with its brightness, its truth and its divinity. That light, then, shows me not only my own divine Truth but the divine Truth of all of existence. When that inner lamp is lit, we are able to see the true nature of ourselves and then of others.

In the temple, we light the diya to better behold the Divine. In much of India, electricity is a relatively recent phenomenon and there are still many areas without it. After sundown, the only way to pray in a temple is to light a lamp. With the light of the diya we can behold the image of the Divine. In the same way, when we light the inner diya we can behold the Divine within. So we must be sure to light not only the lamp outside which gives us darshan of the image of God in our temple, but we must make sure that we light the lamp which gives us darshan of the Divine within ourselves.

A New Year - A New You:

At this divine time of Diwali there is a great emphasis on newness. We start a new checkbook. We clean out our homes and offices to make them feel "new". We celebrate the "new" year. The Divine Light of these sacred divas of Diwali should burn through the darkness of that which is old, that which is stale, and that which is thwarting our progress, clearing the way for new birth. Like a naturally occurring forest fire turns the old, dry branches and brush into fertile soil for new growth, similarly, the Divine Fire of the Diwali diyas should blaze through us, burning away that which is old and permitting the birth of new thoughts, new visions, new ideas and ideals. When we allow ourselves to be truly renewed in this way day by day, then we become truly forever young.

The Light of Service

Just as the divine light burns within our own being, the divine light burns in every being. One of the most beautiful tenets of Indian culture says that

Diwali Blessings from Pujya Swamiji



God dwells within all –He dwells within me and He dwells within you. In this way, everyone and everything – whether it be another human being, an animal or Mother Nature – is connected to that same Divine Source. When one is able to see this Divine Light in all, God is seen everywhere, and wherever one sees God, one must try to serve Him. The same light which we light in our lamp in the temple or during Diwali is the same light which shines within all, and thus to light the true lamp of Diwali is to see and serve that light in all.

The message of the light of service can be seen in the lamp itself. The diya always burns for others, with no selfish motivation and no expectation. The sole purpose of an oil lamp's existence is to bring light to others. They burn FOR others, with every minute, every moment of their lives and every ounce of their existence.

These lamps are meant as symbols as to how we must live our lives. By lighting the lamp within our own hearts, what is the darkness which must be dispelled that keeps us from burning for others? It is the darkness within us, the darkness of ignorance, of selfishness, of duality. It is the illusion which teaches that there is an "us" and a "them", an "I" and a "you."

Indian culture says otherwise. Indian culture says we are one. Indian culture says that as our brothers and sisters suffer in darkness, as our animals are abused and their habitats destroyed, as Mother Earth's air, water and land becomes poisoned and polluted, so we too are suffering, although we may not be aware of it. It is, therefore, our divine duty to help dispel this darkness, to help alleviate this suffering.

The light from the divine diya at Diwali sshow us that we are not separate. We are one. That same Divine I worship in the temple resides within my very being, and that same Divine that resides within me also resides within you, and within every creature with whom we share this universe. Just as I perform puja and prayers to the image of the Divine in the temple, so I must extend the same reverence and same care to the divine within all beings upon our planet.

At this beautiful time of time of Diwali when we will line our homes, our offices and our streets with rows and rows of brightly burning diyas, let us ask ourselves whether our lives are filled with light. Let us ask ourselves if we are truly burning for others, seeing that same Divine light which exists within ourselves in others and in our Earth, serving God by serving others. We must ask ourselves how we bring light and life to others.

On this holy day of Diwali, I pray that you will take this opportunity to examine your own lives and take a pledge to fill your lives – every word, every thought and every action -- with light, thereby bringing light and life to others.

May the light of love and devotion shine brightly in your hearts. May the light of understanding shine in your minds. May the light of harmony glow in your home. May the light of service shine forth ceaselessly from your hands. May your presence light the lamps of love wherever you go. May your smile, your words and your actions be as sweet as the sweets of this festive season. May Maha Laxmi bring you the true wealth of health, happiness, peace and prosperity

upon you and all your loved ones.

With love and blessings to you all, In the service of God and humanity,

Swanni Laidang

Swami Chidanand Saraswati