



WWW.WASHALLIANCE.ORG

# GLOBAL INTERFAITH WASH ALLIANCE

*The Faiths Unite for a World Where Everyone May Have Access to Sustainable and Healthy Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)*





# THE HON'BLE PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA'S TWEETS ON GIWA



**PMO India**   
@PMOIndia  
Office of the Prime Minister of India  
India  
pmindia.gov.in  
Joined January 2012







TWEETS 12.1K FOLLOWING 344 FOLLOWERS 12.9M

Tweets Tweets & replies Media

**PMO India** @PMOIndia · 50m  
This was indeed an innovative effort to spread awareness about cleanliness & contribute towards a Swachh Bharat.  
  
 235  549

**PMO India** @PMOIndia · 50m  
Faith leaders inspired everyone in an unprecedented & historic Sarva Dharam Swachhta Sankalp (Interfaith Cleanliness Pledge) on the occasion  
 146  309

**PMO India** @PMOIndia · 50m  
The summit brought together faith leaders, media, local stakeholders & corporates. Union Ministers @drharshvardhan & @nstimar also joined.  
 119  242

**PMO India** @PMOIndia · 51m  
"Worship for WASH" GIWA-UNICEF Ladakh Summit initiated a dialogue on key issues of water, sanitation and health in Ladakh region.  
 134  267

**PMO India** @PMOIndia · 52m  
Global Interfaith WASH Alliance (GIWA) India, in association with @UNICEFIndia recently held a 2-day Summit in Ladakh. #MyCleanIndia



# THE GLOBAL INTERFAITH WASH ALLIANCE

Since the dawn of history, faith has provided a foundation from which social norms develop. It is to faith leaders that billions are drawn in times of joy and sorrow, as well as in the search for inner meaning. As teachers to the masses, the words of faith leaders motivate, persuade and enable. Through their speech and actions, they can bring about change in ways that others, quite simply, cannot.

An estimated 6.2 billion people across the world subscribe to a religious faith, underscoring the critical role religious leaders can play in addressing seemingly intractable problems - such as access to safe water and sanitation.

The Global Interfaith WASH Alliance (GIWA) is engaging leaders and communities of the planet's many faiths as allies in efforts to create a world where every human being has access to safe drinking water, improved sanitation and proper hygiene. GIWA is also working to harness and channel the power of faith to abate climate change, protect the environment

and bring about gender equality and women's empowerment.

## GIWA LAUNCHED AT UNICEF WORLD HEADQUARTERS DURING UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETINGS

On 25 September, 2013, religious heads from around the world, joined by the Executive Director of UNICEF and representatives of many organizations, officially launched the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance. The launch was held at UNICEF World Headquarters during the United Nations General Assembly Meetings. The Government of the Netherlands and USAID served as co-sponsors of this historic event.

## GIWA IN ACTION

Since its launch, GIWA has been working tirelessly to help bring about the vision of water, sanitation and hygiene for all. Please visit [www.washalliance.org](http://www.washalliance.org) to learn more about GIWA and its many programmes and partnerships.



4

The Co-Founder and Chair of the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance and President of Parmarth Niketan, Rishikesh, H.H. Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji is widely-known for his decades of leadership towards a peaceful, sustainable world. In so doing, he brings together leaders of all backgrounds and faiths to join forces to ensure that all people may live better lives through a more pristine environment, access to healthy Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and opportunities for escaping the bonds of hardship and poverty.

His mission for WASH began several decades ago, when he began spearheading faith-based initiatives to end open defecation on the banks of the Ganga (Ganges) River. Today, this work has blossomed into an international movement that includes foremost faith leaders, top entertainers, politicians, business leaders, researchers, educators, students and many more people who are dedicated towards a Swachhta Kranti: a Cleanliness Revolution for a healthy and sustainable world.





UNICEF Executive Director (then), Anthony Lake, Applauds a statement regarding the life-saving importance of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for all people everywhere during the launch of GIWA.

## ALL FAITHS COME TOGETHER IN ONE PLEDGE FOR IMPROVED WASH FOR ALL.



FOUNDED ON THE STRENGTHS BUILT UPON  
NEARLY THREE DECADES OF INTERFAITH ADVOCACY  
AND NETWORK DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES, GIWA'S  
CORE STRENGTHS INCLUDE:



Mr. Anthony Lake, Executive Director, UNICEF,  
meets with GIWA at UNICEF HQ



6

## 1 A LARGE NETWORK OF LEADERS REPRESENTING ALL OF INDIA'S MAJOR FAITHS AS WELL AS INTERNATIONAL INTERFAITH LEADERS:

A sampling of the faith leaders GIWA has come together with includes: HH Pope Francis, HH the Dalai Lama, Giani Gurubachan Singh (Sikh, Chief Jathedar of the Golden Temple) Sri Sri Ravi Shankar (world-renowned Hindu leader), Swami Ramdev (world renowned Hindu leader), Chief Rabbi David Rosen (International Director of Interreligious Affairs, American Jewish Committee), Rev. Michael Bernard Beckwith (Founder, Agape Ministries), Dr. Azza Karam (Secretary-General, Religions for Peace), Maulana Luqman Tarapuri-a-Deobandi (Muslim, National President, Global Imam's Council), Archbishop Dr. Kuriakose Bharnikulangara (Catholic Archbishop of Faridabad), Rakeshbhai

Jhaveri (worldrenowned Jain leader), Cardinal Oswald Gracias (Archbishop of Mumbai and Cardinal of the Roman Catholic Church), Diwan Zainul Abedin Ali Khan (Muslim, Head of the Ajmer Sharif Shrine), Imam Umar Ilyasi (Muslim, President, All-India Association of Imams of Mosques), Sant Morari Bapu (world-renowned Hindu leader), Bishop William Swing, (Anglican, Founder/ President, United Religions Initiative and Archbishop of San Francisco), Swami Avdheshanand Giri (Hindu, Acharya Mahamandaleshwar of the Juna Akhara), Rameshbhai Oza (world-renowned Hindu leader), Sister BK Shivani (Brahmakumaris) and many others.

## 2 EXISTING WASH-RELATED FIELD PROGRAMMES IN CORE AREAS

behaviour change communications, education, disaster relief and more.



### 3 A LARGE NETWORK OF PARTNERSHIPS COVERING A WIDE-RANGE OF POPULATIONS:

GIWA has partnered and worked with: UNICEF, UNFPA, WSSCC (SHF), PaRD, the Government of the Netherlands, WWF, Swarovski, RB, United Religions Initiative (URI), the All- India Association of Imams of Mosques, the World Council of Churches, the Elijah Interfaith Institute, FICCI/Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Swarovski, and many others.

### 4 WELL-ESTABLISHED RELATIONSHIPS WITH GOVERNMENT, BUSINESS, EDUCATION AND CIVIL SOCIETY LEADERS, AND A SOLID REPUTATION AND EXISTING TRACK-RECORD FOR ENVIRONMENTAL, PUBLIC HEALTH, POLICY AND INTERFAITH EFFORTS:

As part of recent advocacy efforts on WASH issues, meetings have been conducted with key leaders including the Hon'ble President of India, HE Ramnath Kovind, the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, HRH Charles, Prince of Wales, the former Prime Minister of the UK, Mr. David Cameron, the former Prime Minister of Japan, Mr. Shinzo Abe, the Hon'ble former President of Guyana, HE Donald Ramotar, the Hon'ble former Vice President of Nepal Shri Parmanand Jha, Hon'ble USA Congresswoman Ms. Tulsi Gabbard, as well as numerous other leaders from around the world and India's Union Cabinet

Ministers, including: Hon'ble Shri Amit Shah (Home Affairs), Hon'ble Shri Rajnath Singh (Defense), Late Hon'ble Smt. Sushma Swaraj (External Affairs), Hon'ble Shri Prakesh Javadekar (HRD/Education), Hon'ble Sadhvi Umashri Bharti (Water Resources and Ganga Rejuvenation), Hon'ble Dr. Mahesh Sharma (Tourism and Culture), Hon'ble Shri Suresh Prabhu (Railways), Hon'ble Shri Radha Mohan Singh (Agriculture), Hon'ble Shri Nitin Gadkari (Road Transport and Highways) and many more.



## 5 POSITIVE RELATIONS WITH PRINT AND BROADCAST MEDIA.

GIWA has been featured (often several times) by Dainik Jagran (the world's largest newspaper, readership), CNN, ANI News Service, PTI News Service, Times of India, Zee News, India TV, ABP News, Hindustan Times, the Business Standard, the Guardian (UK), Forbes, Washington Post, Scientific American, Huffington Post, Newsweek and many more news outlets.



## 6 FACILITIES, including halls that can hold hundreds and meeting areas that can hold thousands within GIWA's Secretariat at Parmarth Niketan, Rishikesh.

## 7 AN ESTABLISHED TEAM OF HIGHLY-DEDICATED PROFESSIONALS.



## 8 A LARGE VOLUNTEER BASE FROM A RANGE OF BACKGROUNDS

including scientists, researchers, engineers, business executives, educators and students.



8



# PROGRAMS AND IMPACT GLOBAL INTERFAITH WASH ALLIANCE

*Over the next pages, journey with us as we share some of GIWA's impactful programs towards a clean and water-secure world, leaving no one behind.*



# WORSHIP FOR WASH

*A WASH Revolution Begins with the Coming Together of Faith Leaders  
from Across India and Around the World*



Faith forms a crucial foundation of global society, silently influencing personal choices ranging from the meals we eat, to the people we marry, to the places we live. Given that over 83% of the world's population (and 99% of India's sizable population) is affiliated with a faith, the public sector, in and of itself, is a faith-based community.

Says UNICEF, "With almost 5 billion people belonging to religious communities, their leaders' potential for action is substantial." That is why GIWA is bringing together the faiths of India--and of the world-- to help trigger and propel forth lasting change.

From our Worship for WASH Summits to large-scale public events and beyond, leaders and communities are now joining forces, and joining hands, to save lives and bring about a healthier, happier, more peaceful world.





# THE SWACHHTA KRANTI

*GIWA Launches India's First Faith-Inspired Social Movement  
For Water, Sanitation and Hygiene: The Swachhta Kranti (Clean Revolution)*

When GIWA began its work in India, there were approximately 600 million people defecating in the open every day. According to UNICEF statistics at that time, 1600 children under the age of 5 were dying every day simply due to lack of clean water and proper sanitation and hygiene.

Sadly, much of the reason behind India's open-defecation crisis was that people, quite simply, didn't want toilets, due to misunderstandings and a general lack of education.

Because of this, the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance feels that nothing short of a behaviour-change revolution was required in order to ensure healthy, sustainable Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for India's population.

Our compelling faith-based Swachhta Kranti (Clean Revolution) campaign has been just that.

Through the inspirational words of beloved faith leaders, populations that had never dreamed of building and using toilets are being motivated to do just that...

...And as they do so, they join us in expanding the Swachhta Kranti campaign amongst their friends, neighbours and others through their own endeavours and by participating in our grand processions, mass pledges, Sanitation & Hygiene Rallies and more.

As a result, countless thousands of people have participated in this burgeoning movement to help ensure that everyone, everywhere has access to clean, healthy and sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene as an act of faith.

The Swachhta Kranti achieved great success in changing the attitudes and beliefs of people around defecation and toilets so their behaviours would change and they would start using toilets and stop defecating in the open.

Through the great work by the Swachh Bharat Mission of the Government of India, of which GIWA is proud to have been an important part, India is now nearly open-defecation free.

We are now using the same model of our Swachhta Kranti to end the taboo around menstruation and bring about proper menstrual hygiene awareness and education.





# The Tremendous Force of the Joining of All Faiths

## THE IMPACT of GIWA

According to a study of GIWA's Swachhta Kranti (Clean Revolution) campaign, an estimated

**17,47,800** people were exposed to GIWA's messages during just the month-long Ujjain Kumbha Mela alone (one of GIWA's many Swachhta Kranti initiatives)

- Over **85%** of participants surveyed found GIWA's messages useful

- **54%** of the participants could recall the message ("using toilets is beneficial") spontaneously

- Over **80%** could recall the message when aided

- There was an **increase** in the awareness levels of respondents who were exposed to GIWA's campaign activities versus those who were not exposed.

- Participants who didn't have toilets were **more likely** to construct a toilet in their household, than those who were not exposed to any activity.



14



# Impacting Millions at Mass Summits



GIWA is renowned for its massive summits and programmes, which bring together the leaders of all faiths, as well as other respected leaders from governments, entertainment, business, communities and more. The Summits have thus far inspired countless millions across India by motivating the masses through a faith-based approach led by the nation's most respected leaders. These are often nationally, and even globally broadcasted on popular networks. Our live audiences number in the thousands

Participants of GIWA's summits include: HE the President of India, the Hon'ble Vice President of India, several sitting Chief Ministers, Governors and Union Cabinet Ministers, the leaders of all of India's major faiths, Gandhian leaders, the tribal leaders from over 35 nations, and renowned entertainers.

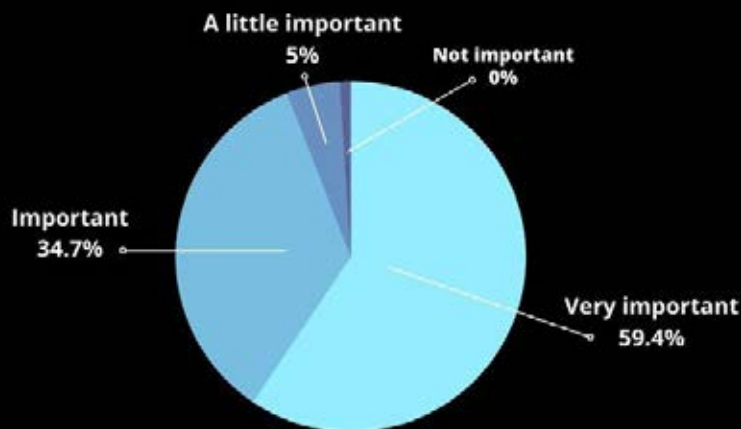


# THE SWACHH KUMBH YATRA

In 2019, the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance (GIWA) and the WASH Institute, came together, in alignment with the state and local government, to help ensure a clean and open-defecation free Kumbha Mela through the motivational Swachh Kumbh Yatra as a massive behaviour change campaign to inspire the masses as an act of faith.

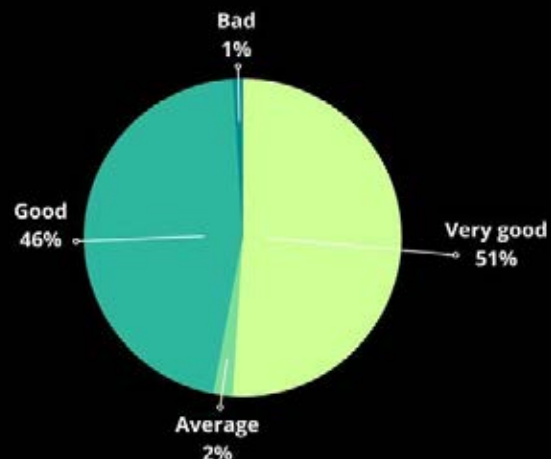
95% Rated Our Messages as “Important to Very Important” to their Lives

**How important is our message to your life?**



97% Rated the Overall Programme as Good to Very Good/Excellent

**What rating do you give the entire program?**



# WOMEN FOR WASH

## *Women Lead the Way as WASH Entrepreneurs*



### **The Solution is in an Entrepreneurial**

**Revolution:** The Solution is in an Entrepreneurial Revolution: A WASH revolution is taking place that will enable disadvantaged women to join forces as cooperative entrepreneurs. Together, they are learning to earn lasting livelihoods by producing household toilets and other life-saving necessities whilst also learning how to help lead entire regions towards realizing the vision of WASH for all.

Through their entrepreneurial efforts, WASH Revolutionaries work to trigger demand for improved WASH conditions as educators and motivators in their own right, thus growing family incomes, improving community health, and saving lives as their neighbors become customers.

To meet increased WASH demands, Revolutionaries are trained to build toilets and hand-washing stations to reduce the number of children who suffer unnecessarily from deadly WASH-related diseases.

### **A Model Proven by Past Successes**

Case studies has demonstrated that women, when enabled to produce and sell their own WASH provisions, can demonstrate tremendous success in their ventures, triggering community demand for improved WASH through their entrepreneurial drive.

In Uttarakhand, India, GIWA's Women for WASH Programme launched in some of the mountainous state's most disadvantaged areas. Here, women came together as never before to not only make an income, but to lead the way towards great and lasting change. Together, through their drive and effort, they have been inspired and empowered to take their messages, and their wares and services, from community to community, home to home and heart to heart, until their local Revolution against pollution, hardship and disease has been won.



# WASH ON WHEELS

## *GIWA Hits the Road to Educate and Inspire the Masses*

GIWA's WASH on Wheels Programme is a historic first to unite the behaviour influencing power of faith with conventional educational methods to educate, trigger and empower the masses- village by village, region by region- so that they may be compelled to build and use toilets, wash their hands and conserve our nation's dwindling and increasingly-polluted water resources.

Using our two beautiful trucks, WASH on Wheels opens up to become a travelling, self-contained theatre, which delivers fun, interactive and very inspiring programmes where ever it goes: from enormous gatherings to small villages.

Its innovative approach harnesses the powerful voices of the leaders of India's major faiths alongside interventions developed to inspire and mobilize entire communities for lasting change.

In so doing, WASH on Wheels' on-board social worker and outreach team leads community and school programmes towards embracing the importance of toilets and other WASH essentials. Activities include beautiful live puppet and street theater shows, the screening of videos featuring motivational messages by faith leaders, WASH-Centric Games, Community Forums, Sanitation Walks and more.

During follow-up programmes, other important WASH topics, such as the importance of washing hands, are also discussed, to help ensure the well-being of the entire community.





# THE SWACHH BIHAR YATRA

- GIWA's Mass Campaign Swept through some 300 villages, and major cities
- Total Direct Beneficiaries: in less than 6 months: 97,397
- Total Indirect Beneficiaries (Estimated): 781,909
- Media Impact: Millions

## Campaigning With Impact

During our massive Swachh Bihar Yatra campaign to end open defecation, feedback forms were collected from 12,320 participants by dedicated M&E professionals. The compilation of data revealed that:

- 97.42 of Participants rated the programme as “Good” to “Excellent”
- 95.36 % of Respondents said they were more likely to tell people to always use toilets after seeing this programme
- 94.52% Of Respondents said they were more likely to construct their own toilets after seeing this programme





## Inspiring an Open Defecation-Free District in Nalanda, Bihar

GIWA supported the Government of Bihar by providing months of intensive daily campaigning in hundreds of villages, towns and cities across multiple districts. An especially-intensive focus was placed in Nalanda, including with our renowned WASH on Wheels Travelling Theaters, Children's Rallies, Community Leadership Meetings, Film Screenings and Classes for Hundreds of Community Leaders, Pradhans, Teachers and Masons. Just months after the conclusion of our campaign, the historically-renowned district was declared open defecation-free.





# WATERSCHOOL

## *On the Banks of the Ganga River*

The Global Interfaith WASH Alliance is pleased to be implementing the acclaimed Swarovski WaterSchool programme in the Ganga-Himalayas.

By coming together for WaterSchool, a new generation is being motivated and enabled to become caring stewards of the world around them through the benefits of improved WASH.

Every day when regular classes are in session, one can find our dedicated team of educators travelling to schools across the region in order to provide fun, inspiring and hands-on WaterSchool classes. The classes integrate water science demonstrations, practical activities and lectures.

In order to conduct these classes, our team travels from school to school with portable demonstration kits, water testing kits, hand-outs and activities materials.

In addition, teacher workshops and special events help promote a cleaner, greener, healthier world by enabling teachers, students and community members to lead the change they wish to see.

In addition, our WaterSchool programme is providing schools with the toilet, handwashing and drinking water facilities they need in order to ensure the health of all children. We are also enabling the planting of fruit trees and school gardens that teach the principles of conservation and will eventually help to improve the diets of growing children.





# WATERSCHOOL MEANS IMPACT



*Now in its third year, our WaterSchool Programme, in partnership with Swarovski, has impacted countless lives in Uttarakhand. In less than two years:*

More than **4000** students in **35** Schools Have Received full new WASH Facilities including clean toilets, Water tanks and Handwashing Stations with the number reaching nearly **40** schools and **5500** students by summer 2022.

Nearly **10,000** Students Have Been Educated about water and how to protect it in their classrooms in **70** schools

Approximately **4500** Children in **27** Schools have access now to clean, safe, private toilets.

**4500** students in **46** schools have received provision of clean water in their school.

Nearly **5000** Students in **35** schools have Hand Washing Station Facilities.



Every day, some 3 billion litres of sewage pollutes the Ganga River, home to 600 million people and countless species. As a result, public and environmental health is suffering tremendously. In Varanasi alone, some 68% of the people who use the Ganga's water there will fall ill, primarily from fecal-borne disease.

It is thus a priority for the Government of India, and for GIWA, to investigate and install effective and novel new technologies for ensuring sewage and drinking water from rivers, lakes and other sources no longer mix... Therefore turning "Sewage Points" into "Selfie Points."

Among these technologies under study and implementation by GIWA are GeoTube systems, which quickly purify drains and other sources of pollution from contaminants, leaving clean water as a result. GIWA is also working to investigate micro Sewage Treatment Plants, which treat sewage on-site while requiring very little land.

# TURNING SEWAGE POINTS TO SELFIE POINTS



# CLEAN WATER GREEN TECHNOLOGIES



Countless thousands of men, women and children in India don't have access to clean, healthy drinking water, leading to the nation having the highest rate of children suffering from stunted growth and much more. In times of disaster, matters worsen as populations risk suffering from deadly diseases from highly-contaminated water.

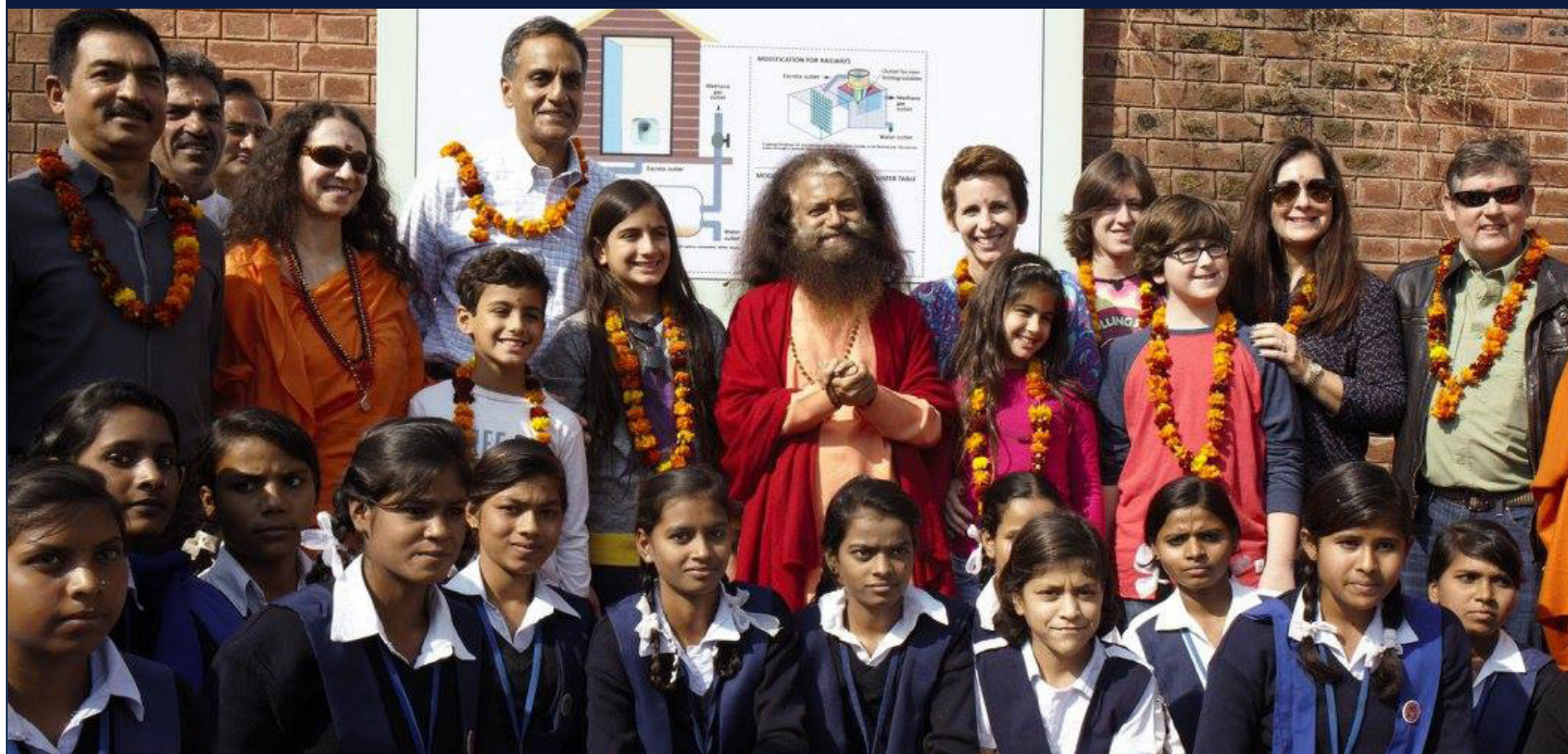
For these reasons, GIWA provides a targeted drinking water programme, which includes the provision of breaking edge technologies that are replacing RO public water purifiers across India, as well as low-tech solutions, such as bio-sand water filters for schools, as well as other water cleaning technologies, including sanitizing tablets and portable water filters for times of emergency.



# INTRODUCING NEW TOILETS

## *Eco-Friendly Public and School Bio-Toilets*

### *Where Most Needed*



The (then) Hon'ble US Ambassador to India, Mr. Richard Verma, at a GIWA groundbreaking for a bio-toilet facility at an all-girls' school

While toilets are crucial for community health, the handling of the resulting sewage can present a conundrum. Conventional sewage treatment plants are too expensive for most communities in the developing world, and require constant electricity, which is often unavailable or unreliable even in large municipalities such as Delhi. The widely-used alternative of pit-based latrines, including those that compost human waste, require labour-intensive mucking, which can, in some cases, result in the transmission of disease and other problems.

For these reasons, GIWA works with organizations such as India's Department of Defense Research Organisation (DRDO) to introduce new toilet technologies, such as Bio- Digester toilets, to schools and public places. In such a way, communities can be introduced to new advances in sanitation and all may benefit from improved access to toilets.



# THE WORLD TOILET COLLEGE

Over the years, despite massive investments by local governments and others, India's sanitation crisis remained alive, with nearly half the population heeding the call of nature in the open. Now, its historic Swachh Bharat (Clean India) Mission has brought renewed hope and powerful solutions for the nation, enabling challenges to be addressed and eradicated as never before.

Certainly the lack of toilets is one of the key issues. However, where there are toilets, the absence of their proper cleaning and maintenance has proven that the provision of hardware alone is not a sustainable solution. At the same time, in many instances, the use of public and household toilets--regardless of their newness or cleanliness--is simply not accepted by communities that are reluctant to change age-old patterns of relieving themselves in the outdoors. All the while, India is plagued by the additional public health concerns that include policy challenges, the lack of hygiene awareness and the lack of access to clean and sustainable water.

Located within the large campus of GIWA's Secretariat, the World Toilet College was launched in 2015 in partnership between GIWA, the World Toilet Organization and RB. Today, it is providing the knowledge and skills necessary towards directly addressing India's pressing sanitation needs as well as empowering women for menstrual health and hygiene.

It is a primary goal of the World Toilet College to provide gateways towards employing the world's most innovative tools, techniques and technologies towards achieving our mission to inspire, inform and engage the people of India across multiple sectors for a healthy, clean India

Through its many classes and workshops, the World Toilet College is serving to usher forth fascinating discussions covering the gamut of sanitation discourse: from handson evaluations of natural and conventional toilet and sewage management systems, to low- to high-tech cleaning methods, to the latest findings in behavior change communications and community triggering and beyond.





# WORLD TOILET COLLEGE EDUCATES OVER 4,000 PEOPLE

Since its founding only a few years ago, more than **4000** people have been directly educated in Uttarakhand, Bhihar and other states, by our professional educators to become community leaders and changemakers for improved WASH, ending open defecation and bringing about a truly Clean India.

In just the year 2021-2022, even with Covid restrictions, approximately **1000** Sanitation workers were trained regarding Sanitation and Hygiene, especially, but not exclusively, related to the transmission of the virus.





# BREAKING A WORLD RECORD FOR THE GIRL CHILD

GIWA is very proud have partnered with UNICEF India on a beautiful campaign to raise up girls everywhere. Beginning with a massive event in the Kumbha Mela where India's women leaders, joined and supported by male leaders, inspired the massive crowds to pledge for "shiksha" (education) before "shaadi" (marriage) and to pledge that they would not marry off their young daughters. After the launch event, the team took the programme into the streets, villages and towns. Hundreds of thousands of signatures were collected, breaking the Guinness World Record for the most signatures

on a flag. The flag itself is the size of a football field, and weighs as much as an elephant!

The signature campaign was held to spread awareness about stopping child marriages. The state of Uttar Pradesh has one of the highest rates of child marriage in India and this record helped the organisers to inspire and mobilize the masses. It was also signed by notable dignitaries, including esteemed faith leaders, Union Cabinet Ministers, Governors entertainers, and more.



# MENSTRUAL HYGIENE MANAGEMENT



Each woman spends approximately 7 years of her life menstruating! Yet how much attention do we, as a society pay, to this critical time, each month in the lives of our sisters, mothers and daughters? Global Interfaith WASH Alliance is paying attention. Tragically, in India more than 75% of girls have to stay home on the 5-7 days a month of their menstrual cycles, and nearly 25 percent of girls end up dropping out of school entirely after puberty. Why? Simply because they do not have access to menstrual supplies that enable them to leave their homes, or because they don't have access to menstrual hygiene and health education to even know how to properly take care of themselves during their period. Global Interfaith WASH Alliance is committed to ensuring that girls receive the education and empowerment to navigate these days of their lives with pride not shame, with joy not sorrow, with personal power not helplessness.



*We have been engaged deeply in campaigns to break the silence and end the taboo!*

In partnership with WSSCC (now Sanitation Hygiene Fund) and other dedicated partners, we have run massive campaigns, stage events and rallies in the Kumbha Mela, as well as during large kathas and in hugely-attended gatherings at our Ganga Aarti. Our campaign has also included Menstrual Hygiene Learning Labs, on-the-ground menstrual hygiene and health training in schools and communities. We are creating huge shifts in the way society views menstruation.

# LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND SUMMIT



In December 2019, GIWA and the WSSCC/SHF together with the United Nations hosted the groundbreaking Leave No One Behind (LNOB) Summit - a three-day event that brought Interfaith Leaders, global agency and organization representatives, community activists and local citizenry together for a vital and impactful consultation that focused on at-risk and marginalized communities who have been denied access to the human right to clean water, safe and sufficient sanitation and hygiene (WASH), menstrual hygiene and health, and the access and use

of related WASH services.

In September 2020, the findings of this vital high-level conference were reviewed virtually, with representatives from all participating groups coming together to prepare the final report for submission to both the United Nations and the government of India. It was a timely and important opportunity to reflect on the lessons we learned from 14 vulnerable and at-risk groups during the initial summit, as well as to discuss the next steps in ensuring that No One is Left Behind.



# GALVANIZING ACTION FOR LIFESKILLS EDUCATION, EMPOWERMENT OF ADOLESCENTS AND ENDING HARMFUL SOCIAL PRACTICES

## *An Initiative In Partnership With United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)*



The partnership between GIWA and the UNFPA has, in just two short years since the then-Country Representative of India and Bhutan for the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Ms. Argentina Piccin's visit to Rishikesh, already begun to create a future in which the women and youth of Uttarakhand are receiving access to information, skills and services that expand their consciousness of self and others. They are already seeing improved health and well-being; and are empowered to make informed decisions that result in positive outcomes for their lives and society as a whole. The importance of protecting, nurturing and celebrating the girl child is being inculcated in the participants. These outcomes are achieved through the programs and initiatives designed within the goals and framework of UNFPA's established procedures.



# LIFE SKILLS EDUCATION (LSE)

Life Skills Education, quite simply, promotes 'Rights and Choices for All'. It is a system of value-based courses and classes designed to train students on the inner aspects of their personalities to address issues such as low self-confidence and self-esteem that so often lead to major problems in their futures.

Lifeskills are social and psychological abilities that enable humans to deal effectively with the demands and challenges of life. For students, Lifeskills improve their listening, reading, writing and communication skills. If given effectively, it improves problem solving skills, develops interpersonal skills, creates ability to think out of the box, builds confidence, determination, and creates positivity & cooperation skills.

More important, lifeskills teaches teenagers to socialize, identify their dreams, realise how to achieve those dreams, identify the obstacles lying on the way and ways to get rid of them, and to take responsibility and create leadership qualities.

Some of the adolescents in the Lifeskills programme had the great opportunity to share their learnings with the Hon'ble President of India Shri Ramnath Kovind during his visit to Parmarth Niketan



# THE PLANTING OF HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF TREES

In these days of global climate change, pollution, growing populations and resource depletion, trees provide a crucial answer: cleaning the air, providing fresh water, cooling surrounding temperatures and providing food, medicine and shelter for countless species. GIWA has thus made the plantation of trees a priority. To that end:

Over the past approximately 10 years we have directly planted or planted through our partnerships almost ONE MILLION trees.

These trees have been planted throughout the Himalayan regions in Uttarakhand as well as in several draught prone areas of India such as Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. We have conducted widespread plantations in partnership with state governments, NGOs and other faith leaders.



# CLIMATE CHANGE ABATEMENT



GIWA is working actively to investigate, promote and implement technologies and programmes that can help control the impacts of climate change and protect the environment, populations and precious natural resources, such as water. Our work includes mass tree plantations, clean-up programmes, the implementation of solar energy, solid waste management systems, sewage treatment systems, organic farming, policy advocacy and more.

Each evening on the banks of the sacred Ganga river, during the evening prayer time called “Aarti” we lead

all of the participants, numbering from the several hundred to the several thousand, in a participatory pledge to protect and preserve our natural environment, to plant trees, to end the use of single use plastic, to stop pollution and in general to be stewards of planetary care.

Over the last decade during we have gifted approximately 175,000 ready-to-plant tree saplings to special guests, dignitaries and awardees during our evening Ganga aarti as well as during numerous stage events and functions to inspire and encourage everyone to plant trees!



# THE INTERFAITH HUMANITARIAN NETWORK

Through its Interfaith Humanitarian Network Programme, GIWA works with partners such as Ganga Action Parivar, IHRF, Divine Shakti Foundation and Parmarth Niketan to bring together civil society, medical professionals and dedicated volunteers as one team to facilitate rescue efforts and inspire long-term green rehabilitation and reconstruction for the affected regions.

Through GIWA, IHN's focus includes empowering schools with WASH-friendly technologies and disaster-proofed construction techniques. In so doing, we are working towards enabling the vision

for clean water and fruit plantations in schools, to protect and nurture the health of children in disaster-stricken areas.

In addition, IHN provides vocational skills training and women's empowerment programs in disaster-struck regions, to enable devastated populations to return to self-sufficiency. These include water-saving organic farming, training in construction and the production of water filters, sewing, tailoring, weaving and handicrafts, vocational classes in schools, and more. In such a way, livelihoods are being rebuilt in harmony with the local culture, poverty is being reduced, and WASH is improved.



Women and girls left widowed and abandoned by the South Indian tsunami and by the Uttarakhand floods receive new hope and new opportunities through new villages, schools, and vocational training programs



Some 20 buses were sent laden with clean water, medicine, food, blankets, warm clothes and mobile phones to rescue approximately 1,000 stranded pilgrims



Distribution of relief supplies to ease the suffering of people impacted by the Nepalese earthquake



The Brightland School, which was rebuilt as a WASH-friendly school with the help of GIWA after it was destroyed by floods



Uttarakhand's Hon'ble Minister of Education plants a tree with Bharat Mitra, Founder President of Organic India, at the inauguration of the newly-rebuilt, WASH-friendly Brightland School



Our volunteers and medical team providing relief and medical care in the wake of Uttarakhand's devastating floods



# COMMITTED SERVICES DURING COVID 19 PANDEMIC IN INDIA



As the Covid pandemic struck India first in a several-month lockdown in the Spring-Summer of 2020 and then as a massive, surging wave of death and destruction in the Spring-Summer of 2021, our GIWA team actively engaged in as many ways possible.

During the 2020 lockdown, free meals and shelter were provided to needy families to ensure nobody went hungry in the surrounding areas. Every day hundreds of people were fed a hot, sattvic and nutritious meal. Additionally, in partnership with its sister organizations, GIWA supplied rations and other necessary supplies to thousands of families in Rishikesh and surrounding Himalayan regions during the lockdown, extended curfews and even in the first months after the lockdown opened, including helping thousands of poor families with rations and gifts during the hard times of the Diwali holiday season.



In the devastating surge beginning in April 2021, In cooperation with the State Government, GIWA focused efforts primarily on providing oxygen, including oxygen concentrators and providing essential facilities and resources to Covid patients.

The entire Yoga Hall and Charitable Hospital at Parmarth Niketan (the site of GIWA's Secretariat) were established as a 100 bed COVID-Care Centre, with fully-equipped oxygen concentrators/cylinders, essential medical supplies and dedicated medical team.

Two Ambulances were deployed to provide free door-to-door services such as transporting patients to hospitals and providing oxygen cylinders to places in need. They also reached out to remote villages in rural regions of the Himalayas, in which the villagers have little to no access to a hospital and/or medical care.

The ambulances were also utilized to transport oxygen cylinders to needy patients in Rishikesh and surrounding villages.

In addition, almost 100 Oxygen Concentrators were procured to provide much needed oxygen to local government hospitals and medical centres which were in dire shortage.



The Parmarth Charitable Hospital was being utilised for testing and vaccinations under the supervision of a professional Medical Team provided by the State Government.

Medical kits and essentials such as oxymeters, steam machines, etc were provided to many patients and families who could not afford them.

Additionally, GIWA supported the provision of essential medicines and supplies for several villages in rural Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh.

GIWA, in partnership with Parmarth Niketan, UNICEF, UNFPA, WSSCC (SHF), Eros Now, Sanskar Channel and other organizations, brought together eminent faith leaders of different faith traditions for numerous online events catalyzing and fostering interfaith harmony and interfaith responses to Covid-19. These online events include:

- Interfaith Response to COVID-19 Webinar
- Proactive Faith Leadership in Times of Crisis in Africa and India
- Earth Day 2020: Planting Seeds for a New Normal Panel
- Ramazan, Jaan Aur Jahan Webinar
- Africa's Faith Leadership in Times of Crisis: Ramadan Response to COVID-19 Panel
- Maintaining an Aviral (Free Flowing) and Nirmal (Clean) Ganga Special Webinar
- World Environment Day 2020: United Nations to a United Creation Webinar
- Global Handwashing Day Webinar

These gatherings inspired and empowered leaders to exhort their communities to behave responsibly during the pandemic, taught best practices to stop the spread of the virus, eliminated misconceptions about the spread of the virus, and erased stigmas between races and religions.



# GLOBAL INSPIRATION

## *for Improved WASH and a Sustainable World*



GIWA Co-Founder, Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji, with HE the President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee



Pujya Swamiji is warmly greeted by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi



Their Royal Highnesses, Charles Prince of Wales and Camilla Duchess of Cornwall, perform a GIWA Water blessing ceremony with Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji and Sadhvi Bhagawati

42



Pujya Swamiji presents (then) H.E. the Prime Minister of Japan, Shinzō Abe with water from the holy Ganga River



Pujya Swamiji presents HH Pope Francis with A “Green Mala” as a gift from GIWA in honour of HH Pope Francis’ committment to environmental causes



Pujya Swamiji makes a Flagship Presentation with (then) World Bank President, Dr. Jim Yung Kim, at World Bank Headquarters on the importance of the coming together of faith leaders to help end the causes of global poverty

*See more photos at [www.washalliance.org](http://www.washalliance.org)*



Sadhvi Bhagawatiiji meets with United Nations Secretary General, António Guterres during a high-level event at the UN and shares with him the work that GIWA is doing by bringing faith leaders together for WASH and peace



Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswatiji meets with United Nations Deputy Secretary-General, Amina J. Mohammed at the United Nations’ Summit on Prevention of Violence & Atrocity Crimes



Puja Swamiji with former President of the United States of America, Bill Clinton, at the World Economic Forum



Lighting the inaugural lamp with (then) Hon'ble Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, David Cameron and his wife Samantha



Leading a prayer at the House of Commons with renowned faith leaders and Rt. Hon'ble Keith Vaz, MP of Leicester, during a Water Blessing Ceremony, with prayers for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for everyone, everywhere



Mr. Tony Blair, former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, and faith leaders at the Tony Blair Faith Foundation Meeting in Delhi



UN-Habitat, in collaboration with other United Nations agencies and the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance, sign a declaration in order to help meet the Sustainable Development Goals through partnerships with Faith-Based Organizations.



Sadhviji joins international women faith leaders at UNFPA headquarters in New York City for a program on women's health rights



Together with Prof. Azza Karam, Secretary-General, Religions for Peace, at the Parliament of World Religions



Senior Members of the World Bank's Departments of Water and WASH



At The United Nations Conference Of Implementation Of Plan Of Action To End Atrocity Crimes In Vienna



With Henrietta Fore, Executive Director, UNICEF, Faisal Bin Muammamar, Secretary-General, Kaiciid And Other Leaders At The Kofi Annan Briefings During The High Level Political Forum In New York



46

Sadhviji serves on the Steering Group for the International Partnership for Religion and Sustainable Development (PaRD)



In Kathmandu, Nepal for the UNICEF South Asia Religious Leaders Platform for Children



Ms. Alice Nderitu, Special Advisor to the Secretary-General of the UN and head of the Office of Genocide Prevention, Mrs. Meenakshi Lekhi, Minister of State Tourism and Culture Government of India and other dignitaries join Pujya Swamiji and Sadhvi at the Indian Consulate in New York City for the launch of Sadhvi's memoir Hollywood to the Himalayas



In Nairobi, Kenya at the United Nations (UNFPA) ICPD25 Summit, in a session on Menstrual Health and Hygiene Rights

# PROMOTING POLICIES *for Healthy Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in India*

GIWA works with leaders and policy makers from across India and around the world to advocate for improved access to safe, healthy and sustainable Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) for all.

We also produce informative policy papers and publications that delve deeply into pressing issues, such as sustainable development and the rejuvenation of key water sources, including the Ganga and Yamuna Rivers.



HE, the President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, addresses a global audience at GIWA's Gandhian Resurgence Summit, held at its historic Kumbha Mela camp in Prayagraj India, 2019



The Hon'ble Vice President of India, Srri Venkaiah Naidu, inaugurates a Toilet Park that was refurbished and updated by GIWA



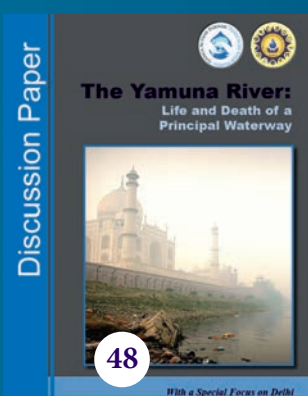
Presenting a tree to the Hon'ble Union Minister of Jal Shakti (All Water Resources and Sanitation), Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat during his visit to GIWA's Secretariat of Parmarth Niketan



Union Minister of Defense, Hon'ble Shri Rajnath Singh and Pujya Swamiji discuss water scarcity and GIWA's White Papers on the Ganga, Yamuna and Uttarakhand



DEVELOPMENT WITH FAITH  
Towards more effective partnerships between the public sector and faith-based communities



Pujya Swamiji shares ideas for cleaning and greening the railway system of India with then Hon'ble Minister of Railways, Shri Suresh Prabhu.



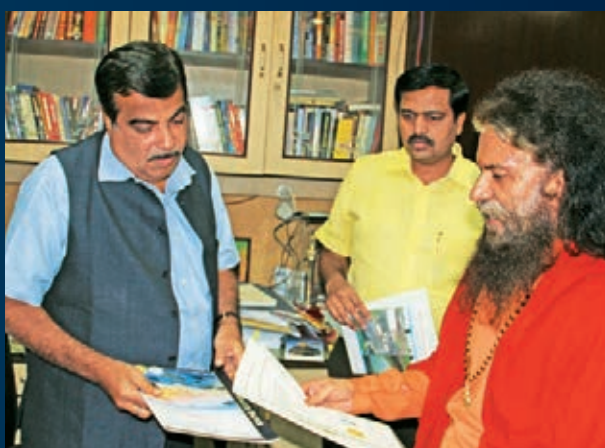
Pujya Swamiji meets with then Hon'ble Minister of the Environment, Forests And Climate Change, Shri Prakash Javadekar to discuss a clean and sustainable revolution for India.



Presenting a rudraksh tree sapling to Hon'ble Shri Rajnath Singhji, Minister of Defense, Government of India



Hon'ble Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, faith leaders and children perform a GIWA Water Blessing Ceremony at GIWA's Worship for WASH Summit in Ladakh



Discussing sustainable development with Hon'ble Shri Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister of Transport



HE, Governor Anandiben Patel of the States of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, visits GIWA's Toilet Cafe to discuss WASH at the 2019 Kumbha Mela

**Download GIWA's Policy Discussion Papers at**  
**[www.WashAlliance.org](http://www.WashAlliance.org)**

# WHAT THE LEADERS SAY ABOUT US



“It is wonderful to see the faith traditions organized under the leadership of GIWA India’s Founder, Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji, bringing everyone together for the vital task of providing clean water, safe and sufficient sanitation and hygiene for all.”

- H.E. the President of India  
Shri Ram Nath Kovind

“Parmarth Niketan’s service to humanity is an inspiration to many across India and around the world.”

- Hon’ble Prime Minister of India,  
Shri Narendra Modi



“I am very happy that Swami Chidanandji has taken this initiative... bringing this many senior leaders of different traditions and different cultures together. We should really compliment Swamiji for this wonderful initiative.”

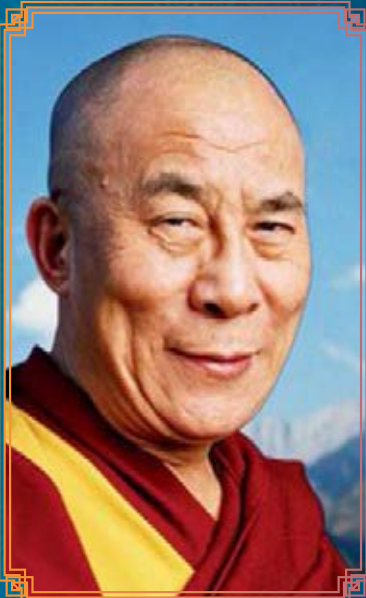
- Hon’ble Vice President of India,  
Shri Venkaiah Naidu





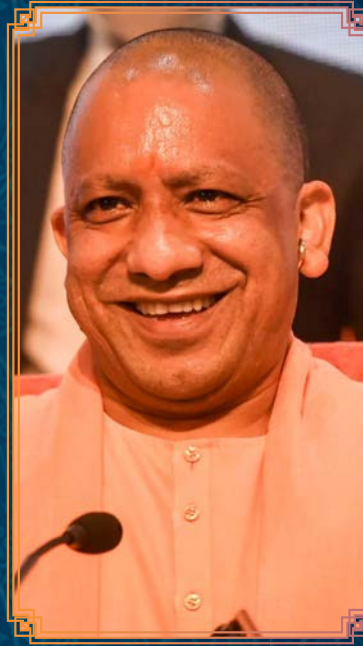
“It has been a particular pleasure to meet Swamiji, about whom I have heard so much. I know that he and all the work that he and his colleagues do, is of remarkable significance.”

- HRH Charles,  
Prince of Wales



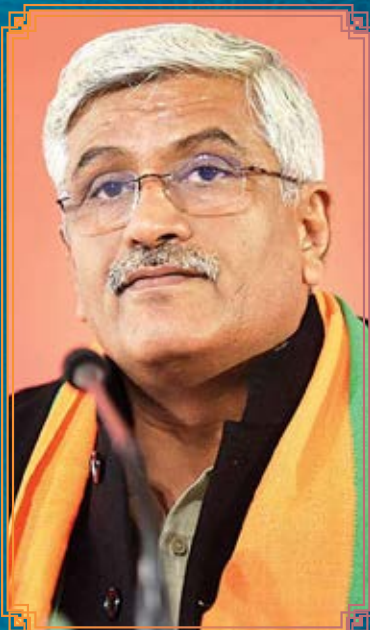
“I often refer to *ahimsa* and religious harmony as India’s treasures, and they have great potential to build a happy, compassionate and non-violent society. Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji is someone who puts these ancient Indian traditions into practice today.”

- HH the Dalai Lama



“We were in the midst of the preparations for the Kumbh Mela when I was concerned about ensuring clean and pristine water of the River Ganga being available to devotees and pilgrims. It was at this time that Pujya Swamiji came to me with another technology that was a great addition to the technology we already had and during the Kumbh was a great contribution towards a clean and green Kumbh for all.”

Hon’ble Chief Minister  
of Uttar Pradesh, Yogi  
Adityanath



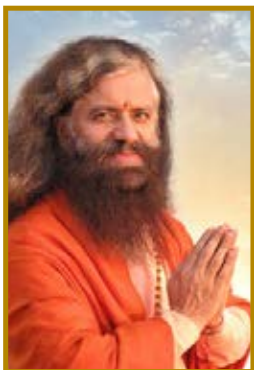
“GIWA is a noble and commendable initiative that brings together 14 key groups of vulnerable populations through an inclusive approach for achieving Sustainable Development Goals with focus on water and sanitation and hygiene, including menstrual hygiene and health. Through these initiatives, we are following the ideals of Mahamta Gandhiji towards Cleaner India.”

- Hon’ble Union Minister for  
Minister of Jal Shakti, Gajendra  
Singh Shekhawat



“Clean water and sanitation should not be a distant dream for children and communities, They should be a reality. And this alliance can help bring their dreams much closer.”

- (then) UNICEF  
Executive Director,  
Anthony Lake



Dear Divine Souls,

It has been so beautiful to witness the great strides our Global Interfaith WASH Alliance has made in just a few years since its launch at UNICEF Headquarters in 2013.

For me, GIWA was founded in my heart one day as I walked alongside the beautiful banks of the River Ganga (Ganges), only to find few places to step, because everywhere I looked, there was human waste. Hundreds of millions of our sisters and brothers are dependent on the Ganga, and I reflected sadly that far too many were being forced to drink and bathe in the waste of their neighbours upstream.

It was then I realized that it was more important to build toilets than to build temples.

At that time, India was undergoing a WASH crisis that was largely responsible for the deaths of more children under the age of five than anywhere else in the world. By God's grace, the situation has improved dramatically under the leadership of Shri Narendra Modi's government and his Swachh Bharat Mission.

Yet, India isn't alone in its WASH and environmental woes. Worldwide, some 1.7 billion people don't have access to basic sanitation such as private toilets, and nearly 800 million people don't have access to clean and safe water. All the while, our world is heating up, water sources are diminishing and disease is on the increase.

To counteract this, the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance harnesses the power of the coming together of all faiths to help inspire and mobilize people of all faiths to embrace improved WASH as essential for their lives. With recent successes in ending much of India's open defecation, we have now been able to also direct energy and attention to deeper issues of water, climate change, environmental protection as well as menstrual hygiene management, women and youth empowerment. All through the power of faith. This is because, our world is a faithful one, where over 83 percent of all people subscribe to a religion. For such a reason, the power of the faith-based approach to create change can't be underestimated.

To me, it is by serving the creation that we truly serve the Creator. For this, we must apply our time, talents, technology and tenacity, hand in hand, as one family under our world's sheltering sky, for Health, Hygiene and Harmony for all.

With Love and Blessings, In the Service of God and Humanity,

*Swami Chidanand Saraswati*

Swami Chidanand Saraswati  
President, Parmarth Niketan, Rishikesh  
Co-Founder/Co-Chair, Global Interfaith WASH Alliance



## GLOBAL INTERFAITH WASH ALLIANCE






Parmarth Niketan Ashram

P.O. Swargashram

Rishikesh, Uttarakhand- 249304, India

Phone: (+91) 135-2440077, (+91) 135-2440070, Mobile: (+91) 7579029225

### ON-LINE:

 [www.washalliance.org](http://www.washalliance.org)  
 [washalliance](https://www.facebook.com/washalliance)  
 [wash\\_alliance](https://twitter.com/wash_alliance)  
 [washalliance](https://www.instagram.com/washalliance)  
 [Sadhviji@WashAlliance.org](mailto:Sadhviji@WashAlliance.org)