



H.H. PUJYA SWAMI CHIDANAND SARASWATIJI

H.H. Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiiji's motto in life is, "In the Service of God and humanity." **Selflessly dedicated to the welfare of all, He leads, directs and inspires numerous, wide-scale service initiatives.** Touched by the hand of God at the tender age of eight, Pujya Swamiji left His home to live a life devoted to God and humanity, spending His youth in silence, meditation and austerities high in the Himalayas. At the age of seventeen, after nine years of unbroken, intense *sadhana*, He returned from the forest—under the orders of His guru—and obtained an academic education to parallel His spiritual one. Pujya Swamiji has master's degrees in Sanskrit and Philosophy as well as fluency in many languages.

Pujya Swamiji is President and Spiritual Head of Parmarth Niketan Ashram, Rishikesh, India, one of

the largest interfaith, spiritual institutions in India. Under His divine inspiration and leadership, Parmarth Niketan has become a sanctuary known across the globe as one filled with grace, beauty, serenity and true divine bliss. Pujya Swamiji has also increased several-fold the humanitarian activities undertaken by Parmarth Niketan (www.parmarth.com). Now, the ashram is not only a spiritual haven for those who visit, but it also provides education, training, and health care to those in need.

He is the **Co-Founder of Global Interfaith WASH Alliance (GIWA)** , the world's first-ever international interfaith initiative which brings together the world's faiths as allies in ensuring every child around the world has access to safe, life-giving Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH). (www.washalliance.org; <https://www.facebook.com/Global.Interfaith.WASH.Alliance>)

He is the **Founder of Ganga Action Parivar (GAP)**, a global family dedicated to the preservation of the River Ganga and Her tributaries in their free-flowing and pristine state. GAP work includes everything ranging from solid waste management to wastewater management as well as awareness and educational outreach to make this vision of a clean and free-flowing River Ganga and Her tributaries a reality for all.

(www.gangaaction.com: <https://www.facebook.com/gangaaction>)

He is also the **Founder of Divine Shakti Foundation (DSF)**, which is dedicated to the holistic well being of women, their children, and orphaned/abandoned children, and to all of Mother Nature. DSF runs and sponsors free schools, women's vocational training programs, orphanages/gurukuls, frequent free medical camps, animal care programs, a rural development program, and innumerable other humanitarian projects. (www.divineshaktifoundation.org; <https://www.facebook.com/divineshaktifoundation>)

He is also **Founder/Chairman of India Heritage Research Foundation (IHRF)**, an international, non-profit, humanitarian foundation which just say the launching the first-ever International Edition of the Encyclopedia of Hinduism (www.theencyclopediaofhinduism.com) as well as ashrams and medical clinics in the sacred land of Mansarovar and Mt. Kailash in Tibet.

Pujya Swamiji's religion is unity, and he has been a leader in numerous international, inter-faith summits and parliaments, including most recently the **Parliament of World Religions**, the **Millennium World Peace Summit of Religious and Spiritual Leaders at the United Nations**, the **World Economic Forum**, the **World Council of Religious Leaders at the United Nations**, the **World Conference of Religions for Peace**, the **Global Youth Peace Summit at the United Nations**, the first **Hindu-Jewish Summit in Jerusalem**, and the **Hindu-Christian dialogue initiated by the Vatican**. He is also a leader of frequent world peace pilgrimages across the world.

Pujya Swamiji is the recipient of innumerable awards, including the **UPF's World Peace Ambassador Award**, **Mahatma Gandhi Humanitarian award**, **Hindu of the Year Award**, **Prominent Personality Award**, **by Lions' Club**, **Best Citizens of India Award**, the **Uttaranchal Ratan Award** and many more.

However, Pujya Swamiji seems unaffected by this incredible list of accomplishments and remains a pious child of God, owning nothing, draped in saffron robes, living a life of true renunciation. His days in Rishikesh are spent offering service to those around him. Thousands travel from across the globe simply to sit in his presence, to receive his "darshan." He travels the world, bringing the light of wisdom, inspiration, upliftment and the divine touch to thousands across the world.

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