GLOBAL INTERFAITH WASH ALLIANCE

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

WWW.WASHALLIANCE.ORG
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 12.0M

PMO India (@PMOIndia)
30m
This was indeed an innovative effort to spread awareness about cleanliness & contribute towards a Swachh Bharat.

PMO India (@PMOIndia)
60m
Faith leaders inspired everyone in an unprecedented & historic Sarva Dharma Swachhta Sankalp (Interfaith Cleanliness Pledge) on the occasion.

PMO India (@PMOIndia)
50m
The summit brought together faith leaders, media, local stakeholders & corporates. Union Ministers Shri Harsh Vardhan & Shri Nitin Gadkari also joined.

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.

PMO India (@PMOIndia)
82m
Global Interfaith WASH Alliance (GIWA) India, in association with @UNICEFIndia recently held a 2-day Summit in Ladakh.
MyCleanIndia
Since the dawn of history, faith has provided a foundation from which social norms develop. It is to faith leaders that billions are drawn to 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 5 billion people across the world are members of religious communities, 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 the world’s first initiative that is engaging 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 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 to learn more about GIWA and its many programmes and partnerships.

The Founder and Chair of the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance India 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 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, 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 in India include:

1. **A LARGE NETWORK OF LEADERS REPRESENTING ALL OF INDIA’S MAJOR FAITHS:**
   Among the faith leaders GIWA came together with in the past year were: 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), Anandmurti Gurumaa (Sufi/Hindu, world-renowned female leader), Imam Malik Mujahid (Chairman, Parliament of the World’s Religions), Maulana Luqman Tarapuri-a-Deobandi (Muslim, National President, Global Imam's Council), Archbishop Dr. Kuriakose Bharnikulangara (Catholic Archbishop of Faridabad), Rakeshbhai Jhaferi (world-renowned Jain leader), 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 Avidheshanand Giri (Hindu, Acharya Mahamandaleshwar of the Juna Akhara), Rameshbhai Oza (world-renowned Hindu leader), and many others.

2. **EXISTING WASH-RELATED FIELD PROGRAMMES IN CORE AREAS** of behaviour change communications, education, disaster relief and more.
3 A LARGE NETWORK OF PARTNER-SHIPS COVERING A WIDE-RANGE OF POPULATIONS: Among GIWA's partners are: UNICEF, WSSCC, PaRD, the Government of the Netherlands, WWF, Swarovski, RB, United Religions Initiative (URI), the All-India Association of Imams of Mosques, Sarva Dharma Sansad (India's Parliament of Religions), the World Council of Churches, the Elijah Interfaith Institute, FICCI/Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, the Green Pilgrimage Network, Oxford University's Bhumi Project, 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 Sri Pranab Mukerjee, the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, HRH Charles, Prince of Wales, the Hon'ble Prime Minister of the UK, Mr. David Cameron, the Hon'ble Prime Minister of Japan, Mr. Shinzo Abe, the Hon'ble President of South Africa, HE Jacob Zuma, the Royal Minister of Education for Saudi Arabia, HRH Prince Faisal Bin Abdullah Bin Mohammed Al-Saud, the Hon'ble President of Guyana, HE Donald Ramotar, the Hon'ble 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 Rajnath Singh (Home Affairs), Hon'ble Smt. Sushma Swaraj (External Affairs), Hon'ble Shri Prakash 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.
A LARGE VOLUNTEER BASE FROM A RANGE OF BACKGROUNDS, including scientists, researchers, engineers, business executives, educators and students.

AN ESTABLISHED TEAM OF HIGHLY-DEDICATED PROFESSIONALS.

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

POSITIVE RELATIONS WITH PRINT AND BROADCAST MEDIA. In the past year, GIWA has been featured (often several times) by Dainik Jagran (the world’s largest newspaper, readership: 16.7 million), 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, Scientific American, Huffington Post, Newsweek and many more news outlets.
THE IMPACT OF THE
GLOBAL INTERFAITH WASH ALLIANCE

Over the next pages, journey with us as we explore just some of GIWA’s recent impact towards inspiring a clean and water-secure world for everyone, everywhere.
The Tremendous Force of the Joining of All Faiths

THE IMPACT of GIWA

According to a recent 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 recent Swachhta Kranti initiatives).

- Over 85% of participants surveyed found GIWA’s messages useful.
- Over 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.
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.

Recent 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 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 2018 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
MORE THAN 3,000,000 VILLAGES HAVE BEEN DECLARED OPEN DEFECATION FREE!
Swachh Bharat salutes the people of India for making it a true people's movement.
Inspiring an Open Defecation-Free District in Nalanda, Bihar

In 2017-2018, 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.
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

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

What rating do you give the entire program?
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:

- GIWA is currently cultivating 100,000 trees in its organic nurseries for plantation across the Ganga-Himalayas in order to restore water sheds and more
- GIWA is working with RB and Sankalp Taru under Operation SITI Shield, which is planting 200,000 trees across Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi
- GIWA is also working with the government, faith organizations, and schools to inspire and provide support for additional plantations across the nation.
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-bourne 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.
Now in its third year, our WaterSchool Programme, in partnership with Swarovski, has impacted countless lives in Uttarakhand. In less than two years:

21 Schools Have Received New WASH Facilities Such as Toilets, Water Cisterns and Handwashing Stations

10,065 Students Have Been Educated in Their Classrooms in Two Years

2137 Children in 15 Schools Now Have Clean Water Filtration Systems

26 Community and River Clean-Up Programmes Have Been Conducted in Two Years

13 Student Health Camps Conducted in One Year
World Toilet College Educates Over 4,000 People

In just the 2017-2018 Class Season Alone:

2,356 Number of People Were Directly Educated by our Professional Educators

66 Number of Classes, Mobilizations/Outreach Programme and Multi-Day Workshops Held

752 Pradhans, Teachers and Community Leaders from Bihar Educated as Sanitation Ambassadors and Masons

1,613 World Toilet College Participants Educated in Uttarakhand

105 Men and Women Were Educated in Toilet Building/Masonry
GIWA is very proud to be partnering with UNICEF India on a beautiful campaign to raise up girls everywhere. Today, nearly 200,000 signatures have been 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.
The Programmes of the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance

Over the next pages, learn about our many programmes for a cleaner, greener, more water-secure 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.
Imagine if all the toilets were taken away from the people of the United States, Russia, England and Australia combined. The resulting mess and rise of disease would be staggering.

Amazingly, this is less than the number of people who are not using toilets in India.

Due much in part to this, India leads the world in the number of children under the age of 5 who die every year. It also leads the world in the sheer number of people who don’t have access to clean water. Some 80% of India’s waters are contaminated by human waste.

Sadly, much of the reason behind India’s open-defecation crisis is that people, quite simply, don’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 is required in order to ensure healthy, sustainable Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for nearly half of India’s population.

Our compelling faith-based Swachhta Kranti (Clean Revolution) campaign has been designed to do 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 already 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.
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 wherever 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.
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 is bringing renewed hope for the nation, enabling challenges to be addressed 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. Added together, the poor WASH conditions of India result in a stunning loss of $53.8 billion in economic activity, or about 6.8% of its GDP.

Located within the large campus of GIWA’s Secretariat, the World Toilet College was launched in 2015 in partnership with GIWA, the World Toilet Organization and RB. Today, it is providing the knowledge and skills necessary towards directly addressing India’s pressing sanitation needs.

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, Swachh Bharat.

Through its many classes and workshops, the World Toilet College is serving to usher forth fascinating discussions covering the gamut of sanitation discourse: from hands-on evaluations of natural and conventional toilet and sewage management systems, to low- to high-tech cleaning methods, to the latest findings in behaviour change communications and community triggering and beyond.
Lohiya Swachh Bihar @LSBA_Bihar • 8h
@LSBA_Bihar is pleased to collaborate with GIWA @wash_alliance towards Capacity Building of its #ZSJP & District Coordinators in their beautiful Parmath Niketan Ashram, Rishikesh for a #SwachhBihar. @swachhbhарат @IPRD_Bihar

WASH Alliance @wash_alliance
Unity in action! #Bihar #ZSJP’s & State Coordinators chant for a @swachhbharat during GIWA’s 3-Day Capacity Development training pgm @ParmarthNiketan, Rishikesh. @PMOIndia @narendramodi @umasribharti ...
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.
The Solution is in an Entrepreneurial Revolution: A WASH revolution is brewing 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 will 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 will also be trained to build hand-washing stations and sell other WASH necessities that will reduce the number of children who suffer unnecessarily from deadly WASH-related diseases.

A Model Proven by Past Successes
Case studies have 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 is launching in some of the mountainous state's most disadvantaged areas. Here, women are coming 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 will 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.
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.
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 is working 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.
Countless 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.
Women who were widowed by the tragic floods are being granted new hope and new opportunities to earn a livelihood through our Vocational Programme in the high Himalayas.

Through its Interfaith Humanitarian Network Programme, GIWA works with partners such as Ganga Action Parivar, IHRF and the Divine Shakti Foundation 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 is providing vocational skills training and women’s empowerment programs, to enable devastated populations to return to self-sufficiency. These include water-saving organic farming training in construction and the production of water filters, vocational classes in schools, a special cow initiative and more. In such a way, livelihoods are being rebuilt in harmony with the local culture, poverty is being reduced, and WASH is improved.
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.
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

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

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 Bhagawatiji

Global Inspiration for Improved WASH and a Sustainable World
Pujya Swamiji presents HH Pope Francis with a “Green Mala” as a gift from GIWA in honour of HH Pope Francis’ commitment 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

Sadhvi Bhagawatiji 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.

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

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.

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

Pujya Swamiji with former President of the United States of America, Bill Clinton, at the World Economic Forum.
Pujya Swamiji signs the Declaration on behalf of religions leaders for action to mitigate climate change. It was presented to the United Nations Secretary General, at the Climate Change Conference organized by Religions for Peace and the World Council of Churches.

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.

United Religions Initiative Founder/President Bishop Rt. Rev. Bill Swing, Bishop of California, Rt. Rev. Marc Handley Andrus and URI Executive Director, Victor Kazanjian

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

Hon'ble Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Shri Prakash Javadekar and Pujya Swamiji discuss a Clean Revolution for India

Hon'ble Union Minister of Railways, Shri Suresh Prabhu and Pujya Swamiji discuss the cleaning and greening of India’s renowned railroad system

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
Pujya Swamiji discusses sustainability issues and GIWA’s White Papers with Hon’ble Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, Union Law Minister

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

Discussing approaches for a clean, green, serene and healthy India with Hon’ble Union Minister of Health, Dr. Harsh Vardhan

Hon’ble Union Minister for Rural Development and Agriculture, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, faith leaders and children perform a GIWA Water Blessing Ceremony at GIWA’s Worship for WASH Summit in Ladakh

Pujya Swamiji welcomes HE, Ambassador Kenneth Ian Juster of the United States of America, to GIWA’s Secretariat of Parmarth Niketan

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

Download GIWA’s Policy Discussion Papers at www.WashAlliance.org
What the Leaders Say About Us

“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

“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

“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
“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

“I have had the great joy of knowing HH Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji for many years. His message and teachings are truly universal, beyond borders of caste, colour or creed. I am also indeed happy to know that this message of oneness and togetherness is being spread all around the world.
- Hon’ble Union Defense Minister of India, Shri Rajnath Singh

“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

“I thank Pujya Swamiji on behalf of the Government of India for taking up this issue of sanitation amongst faith leaders... Faith leaders can touch people's lives in a way that governments cannot. They can influence behaviour regarding both temples and toilets.”
- Hon’ble Union Minister for Rural Development and Agriculture of India, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar

“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
Dear Divine Souls,

I'll never forget the day the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance was founded in my mind.

I was walking alongside the beautiful banks of the River Ganga (Ganges), only to find few places to step, because everywhere I looked, there was human waste. Some 400 million people at the time were 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.

Today, India is undergoing a WASH crisis that is largely responsible for the deaths of more children under the age of five than anywhere else in the world. Yet, India isn't alone in its WASH woes. Worldwide, some 2.6 billion people don't have toilets and 780 million people don't have access to improved 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 religions to embrace improved WASH as essential for their lives. This is because, as I like to say, the world is a faithful one, where over 83 percent of all people practice 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 a Clean Revolution: a WASH Revolution for the benefit of all.

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

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

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