CONTENTS

- Who We Are – Pg. 3
- Vision – Pg. 4
- Mission – Pg. 4-5
- Our Founder – Pg. 5
- Background on GAP: International and Interfaith Initiative Pg. 6-8
- GAP Serves for Green Rehabilitation of Uttarakhand-pg. 9-10
- National Ganga Rights Act – Pg. 10
- Policy-makers & Ganga Action Parivar – Pg. 11-15
- Events and activities – Pg. 16-26

Celebrating Ganga Action Parivar through the Years
WHO WE ARE

Ganga Action Parivar (GAP) is a global family of professionals, engineers, scientists, activists, spiritual leaders, environmental specialists and dedicated sevaks (volunteers) dedicated to the preservation of the River Ganga and Her tributaries in their free-flowing and pristine, natural state and to the protection of over 500 million people who are dependent upon Ganga’s clean waters for their lives and livelihoods.

On April 4th, 2010 by the hands of H.H. the Dalai Lama, H.H. Swami Chidanand Saraswati, former Deputy Prime Minister Hon’ble Shri L.K. Advani, former Chief Minister of Uttarakhand Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank, former Chief Minister of Uttarakhand Major General B.C. Khanduri and many revered saints and dignitaries, Ganga Action Parivar was officially launched at Parmarth Niketan Ashram in Rishikesh at a special “Sparsh Ganga” (“Divine Touch of Ganga”) function, an event to raise awareness about the need for collective and holistic, solution-based action to address the crucial issues facing the holy river. Since then, hundreds of supporters and family members have been mobilized, coming together to find solutions to the problems facing Ganga and Her tributaries.
VISION
We envision a clean River Ganga and all her tributaries with the constitutional right to flow uninhibited and to be protected from waste and pollution. We educate and inspire current and future generations in the value of stewardship across India and the world by working closely with a network of individuals, organizations, NGOs, religious leaders and their congregations, as well as local, state and national governments.

MISSION/ OBJECTIVES
• To engage in research, collect & compile information, programs, activities, schemes and service and to develop Research, Information, Knowledge and other Centers and Museum dedicate to River Ganga.
• To restore, protect and maintain River Ganga and Her tributaries in their free-flowing and unpolluted state. And to work towards solving problems related to the river’s pollution, obstruction and other issues affecting the entire Ganga Basin.
• To prevent future solid waste pollution into Ganga with plans for reusing, recycling and development of biodegradable alternatives.
• To collect and dispose solid waste at its sources so as to prevent it from entering Ganga or Her tributaries in an eco-friendly manner.
• To work out a solid-waste management plan for various pilgrimage sites in India including Chardham and especially those affecting River Ganga and other sacred rivers of India
• To effectively manage wastewater and sewage from entering River Ganga and her tributaries.
• To restore flora and fauna aligning the River’s banks
• To research and develop visible plans of energy sources other than hydropower so as not to disrupt the flow of the Ganga.
• To prevent alternative eco-friendly plans which do not result in deforestation or pollution of the River and the Himalayas.
• To research and implement plans that prevent agriculture toxic, chemical run-off from entering Ganga and her tributaries.
• To plan mass education programs of farmers in the methods of sustainable, organic farming especially for ones directly associated with River Ganga and her tributaries
• To beautify and renovate pilgrimage locations along River Ganga and other sites in eco-friendly and sustainable ways
• To identify the needs and design and implement programs to support those who live on the banks of Mother Ganga.
• To raise awareness of the importance of River Ganga in the life and livelihoods of Indians and others.
• To support and promote cooperation and association among people and other organization who are genuinely interested in the objectives of this Trust without any discrimination.

OUR FOUNDER

H.H. Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji GAP), a worldwide family of scientists, engineers, specialists, volunteers and devotees who are dedicated to working to make Mother Ganga’s waters not only nirmal (clean) but also aviral (free-flowing). Uniting people from across India and across the world in the service of Mother Ganga Pujya Swamiji has given a new direction to this crucial crisis (www.gangaaction.org).

Led and founded by Pujya Swamiji’s vision, dedication and leadership, Ganga Action Parivar has been working continuously under the Project Hope umbrella from day one of the tragic Uttarakhand floods of June 2013, when the rivers rose higher than they had in over 100 years. The initiative strives to inspire all stakeholders to come together as one team with one theme—serving to provide relief, green rehabilitation and sustainable reconstruction for the survivors of the Himalayan Tsunami. (www.projecthope-india.org).

To learn more about our founder, click here: http://www.gangaaction.org/pujya-swamiji/
GAP’S GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Inspired, led and guided by the divine vision and example of Pujya Swamiji, GAP is rooted in three basic principles and values:

- Only Mother Ganga is the centre and the head of this family, GAP has no other President or Head. Every member of GAP therefore works as a Ganga Parivar Sevak (GPS) (dedicated volunteer) to protect Her.
- With the spirit of Vashudheva Kutubhakam, or one world family, serving with the spirit of giving more and taking less—we strive to become more like the Ganga who gives, gives and gives with no discrimination, no expectation, no hesitation and no vacation.
- Much time and energy has been spent in criticizing the system and the previous plans but today we must acknowledge our important and collective role in the solution not the pollution. We agree to own our individual and collective social responsibility and become a better, more efficient system.

GAP BRIDGES THE GAP

There have been various plans and much investment that has gone into massive river restoration efforts, such as Ganga Action Plan Phase 1-3 undertaken by the Government of India, which while well intentioned still leave the river and its tributaries polluted and obstructed, as a result countless lives every year are lost due to waterborne illness and other diseases. Ganga Action Parivar believes that unlike Ganga Action Plan the shift from Plan to Parivar (sense of family) leads to an increased sense of inclusiveness and cooperation between all sectors of society. In doing so, Ganga Action Parivar bridges the previous gaps formed from previous efforts and brings together everyone in mutually beneficial, win-win solutions that satisfy the needs and requirements of the various stakeholders, working on the Gandhian value that there is enough to meet everyone’s needs but not enough for even one man’s greed.
ALLIANCES AND PARTNERSHIPS

With the power of ‘each one, reaching ten,’ GAP has formed alliances and partnerships with various established and reputed organizations to spread its wings, welcoming more and more to be part of this world family. Some of our partners include but are not limited to DRDO, FICCI and Organic India amongst many others. GAP has also joined with international organizations such as the Alliance of Religions in Conservation, the Wockhardt Foundation, the Global Citizens Forum, Jacob Soetendorp Institute for Human Values and many others to share, create and apply innovative solutions to the world’s environmental and social challenges.

GAP’s diverse partnerships and alliances are motivated by the strong believe that Mother Ganga is an ambassador for the environment and the welfare of humanity-- a true world heritage bringing people from all over the nation and the world to be on its banks. GAP is also expanding to collaborate with many other river restoration movements around the world such as the Thames, Amazon, Colorado, Rio, Jordan and others to exchange viable solutions and ideas that can help restore and protect all rivers and our precious environment for it is the true heritage and bounty that we can pass on to the future generations.
INTERFAITH INITIATIVE

GAP believes that it is no longer enough for the world’s religious leaders to instruct their followers in tolerance, acceptance and non-violence. In the 21st century, far more people will lose their lives due to lack of clean drinking water, lack of nourishing food and a polluted environment than by violence through guns or bombs. Therefore, the role of religious leaders must expand to include exhorting their followers to live mindfully, consciously and in accordance with a sustainable future. They must emphasize to their followers the importance of protecting and preserving our Earth’s natural resources.

GAP, therefore, is a strong interfaith and international environmental movement with leaders of the world’s top religions—Hinduism, Jainism, Sikhism, Islam, Christianity, Judaism and Bahai from India and from across the world—being respected and esteemed patrons who are committed to joining together to discuss the crucial role that religious/spiritual leaders need to play in protecting and preserving our environment, especially a world heritage and lifeline of millions such as Mother Ganga, for the safety and security of humanity. In this way, GAP is bridging the chasms between organizations and diverse faith groups to realize that we must worship our own but respect all and pledge to support each other and to promote clean and green initiatives and actions in our everyday lives and within our communities.
GAP SERVES FOR GREEN REHABILITATION OF UTTARAKHAND

In June 2013, flash floods caused the height of the Ganga River to rise to levels unseen in the last 100 years, devastating Uttarakhand’s Himalayan region and taking the lives of thousands of men, women and children. Hotels, businesses, homes, towns and villages lining the river's banks collapsed, while others were torn apart or crushed by landslides. Roads were destroyed and bridges shattered, causing cars and buses full of people to plummet from steep mountainsides.

As a direct response, Ganga Action Parivar under the umbrella of Project Hope—founded, led and guided by HH Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji—brought together organizations, 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.

One of Ganga Action Parivar’s missions and objectives is to protect and preserve the lives and livelihoods of those living along the River Ganga and Her tributaries as well as the flora, fauna and pilgrimage sites along the riverbed. The Himalayan Tsunami was understood as an ultimatum from Mother Ganga—a warning to change our ways of unsustainable development, massive deforestation, over-extraction, over-exploitation of the River’s waters. It was also a beautiful opportunity to lead the path to a new and green vision of the Upper Ganga River Basin, one that preserves, protects and nourishes the origin and source of the national river.
Since the floods, Ganga Action Parivar-Project Hope’s focus includes empowering schools with green initiatives and safe construction techniques. GAP is also working towards enabling the vision for clean water and fruit plantations in schools, to protect and nurture the health of Uttarakhand’s children as well as the health of their environment. In addition, Project Hope is promoting zero-budget organic farming and a special 3G (Gau, Ganga Gauri) initiative and providing a green vision for the devastated region so that sustainable development can take place in harmony with the environment and Mother Ganga.

**GAP ADVOCATES FOR A COMPREHENSIVE NATIONAL GANGA RIGHTS ACT**

The National Ganga Rights Movement, which is being spearheaded by Ganga Action Parivar, is promoting the National Ganga Rights Act to protect and restore one of the world’s most precious and beloved river systems.

The National Ganga Rights was drafted by GAP and CELDF, which was responsible for the drafting of the world’s first Constitutional Chapter on the Rights of Nature (for the nation of Equador). The Act is the first legislation drafted in India that places access to water and sanitation in a rights based legal framework, which includes mandating open-defecation-free zones in order to protect the aquifer and hundreds of millions of lives.

The draft was publically announced by the hands of the then Governor of the state of Uttar Pradesh (population 200 million), HE Shri B.L. Joshi and the then Union Minister of Water Resources, Shri Harish Rawat, who is now the Chief Minister of the state of Uttarakhand. The Act is currently being reviewed by India’s foremost policy makers. It can be found at www.gangarights.org. Be sure to visit and add your name in support of this important cause! Ganga has the right to flow in Her clean, pristine form. Ganga’s Rights are Our Rights.
GAP INSPIRES POLICY MAKERS AND LEADERS WITH A GREEN VISION

Green Gift to President of India

During the presentation ceremony of the International Edition of the Encyclopedia of Hinduism at the Rashtrapati Bhavan (Presidential House), Pujya Swamiji spread the green message of Ganga Action Parivar by giving His Excellency the Hon’ble President of India a sacred rudraksh tree to symbolize that the need of the hour was to turn our celebrations into green celebrations. He also briefly shared with HE the numerous projects that were being lead by Ganga Action Parivar to clean and green the banks of Mother Ganga and to ensure that the national river flows freely and unpolluted.

Founder of GAP meets India's former President Dr. Abdul Kalamji

Pujya Swamiji met with His Excellency the Former President of India Dr. Abdul Kalamji recently to discuss the service initiatives undertaken by Ganga Action Parivar in Uttarakhand and other states of Northern India to clean and protect the waters of Mother Ganga and Her tributaries for the approximately 500 million Indians who depend upon this water for their very lives and livelihoods. Dr. Abdul Kalamji was deeply inspired and supportive of GAP's tireless efforts.

Prince Charles and Duchess Camilla Take the Green Pledge on the banks of Ganga

Their Royal Highnesses, Charles, Prince of Wales and Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, paid an official visit to Parmarth Niketan Ashram, Rishikesh for the divine Ganga Aarti ceremony as the first destination of their nine-day visit to India. They took part in a special prayer
that all people across the world should have access to safe and sufficient water. They also took part in a short prayer in homage to those who had lost their lives, loved ones, homes, villages, livelihoods and hopes in the tragic Uttarakhand floods this past June.

In alignment with the mission of Ganga Action Parivar, Pujya Swamiji offered their Royal Highnesses a sacred tree sapling as a symbol of the trees being planted in the Himalayas, and a beautiful container of water from the source of the Ganges.

Pujya Swamiji said, "His Royal Highness, Prince Charles, is a 'Green' Prince who been emphasizing the importance of environmental protection for many wonderful years. Through his vision, leadership and 'Green' programs, not only Great Britain, but the entire world, continues to be uplifted and inspired."

As Pujya Swamiji further explained, "Too many people worship the Creator, but forget the Creation. Here, we are dedicated to worshipping and serving both the Creator and Creation. I spent my life dedicated to building temples. Now, however, I am dedicated to building toilets, providing safe-water, and planting trees. Proper sanitation and hygiene and a clean environment purifies our body, which is also a temple. Additionally, in bringing more trees to our world, we are able to help it to flourish through increased oxygen, fruit, and shade. Trees and water are ever-giving sources of life, which should be revered and protected. This was a key message throughout the evening's events."

Pujya Swami and Shri Nitin Gadkari discuss Green Ganga

Pujya Swamiji met with Shri Nitin Gadkari, the Hon’ble Minister for the Government of India of Roads, Transport, Shipping and Highways as well as Rural Development. Shri Nitin Gadkari agreed with Pujya Swamiji’s emphasis on the vital importance of a Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Revolution in India, and they both expressed great joy at the Hon’ble Prime Minister’s vision of a Clean India. Pujya Swamiji shared that Ganga Action Parivar has been working tirelessly to raise awareness on solid waste management.
and hosting regular and large scale clean-ups to inspire people to turn their lives clean, green and serene. GAP has been working tirelessly to raise awareness and inspire the construction of bio-toilets, promoting zero-waste technologies that protect the national river. They also discussed ways in which costs can be reduced so that every village and school in India could be equipped with one.

**Pujya Swamiji meets with Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singhji**

Pujya Swamiji met with Hon’ble Union Home Minister, Shri Rajnath Singhji, soon after His return from abroad. He shared with him the many suggestions and solutions that Ganga Action Parivar had gathered from their family of experts, scholars, scientists, engineers, environmentalists and dedicated volunteers, presenting GAP’s White Papers as summaries of these crucial issues and solutions. Pujya Swamiji also discussed the plans of Gomti Action Parivar towards raising awareness and revitalizing the River Gomti as a model of a pristine and free-flowing tributary of Mother Ganga. The Hon’ble Home Minister was deeply impressed by Pujya Swamiji’s divine vision and leadership and extended his support in these noble endeavors.

**Pujya Swamiji and Prakash Javadekerji discusses restoring Ganga**

Pujya Swamiji met with Shri Prakash Javadekarji, the Hon’ble Minister of Environment and Forests, Information Technology and Broadcasting, and discussed the various technologies that could be utilized to clean up the sacred River Ganga. He shared about boats designed to patrol the banks of rivers, eating up and segregating the solid waste and liquid waste from the fresh water. The discussed
how these technologies were functional in other parts of the world and could be utilized in the first phase of the Clean Ganga plan to illustrate immediate results.

**GAP’s Green Initiative for Uma Bhartiji**

Pujya Swamiji met with Uma Shri Bhartiji, the Hon’ble Minister of Water Resources and Ganga Rejuvenation, Government of India, sharing with her the concrete solutions and technologies that Ganga Action Parivar (GAP) had gathered in the last few years for waste water management, solid waste management, agricultural management, ecological management and alternative energy. He said that the Ganga Action Parivar was ready to serve and support the government in implementing a comprehensive plan for Ganga, including a grand plan, with changes at the policy level, as well as the ground plan, to involve and engage the ownership of all stakeholders. He spoke to her in detail of how each Green Corridors could be developed as green zones with organic farming, tree plantation, in situ plant based management as well as so much more. On the occasion a sacred Bhel Patra sapling was also planted at UmaShriji’s residence as a symbol of Pujya Swamiji’s divine blessings to her so that her service should grow and give life the way that a tree gives life. Since the Bhel Patra is a sacred tree, one that symbolizes the union of the holy trinity of creation, sustenance and destruction, so to may her impact bring life back to India’s most sacred river, ensuring the divine balance of these three forces continue to nourish and flow through the waters of Mother Ganga.
Pujya Swamiji discusses Green Schools with Smt. Smriti Irani

Pujya Swamiji met with Smt Smriti Irani, Hon’ble Minister of Human Resource Development, Government of India. He spoke to her about the need for every school to incorporate green values into their curriculum and daily activities. He shared that every school across India must be equipped with basic facilities and green technologies, such as bio-toilets and bio-sand filters, ensuring provision for clean water and adequate sanitation and hygiene facilities which are key to improving our children’s quality of education. These technologies could be developed in a hands-on way in which the local community is engaged and involved in the actual creation process so that they not only earn livelihoods but also feel strong sense of ownership towards the maintenance of the facilities. Pujya Swamiji also shared with her the program that Ganga Action Parivar and the Divine Shakti Foundation are instituting under His leadership and guidance of a "Mid-Day Fruit Programme" where fruit trees are planted in the schools by the students. Pujya Swamiji inspired her with the idea that this should be done in every school as an innovative and simple action to help combat malnutrition, global warming, soil erosion and air pollution.
EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

World Water Day Celebration
(March 2014)

United Nations World Water Day was celebrated in a colourful, thoughtful and festive ceremony at Parmarth Niketan Ashram by participants from around the world. The celebrations, organized by the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance and Ganga Action Parivar, were dedicated to the theme of saving energy to save water.

Ganga Action Parivar’s Yogis for Ganga Pledge
(March 2014)

Ganga Action Parivar organizes Yogis from more than 50 nations join hands in historic declaration, clean-up Mother Ganga and say, “Ganga’s Rights are Our Rights!”, during Parmarth Niketan’s world-famous annual International Yoga Festival.

HH Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji said, “Yogis from around the world have come together today to declare that the River Ganga is a global treasure which should be kept in a clean, green, free-flowing state for all. Far too many travellers are seeing Mother Ganga’s waters tainted with sewage, trash and toxic chemicals. They are witnessing dry rocks where She once serenely flowed. Now is the time to plant trees, to stop polluting, to be the change. It’s something each one of us can so easily do, and if we all do this together, enormous transformations can be achieved. Today you are all now Yogis for Ganga!” During the event, a historic “Yogi’s for Ganga Declaration” to Protect the Ganga River was endorsed by hundreds of participants.
Said Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji, “All rivers connect to the seas, which connect to all continents. Just as yoga is for everyone, so is the Ganga. Water means life. It is what builds societies and holds us all together. Without water, there can be no life. That is why all rivers in all nations must also be revered and protected.”

**Ganga Movement Annual conference**
*(March 2014)*

In honour of the 84th Anniversary of Gandhiji’s Dandi March in the form of a Save Ganga & Save Himalayas Meeting-cum-Panel Discussion took place in Gandhi Darsan, Rajghat, New Delhi on 12th March, 2014. It brought together organizations devoted to serving for the restoration and protection of Mother Ganga such as the Ganga Action Parivar, Save Ganga Movement and included the participation of a number of different institutions. The meeting brought together revered religious leaders, dedicated experts and volunteers to reflect and have a critical discussion over the issue of what short-term and long-term time-bound course of actions we must take to save the Ganga symbolizing all rivers and water bodies and the Giriraj Himalayas, symbolizing all mountains forests and wildlife.

**Make Ganga your green Valentine**
*(February 2014)*

As people around the world celebrate Valentine’s Day this week with gifts of chocolate and roses, as symbols of their love and devotion, it is the perfect time to renew our commitment to our Mother Ganga and Mother Nature. Children all over the world will make Valentine’s Day cards for their mothers. On the banks of Mother Ganga in Rishikesh, Pujya Swamiji inspired everyone to dedicate this Valentine’s Day, not only to their loved ones, but also to the divine and unconditional love that Mother Nature showers us with every day.
Foundation stone laying of bio-toilet marked with a green pledge
(January 2014)

Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji, President of Parmarth Niketan and Founder of Ganga Action Parivar (GAP) and Global Interfaith WASH Alliance-India, inspired Vivek Oberoi, famous Bollywood actor and humanitarian, to lay the first foundation stones for the bio-toilet complex in LMS Degree College (Rishikesh). The bio-toilet is part of GAP's 6T's (Toilets, Trees, Taps, Trash, Tracks and Tigers) Programme.

Bio-sand water filter training
(January 2014)

With the leadership, vision and blessing of Pujya Swamiji, the South Asia Pure Water Initiative (SAPWII), Friendly Water for the World (FWFW), Ganga Action Parivar (GAP) and Global Interfaith WASH Alliance (GIWA) joined together under the Project Hope umbrella as one team with one theme: to provide clean drinking water to all.

International Green Vision Conference (December, 2013)

Eminent environmentalists, scientists, revered spiritual-religious leaders, dedicated members of the civil society and affected members of local population and esteemed members of administration came together in a conference organized by Ganga Action Parivar, Parmarth Niketan, GIWA-India and Navdanya, to
share their experience, expertise and vision to pave the path to a Green Uttarakhand. The focus of the discussions was how to transform the recent tragic Himalayan Tsunami into an opportunity to develop sustainable, eco-friendly ways of growing in concert with the environment, thereby transforming a bane into a boon for the sacred and beautiful land of the Himalayas. The event was initiated, led, guided and blessed by H.H. Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji, President of Parmarth Niketan and Founder of GIWA-India and Ganga Action Parivar.

**GAP is Honoured for Uttarakhand Relief Efforts (December, 2013)**

The Hon’ble Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, Shri Vijay Bahugunaji and Hon’ble Chairman of Revenue Control Board, Shri SK Muttooji called together a special meeting to honour the NGOs and institutions that have served during the wake of the Uttarakhand disaster to provide immediate and long term relief. They also gave a vote of thanks for the dedication and the services that these members of the civil society were providing to rehabilitate and restore the affected villages and schools in the third phase of the relief activities. Ganga Action Parivar-Project Hope was specially honoured and lauded for its remarkable and dedicated services in the crisis as well as striving to bring together members of the civil society to work as one team with one theme.

**Pujya Swamiji in Vienna for Global Forum (November, 2013)**

Pujya Swamiji participated in the Global Forum in Vienna, Austria of KAICIID (King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz International Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue).
More than 600 religious leaders, policy makers, and social leaders from all the world’s major
religions. Pujya Swamiji, founder of Ganga Action Parivar gave a moving address and called
for all interfaith leaders to not only worship the Creator but His creation as well. He
explained that the pollution of our rivers, our sacred fresh water bodies, the desecration of
our fields with chemicals and pesticides and global warming affect each one of us,
regardless of our caste and creed, race and religion and explained that the time has come
that we work as one family to address these challenges.

**GAP Inspires Hope in Parodi (November, 2013)**

Ganga Action Parivar-Project Hope volunteers worked with the villagers of Parodi and the
Project Hope team brought the first light of hope to the village just before the auspicious
festival of Diwali. The first entry level activity of the village, the owner driven, green restoration
of the community temple say its completion just before Diwali and will be open to the public
very soon as an example of what can happen when we serve together as one team with one
theme.

**GAP and Gurukul Parivar Connect (November, 2013)**

At the auspicious commencement of a
seven day Satsang Sadhana Shivir held at
Parmarth Niketan (Rishikesh). Pujya
Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji, President of
Parmarth Niketan and Founder of Ganga
Action Parivar, Pujya Sri Madhavpriyadas
Swamiji and Pujya Sri Balkrishan Swamiji
and Pujya Sri Bhaktivatsal Swamiji and
many other revered saints blessed the shivir with their words of wisdom and call to action. They emphasized that it was time that participants took this beautiful wisdom and apply it in the service of humanity and the environment.

Gurukul Parivar and Ganga Action Parivar took a pledge to strengthen this connection and to preserve and protect our values and culture by establishing four Ved Dhams in which all of the children of Uttarakhand and of the world can have the opportunity to learn, immerse and be inspired by the culture that has taught us that the whole world is our family and that the preservation and protection of the five elements and our ecology is critical to peace of our nations and our communities. The two organizations also plan to work together as one team with one theme- to provide relief and green rehabilitation to the survivors of the recent floods in Uttarakhand.

**Organic India and Earth Organization join GAP (October, 2013)**

Founder and President of Organic India, Bharat Mitraji and President of Earth Organization, Barbara Wisemen visit Pujya Swamiji to discuss plans to bring back organic, herbal and hut culture to the holy banks of Mother Ganga. Amongst the many important points of discussion were:

1) Green rehabilitation of the state of Uttarakhand by offering organic, herbal seeds and plants. Training of Himalayan farmers and offering buy-back programmes that take the produce made in the sacred land of the Himalayas and share the natural wealth and the wellness with the nation and world.

2) An organic greening pilot plan to be started on the Gomti River in Lucknow to illustrate a success model to be followed all along the banks of rivers in India and the world.

3) Bringing experts, scientists and creative minds to co-create innovative solutions to combat the challenges facing our environment and offer exciting opportunities for our communities to work together and come together.
Lawyers Pledge for Ganga (October, 2013)  

Pujya Swamiji addressed the over three hundred advocates, lawyers, and judges of the All India Federation of Tax Practitioners (AIFTP) (North Zone) about the vital and crucial role of spirituality in the tax profession.

The renowned and esteemed delegates were so inspired by the vast service projects, programmes and innovative ideas that have blossomed and thrived under Pujya Swamiji’s divine vision and leadership that they have all pledged to return back again and again. They are also eager to contribute to the cause of keeping our rivers clean and green as well as the crucial role of environmental preservation in individual, community and world peace. Pujya Swamiji, also the Founder of Ganga Action Parivar, has been speaking with the advocates and judges on ways that the judiciary can help ensure that ALL Indians have the right to access to clean, safe and sufficient water for drinking, bathing, cooking and irrigating their fields, and also to ensure that Mother Ganga and our other rivers have the right to flow freely and cleanly in their natural state of pristine beauty.

Historic declaration for safe guarding rivers by M S R community (October 2013)  

Approximately a 1000 journalists from across India and nations abroad pledged their commitment to work towards ensuring a clean and free-flowing Ganga River in history’s first Media Social Responsibility Declaration. The Declaration urges specific and immediate actions from the Central and State Governments to preserve the sanctity and cleanliness of the River Ganga and its tributaries. The journalists acknowledged the crucial responsibility that the media bears in the national and international pursuit of keeping vital water sources, especially life-giving rivers, free-
flowing and unpolluted. The historic Declaration was presented by Pujya Swamiji to Shri B.L. Joshi, the Hon’ble Governor of Uttar Pradesh and to Shri Harish Rawatji, the Respected Minister for Water Resources, Government of India. Later in the evening, the media fraternity signed the written declaration to be presented to the Hon’ble Prime Minister of India.

**Launching of Global Interface Wash Alliance (GIWA) (September 2013)**

Ganga Action Parivar and the Jacob Soentendorp Institute for Human Values officially launched and co-founded Global Interfaith WASH Alliance as the world’s first initiative to bring together India’s revered interfaith leaders, as well as captains of industry, political luminaries, top entertainers and representatives from NGOs, foundations and international bodies such as the United Nations to work together-as one family- for the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Revolution, ensuring that not only does every child survive but also that he/she can thrive.

**Thinking Globally, Acting locally - International Ozone day (September 2013)**

In observation of the International Ozone Day, members of Ganga Action Parivar (GAP) and Himalaya Vahini came together for a collective clean and green campaign at the Triveni Ghat in Rishikesh. It was an initiative that illustrated the power of thinking globally and acting locally. GAP believes that if our communities and families focus on cleaning up their surroundings and greening their localities they not only preserve their environment, improve their own well-being, secure the planet for our future generations but also promote green tourism/livelihoods, inviting and attracting people from all over the world from their success model.
Gomti clean up and tree plantation in Lucknow  
(August 2013)

Thousands of students and youth from many of Lucknow’s schools and universities lined the banks of the River Gomti to form a human chain—symbolizing that they stood together as one from any different faiths and backgrounds. It also symbolized that united and by working together they could address their cities major challenges and serve to restore a free-flowing and unpolluted River Gomti— their cities main source of fresh water.

Ganga samvad in New Delhi (June 2013)

On the 5th June, the World Environment Day, a special Ganga Samvaad (an open dialogue) event was organized by Life OK, the popular Indian television channel, at the Siri Fort Auditorium in New Delhi. The event brought together spiritual leaders, important media persons, journalists, celebrities and policymakers on a common platform to continue the deliberations upon the current state of the river and the need for ground-level contribution by citizens.

National Ganga Yamuna workshop  
(May 2013)

Ganga Action Parivar, Parmarth Niketan, Sarva Dharma Sansad, Green Pilgrimage Network, The Clean Ganga Initiative, World Conscious Pact and many other organizations inaugurated a two-day National Workshop to find and implement innovative and effective solutions and suggestions to address the challenges
that face the National River Ganga. The workshop was led by H.H. Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji, founder of Ganga Action Parivar and President of Parmarth Niketan, who has been working tirelessly for over a decade to bring together all different sectors of society to address the crucial human and ecological crisis our nation faces with our over-exploited and over-polluted sacred River Ganga. This particular two-day workshop brought together some of the most eminent and dedicated experts, scientists, and professionals to address critical issues faced in the waste-water solid waste, agriculture, energy and ecological management of the Ganga River Basin (GRB). By coming together all sectors of society are committing to taking the first steps to making the GRB clean and green once again.

**Agreement for Yamuna with ministers of water resources and environment (March 2013)**

For three days, high level meetings took place with the Ministry of Water Resources, Ministry of Environment, pad yatris from Vrinadavan/Braj area, representatives of the union of farmers and other concerned parties over the dire situation with the Yamuna river. The meetings and discussions made a way forward as historic agreements were reached regarding Yamuna.
GAP at the Kumbha Mela
(January 2013)

With the divine inspiration and leadership of Pujya Swamiji efforts were made to make the first-ever ‘Green Initiatives’ Kumbha Mela. Ganga Action Parivar in partnership with Allahabad’s NGO’s, schools, institutions and ministry took up the ‘Green Kumbh Initiative.’ This was the first of its kind program designed to beautify the grounds of the Kumbh and its environs while protecting the health and the well-being of festival attendees.

Ganga Action Parivar and Parmarth Niketan had spent nearly two months in the Kumbha Mela (Allahabad) raising awareness amongst the masses about thinking and acting in a way that is in line with a cleaner and greener future. GAP raised awareness and education about the importance of being ‘green’; thus inspiring and motivating festival-goers from all over the world to become stewards of the environment around them as well as spreading technologies like eco-friendly bio-toilets, efficient water filtration systems and so much more. GAP’s green actions included massive tree plantation, clean-ups during every major snan and dialogues between all stakeholders on how to be stewards of our environment. To learn more about the Ganga Action Parivar’s countless, inspiring and innovative activities during the largest gathering of humanity, please read our Kumbha Mela Newsletter.