

# 'Amma' Gives \$30 Million to Clean India, Ganga Programs

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Kollam, Kerala: Sri Mata Amritanandamayi has announced \$30 million for construction of toilets in the poorest villages surrounding the Ganges River, as part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Swachh Bharat, or Clean India, and Namami Gange, or Clean Ganges, missions.

The spiritual leader, popularly known as Amma, last week presented a check for \$15 million to Finance Minister Arun Jaitley. A second \$15 million funding plan is to be announced later in the month, at Amma's birthday celebrations.

"This project will provide much-needed amenities to those who truly need them," said Amma. "Along with construction, education is also required. The villagers need to be taught that open defecation leads to water and soil pollution, which further contaminates food and leads to many types of parasitic infections."

Embracing the World, an international charitable organization engaged in a variety of efforts to relieve poverty and suffering in communities around the world, will run an educational program to raise awareness.

The Clean India Mission aims to provide sanitary toilets to more than 60 million homes by 2019. According to the World Bank, nearly 600 million Indians have no access to toilets.



Amma

Spiritual leader Mata Amritanandamayi Devi (Amma).