

The Annual Arsha Vidya Tirtha, Jaipur spiritual camp at Rishikesh



The Annual Arsha Vidya Tirtha, Jaipur spiritual camp was held at Rishikesh Ashrama from June 2-8, 2013 under the auspices of Swami Brahmaparananda Saraswatiji. About 100 devotees from Jaipur, Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Meerut, Ghaziabad, 20 AVT Jaipur Chhatralayam children, some of their parents, Sandhya Gurukulam caretakers from villages of Rajasthan - Makdadev, Nainbara, Manas, participated. The Ashrama on the bank of Ganges added to the grandeur of the environment.

The day commenced at 5.15 a.m. with Rudrabhishekam in the temple. AVT

children chanted the Rudram rhythmically and in a melodious voice. It was followed by the dhyanam with *Guru Stotram* conducted by Swamiji. The devotees' went into a transcendental mode with this knowledge of meditation. Then wisdom from the Third Adhyayam — Karma Yoga - The Eternal Duties of Human Being—from Srimad Bhagwad Gita and comprehension of Stotrams, which Swamiji elaborated for us in a simplified but explicit manner charged us all up! Afternoons were kept reserved for games and Ganga snanam for all the children. One class in the evening by *Swamiji on Bhaja Govindam*, was again mesmerizing. After the evening aarti in the

temple, the Ganga aarti was Divinely, with Chhatralayam children added to the beauty of it all by the melodious Ganga stotram.

Night Satsang (8.30-10:00 p.m.) saw a fiesta of Bhajans. *Gulab* being our lead singer with Divine melodious voice accompanied by with *Sukhlal* on Dholak and the little ones! Other devotees' also participated freely. It was great to see so much of talent amongst the youngsters. The highlight of the cultural week was — a dramatization by children on *Krishna-Arjuna samvada* from 2nd Adhyaya of *Srimad Bhgawad Gita* which simply was breathtaking. *Pallavi*, MBBS student from Ajmer got huge applause for her beautiful efforts. *Rachnaji*, Rajasthan Coordinator, Sri Swami Vivekananda Kendra was appreciated by Swamiji and devotees' for her beautiful efforts to train our children to be active through games, yoga and skit.

During night satsang, devotees' were also blessed to have *Swami Satprakashananda Saraswati* from Kuala Lumpur. He blessed the children and talked about the uniqueness of human birth! *Swami Sivatananda Saraswati*, Heading a sub-Math of Sringeri in Karnataka. Interestingly in 1990's, he as a Brahmachari, had learnt all chantings from our Swamiji. He appreciated Swamiji for beautiful efforts. *Swamiji from Rishikesh* explained



he importance of staying in Gurukulam.

Swami Shuddhanandaji, was specially felicitated by Swamiji and devotees' for his tireless efforts and dedication for years taking care of Rishikesh Ashrama and serving Pujya Sri Swamiji! Swami Shuddhanandaji, as a token of appreciation and blessings to our Chhatralayam children, gave veshti and angavastram.

There was *Saadhu Bhandara* almost every other day. Devotees' were very contented that by this way they could contribute towards the Ashrama seva.

Swamiji helped devotees' do elaborate pooja of *Ma Ganga* on Saturday. It was very special for all of us to sit together in the Ghat and observe abhishekam (with all dravyams) and alankaram (saree, kumkumam, kaajal, bangles, garland, mehandi etc) to our Divine Mother! Adi Guru Shankaracharya's Ganga Stotram, as also the Anga-pooja and the 108 names were chanted.

In spite of the hectic schedule, Swamiji took out time and arranged for us to visit Vasishtha Guha.

The camp was indeed an enthralling experience with Ganga ki Karuna —with the mesmerizing and serene flowing eternally by the Ghaat of our Ashrama and Karuna ki Ganga flowing from Swamiji in the form of Srimad Bhagawad Gita made the mind absolutely thoughtless. Even the "time-table" sank within no time! It was amazing to see so many young children along with their parents and grandparents



started their vacation in such a holistic atmosphere.

At the insistence of all the devotees' Swamiji decided to hold the next Camp from June 6th, 2014.