

Samashti Bhandara at Rishikesh Ashram

With the blessings of Pujya Sri Swamiji, a most unique bhandara was organized by Swami Dayananda Ashram on the 17th March, 2011 at the Rishikesh ashram, in a grand way.

It was a *samashti bhandara*- one in which Sadhus and Mahatmas from all over were invited to join in bhiksha. A bhandara of such a kind is not easily witnessed in one's lifetime.

As the slated hour approached, Mahatmas and Sadhus came in thousands. Wherever one turned, there were Sadhus adorning the place. It was a sight to behold Pujya Sri Swamiji, as he most graciously greeted and received every Sadhu personally.

Revered Swami Divyananda Mahamandaleswar of Kailash ashram and Revered Swami Vimalananda of the Divine Life Society graced the occasion. Swami Divyananda addressed the students and devotees.

An excellent repast had been prepared, with elaborate arrangements that had begun days before the bhandara. Many devotees and students partook in the privilege of serving the Mahatmas with reverence and care.

It was a uniquely fulfilling sight too. Many of us felt as though our own hunger had been satiated merely by witnessing the bhandara. Pujya Sri Swamiji's teaching that happiness shared increases manifold was clearly seen that afternoon. It was an event where, amid great bustle and activity, a steady feeling of contentment and joy prevailed.

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