

January month report - Swami Dayananda Ashram, Rishikesh

January saw several significant days like Lohri, Makar Sankranti, Republic Day and the much awaited inauguration of the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya, all of which were celebrated in the Ashram with much enthusiasm and grandeur.

Throughout the month, Rishikesh continued to sparkle in festive lights, while the sky over Ma Ganga presented a spectacular display of fireworks. Spirits were high in the ashram as people greeted each other with 'Jai Sree Ram' in anticipation of the Ram Madir inauguration. On 22nd January, concurrently with the prana pratishtha in Ayodhya, the ashram held a day long program filled with recitation of Rama namas, stotrams and kirtans. The atmosphere was charged and infused with devotion, and the day came to an end with the lighting of lamps in the Adisthanam.

The Ashram also held a week long course on the practice of Bhuta suddhikriya - 'Five Elements Purification process led by two three year students - Utkarsh Singh and Sharad Chandra P. This culminated to a finale on 19th January with the celebration of Vishwa Manavata Divas or World Humanity day and flag hoisting with honorable Chief Guest, IG of Uttarakhand Sri. Anant Shankar Takwale. World Humanity day is dedicated to bringing a peaceful way of life as the right of every human. Bearing this in mind, Acharya Swami Sakshatkritananda along with Sri. Anant Shankar Takwale addressed the audience on the importance of such purificatory practices, which are not just conducive for achieving a state of harmony and peace but also highly recommended and required in preparing the mind for assimilating Vedanta.

This month also saw a camp conducted by Swamini Chidekarasananda-ji. Finally, January ended on a high note with Acharya Swami Sakshatkritanandaji expounding on the last verse of the karika, thus bringing to a close the 3 years course which started in September of 2020. The valedictory program was held on 5th February with songs and speeches from students expressing their deepest gratitude towards the Acharyas and the parampara. Acharya Swamiji parted on an kind note by graciously providing options on the best way to stay with the knowledge, which is either by teaching others or by engaging in seva. Hence, with full hearts and certificates in hand, the students bid farewell with much to ponder upon and a resolve to continue with the studies.

The Ashram is now busy preparing to welcome new groups of students for the innumerable camps, that are lined up from now until April. More on that on the next newsletter.

- Report by Arpan

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