

## December month report - Swami Dayananda Ashram, Rishikesh

December marked the successful completion of the first batch of the six-months Vedanta Course. This was a motley group of about 50 students hailing from all over the world, all age groups and all walks of life, all of who unanimously testified to the profundity and impact of the course.

No sooner did the six-months students leave certificates in hand, the ashram was again abuzz with new campers. Retreats were conducted by Acharya Neera and Surya, Jonas (Acharya Vishwanath) and Sri Swami Anubhavananda which saw large groups of attendance.

December was special. It saw the return of the recent 3 years students back to attend the Mandukya karika classes conducted by Acharya Swami Sakshatkrtananda-ji. With the onset of winter and with Maa Ganga withdrawn and the atmosphere quiet, the timing couldn't be more perfect for the rendition of such a profound text. The classroom was full again, hushed and blanketed in pin drop silence as Acharya Swamiji took two classes daily and expounded on the first and second prakarana of the karika. The classes are going to continue until the beginning of February.

As January came marking the start of 2024, the Ashram celebrated Pongal with an elaborate puja with Swami-jis, Swamini-jis and students in attendance.

- Report by Arpan G

