

## AVT Jaipur family at Rishikesh

A spiritual camp was held for Arsha Vidya Tirtha, Jaipur family at Rishikesh from 18th to 25th May, 2012 under the auspices of Swami Brahmaparananda Saraswatiji. About 100 devotees from Maharashtra, Surat, Udaipur, Jaipur, Delhi and all the children of AVT Jaipur Chhatralayam participated.

*The Ashram 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 conducted by Swamiji wherein the devotees' went into a *transcendental mode*. This was followed by Lectures on "*Tattvabodh*" by Swamiji, who is maestro in this field. *This enhanced our knowledge on atma-jnanam*. This jnanam is imperative to understand all other scriptures is what was unfolded



to us beautifully and in a most simple way by Swamiji.

Next came the psychology Lectures by Dr. Amrita Murthy, who is a *shishya of Pujya Swamiji*. Dr. Murthy dealt with day to day problems related to memory, stress, dementia, personality building etc.

Afternoons were kept reserved for games for all the children, Ganga snanam for all, and yoga conducted for all, by AVT children. After the evening aarti in the temple, was Ganga aarti which was mesmerizing. The Chhatralayam children added to the beauty of it all by the *melodious Ganga stotram*.



On 21st May, there was a special and elaborate Ganga puja done by *Gulab*, 9th class student of Chhatralaya. It was his special day as he got *Brahmopadesam from Swamiji* in the morning. This special ceremony in itself was a very unique phenomena. It was a



Guru-shishya relationship which one rarely gets to see. All of us were indeed blessed to see such a sight, specially for a boy to come up to

this stature!

8.30-10:00 p.m. saw a fiesta of Bhajans. The Chhatralayam children were the main performers, be it on Harmonium, dholak, manjira. Other devotees' also participated freely. It was great to see so much of talent amongst the youngsters.

The highlight of the cultural week was "*Deep-se-Deep Jale*" — a dramatization of the Chhatralayam children of their development and day-to-day activities. They portrayed their transformation from a *village lad* to a "*Gurukulam Chhatra*" beautifully. It was wonderful to see their parents also a part of the skit.

The *Ganesh Vandana in Kathak* style by Swamiji's shishya was simply breathtaking.

Inspite of the hectic busy schedule, Swamiji took out time to take us to visit Kunjapuri—a Shaktipeetham. It was really fun climbing the 309 steps though none could beat the Chhatralayam children. HE also took us to Vishwamitra Ashram to have darshan of Swami Brahmattmananda Saraswati. This is where Swamiji stayed and studied for few years before moving to Swami Dayananda Ashram. We were very Blessed to have darshan of Mahamandaleshwar of Kailash Ashram also.

The camp was indeed an enthralling experience. It was amazing to see so many young children along with their parents and grandparents started their vacation in such a holistic atmosphere. *We all have returned home with definitely discovering some new dimension in ourselves!*

We are eagerly awaiting for *June 2nd, 2013*, when Swamiji will be holding the next camp. The countdown has seriously begun for all those who attended the camp.

