

Activities in May at Swami Dayananda Ashram, Rishikesh

After Swamini Samananda concluded her camp on Rama Gita, the Ashram turned into a confluence of three separate camps that came together from Coimbatore, New Delhi and Portugal. With the camps from Portugal & New Delhi having their own independent programs they came together for their short duration here for Swami Sakshatkritanandaji's talks on Atmabodha primarily for the Coimbatore Camp.

Swamiji also gave an absorbing one hour talk as an introduction to Bhagavad Gita for the Gita Home Study Group from New Delhi conducted by Sanjay Bhambhani which was greatly appreciated by those who attended it. Swamiji introduced the text as a pleasing song with content, which people love to recite. Swamiji went on to say that the Bhagavad Gita was considered a smriti (remembered) text as it was written by Veda Vyasa as part of the Mahabharata even though it mirrored the Upaniśads, but not the words of Īśvara as in the case of Upaniśads. Sanjay Bhambhani's Gita Home Study students felt blessed to continue their studies in Pujya Swamiji's satsang hall.

Sri Chinna Jeeyar visited the ashram on 16th May during his annual visit to Rishikesh and Badrinath . Sri Chinna Jeeyar did a yajna in his math and after doing Purnahuti alongwith his devotees he took holy bath in Swami Dayananda Ghat. Sri Chinna Jeeyar was received with pūrna kumbham and offered a cardamom garland and fruit basket. Sr Chinna Jeeyar appreciated the photo gallery reflecting the life of Pujya Swamiji, which he had visited on the previous night and was given the two volumes of biography of Pujya Swamiji as a gift to remember his visit to the Ashram.

In addition to the above Acarya Vasudevan from Chennai conducted a retreat on the Vakya Vrtti text in Tamil. A terse rendition of advaita in 53 verses attributed to Adi Sankara it outlines the interpretation of Mahavakyas. A second Tamil Retreat was conducted by Acarya Sandhil Kumar from Coimbatore on the 2nd Chapter of the Bhagavad Gita in the Satsang Hall. Both these camps were greatly appreciated by the participants.

Swamini Chidekarasanandaji before going back to London conducted a short Retreat on the Mundaka Upaniśad for her students in Chennai. Swami Sakshatkrtananda took three classes to them on select mantras from Chandogya sixth Chapter.

We are very happy to inform all that there have been improvements made to the Swami Dayananda Ghat on the banks of the Ganga for those visitors to the Ashram to take a bath/dip in this holy river. The number of devotees taking a dip has greatly increased as a result of this improvement and even those visitors not associated with the Ashram use this facility.

Om Tat Sat