

If August saw a deluge by the Ganga, September saw a deluge of visitors to attend Swami Sakshatkirtanandaji's class on Chapter 18 of the Upadesa Sahasri series which commenced last year around the same time. A packed lecture hall heard a spell binding rendition of the first sixty verses of this remarkable work. The last two days Swamiji did a summing up of the sixty verses - considering the audience was varied from informed listeners to students of the six months course to first timers the summing up was itself a lesson towards understanding this sacred and essential text. The 8 day retreat was a huge success with people from all over India; a student group from Japan also attended.

Before that the Ashram witnessed Janmashtami celebrations with a dance and song recitals by the students decorating the lecture hall with flowers and rangolis.

On 17th September we were blessed by a talk by Prof K Ramasubramanian of IIT (Mumbai) Vedic Mathematics, who spoke at length on 22 critical analysis of Vedanta prakriyas and though the talk was very technical in nature there was enough material to capture the interest of casual listeners.

Swaminis and Swamis belonging to Swami Dayananda parampara gathered for their annual arsha vidya teachers meet. Amongst the concerns were the lack of three year courses being conducted to keep the flow of new teachers of Vedanta, membership of the forum, collective response of the teachers to the upheavals in the society and so on.

As usual aradhana celebrations took place in grand scale with flower decorations and 108 litres of milk abhisheka in which all visitors participated. After the grand-puja the sashus and sadhvis were presented with gifts of dhotis, books and so on.

A highlight after the celebrations concluded is a sahasra sankhabhisheka conducted by Kamakshidass Swamigal of Avinashi Adhinam who was at the time two months short of his 100th year birthday. His energy levels humility and dedication are an inspiration to us all.

The month ended with Swami Paramatmanandaji conducting a well attended camp sponsored by the Madhya Pradesh government but more of that in the next month newsletter.

*Photos in the cover page #32 and #31*