

## Six month Vedanta course at Arsha Vidya Pitham, Rishikesh

Om Sri Gurubhyo Namah

The six-month Vedanta course in Arsha Vidya Pitham Rishikesh commenced on June 1, 2024 with a wonderful inauguration ceremony graced by the Chief Guest, HH Sri Sivakumara Swami of Sri Siddharudha Math, Bidar, Karnataka, alongside Sri Swami Brahmayoganandaji of Chennai, Sri Swami Chidrupananda Saraswati of Hubli and Sri Swami Satsvarupananda Saraswati of Swami Dayananda Ashram. They were joined by the esteemed teachers of the course, Sri Swami Sakshatkrtanandaji, Sri Swami Parabrahamanandaji, Sri Swami Shankaranandaji and Sri Swamini Svratmavidyanandaji.

This auspicious event marked the beginning of a profound journey, attracting around 80 students from diverse age-groups, nationalities, and backgrounds. The six-month course serves as a short, but deep, immersion into the timeless teachings of Vedanta. The schedule of classes includes the study of the Taittiriya, Kaivalya and the Ishavasya Upanishads, entire Bhagavad Gita, meditation, Sanskrit, Vedic chanting, and Yoga and participation in the ashram's daily activities such as puja and seva.

In the initial week, Sakshat Swamiji commenced teachings on the values, as taught by Lord Krishna in chapters 13 & 16 of the Bhagavad Gita. Swaminiji Svratmavidyananda captivatingly teaches the Tattvabodha, providing a comprehensive understanding of Vedanta. Swami Shankaranandaji imparts wisdom from the Bhagavad Gita and meditation practices, while Swami Parabrahamanandaji teaches intermediate students (and an optional class on the Panini Sutras), and Mukhtiji introduces beginners to Sanskrit. Additionally, Br. Gopalji conducts vedic chanting classes.

Nestled by the holy Ganga Ma, which flows right backside the ashram, students find solace in her waters for daily baths and contemplative practices. Though most of us haven't had the opportunity to have Puja Sri Swami Dayananda Saraswatiji's Darshan, we are all here together thanks to his grace. His large, yet benevolent presence is felt in every aspect of ashram life, and we have the good fortune to get to know him through his devoted and erudite disciples who are now our brilliant teachers faithfully carrying forward his vision through their teachings. Puja Swamiji's great compassion, wisdom, humor, and divine life are a true inspiration for any spiritual seeker. We pray to be worthy of this auspicious opportunity, to grow from being consumers to being contributors, to grasp the teachings and embody them within us. May the Parampara of great teachers continue to bless all, may all beings in the jagat be happy and free.

- Report compiled by Shambhavi

*photo in cover page #31*