

ARADHANA Yoga of the Heart ♥

Year 12 Issue 6

Nov/Dec 2023

For Free Distribution



Rikhiapeeth, Rikhia, Deoghar, Jharkhand, India

ARADHANA Yoga of the heart ❤️ is an offering to Paramguru Swami Sivananda and our beloved Pujya Gurudev Swami Satyananda.

It is compiled, composed and published as an offering of seva by the sannyasin disciples, devotees and well-wishers of Paramahansa Satyananda.

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Rikhiapeeth, the tapobhumi of Swami Satyananda Saraswati, has developed into a vibrant spiritual epicentre abundant in peace, plenty and prosperity. Aspirants, seekers, devotees, householders and sannyasins come from all parts of the world to live and work together for the benefit of others by following the high ideals of seva (selfless service), sadhana (spiritual practice), swadhyaya (self study) and satsang (association with truth), as taught by Swami Sivananda and established by Swami Satyananda. It is a place of inspiration and joy for the thousands of natives who live in the hundreds of villages that surround Rikhiapeeth, as well as for millions of spiritual aspirants and devotees who come to imbibe the spiritual vibrations that abound in this sacred place.

ARADHANA Yoga of the heart ❤️ is intended to share the profound teachings and lifestyle that are being practised and lived in this sacred place for the benefit of all.

This issue of **ARADHANA** is Part 1 of a two part series to share glimpses of some of the activities of Rikhiapeeth during 2023 - which included Aradhanas, Retreats, Yajnas and extensive Seva (service) of the rural communities. Part 2 **ARADHANA** Jan/Feb 2024 will feature the Satchandi Mahayajna, Ananda Utsav and Yoga Purnima which were conducted at Rikhiapeeth.

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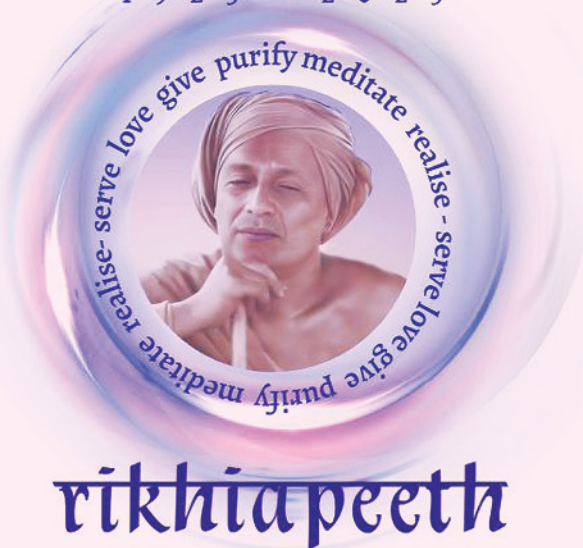
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ARADHANA
Yoga of the Heart ❤️

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Amrit Lahari

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This issue of ARADHANA is Part 1 of a two part series to share glimpses of the Amrit Lahari year at Rikhiapeth throughout 2023 - which celebrated the glorious life of Swami Satyananda. Aradhanas, Retreats, Yajnas and extensive Seva (service) of the rural communities were an integral part of this celebration commemorating the teachings of Serve, Love and Give.

Part 2 ARADHANA Jan/Feb 2024 will feature the Satchandi Mahayajna, Ananda Utsav and Yoga Purnima.

Aradhana Invocation

देवाभ्यावयतानेन ते देवा भावयन्तु वः । परस्परं भावयन्तः श्रेयः परमवाप्स्यथ ॥ Bhagavad Gita 3:11
Yajnas nourish, strengthen and empower the Devas, they in turn empower us.
Strengthening and nourishing each other in this way, both attain shreya (prosperity).

AMRIT LAHARI

Waves of Nectar: Celebrating Sri Swamiji's Centenary Birth Anniversary at Rikhiapeeth

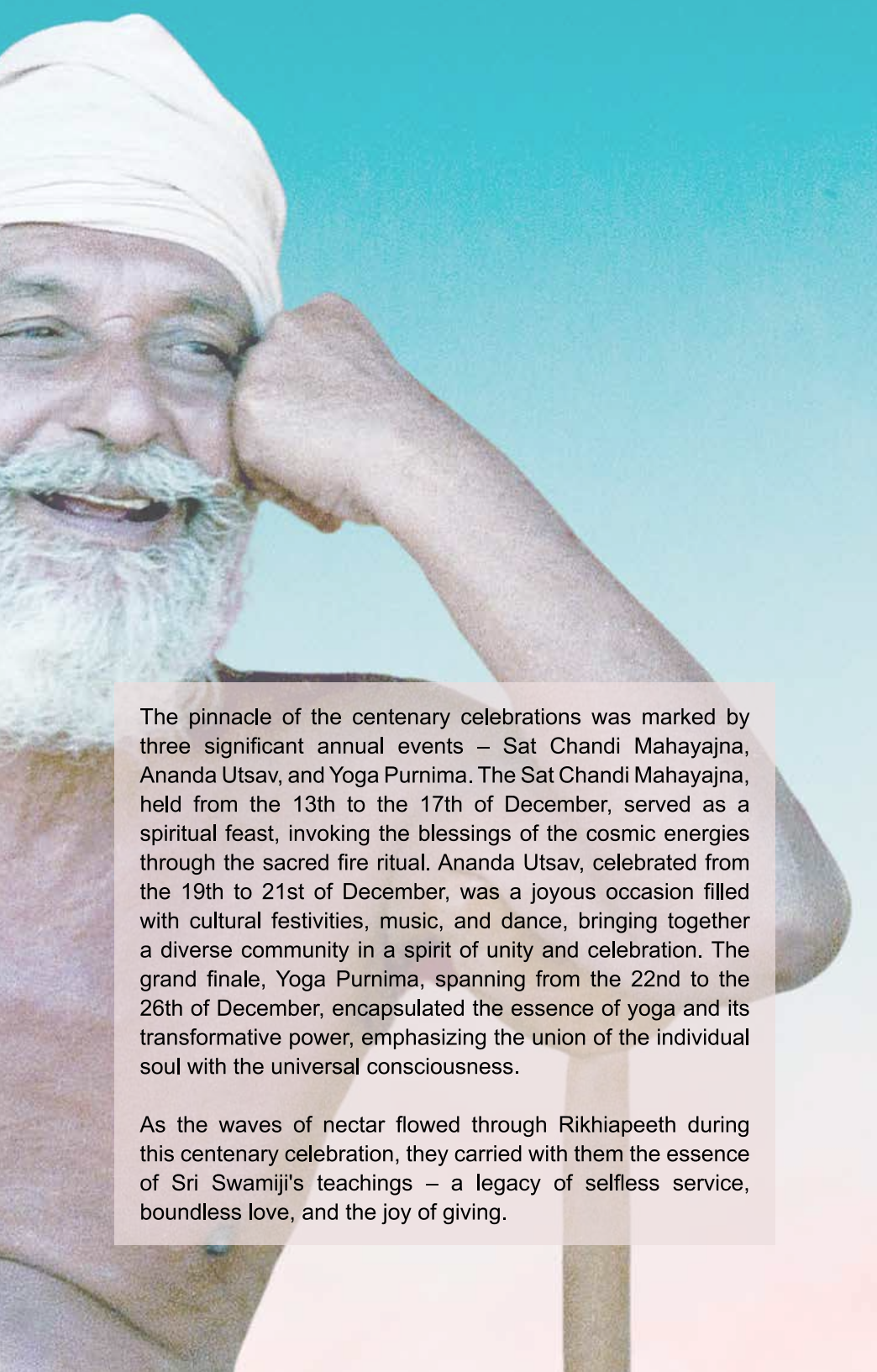
In the spirit of honoring the profound life and teachings of Paramahansa Swami Satyananda, Rikhiapeeth embarked on a year-long celebration throughout 2023, culminating in a grand tribute on the 100th birth anniversary of Sri Swamiji on the 26th of December. This jubilant occasion, known as "Amrit Lahari – Waves of Nectar", encapsulated the essence of Sri Swamiji's vision for Rikhiapeeth and embodied the principles of Serve, Love, and Give.

The events held at Rikhiapeeth were a testament to the enduring impact of Swami Satyananda's teachings. The festivities unfolded through a series of meaningful aradhanas and seva projects aimed at benefiting both the local community and the spiritual aspirants who gathered from all corners of the world.

Among the events were medical camps organized for the villagers which provided essential healthcare services to those in need. This seva was aligned with Sri Swamiji's compassionate vision, emphasizing service to humanity as an integral aspect of spiritual practice.

Workshops were conducted for the kanyas (young girls) and batuks (young boys), fostering their holistic development. These workshops served as platforms for nurturing talents and imparting valuable life skills. A special highlight were the regular bhoj conducted for kanyas and batuks.

The year-long celebration also included various aradhanas and sadhana retreats, providing spiritual seekers with the opportunity to delve deeper into their inner selves and connect with the divine, following the path illuminated by Sri Swamiji.



The pinnacle of the centenary celebrations was marked by three significant annual events – Sat Chandi Mahayajna, Ananda Utsav, and Yoga Purnima. The Sat Chandi Mahayajna, held from the 13th to the 17th of December, served as a spiritual feast, invoking the blessings of the cosmic energies through the sacred fire ritual. Ananda Utsav, celebrated from the 19th to 21st of December, was a joyous occasion filled with cultural festivities, music, and dance, bringing together a diverse community in a spirit of unity and celebration. The grand finale, Yoga Purnima, spanning from the 22nd to the 26th of December, encapsulated the essence of yoga and its transformative power, emphasizing the union of the individual soul with the universal consciousness.

As the waves of nectar flowed through Rikhiapeeth during this centenary celebration, they carried with them the essence of Sri Swamiji's teachings – a legacy of selfless service, boundless love, and the joy of giving.

A Spiritual Tribute

Swami Satyasangananda's Ashtottarshatlaksh Mantra Purashcharana

At Rikhiapeeth, Peethadhishwari Swami Satyasangananda undertook the sankalpa of Ashtottarshatlaksh Mantra Purashcharana, from 14th January 2023. This sankalpa took nine months to complete and was undertaken to honor the tradition established by Paramahansa Satyananda who performed this sadhana at Rikhiapeeth in 1992, and to honour his spiritual legacy.

The undertaking of Ashtottarshatlaksh Mantra Purashcharana stood as a testament to Swami Satyasangananda's devotion, surrender and commitment to continuing the traditions established by Paramahansa Satyananda and to offer homage and reverence to Guru. This sadhana created a channel through which the spiritual teachings and energy of Swami Satyananda continued to flow.

The significance of this sadhana was elevated as it was an offering to Swami Satyananda as a part of 'Amrit Lahari', the year-long tribute conducted at Rikhiapeeth in honour of his 100th birth anniversary. This commemorative period not only served as an intense period of remembrance, seva and aradhanas, but also as a time dedicated for spiritual practices, with the Ashtottarshatlaksh Mantra Purashcharana at its zenith.

At the culmination of this anusthan, Swami Satyasangananda offered 11 lakh ahuti. This involved offering sacred oblations into the fire for up to 8 hours a day, and it symbolized profound surrender and gratitude and surrender to the Guru, to the divine cosmic forces, and to the spiritual journey itself. The 11 lakh ahuti acted as a sublime crescendo, an offering of love and reverence that transcended the physical realm, reaching towards the spiritual realms where the presence of Swami Satyananda resonated.

Swami Satyasangananda's Ashtottarshatlaksh Mantra Purashcharana in 2023 was a spiritual tribute filled with devotion, tradition, and a deep-seated connection to the Guru. It stood as a guiding light, illuminating the path for seekers, a timeless tribute to the spiritual legacy of Swami Satyananda that continues to flow through the sacred place of his Tapobhumi, Rikhiapeeth.





Swami Satyasangananda Saraswati, fondly known as Swami Satsangi is the Peethadhishwari of Rikhiapeeth as appointed by Swami Satyananda. As the Peethadhishwari, she is dedicated to implementing Sri Swami Sivananda's three precepts of serve, love and give and works tirelessly for the material and spiritual upliftment of the local community.

Throughout 2023, Swami Satsangi continued to guide and inspire the multifarious activities of Rikhiapeeth, including seva projects, aradhanas and retreats. Her example of surrender and dedication to her Guru's mission and mandate encourages sannyasins, aspirants and spiritual seekers around the world to - serve, love and give. She ensures that the spiritual legacy of Sri Swamiji is maintained and that the tradition and lifestyle of a Paramahansa is upheld through the various sadhanas she undertakes.





Purashcharana Sadhana

Swami Satyananda Saraswati

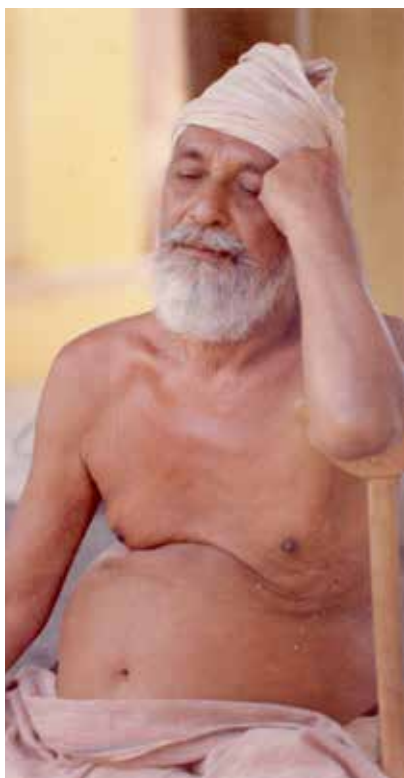
My wish is that every breath should be permeated by my mantra. I do japa all the time. We breathe 21,600 times in 24 hours. That means 15 breaths every minute, 900 breaths every hour, so in 24 hours, it is 21,600 rounds of breath.

The same mantra which you have received from your Guru should also be heard within as an experience. That is possible, if you can merge your mind in the breath. So you should attune your mind with the breath, and synchronize the breath with mantra. A lot of energy is required for this sadhana, because after all, you need to go to the toilet. You need to have a little rest and to eat food. This is only possible when you can sit with your back straight and your mind constant for many hours at a stretch. I have come here for this purpose, because I do not think that life has any other meaning.

In 1992, I performed the ashtottarshatllaksh mantra purashcharana. I did not meet anybody that whole year. It took me three hundred days, from morning to evening, to complete ten million, eight hundred thousand rounds of japa. It was a great success. After completing the purashcharana, my body and mind were both healthy, and I heard the inner command, 'Love your neighbour as I have loved you. Provide for your neighbours as I have provided you'. This was a very beautiful commandment.

World is One Family

In this context, what is the meaning of neighbour? Neighbour means one whom you can approach easily and converse with. Now, if you want to talk to your neighbour from here, it will take fifteen minutes to reach your neighbour's house. In ten minutes, you can talk to London on telephone. So the people of the world have all become neighbours! Now what is the definition of neighbour? For the generous hearted, the whole world is one family.

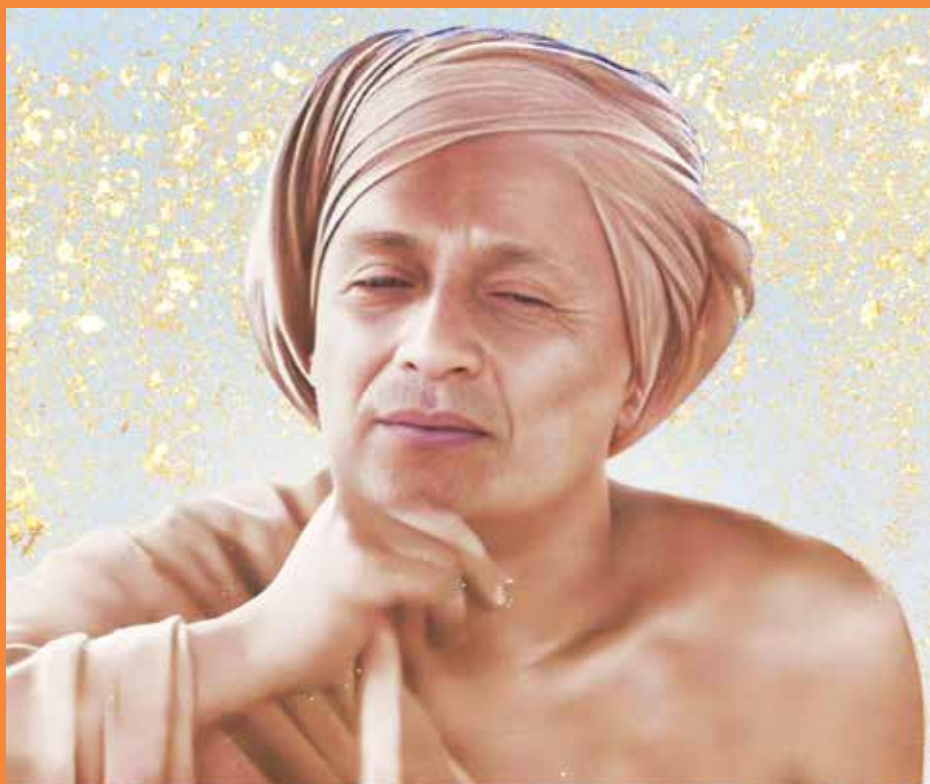




Rikhiapeeth is where Swami Satyananda lived the life of a Paramahansa Yogi for twenty years performing long and arduous yogic sadhanas before he took Maha Samadhi here in 2009.

In keeping with the yogic and spiritual legacy he left behind, the sprawling ashram has evolved into a vibrant epicentre where serious yoga lovers and sincere spiritual seekers from all walks of life, can experience the peace, harmony and true joy of living a Yogic lifestyle. The positive benefits that come from participating in seva and bhakti, which are the spiritual foundations of the lifestyle at Rikhiapeeth, are made accessible for one and all through the precepts of simple living and high thinking.





"I have always prayed for the wealth, long life, good health, success and prosperity of everyone. Let everyone be happy, let everyone be healthy, let everyone look upon everyone else with equanimity and may no one ever feel any pain or sorrow. May all be happy, may all be free from disease. May all receive the auspicious blessings of God."

Swami Satyananda Saraswati



The message of the New Year is the call of the higher life, the beckoning from the spiritual Presence. To respond to it, is your duty. To realise it is your right. Sadhana is your duty. God-realisation is your right. Assert the right and plod on with your pursuits. Strive, and you shall triumph.

- Swami Sivananda Saraswati -



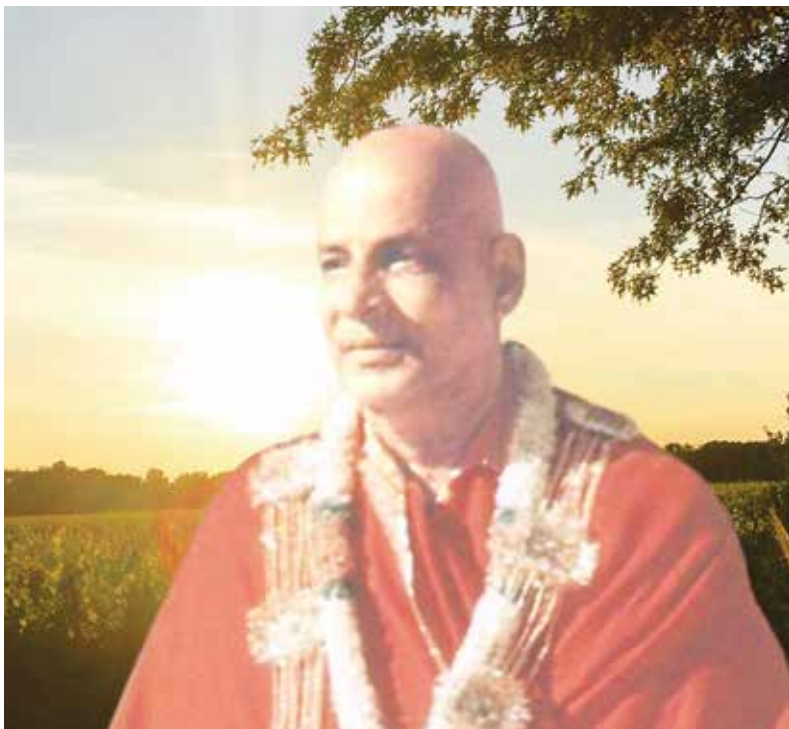
Makar Sankranti

On the auspicious occasion of Makar Sankranti, 14th January 2023, Swami Satyasangananda kindled the sacred fires, symbolizing a heartfelt tribute to the Panchagni sadhana, conducted by Swami Satyananda at Rikhiapeeth. This was the first ceremony conducted at the newly made samadhi, which although not complete at the time still had the essence of purity.

This event holds immense significance in the spiritual heritage of Rikhiapeeth, symbolizing the continuity and reverence for the teachings and practices laid down by Swami Satyananda. The act of lighting the sacred fires not only signifies a homage to the spiritual legacy and lineage of Swami Satyananda but also serves as a powerful means of connection to the divine forces.



Makar Sankranti marks the transition of the sun into the Tropic of Capricorn and the first day of Uttarayan. To aspirants all over the world this day has a special significance. The six month period during which the sun travels northwards is highly favourable to aspirants for their march towards the goal of life. It is as though the aspirant were flowing easily with the current towards the Supreme.



The message of the sun is the message of light, the message of unity, of impartiality, of true selflessness, of the perfection of the elements, of Karma Yoga. The sun shines on all equally; it is the true benefactor of all beings. Without the sun life would perish on earth. It is extremely regular and punctual in its duties and never claims a reward or craves for recognition. If you imbibe these virtues of the sun, what doubt is there that you will shine with equal divine lustre!

- Swami Sivananda Saraswati

Laxmi Narayan Aradhana

10th to 15th January 2023



Flowers are the best offering a devotee can make to the divine as they are pure and come from the heart. Flowers express heartfelt devotion and symbolize love, purity and sincerity. During the Laxmi Narayan Aradhana the beauty and purity of this aradhana is greatly enhanced as all the flowers offered in the pujas, abhisheks and as decorations come directly from the ashram gardens which are in full bloom at this time of year. The vibrant colors symbolize blessings and grace during this auspicious time.



Basant Panchami

26th January 2023

Saraswati Puja was conducted by the Kanyas of Rikhia to inaugurate the English and Digital Education classes in Rikhia for 2023. On Basant each year new eligible children from surrounding villages are registered as Kanyas and Batuks.



Maha Sivaratri: 18th February 2023

A Celebration of Cosmic Union and Divine Grace

Sivaratri holds a special place in the heart of Lord Shiva, as it marks the sacred union of Siva, the cosmic consciousness, with his beloved consort Parvati, symbolizing the unity of the individual soul with the divine. Known by many names and forms, Lord Shiva embodies the essence of auspiciousness, offering solace and blessings by removing obstacles and bestowing health, peace, and happiness upon his devotees.

At Rikhia, the worship of Siva, the Adi-Guru, holds special significance as it is within the energy field of Baba Baidyanath and is conducted as a tribute to Swami Satyananda and the lineage of Gurus, whose grace enables us to chant sacred mantras, sing kirtans, and perform abhishek. At Rikhia, by honoring Sivaratri, we celebrate not only the cosmic union but also the eternal presence of grace and guidance of Guru.



Navaratri

A Sacred Offering by the Kanyas of Rikhia

Every year during the months of Ashwin and Chaitra, the 9-day Navaratri Anusthan takes place at Rikhiapeeth. This observance is particularly significant as it is led by the Kanyas of Rikhia, who are revered as channels of the divine and are worshipped as embodiments of Devi during the annual Sat Chandi Mahayajna at Rikhiapeeth. Throughout Navaratri the Kanyas perform all the rituals, including chanting, pujas, singing, and dancing, as a heartfelt expression of their love for Devi.





Holi at Rikhiapeeth:

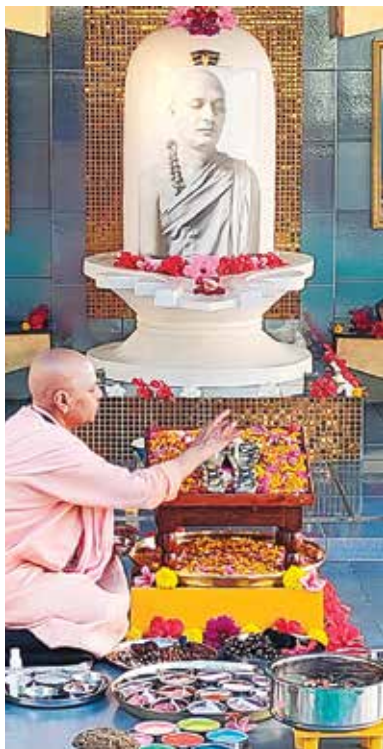
A Day of Color, Joy, and Sacred Celebration

8th March 2023

On the 8th of March 2023, Rikhiapeeth came alive with the vibrant festivities of Holi. Amidst the colour and joy, Holi at Rikhiapeeth takes on a spiritual dimension, with abhishek, prayers and kirtans conducted for universal peace and harmony, making it a truly Holy Day..

Throughout the day, barriers dissolved as hearts connected in shared celebration, fostering unity and oneness. Holi became a sacred journey of the soul, reminding everyone of the inherent divinity and love within.

Traditional 'Holika Dahan' bonfire was conducted symbolizing the triumph of good over evil, infusing the air with a sense of purity and renewal.





Akshay Tritiya

21st - 23rd April 2023

Akshay Tritiya, which falls during Uttarayana, was a very special day for Swami Satyananda's sadhana as the akshay tithi magnifies and renders indestructible whatever one does on that day. To highlight the permanent nature of the akshay tithi during his tapasya at Rikhiapeeth Sri Swamiji performed many sadhanas and rituals on this day as well as establishing the tradition of 'giving' as an essential element of this auspicious day.





On this day prasad of clothes, utensils, grains and other household amenities were offered to the villagers of Rikhia and surrounding panchayats. Cows and oxen were also given to deserving recipients.



Selflessness - Not Selfishness

Swami Satyananda Saraswati

I came to Rikhia to retire and live quietly in solitude. I did not want to meet anyone, and even now I do not want to meet anyone. I realized that knowing the Self is necessary to keep oneself disciplined, without any craving for name and fame, or even for doing service and helping others. There is a difference between the feeling of service and the feeling of Self. The feeling of Self means Atmabhava, the sentiment of others being like one's own Self. If I am hurt I feel pain, that is natural, but do I also feel pain if you are hurt? Atmabhava means to feel the experience of others as my own experience. The sorrow and sufferings of others, the death of somebody unknown to me, the problems of families who are strangers to me, are all felt as my own. This is Atmabhava, not charity. Seeing everyone in oneself and oneself in everyone is the highest attainment of Vedanta.

Nobody thinks of going to the house of a poor man and lighting a lamp. Nobody thinks of visiting the have-nots. If a child is born in a poor family, at least go and give the child a crib. When a child is born in your own family you immediately think of a crib and there are elaborate preparations in anticipation. But when there is a new-born in someone else's family, all you do is give good wishes and greetings. If you only give good wishes and greetings to someone who is born today, that will not help him. Go to his house and give him a warm sweater, some tonic for the mother and some money.

This is a practical sadhana I am giving you. I do it and Swami Satsangi does it. One day she went out and Ramu, the mason, was making his way home. He called her and said, "I prayed to Devi at Sat Chandi for a child and see my wife has given birth to twins." So Swami Satsangi came and informed me. She said, "He is asking for names for his twins. What names would you suggest for them?" I said to her, "Forget about naming them. First give them a crib, give medicine, get a doctor, cut the umbilical cord. Treat the wound with antiseptic. A name you can give tomorrow or even in nine days. What is the urgency?"



Empowering Hearts and Minds

Rikhiapeeth's Yoga Series for Kanyas

Rikhiapeeth organized an enriching month-long series of Yoga classes for the Kanyas. The journey culminated in a Yoga demonstration on World Yoga Day, 21st June, 2023. This seva activity was part of their broader curriculum including English, computers, dance, sports, and life skills, which reflects Rikhiapeeth's commitment to providing diverse opportunities for the Kanyas of Rikhia, fostering a balanced and empowered future generation.



Rikhiapeeth Medical Camp

14th - 17th June 2023 and 4th - 6th September 2023

In commemoration of Sri Swamiji's birth centenary, the Amrit Lahari celebrations at Rikhiapeeth featured several health camps providing free high quality health care for the local community. This has been a part of Rikhiapeeth annual calendar since the time of Sri Swamiji and offers sevaks an opportunity to contribute their seva and experience, 'Serve, Love, Give' in action.



Guru Purnima 2023

1st - 3rd July 2023

As part of the Amrit Lahari celebrations, an inspiring Guru Purnima aradhana was conducted at Rikhiapeeth. The highlight of this auspicious event was the chanting of all four Vedas at the Samadhi Sthal of Swami Satyananda Saraswati. This symphony of Vedic hymns served as a heartfelt offering to Sri Swamiji, a testament to the Guru-disciple relationship, and as a tribute to the timeless wisdom contained within the Vedas. This aradhana was the first inauguration of the newly constructed Samadhi Sthal of Swami Satyananda.





Shravan Bhoj: A Feast of Giving

July 4th to August 1st 2023

Rikhiapeeth conducted the month-long Shravan Kanya Bhoj, as part of Amrit Lahari, paying tribute to the life and teachings of Sri Swamiji. Each day during the auspicious month of Shravan, hundreds of local children were served a delicious and nutritious meal as an Aradhana and sacred offering, with the belief that the Divine is being nourished. Bhoj is a regular feature conducted throughout the year at Rikhiapeeth for the Kanyas and Batuks, however the month long Shravan bhoj is undoubtedly a highlight!



Sri Radha Krishna Jhoolan

29th July to 1st August 2023

Sri Swamiji started this aradhana here at Rikhiapeeth over 30 years ago for the spiritual upliftment of all, especially his neighbours. Through this aradhana, he sowed the seeds of bhakti in all of us. We are forever grateful to Gurudev for showing us a way to develop a relationship with God.





Srimad Bhagawad Saptah Sivananda Janmotsav

5th to 12th September 2023

The Srimad Bhagwad Saptah conducted at Rikhiapeeth, was a highlight of the Amrit Lahari celebrations honoring Sri Swami Satyananda's 100th birth centenary. The event, presided over by Swami Satyasangananda, offered transformative insights into the Srimad Bhagavatam, creating an atmosphere of love, devotion and joy. The Bhagwad Katha presentation by Swami Girishananda Saraswati generated an atmosphere filled with bhakti, which was heightened by the soul stirring kirtans and dances of the Kanyas of Rikhia.

Celebrating Swami Sivananda's birthday and Swami Satyananda's Sannyasa Diwas, the Saptah invoked blessings from both of these spiritual luminaries. As we witnessed Swami Satyananda's vision unfold — "Bhakti marga will be the science of the 21st Century" — the Saptah provided a golden opportunity for participants to experience the power of bhakti, filling their lives with purpose and spiritual fulfillment. This event stands as a testament to the enduring legacy of Swami Satyananda and the transformative potential of bhakti.



Rikhia Agaman

23rd September 2023

Rikhia Agaman holds significance in the annual events of Rikhiapeeth, as it commemorates the pivotal moment when Sri Swamiji first set foot in Rikhia at midday on 23rd September, 1989, and forever altered the destiny of the land and its people. This auspicious moment symbolizes the inception of a transformative journey that has touched countless lives. Rikhia Agaman serves as a poignant reminder of the spiritual legacy established by Sri Swamiji, emphasizing his teachings of selfless service, compassion, and spiritual awakening. Each year, we honor this milestone. Through the collective remembrance generated during Rikhia Agaman, the spirit of love, unity, and upliftment continues to thrive, shaping the ethos of Rikhiapeeth and inspiring generations to come.



Gods Mandate

Swami Satyananda Saraswati



On 8th of September, the birthday of my Guru, a question which was haunting my mind from time to time was answered. Where do I fulfil my next mission?

I could not decide where to stay. I had many options - one was Gurushikhar at Mount Abu, another was at Gangotri, where I was offered a cave, a kutir in Kedarnath. The swamis at my Guru's ashram also offered to keep me with them, and many others. Many people invited me, but I was unable to decide where I should go. So, I reserved my decision until the direction was made clear to me.

On 8th September, the birthday of Swami Sivanandaji, I woke at about two o'clock in the early morning, made a little tea, took my bath and sat down. The sky was quiet, the translucent rays of Ashtami were shining through the small windows of my kutir, and I found that I was once again enveloped by a strange light. There was total quiet and then there was a huge storm with lightning and thunder. This storm happened internally, not externally. My mind sank again. I gradually lost consciousness. At 4 am the shrill voice came saying: "Chitabhumao" - Go to my burial ground, the smashan bhoomi. The command was clear.

Chitabhumao means cremation ground. That was all, burial ground. Chita means burning of the body and bhumi means ground. At once, I understood the meaning of what I had heard. It was a clear instruction that I was to go to a cremation ground.

In India, in the Vedic mythology and in the Puranas, particularly in the Siva Purana, there are references to two cremation grounds. One is at Varanasi,

known as Siva's smashan bhumi. The other is this entire area of Deoghar which, in our scriptures, is referred to as Chitabhumao, which is considered to be the burial ground not of Siva but of Sati. Deoghar is the second tantric seat after Kamakhya, which is located in Guwahati, Assam.

When the voice uttered the word 'Chitabhumao', I also saw the property very clearly in a vision; the building, the trees, everything as clearly as on a television screen. There have been so many other instances which I have attributed to my super mind, higher mind, deeper mind, greater mind or whatever you wish to call it. But now I did not make that mistake. That was my God who guided me. He had guided me from childhood.

He gave His mandate and it was going to happen. I did not even worry about how it will happen. I had the feeling that I am a servant, I do not have to worry. I do not have to be anxious. If He gives me an order I will do it, then things become easy. The servant does not have to worry. He just has to carry out his orders. A servant has no accountability, no responsibility. He just has to do his duty and not think too much. Not only in the path of sadhana, but in life also, man has no choices.

So, I did not choose Rikhia. God gave me this place. I had never thought of this place. I did not leave the ashram and decide to come here by my own choice, nor am I doing anything by my own desire.



Unlocking Potential:

Creative Arts Workshop for Rikhiapeeth Kanyas

Rikhiapeeth hosted a series of transformative Creative Arts Workshop for Kanyas in 2023. Beyond artistic exploration, the workshop focused on holistic development, combining art with mindfulness, consentartation and self expression. Facilitated by skilled mentors, the workshop empowered the Kanyas to discover their talents and build confidence, embodying Rikhiapeeth's commitment to community upliftment.



Diwali

Festival of Lights

12th November 2023

Diwali holds special significance at Rikhiapeeth. Swami Satyananda, emphasized the importance of inner illumination and self-discovery, which aligns with the deeper symbolism of Diwali, the festival of lights.

During Diwali, the ashram is decorated with thousands of candles and we reflect on the triumph of light over darkness, both externally and internally. The atmosphere at Rikhiapeeth during Diwali is filled with joy, devotion, and a sense of spiritual renewal, making it a cherished and special time for all who gather for this unique aradhana.



Tulsi Vivah

24th November 2023



When I came here, I installed Tulsi in a shrine and put her in charge of the good health in the Akhara. You do not even have to eat the leaf, just pray to her for sound health. I decided to make Tulsi the Ishta Devi, presiding Goddess, of this place. I planted Tulsi here and she is the ruling Goddess of this place.

- Swami Satyananda Saraswati -



In a momentous tribute to Swami Satyananda on his 100th birth anniversary, the 'Amrit Lahari' events of 2023 were marked by a profound milestone - the completion of the newly renovated Samadhi Sthal. This sacred project stands as an offering from Swami Satyasangananda who dedicated it to Sri Swamiji on behalf of Rikhiapeeth and all devotees. Sri Swamiji is now eternally resting in the lap of the Cosmic Mother, and as a symbol of this, his Samadhi Sthal is enveloped by the unique structure of the Sri Yantra.

The newly renovated Samadhi Sthal serves as a poignant symbol of reverence and gratitude, embodying the spiritual legacy and teachings of Swami Satyananda. This monumental endeavor, born out of devotion and dedication, reflects the deep spiritual connection shared by the disciples. The completion of the Samadhi Sthal stands not only as a physical structure but also as a spiritual sanctuary, echoing the timeless wisdom and profound impact of Swami Satyananda's for all humanity.







Rikhiapeeth's Milestones of Devotion

Swami Satyasangananda Saraswati

2023 has been a profoundly memorable year for Rikhiapeeth. Naturally, it witnessed numerous aradhanas, events, workshops, medical camps, and the training of kanyas and batuks—all aimed at highlighting Swami Satyananda's vision, wherein every human being should lead a life of dignity. Consequently, the entire year was dedicated to his teachings with and emphasis on "Serve, Love and Give" which is practiced and lived here at Rikhiapeeth. However, in addition a very significant event occurred alongside these endeavors, serving as the backbone of Rikhiapeeth.

One pivotal moment was that I became a millionaire! This year marked the completion of the Ashtottarshatlaksh Mantra Purashcharana, specifically the repetition of one hundred and eight lakh mantras, as an offering to Gurudev. This sadhana emulated the one Gurudev undertook here in Rikhia, during which he received the divine directive, "Provide your neighbors with what I have given you," igniting all the seva activities at Rikhia thereafter.

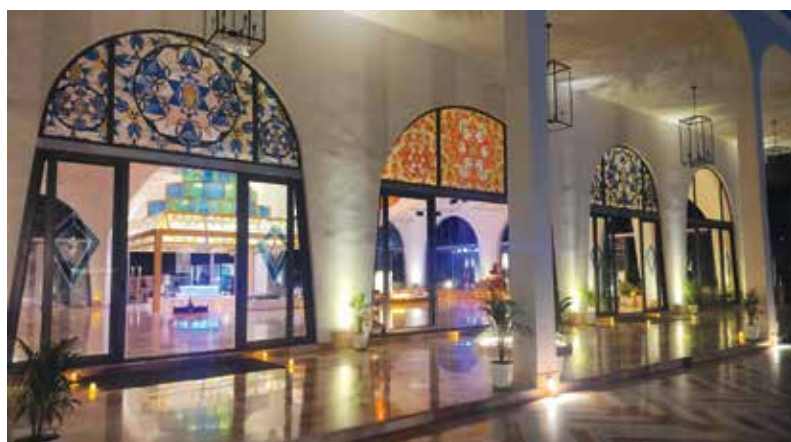
Embarking on the Ashtottarshatlaksh Mantra Purashcharana journey, I commenced on the 14th of January and concluded on the 4th of November. At the culmination, I performed the havan of eleven lakh ahuthis, offering swaha eleven lakh times into the sacred fire.



Initially, I pondered how to accomplish this feat, envisioning my arm wearing out amidst the repetitions of "swaha." I contemplated acquiring a robot, but then I heard Swamiji's voice reassuring me, "No, you don't need a robot because you are the robot! You are doing it for me. You are my robot." Accepting this, I embraced the task, understanding that my operating system was not artificial intelligence but rather 'RI'—Real Intelligence.

I experienced that the sadhana gave a profoundly purifying impact on all the events at Rikhia, permeating the entire environment. Its conclusion coincided with another significant event: the Nav Nirman of the Samadhi - the installation of the Sri Yantra over the Samadhi Sthal and the unveiling of its new form, which I have named as the "Kaleidoscope Samadhi."



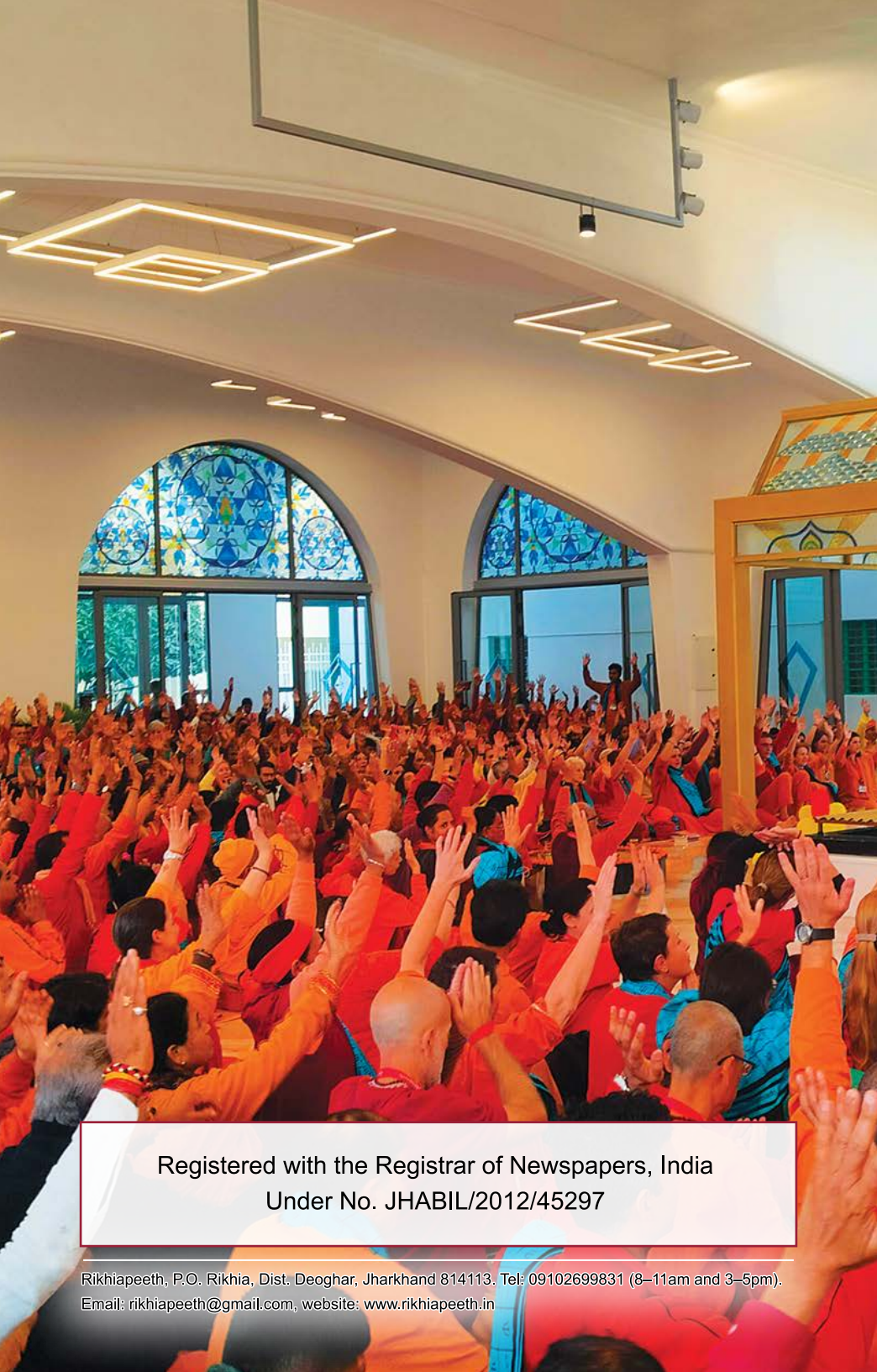


I am a Rajarishi. I consider my people to be my own soul. Their suffering is my suffering and their joy is my joy. My people, my neighbours are simple and innocent. When innocent people suffer, God finds a way to soften their troubles.

He whispered in my ear, 'Love your neighbours as I have loved you.' I am His servant and He has sent me here. "Green Rikhia, prosperous Rikhia," this is my dream.

- Swami Satyananda Saraswati -





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