

# Shodasi at Rishikesh

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**SHODASI** : Shodasi or 16th day ceremony of Pujya Swami Dayanananda Saraswati's Mahā Samadhi was observed at Swami Dayananda Ashram, Rishikesh on October 8, 2015.

**BHU SAMADHI STHALA** : The place where the bhu Samadhi is situated within the Ashram on the banks of river Ganga was beautifully decorated with flower pandal by Florist from Chennai. The devotees were awe struck with the beautiful flower arrangement made on the bhu Samadhi.

**HONOURING MAHATMAS** : Seventeen Maha Mandaleshwars and Mandaleshwars from Rishikesh and Haridwar participated in the ceremony. They first offered floral tribute to Pujya Swamiji's Bhu Samadhi. Puja was done to the Maha Mandaleshwars and Mandaleshwars. They were honoured with memorable gifts and Guru dakshina. Bhandara was first offered to these Mahatmas.

**SADHU BHANDARA** : After that Sadhu bhandara was offered in four batches. More than 3000 Sadhus were offered bhandara and dakshina.

Sadhus came from Rishikesh and Haridwar. It was a great sight to see ochre clad Sadhus moving in and moving out of the Ashram in such great numbers.

**GENERAL BHANDARA** : On October 9, 2015, the next day, general bhandara was offered to citizens of Rishikesh. More than 6,000 people took part in the general bhandara.

**FITTING SHODASI** : Everything about the shodasi was fitting the magnanimity of Pujya Swamiji. The gifts and Guru dakshina offered to the Maha mandaleshwars and Mandaleshwars were very generous. The number of Sadhus who were offered bhandara and dakshina was more than 3,000. The number of Rishikesh citizens who were offered bhandara was more than 6,000. Even after Maha Samadhi, Pujya Swamiji continues to be a great contributor.

**Report by N. Avinashilingam**



**Mahamandaleshwars offering tribute**



**Prayers at the decorated Samadhi-sthala**



**Mahamandaleswars being honoured**



**Manasa Smarami Sadgurum**



**Samshti Bhandara view**



**Sadhu-vrnda in front of the Samadhi-sthala**

