



# MAYAPUR TIMES

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM THE ŚRĪ MAYĀPUR CANDRODAYA MANDIR  
INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KRŚNA CONSCIOUSNESS  
FOUNDER-ĀCĀRYA HIS DIVINE GRACE A. C. BHAKTIVEDANTA SWAMI PRABHUPĀDA

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I LOVE  
MAYAPUR!



SRILA  
PRABHUPADA'S  
VAYASA PUJA



VAMANA  
DVADASI

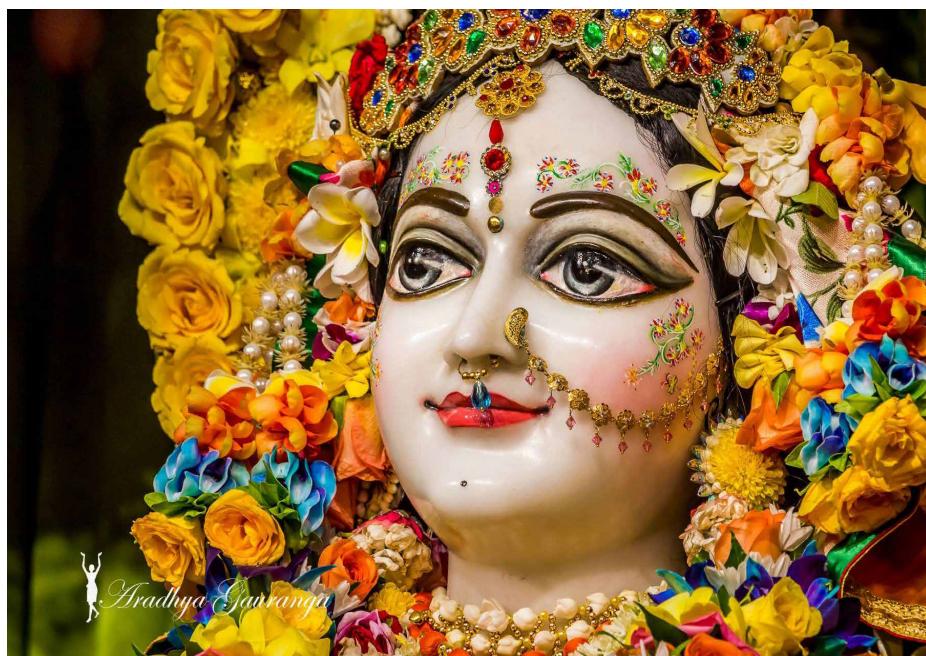


CELEBRATING THE APPEARANCE DAY OF

## ŚRĪMATĪ RĀDHĀRĀNĪ

At the Sri Mayapur Candrodaya Mandir, Radhastami is celebrated with great opulence. The day before Radhastami, the Radhastami celebrations have already begun. The Radha Premdan Kirtan Utsav commences, and ecstatic kirtan is performed all day as devotees make preparations for the next day's festival. The climax of the day's Radha Premdan Kirtan Utsav is during the adhivas ceremony that evening. At that time, Sri Sri Radha Madhava are honoured with 27 auspicious items and the devotees are encouraged to prepare their consciousness for Sri Radhastami the next day.

On Radhastami day itself, senior devotees speak about the glories of Srimati Radharani and Sri Radhastami during Srimad Bhagavatam class. This takes place before Darshan Arati, which is one hour later than usual in order to allow Sri Sri Radha Madhava's pujaris to exquisitely adorn the Deities in a new dress and to transform Their altar with elaborate decorations. Devotees crowd into Radha Madhava's temple hall and call out to Sri Sri



Radha Madhava as they wait to see Srimati Radhika and Her Lord Madhava. As the curtains of the altar are drawn back and Sri Sri Radha Madhava are revealed, the beauty of Srimati Radharani stuns all who are assembled.

Srimati Radharani is glorified and served in many ways in Sridhama Mayapur on Her divine appearance day. The Radha Premdan Kirtan Utsav continues throughout the day as devotees glorify Srimati Radharani with Her holy name. A booth is set up in the temple where devotees can sponsor gifts to offer to Srimati Radharani, and hundreds of these gifts are offered. Srimati Radharani is given new cloth and jewelry, such as shawls, bracelets, necklaces, earrings, nose rings, and anklets. She is given many varieties of foodstuffs – numerous types of fruits, vegetables, and sweets, and honey, ghee, and other auspicious items. Throughout the day, the devotees bring these gifts onto the altar and offer them to Srimati Radharani.

A special dance drama is performed for the pleasure of Sri Sri Radha Madhava and the assembled devotees, in which devotees play the parts of Vrajavasis and demonstrate the happiness the Vrajavasis felt upon

hearing about the appearance of Srimati Radharani.

A maha-abhiseka is performed for Radha Madhava and They are bathed with a variety of auspicious substances – panca gavya, pancamrita, various fruit juices, scented sugar syrups, and flower waters. Radha Madhava are also given two kinds of showers: sarva-aushadi and maha-aushadi, in which natural medicinal and herbal substances are used to bathe the Lord. After being bathed in these various substances, sandalwood paste is applied and then washed off of Radha Madhava's forms with a steady shower of Ganga water known as sahastradhara. The abhiseka finishes with a puspa-abhiseka in which Radha Madhava are showered with flower petals until They are almost completely covered by what resembles a hill of petals, and only Their lotus faces can be seen.

Hundreds of bhoga preparations are cooked by the devotees of the community and offered to Radha Madhava and Their Astasakhis. Among these offerings are two birthday cakes for Srimati Radharani, but these cakes are not like most cakes. The double layer cakes are massive, with one measuring 3 feet by 7 feet

(21 square feet) and the other measuring 3 feet by 9 feet (27 square feet).

A maha-arati is performed for Radha Madhava and then a feast is served to all of the devotees, in various venues. Devotees then return to the temple to again take darshan of Sri Sri Radha Madhava and to engage in the kirtan which has been going on continuously, and which continues until late in the evening. At this time, all of the devotees offer ghee lamps to the Deities, illuminating the temple with the flickering light of their offerings, and Srimati Radharani is glorified through the singing of Sri Radhikastakam. This ecstatic kirtan concludes the festivities.





# *Celebrating the Appearance Day of Sri Madhava*

# JANMASTAMI

The annual celebration of Sri Madhava's appearance is celebrated by tens of thousands of pilgrims who come from far and wide just to take darshan of Sri Madhava every year. From months before the festival, the lodging facilities of ISKCON Mayapur are fully booked for those wanting to participate in the sweetest of festivals, but this does not discourage the visiting pilgrims to attend this festival. Rather, they find their shelter around the Mayapur campus grounds, and blissfully camp inside their mosquito nets, under the stars, anticipating the upcoming appearance day of Sri Madhava.

For a week leading up to the festivities, the daily Srimad Bhagavatam class becomes a sweet, nectar-filled narration and saturates the devotees' hearts with

glorious descriptions of the Lord's names, forms, pastimes, qualities, etc. Thus, both the speaker and listeners are relieved from their burning suffering in this material world by the soothing medicine of krishna-katha.

On the morning of Janmastami the pilgrims are up early, bathed and ready to see the Lord. Ladies and men stand in separate lines which extend from the main entrance of the temple all the way to the Sulab Kitchen. These lines are sometimes over 450 meters long; that's more than 1,475 feet! The determination of these devotees is certainly rewarded by the intimate darshan of the Lords in Their night outfits.

During the day, Sri Madhava and His consort are brought down from Their altar and are seated on a throne that

is beautifully decorated with flowers. Devotees then perform the various samskara ceremonies for the Lord according to Srila Rupa Goswami's Sri Krishna Janma Tithi Vidhi, a book which describes the proper observance of Sri Krishna Janmastami.

The festivities go on for two days, and throughout the entire celebration, ecstatic kirtan is performed. This kirtan-mela continues until late into the night, leading up to Sri Madhava's maha abhisek that takes place at 10p.m. and continues almost until midnight. For the maha abhisek, Srimati Radhika joins Her Madhava and comes down from Their altar onto the snana-vedi, the place where the abhisek is performed.

Sri Sri Radha Madhava are bathed with panca-gavya – the five sacred

items from a cow – and are then bathed with milk, yogurt, ghee, honey and sugar water, which are known as the five nectars. They are also bathed with seasonal juices from fruits such as mangoes, grapes, pomegranates, oranges, watermelons, and papayas. Sugar syrup scented with saffron, rose, aguru, musk and kusha grass, and fragrant flower waters made with rose, bakul, lotus, jasmine, and gandharaj is also used to bathe Their Lordships. The

of colourful flowers and joyous chants of “Jai!” and “Haribol!”

names and glories of the Supreme Personality of Godhead in the mood of sweetness, Sri Madhava.

Once the abhisek is completed, Their Lordships are taken back to the altar and are dressed in a brand new outfit, and are then offered bhoga lovingly cooked by the community. Over 400 preparations are offered to Their Lordships. Once the offering is done the conch shell blows, announcing that Sri Sri Radha Madhava are finally ready to give



Divine Couple are also bathed in green coconut water and are given two kinds of showers: sarva aushadi and maha aushadi, which use natural medicinal and herbal substances to bathe the Lord. After being bathed in these various substances, sandalwood paste is applied and then washed off of Radha Madhava's forms with a steady shower of Ganges water. This grand abhisek is then concluded with a massive shower

Their midnight darshan. The intensity of the kirtan grows with the devotees' anticipation, and the final darshan of Radha Madhava and Their sakhis is ecstatic.

To conclude the festivities, the devotees are served a delicious anukalpa feast in the various kitchens of Mayapur. The devotees then retire for the night, their minds and hearts completely saturated with the





## *The Appearance Days of the Sakhis*

### TUNGAVIDYA DEVI

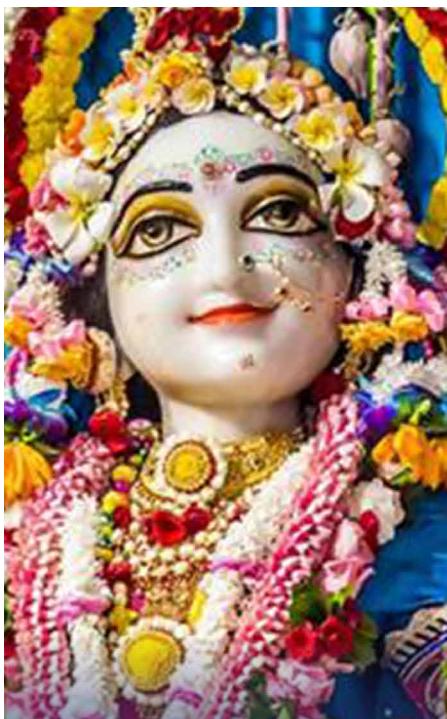
Tungavidya Devi is 15 days older than Srimati Radhika, her age being eternally 14 years, 2 months and 22 days old. She stands fourth on Sri Madhava's right, on the far end. Her special service to the Divine Couple is singing and dancing. In Sri Dham Mayapur, she can be seen offering garlands or necklaces, and a basket or bouquet of freshly picked flowers.

### LALITA DEVI

She is twenty-seven days older than Srimati Radharani, her age being eternally 14 years, 8 months and 27 days old. She stands directly next to Sri Madhava on His right. She specialises in serving tambula, betel nut to the Divine Couple. She can be seen offering a chamara (yak tail) whisk to Sri Sri Radha Madhava on the altar in Mayapur

### VISAKHA DEVI

BEING BORN ON THE SAME DAY, SHE IS EXACTLY THE SAME AGE AS SRIMATI RADHARANI, BEING ETERNALLY 14 YEARS, 2 MONTHS AND 15 DAYS OLD. SHE STANDS DIRECTLY NEXT TO SRIMATI RADHARANI ON HER LEFT. SHE RENDERS THE SPECIAL SERVICE OF VASTRALANKARA OR ARRANGING FOR THE CLOTHING AND ORNAMENTATION OF THE DIVINE COUPLE. IN MAYAPUR, SHE CAN BE SEEN OFFERING A CHAMARA WHISK TO THE DIVINE COUPLE.



## CAMPAKALATA DEVI

She is one day younger than Srimati Radharani. Her eternal age is 14 years, 2 months and 13½ days old. She stands next to Lalita Devi, second on Sri Madhava's right. She especially serves the Divine Couple by waving the chamara (yak tail) whisk and offering jeweled necklaces. On the altar in Mayapur, she can be seen offering jeweled necklaces to Radha Madhava.



## INDULEKHA DEVI

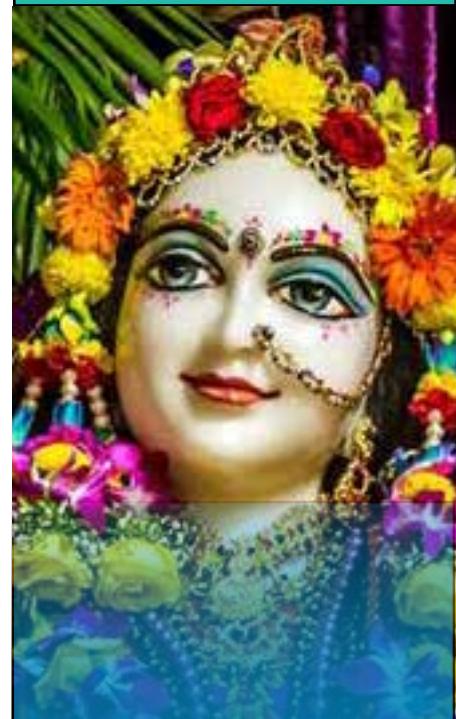
INDULEKHA DEVI IS THREE DAYS YOUNGER THAN SRIMATI RADHARANI, AND IS ETERNALLY 14 YEARS, 2 MONTHS, AND 10 ½ DAYS OLD. INDULEKHA DEVI STANDS NEXT TO VISAKHA DEVI, SECOND GOPI ON SRIMATI RADHARANI'S RIGHT. HER MAIN SERVICE IS TO PREPARE NECTAREAN FOODS FOR THE DIVINE COUPLE, AND SOME AUTHORITIES SAY THAT ANOTHER OF HER PRIMARY SERVICES IS DANCING. IN SRI DHAM MAYAPUR, SHE CAN BE SEEN OFFERING A SILVER BOX FULL OF TAMBULA TO SRI SRI RADHA MADHAVA.

## SUDEVI

Sudevi stands fourth on Srimati Radharani's left, on the far end. Her service to the Divine couple is jala-seva, or offering water to the Divine Couple. Her service, as seen on the altar in Mayapur, is offering beautiful baskets and bouquets of flowers to Sri Sri Radha Madhava.

## RANGADEVI AND SUDEVI

Rangadevi and Sudevi gopis are identical twins. The twins are seven days younger than Srimati Radharani, their eternal age being 14 years, 2 months and 4 days old.



## RANGADEVI

Rangadevi is half a day older than Sudevi, thus she is eternally 14 years, 2 months and 4 ½ days old. She stands third on Srimati Radharani's left. Her service to the Divine Couple is supplying chandana, or sandalwood paste. On the altar in Mayapur, she can be seen offering beautiful garlands or necklaces to Sri Sri Radha Madhava.



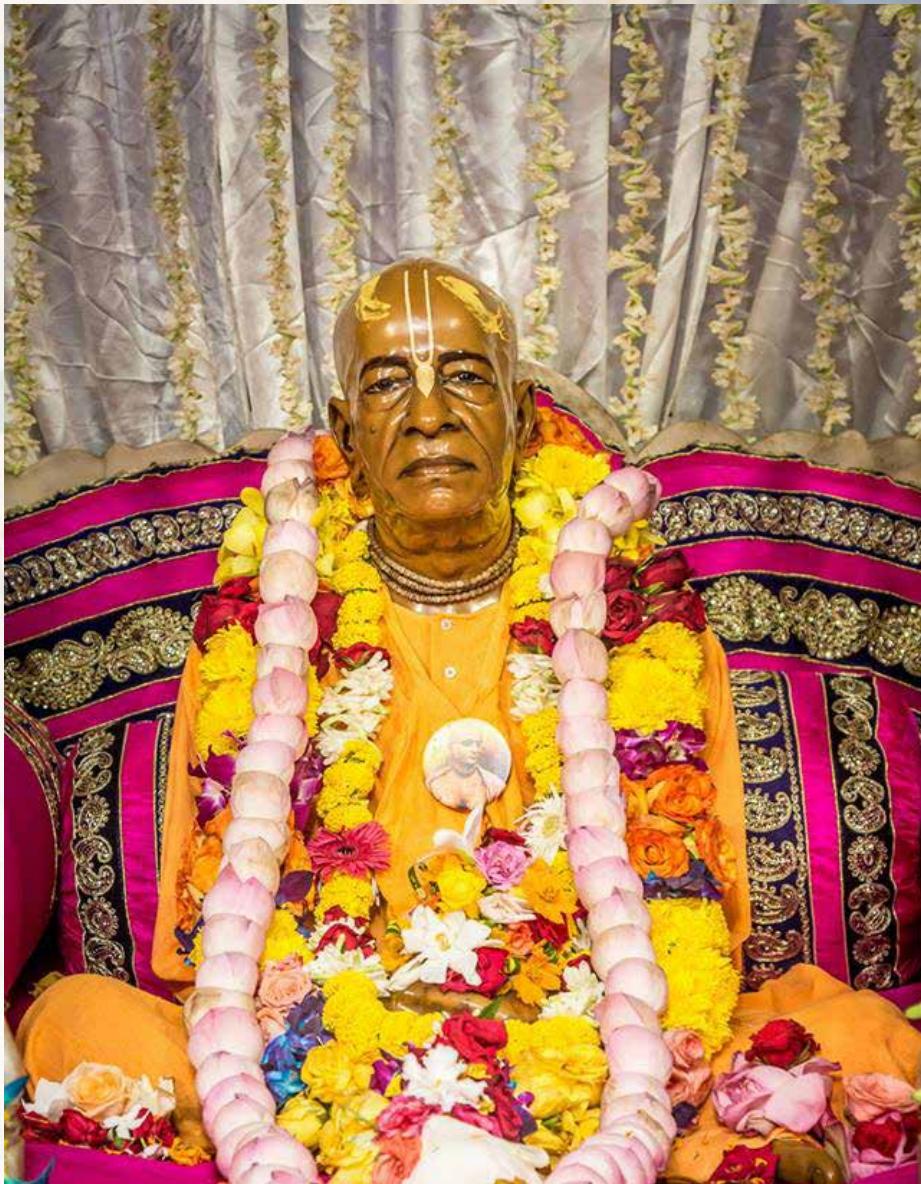
# Celebrating Srila Prabhupada's VYASA PUJA

Each day, starting one week before the Vyasa Puja of His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, devotees gather to honour Srila Prabhupada with arati, kirtan, personal offerings, and often artistic presentations such as dances and dramas. Different facets of the community of Mayapur, its schools, and some of its departments take turns hosting the Vyasa Puja celebrations and honouring ISKCON's Founder-acharya.

The culmination of these festivities is on Vyasa Puja day itself, when the entire community gathers in the temple to celebrate and offer their gratitude to Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu's senapati-bhakta, Srila Prabhupada. Senior devotees glorify Srila Prabhupada, who sits upon a specially constructed dais decorated elaborately with flowers. Abhisek for Srila Prabhupada is then performed, along with ecstatic kirtan, a maha-arati, and the offering of hundreds of sweet and savory preparations. Devotees spend the entire day immersed in glorifying and serving Srila Prabhupada, in whose debt we all gloriously find ourselves.

The entire community contributes to a Vyasa Puja book which is offered to Srila Prabhupada. The book is an artistic masterpiece, its pages intricately decorated with original artwork. It takes a team of devotees months to prepare. Devotees young and old write

offerings for the book, expressing their gratitude and offering respect to Srila Prabhupada.



# OBSERVING VAMANA DVADASI



Srila Prabhupada said that to honour festivals such as Rama Navami and Vamana Dvadasi, a small boy could play the part of Krishna's incarnation and the devotees could worship him accordingly. So every year in ISKCON Mayapur, a young gurukula boy takes on the role of Lord Vamanadeva.

At midday on Sri Vamana Dvadasi, the curtains of the altar are drawn back to reveal that Lord Vamanadeva has appeared. A young brahmachari boy stands on the altar, dressed in a saffron dhoti and deerskin, and wearing a flower garland. He carries a chatram, or umbrella, in one hand and a kamandalu, or waterpot, in the other.

Lord Vamanadeva descends from the altar and is received and honoured by the priests and



brahmanas, who perform svasti vacanam and then bathe the feet of the young boy playing the part of Lord Vamanadeva. One of the priests then handfeeds Lord Vamanadeva many varieties of delicious prasadam, and He eats until He is fully satisfied. He is further worshipped with a Maha arati, and then, He distributes His maha prasad to all of the assembled devotees, who receive the great good fortune of receiving maha prasad from the hand of the Lord.

This wonderful festival helps devotees to meditate on the form and pastimes of Lord Vamanadeva, whose pastimes demonstrate many important lessons for devotees on the path of bhakti yoga.

# SRILA BHAKTIVINODA THAKURA'S 181<sup>ST</sup> APPEARANCE DAY CELEBRATIONS



After the puspanjali and maha arati for Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura in the Mayapur Candrodaya Mandir around midday, hundreds of devotees from ISKCON Mayapur and the local Gaudiya maths joined together in a wonderful procession later that afternoon to honour and celebrate the 181st appearance day of Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura. Hundreds of devotees participated in the festivities and went on procession from Bhaktisiddhanta Road, across the Jalangi river, to Surabhi Kunja. Various esteemed Vaisnavas spoke and preached the glorification of Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura, appreciating his efforts and major contributions to Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu's mission. This wonderful festival was concluded with the distribution maha prasadam.



# LIFE IN MAYAPUR

I LOVE MAYAPUR!

By Gourangi Gandharvika Devi Dasi

*J*

or me, Mayapur is not just a place to live, Mayapur is my home. How do I even start to describe Mayapur Dham?

I came to Mayapur when I was 7 years old just for a visit, and I fell in love at once! And since that visit, I have been living here. Now it has been 14 years and my feelings haven't changed at all, in fact I love and appreciate it more.

The beauty of Mayapur is that as a devotee, you do not need to lead two separate lives, one in the temple and the other one at school or work. The whole community is striving for the same goal, we are all devotees, and have the same lifestyle; it is an ideal place to advance in your Krsna Consciousness.

The devotees that I have grown up with in Mayapur have become my family, the school I studied in has devotee teachers and students, the temple the home of my most beautiful and beloved Radha Madhava, and the festivals that are celebrated here the grandest! There are always senior devotees and Maharaja's coming to give their association, courses and workshops offered, festivals, parikramas, kirtans, service and the list goes on!

There is always something to do, some kirtan or event going on or a festival to prepare for. I am never bored here. There is no place I would rather live in than in Mayapur Dham. When I think about what my life would be without Mayapur Dham, I see no life and emptiness. There is just no life better than in Mayapur for me. My greatest fear is if one day I will not be able to live and die in Mayapur. Mayapur is my shelter, my home, my life and my everything.

There is so much to Mayapur Dham, I have only touched the surface of its glories. I am not a writer so I have not sufficiently described the beauty of it and even if I was a writer there are no words to describe what Mayapur is and what I feel about the dham. All I can say is that it changed my life and there is nowhere I would rather be than where I am now.



# ACTIVITIES

## 27 SEP - ISODYAN PRASADAM OPENING

Isodhyan Bhavan has just opened a prasadam outlet on the ground floor for visiting devotees and pilgrims. This is another prasadam outlet open to the public that has been approved by the Mayapur Management. The prasadam hall is fully air conditioned, and the diner set-up allows for comfortable seating for the 12 course meal, at only Rs.100.

### KARTIK NAVADVIPA MANDALA PARIKRAMA 2018

“Wandering in Navadvipa is the best of all opulences, the best of all religious principles, the best of all kinds of worship, the best of all perfections, the best of all glories, and the best of all oceans of sweetness.” – Sri Navadvipa Sataka by Srila Prabodhananda Sarasvati Thakura

The Mayapur Chandra's Kartik Navadvipa Mandala Parikrama offers devotees the opportunity to visit the nine islands of Navadvipa in the association of sincere devotees and to hear the glories of the Lord in His pastime places from many senior Vaishnavas. Navadvipa Mandala Parikrama is a great benediction for devotees, and is especially favourable during the most auspicious month of Kartik. Performing Navadvipa Mandala Parikrama is one of the most powerful ways to advance in spiritual life. This year, the parikrama will be joined by His Holiness Indradiyumna Swami, and will be held for 10 days, as opposed to the usual 6.

His Grace Pankajanghri Prabhu

has recounted his experience on Mayapur Chandra's Kartik Navadvipa Mandala Parikrama as follows:

“It's a very, very purifying program – getting covered with dust all day, hearing the pastimes of the Lord, chanting the holy names, in the association of the devotees, going temple to temple. It's like the five most favourable things for pure devotional service all packed together in one... I would say it's a must. Fifty percent of your life will be wasted if you don't come on Mayapur Chandra's parikrama.”



## NAMA-HATTA BHAVAN EVENTS FOR SEPTEMBER

### HOWRAH SANMMILAN

1,900 PARTICIPANTS

### KOCHBIHAR SANMMILAN

700 PARTICIPANTS

### WEST MEDNIPUR SANMMILAN

3,700 PARTICIPANTS

### EAST MEDNIPUR SANMMILAN

3,600 PARTICIPANTS

# B R H A D - M R D A N G A

## THE EPICENTER AND ITS WAVES

"My Guru Maharaja used to say that these literature are the 'Brhat Mrdanga,' that is to say, the big mrdanga, because like the mrdanga which can be heard from a long distance, simply a few words can have a tremendous effect on millions of people if they are propagated widely."

— Srila Prabhupada, Letter to Niranjana, Los Angeles 21 May, 1972

Sri Dham Mayapur is the birthplace of the sankirtan movement, the place where Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu and His associates first began to broadcast the message of Krishna bhakti, and the place where their pastimes continue to go on eternally. It is here that the brhat mridanga, or propagation of transcendental literatures, has its heart, and the waves caused by the beating of this brhat mridanga have now spread all over the world. ISKCON devotees worldwide spread the teachings of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu through the distribution of transcendental literature, and in the epicenter of the sankirtan movement in Sri Dham Mayapur, the residents of this holy place continue to do the same.

Since the early days in Mayapur, residents of ISKCON Mayapur have made book distribution a priority, knowing how pleasing book distribution is to Srila Prabhupada. In the 1970s, His Holiness Jayapataka Swami and other Mayapur devotees used to set out from Mayapur in a van

to distribute Srila Prabhupada's books, as well as in the Nitai Pada Kamala boat. They would travel from village to village, distributing Srila Prabhupada's books and spreading the mercy of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu. In these early days, only one of Srila Prabhupada's books was published in Bengali: the Gitar-gan, Srila Prabhupada's poetic translation of the Bhagavad-Gita into Bengali.

Srila Prabhupada encouraged Mayapur's devotees thus:

"Take this opportunity for preaching in Bengal. Especially please go from village to village with a party of 5, 6 men and preach the message of Lord Caitanya Mahaprabhu with great enthusiasm." Letter to Bhavananda — Vrindavana, 10 November, 1976

Over the years, the success of Mayapur's book distribution and travelling sankirtan parties has continually increased, and ISKCON Mayapur now has an official Sankirtan Department which oversees all of these preaching efforts. The Sankirtan Department has only one purpose: to please Srila Prabhupada by distributing more and more of his books. And they have been incredibly successful in this regard, as ISKCON Mayapur has achieved one of the top three yearly book distribution scores every year for over ten years. For the year 2016 alone, Sri Dham Mayapur scored 684,775 book points.

ISKCON Mayapur's Sankirtan Department operates ten travelling sankirtan bus parties, as well as eight of the approximately twenty book tables within the ISKCON Mayapur campus. They also manage a storehouse where their many books are kept, and have a building, Sankirtan Bhavan, where most of the one hundred brahmacharis who serve within the department reside when they are in Mayapur.

The book tables managed by the Sankirtan Department are an important feature of Mayapur's preaching. Today, hundreds of thousands of visitors come to Mayapur every year — all candidates to receive Srila Prabhupada's mercy in the form of his books! The book tables successfully introduce many of these visitors to Srila Prabhupada's books, and have been so successful that recently an additional book table was inaugurated. A portion of the devotees who serve within the Sankirtan Department are engaged to make sure Mayapur's visitors receive books, but the majority of the sankirtan devotees travel and preach on the ten bus parties, bringing the mercy of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu to those people who do not visit Sri Dham Mayapur.

The ten sankirtan bus parties travel year-round, throughout many different areas of India, including Assam, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Meghalaya, Tripura, Bihar, and all over West Bengal. Six or seven

devotees travel in each bus party, as well as Their Lordships Sri Sri Gaura Nitai. Every day, the devotees rise early and perform mangal arati together, chant their japa, have darshan arati, attend Srimad Bhagavatam class, and then honour prasadam and go out to distribute books for the rest of the day.

Their preaching is not without challenges. Sometimes, the devotees preach in dangerous areas. Once, while a devotee was distributing books inside of a bank, a group of dacoits entered and robbed the bank. When the police arrived, they thought that the devotee was one of the bank robbers, and arrested him! By the Lord's mercy, everything was resolved and the devotee was set free. This is just one example of the challenges faced by the sankirtan devotees, who despite such challenges, remain unperturbed and enthusiastic in their service to Srila Prabhupada.

Currently, the Sankirtan Department is preparing for their book distribution marathon, which takes place every year in December. This marathon was first started in 1992 by His Holiness Jayapataka Swami and other senior devotees, and it has been incredibly successful ever since, with Mayapur scoring 251,888 book points in December of 2016.

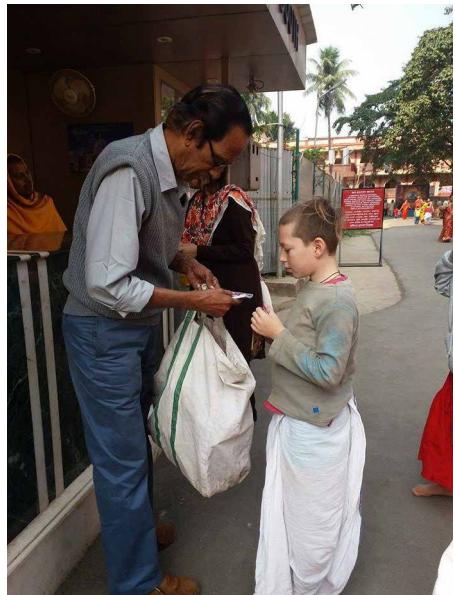
His Holiness Jayapataka Swami is a continual source of inspiration and guidance for the Sankirtan Department, and throughout the year gives much thought and time to the ongoing success of the department. Despite the immense services he does for ISKCON worldwide, he is still regularly involved with Mayapur's Sankirtan Department, encouraging the

devotees in their service and ensuring that their service is effective and progressive.

Another instrumental supporter of Mayapur's Sankirtan Department is His Holiness Bhakti Purusottama Swami, who helped found the department and who stays with the sankirtan devotees when he is in Mayapur and offers them continual encouragement in their service.

Many thanks to the devotees who serve within ISKCON Mayapur's Sankirtan Department, who are surely greatly pleasing Srila Prabhupada with their successful distribution of his books.

"I am most pleased especially to hear that you are distributing many books. Go on increasing books, and go on increasing my pleasure." Letter to Giriraja -- Bombay 28 December, 1971



## STOP CHASING AFTER THE REFLECTION OF THIS HAPPINESS

Once there was a king who had presented his daughter, the princess, with a beautiful diamond necklace. The necklace was stolen and his people in the kingdom searched everywhere but could not find it. Some said a bird might have stolen it. The king then asked them all to search for it and put a reward for \$50,000 for anyone who found it.

One day a clerk was walking home along a river next to an industrial area. This river was completely polluted, filthy and smelly. As he was walking, the clerk saw a shimmering in the river and when he looked, he saw the diamond necklace. He decided to try and catch it so that he could get the \$50,000 reward. He put his hand in the filthy, dirty river and grabbed at the necklace, but somehow missed it and didn't catch it. He took his hand out and looked again and the necklace was still there. He tried again, this time he walked in the river and dirtied his pants in the filthy river and put his whole arm in to catch the necklace. But strangely, he still missed the necklace! He came out and started walking away, feeling depressed.

Then again he saw the necklace, right there. This time he was determined to get it, no matter what.

He decided to plunge into the river, although it was a disgusting thing to do as the river was polluted, and his whole body would become filthy. He plunged in, and searched everywhere for the necklace and yet he failed. This time he was really bewildered and came out feeling very depressed that he could not get the necklace that would get him \$50,000.

Just then a saint who was walking by, saw him, and asked him what the matter was. The clerk didn't want to share the secret with the saint, thinking the saint might take the necklace for himself, so he refused to tell the saint anything. But the saint could see this man was troubled and being compassionate, again asked the clerk to tell him the problem and promised that he would not tell anyone about it. The clerk mustered some courage and decided to put some faith



in the saint. He told the saint about the necklace and how he tried and tried to catch it, but kept failing. The saint then told him that perhaps he should try looking upward, toward the branches of the tree, instead of in the filthy river. The clerks looked up and true enough, the necklace was dangling on the branch of a tree. He had been trying to capture a mere reflection of the real necklace all this time.

## MORAL

Material happiness is just like the filthy, polluted river; because it is a mere reflection of the TRUE happiness in the spiritual world. We can never achieve the happiness we are looking for no matter how hard we endeavor in material life. Instead we should look upwards, toward Krishna, who is the source of real happiness, and stop chasing after the reflection of this happiness in the material world.

### SANKIRTAN STORIES CRIME FIGHTERS EXTRAORDINARY

By: Navina Nirada Dasa

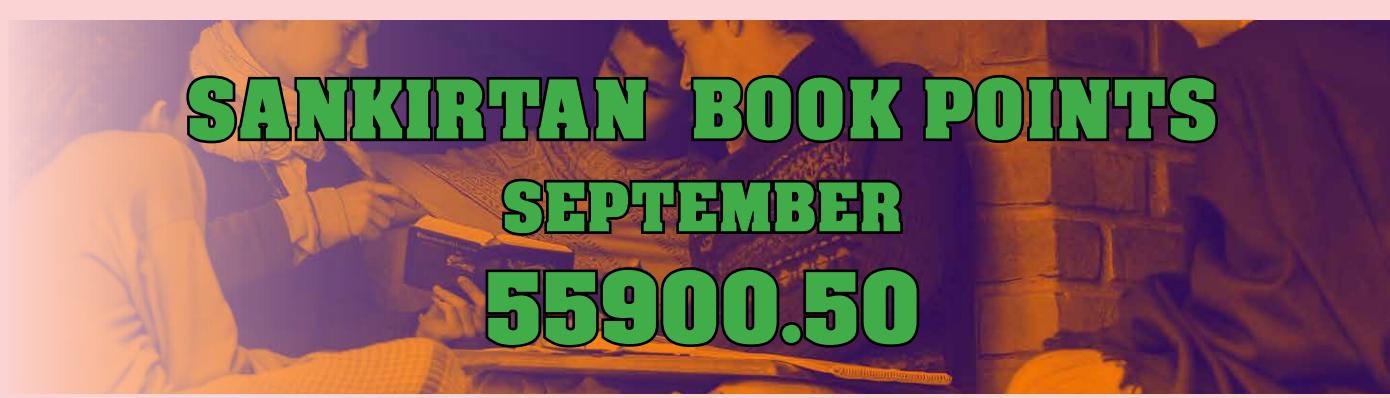
During my last visit to Siberia, I heard the following story from the devotees there. A burglar who belonged to a gang of thieves was in an apartment searching for valuables when he heard a noise at the door. He became scared and started to climb out the window. Frustrated that all his trouble had come to naught, he quickly grabbed whatever was at hand—a book lying on the kitchen table—and then ran off. When the burglar arrived home and looked at the book, he saw that the title read *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is*. He didn't have the slightest interest in such a book, but since he had stolen it he figured he might as well read it, so he opened it and began.

Soon he was becoming more and more interested in philosophy and spiritual life. He started visiting the local temple and gradually began chanting Hare Krishna. After some time he brought his gang members to the temple and introduced them to Krishna consciousness. Before long they were all regularly visiting the temple to render services like cleaning and driving. When devotees asked them what they did for a living, they simply answered, "God allows everyone to survive." But there was a problem. The burglar's wife became disturbed to see the great change in his character. He was losing interest in his occupation. She worried about their income. To make matters worse, her father was one of the biggest gangsters in town. Infuriated to find his son-in-law breaking with their tradition of thievery, the father-in-law even threatened to kill him if he didn't stop his spiritual practices, which his father-in-law considered an insult to their great heritage.

So the burglar was caught in a real bind. But one day his wife went to visit some relatives in Moscow, and while shopping in a big marketplace she saw a young man carrying a stack of books. He was walking around without approaching anyone. After he had walked past many people, he went straight up to her, gave her a book, and said, "This is the best book in the world. You should read it, because you'll really like it." The devotee didn't know her and had no idea her husband was already chanting Hare Krishna.

The burglar's wife was intrigued that out of hundreds of people in the marketplace the devotee had come up to her. She bought the book, *Teachings of Lord Caitanya*. Then she went home and read it cover to cover. Now convinced about the philosophy of Krishna consciousness, she joined forces with her husband and threw her father out of the house.

## FACTS & FIGURES



# Management Notification

*As Reported by Mayapur Communication Office*

## DEMIGOD PUJAS ON EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS THE CAMPUS

APPROVED: HIS GRACE HARILILA PRABHU TO DRAFT THE PROPOSAL REGARDING DEMIGOD PUJAS ON THE CAMPUS. AFTER CHECKING WITH HIS GRACE JANANIVAS PRABHU AND HIS HOLINESS BHAKTI VIDYA PURNA SWAMI AND APPROVAL BY MAC, THE PROPOSAL WILL BE SENT TO FESTIVAL COMMITTEE AND MDC.

## BOOTH

MAC MEMBERS FOR EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION WILL DISCUSS MAKING THE FESTIVAL BOOTH FOR ALL THE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS OF ISKCON MAYAPUR. ONE COMMON BOOTH FOR ALL EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS FOR PROMOTION DURING FESTIVALS.

## SHENNAI AND TOVP BELL

APPROVED: HIS GRACE NITAI PADA KAMALA PRABHU WILL FIND OUT WHY SHENNAI IS NOT BEING PLAYED IN THE MORNING FROM SRILA PRABHUPADA'S SAMADHI ANYMORE.

APPROVED: HIS GRACE SUBHEKSANA PRABHU WILL SPEAK TO HIS GRACE BRAJAVILAS PRABHU REGARDING ADJUSTING THE TIMING OF THE TOVP BELL, NOT TO CAUSE DISTURBANCE IN LATE EVENING HOURS.

## JANMASTAMI

### FESTIVAL UPDATE

JANMASTAMI FESTIVAL REPORT WAS GIVEN BY HIS GRACE MADHAVA GAURANGA PRABHU. THE SECURITY DIVISION DID NOT FACE ANY PROBLEMS AND FESTIVAL ORGANIZATION WAS VERY SUCCESSFUL AND SMOOTH.

## KIOSKS

MAC IS REQUESTING MASTER PLAN TO GIVE SOLUTION FOR KIOSKS ON THE CAMPUS (SANKIRTAN, BOOKS, INFORMATION, ETC.,) WITHIN TWO WEEKS.

SHENNAI IS BEING PLAYED AGAIN.



## *“He Built a House in Which the Whole World Can Live”*

*“I have just now come to Mayapur and am very hopeful to regain my strength and health on account of being in this transcendental atmosphere. Every moment we are passing here in great delight”*

- Letter to Mrs. Nirmala Singhal written from Calcutta June 01, 1973

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