



THE CONCH

www.theconchnewsletter.org

"Lord Sri Krishna and Arjuna blew their celestial conches to rally and enthuse the devotees."

NEWSLETTER
of New Govardhana Community



Dedicated to His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, Founder-acarya of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness

GOVARDHANA HILL MANIFESTS



Urvasi devi dasi

"King of the Hill" Lord Giriraja blesses the gathering of devotees and guests with his darshana at the recent Govardhana Puja Festival at New Govardhana.

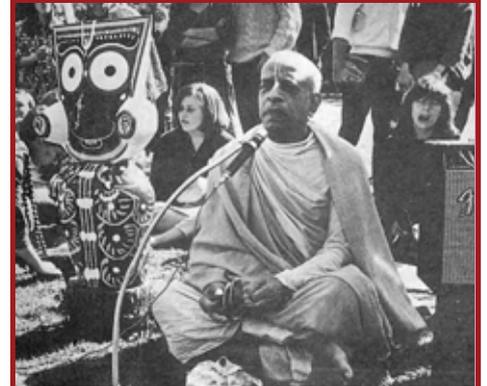


Urvasi devi dasi

Sri Sri Krishna Balarama's cows graze and rest beside Govardhana Hill.

CONCH: Why re-create Govardhana on the NSW North Coast ?

MAHA MANTRA: We are not re-creating Govardhana - Govardhana is already there. We are simply serving in a way that allows it to manifest. Sri Sri Radha Govardhanadhari and Lord Giriraja have chosen to appear here. Wherever you have a Deity, that whole area is the Holy Dham, and when you have a Govardhana Sila, that circumference extends to about 23km. This whole area - Mt Warning, Tyalgum, Murwillumbah is considered already Govardhana. (continued on page 2)



ISKCON Founder-Acarya His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

Prabhupada uvaca ...

At the beginning of winter, there is a ceremony known as the Oḍana-ṣaṣṭhī. This ceremony indicates that from that day forward, a winter covering should be given to Lord Jagannātha. That covering is directly purchased from a weaver. According to the arcana-mārga, a cloth should first be washed to remove all the starch, and then it can be used to cover the Lord. Puṇḍarīka Vidyānidhi saw that the priest neglected to wash the cloth before covering Lord Jagannātha. Since he wanted to find some fault in the devotees, he became indignant.

Śrī Caitanya Caritāmṛita
Madhya 16.78 (Purport)



Urvasi devi dasi

At this year's Govardhana Puja Festival Bhakti Charu had the opportunity to churn buttermilk from Gokula dasa and Vilasa Manjari devi dasi's house cow Bhumi. Her calf Komali was tethered nearby, stealing the hearts of all.

NOBODY KHAN LIKE KRISHNA CAN

by *Mandakini devi dasi*

Chadrashekara Acarya dasa and wife Radha Premi dasi recently graced New Govardhana with their enlivening presence.

The main purpose of their visit was to offer care and encouragement to Chandra's mother, Satya devi dasi, who is undergoing chemotherapy treatment.

The couple are based in Hong Kong, where Chandra is the assistant GBC for Taiwan and Mainland China. Radha Premi hails from Inner Mongolia, where religiosity is greatly frowned upon. From early childhood, she distinctly remembers feeling ill at ease in her 'homeland'. This territory was once ruled by the fearful and invincible Genghis Khan.

Upon meeting local devotees more than a decade ago, Radha was



Aravinda dasa

Radha Premi dasi and Chadrashekara Acarya dasa during their recent visit to New Govardhana

immediately attracted by their kindness, and particularly relished the delicious *prasadam*. It was from the subsequent visit of Beijing devotees to the area that she decided to fully embrace Krishna Consciousness.

Devastated by her 'deviant' behavior, her father refused to speak to her for five years, while

her mother wept for one whole year. They truly thought she would become sick and die due to abstaining from meat.

After a long and painfully intense period, they eventually accepted her choices. They tried to find a suitable husband for her, but upon meeting prospective suitors, she would scare them away with a description of her chosen Vedic lifestyle.

When initiating guru HH Giriraja Maharajah heard of Radha's plight, he arranged for her marriage to the most suitable, Chadrashekara. Mother-in-law Satya describes Radha as the ideal daughter-in-law and Chandra as the ideal son and is feeling greatly recharged by their loving care and association.

GOVARDHANA HILL MANIFESTS



Urvashi devi dasi

Mantra, it's the other pinkie !



Urvashi devi dasi

An entranced audience listens as Maha Mantra Prabhu shares the pastimes of Govardhana. (Inset top left: Venu Gopal Prabhu brought Lord Giriraja [his home Deity] and placed Him on The Hill as part of the ceremony.)

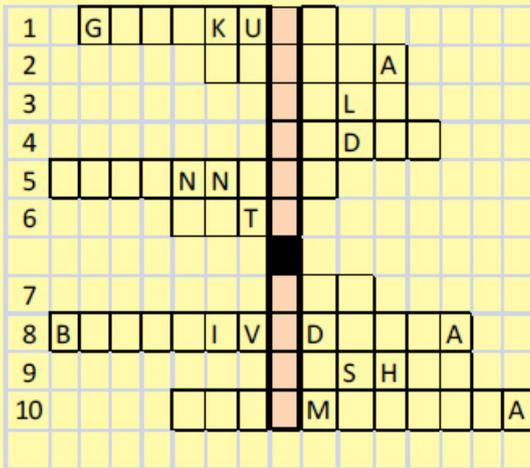
CONCH : How can people help with the project?

MAHA MANTRA: The project has been greatly assisted financially by Braj Gauranga dasa and the catering crew. They have contributed towards Govardhana Hill, Surabhi Kunda, and Indra Kunda. If anyone else would like to contribute please contact Ajita dasa, Maha Mantra dasa or Malini devi dasi.

CONCH : How was the Govardhana Puja festival at Govardhana Hill received this year ?

MAHA MANTRA : The devotees and guests were overwhelmed and inspired actually. They very much appreciated the pastimes that were recited. Even the local contractors that worked on the project with us are talking about "the hill" at the "Hare Farm" - some of them even relating stories to their friends about how Krishna lifted a hill with His little finger.

KIDS & YOUNGSTERS CORNER



1. Vedic school
2. Thief of Krishna's calves and cowherd-friends
3. Divine pastime
4. Chief Demigod
5. Deity in Rajapur
6. Wife of Lord Ramacandra
7. Servant in sanskrit
8. Srila Prabhupada's title
9. Ruling Deity of the mood of Goodness
10. One of the Deities in Mayapur Candrodaya Mandir

Surprise Answer ... "When Radha and Krishna met They embraced, and blissful in the ecstasy of meeting. They lost external consciousness. At that time _____ came and tied a knot in the cloth of both Radha and Krishna, then left the kunjra" (excerpt from "Srimati Radharani" by HH Bhakti Purusottama Maharaja)

[This crossword from the Mayapur Times was designed by Jahnvi dasi (12-years-old) from Czech Replublic, a student of Bhaktivedanta Gurukula]

NOT YOUR AVERAGE FAMILY

by Mandakini devi dasi

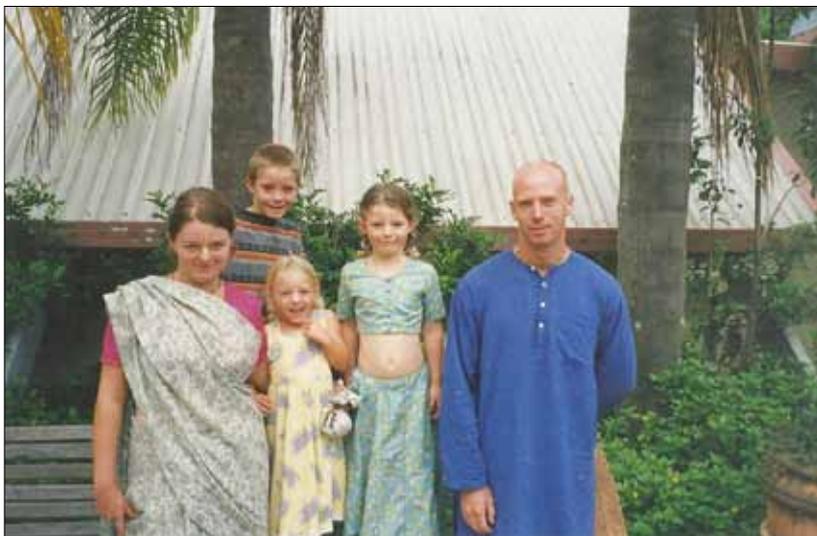
New Govardhana teenager, Rohini Robson, was recently chosen to be interviewed for the popular Dolly magazine.

The particular feature focuses on the experiences of young people in unusual family situations. In the article, Rohini relates how 10 years ago, Dad brought her and her two siblings to live in a Hare Krishna community after the demise of her mother.

Her description of the property, with vegetable gardens, orchards, peacocks, cows, swimming holes and beautiful temple deities, paints an attractive picture for the outside world.

Says Rohini, "Hare Krishnas respect all forms of life, especially cows, which we believe are holy, gentle creatures, as they only eat grass and make nutritious milk. This is also why we are vegetarians - I've never even tried meat". After commenting on the very successful WWOOFer program, Rohini spread the word regarding the 'open door' Sunday feast activities of music, chanting, dancing and delicious vegetarian food.

Her concluding words are warming, "When I turn 18, I can choose if I want to stay on the farm and live a Hare Krishna lifestyle or not. I think I'd like to become a beautician, but I know I'll never stray far".



Unknown Source

L. to R. Mahesvari devi dasi, Rupa, Tulasi, Rohini and Nandaraaja dasa



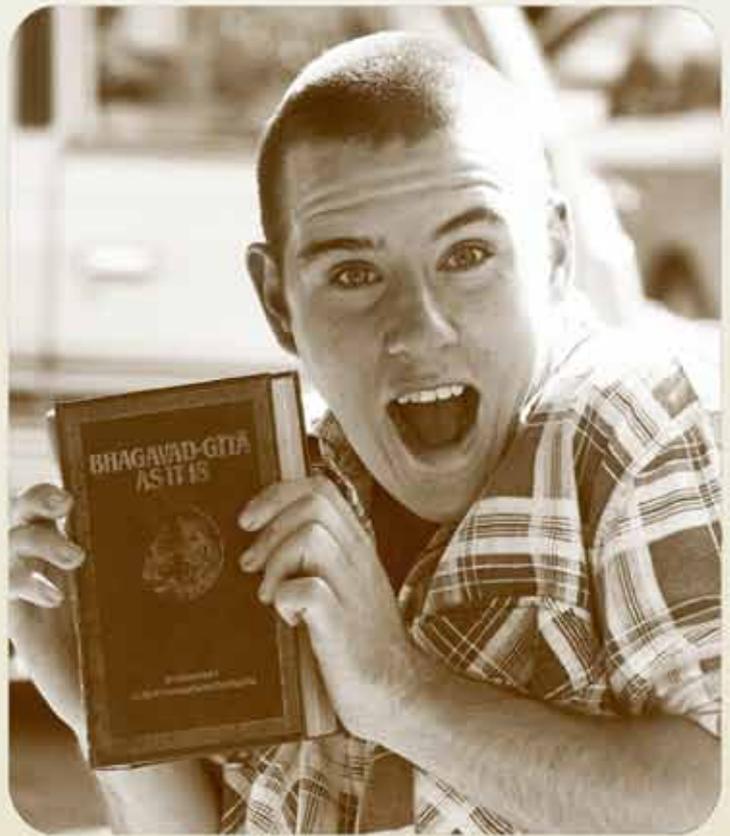
Mahesvari devi dasi

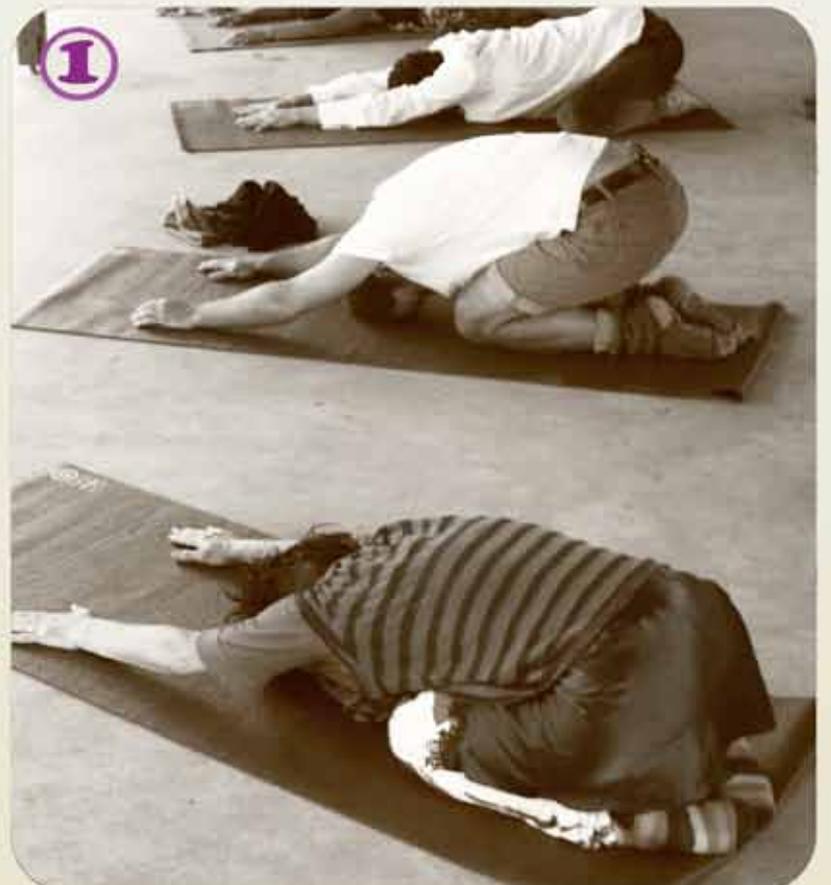
Rohini Robson



kr̥ṣṇa village woofers

- 1 Morning yoga & kirtan; the blissful way to begin the day. Currently 5am mon/wed/fri in the White House.
- 2 Ecstatic monthly kirtan nights: First Friday of every month (next event: December 7th).
- 3 The gardens are producing wonderfully under the diligent care of Tim, Lalita & Wil. Currently 20-30 boxes of fresh, organic veges each week for the pleasure of Śrī Śrī Rādhā Govardhānī.
- 4 Sunday morning Krishna conscious discussion with H.H. Mukunda Goswami. Every Sunday 9.15am on the Temple lawn ~ everyone welcome.





NANDANAM MUSIC ACADEMY

by Amber Borsotti

Ashwini Raj is a fully trained professional Karnatic vocalist, starting from the age of 3. Studying with some of the great musicians of South India, she has won several awards and has been recognised as an expert in her field.



Urvasi devi dasi

Ashwini Raj will offer vocal workshops for single or group classes

Ashwini is passionate about her music and has been teaching *bhajana* and light classical music since 2003. She intends to establish herself at New Govardhana through the Nandanam Music Academy, using the Gurukula Hall and Arts Centre as her teaching base. The Academy offers vocal workshops, single or group classes and performance training. The Adyakshara Program is a special opportunity for those looking to find their voice. Classes will be held once a week at the Gurukula Hall. Ashwini is offering a free introductory lesson.

For more information please contact Ashwini or Navin on 0468740656.

VANDE A NEW INITIATIVE IN ISKCON

An excerpt from an article in the ISKCON News

VANDE aims to support Vaishnava arts and culture within ISKCON through a variety of different efforts.

Behind the project is a core team, headed by HH Bhakti Marg Swami. Assisting him is a roster of illustrious Vaishnava artists, such as Vasudeva dasa, Titiksava Karunika, Nitai Priya dasi, Haridas, Subuddhi Krishna dasa and academic Damodara Pandit dasa.

Well-established in their own fields, all these devotees hope to help younger artists in various ways.

One major initiative is the website Vandearts.com, established about six months ago, which connects ISKCON artists with patrons of the arts. Artists can click on the link “Join our artist directory here on the VANDE homepage”, choose from a wide variety of artistic categories that they feel they belong to, register for free, and upload their profile. “That way, anyone in ISKCON who might be looking for an artist—whether it’s a musician, dancer, writer, cook, or jewellery maker—can look through our website and see if there are any artists that match their needs,” says VANDE secretary Damodara Pandit dasa.

“Srla Prabhupada called for a cultural conquest,” says Damodara Pandit. “So we feel that it’s very important that ISKCON become rich in the arts—which are themselves devotional service, and which can greatly inspire and enthuse people in spiritual life.”

Perhaps a branch of VANDE could be set up in New Govardhana. Anyone interested in teaching?

Read more: <http://news.iskcon.com/node/4721#ixzz2Bn7zfbKQ>



<http://news.iskcon.com>

Devotee actors perform in a Ramayan theatre production by HH Bhakti Marg Swami

ART FOR GOD’S SAKE



Urvasi devi dasi



Devotees expressed appreciation to Malini devi dasi for these simple stamped slabs of clay used as holders for the ghee-wick lamps to offered to Lord Damodhara. Hopefully this idea will inspire the many creative devotees on New Govardhana to make some more beautiful lamp offerings for next years celebrations.

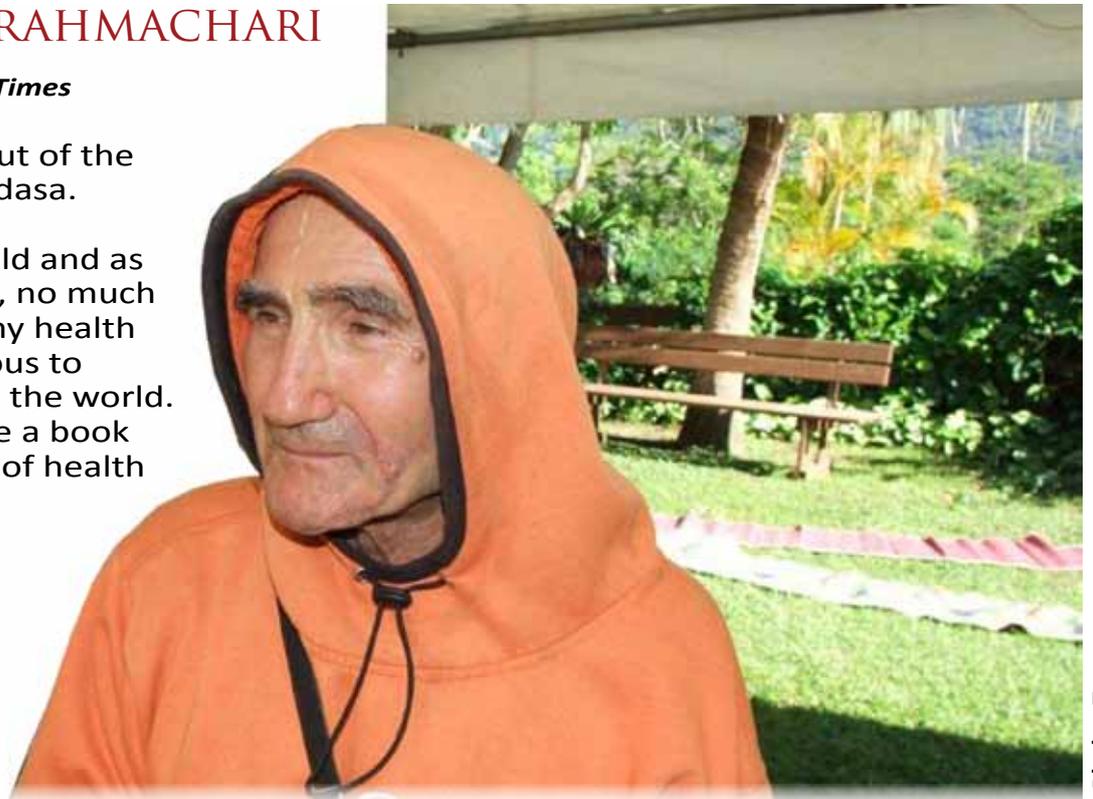
LAGUDI DASA BRAHMACHARI

Excerpt from the Mayapura Times

Looking for something out of the ordinary? Here's Lagudi dasa.

Lagudi dasa is 72 years old and as active as a teenager - no, no much more active! He has many health secrets which he is anxious to share with devotees and the world. He has it in mind to write a book revealing his knowledge of health and vitality.

With some assistance, Lagudi can produce a very helpful booklet for devotees with health problems, and a cure for any and all lacking in enthusiasm.



Bhakta Trevor

Former resident of New Govardhana Lagudi dasa now lives in Sri Dham Mayapur

If you are able to contribute in any way, please feel free to contact me. I have my own writing program and don't have much time, but would be willing to help edit. If an old unused computer becomes available for loan, this would be a boon to Lagudi's project.

If you have the time and energy to keep up with this septuagenarian, you can find him in the senior men's brahmachari ashram in Mayapur.

Lagudi served in Australia for nearly 30 years performing different services at New Govardhana. His association is an experience you won't forget. He chants at least 50 rounds a day.

Thanks, all the best, Hare Krishna
Jnanagamy dasa

EDITORIAL GUIDELINES

Articles submitted to the Conch should contain 200 words or less and can be supplied in either MS Word format or typed directly into the body of an email. Photos must be submitted in JPG format.

All articles and photos must be sent to newgovconch@gmail.com by the 14th of each month. Articles and photos must include the names of the author and photographer. Your name will appear exactly as you submit it.

EDITORIAL BOARD:

Damodara Pandit dasa, Mandakini devi dasi, Govardhana Seva dasa, Urvasi devi dasi (Layout and Graphic Design)

For enquiries, comments or suggestions please contact www.theconchnewsletter.org



Urvasi devi dasi

BALA'S A CHAMP

Big Bala again showed his true colours at The Mullumbimby Agricultural Show on the 10 and 11 November, winning 'Best of Breed' for a 'Heavy Draft Gelding'.

Our Champ also took out 1st and 2nd prize for 'The Log Snig' and 'The Slide', as proud New Govardhana trainer Gita Govinda expertly led him through his paces.



Urvasi devi dasi

UPCOMING EVENTS IN DECEMBER

Memories of Srila Prabhupada



Anecdotes Remembrances & Kirtana

Sunday 23 December 2012
11.00 am - 6.30 pm

For further details contact Malini devi dasi 02 6672 3047
EKEDIS 525 Tyalgum Road, EUNGELLA NSW 2484 www.krishnafarm.com

Memories of Srila Prabhupada

Anecdotes and Remembrances interspersed with kirtana

hosted by

HH Bhakti Charu Swami & HH Mukunda Goswami

23 December 2012
11.00 am till 6.30 pm

For more information please contact
Malini devi dasi 02 6672 3047



Krsna Village
PRESENTS
BONFIRE KIRTAN
7 DECEMBER 2012

BHAJAN BABAS
JANARDAN
MALLIKA
CHANDRA
SRI DHAM
ROHINI AND MOHINI COX
ROHAN

7pm @ KRISHNA VILLAGE, 525 TYALGUM ROAD, EUNGELLA
FOR MORE INFO CALL KARUNIKA 0401 225 621 & FACEBOOK.COM/KRISHNA-VILLAGE

Krsna Village Bonfire Kirtan

7 December 2012 @ 6pm
Bhajan Babas, Janardan, Mallika, Chandra, Sri Dham, Rohini & Mohini Cox, Rohan
For more info call
Karunika 0401 225 621
Facebook.com/Krsna-Village



Odana Sasti Tuesday 18 December 2012

HARINAMA SANKIRTANA KI JAYA



Wednesdays 10.30 am

Byron Bay Hari Nama at the park opposite the Post Office.
For further details and transport information

Parama Karuna dasa
0439 280 362

Friday Evenings 6.30 pm

Bhakti Centre Surfers Paradise
bhakticentregoldcoast.com.au

Sunday Mornings

Northern NSW & Gold Coast
folkkrishna.com/program.htm
Isvara dasa 0411 825 549

SUMMER FESTIVAL
8-13 Jan 2013
Watch this Space

GURUKULA NEWS

by **Vinode Bihari dasa**

We are now only a few weeks away from the end of the school year 2012.

On the last day, Tuesday 11 December, students and their families and staff will enjoy a beautiful day out at the Banora swimming centre.

The final school assembly will be held on Monday 10th of December to worship the Lord and celebrate the students' achievements and efforts over the past year. This will be held in the newly opened Gurukula Hall and Arts Centre.

The Gurukula will re-open again for Term 1 in 2013, on Wednesday, 30 January. Please visit our website www.krishnaschool.org; email us (krishnaschool@australia.edu) or call us on (02) 6672 3788 for more information.

DECEMBER CALENDAR

(from the online Vaisnava calendar www.vaisnavacalender.com)

- 10 Mo Ekadasi (suitable for fasting) Fasting for Utpanna Ekadasi
Sri Narahari Sarakara Thakura -- Disappearance
- 11 Tu Dvadasi Break fast 4.45 am - 5.23 am
Sri Kaliya Krsnadasa -- Disappearance
- 12 We Sri Saranga Thakura -- Disappearance
- 13 Th Community Meeting 5.00 pm in Temple Room
- 18 Tu Odana sasthi
- 24 Mo Ekadasi (suitable for fasting) Fasting for Moksada Ekadasi
Advent of Srimad Bhagavad-gita
- 25 Tu Dvadasi Break fast 4.51 am - 9.29 am
- 28 Fr Katyayani vrata ends