

THE CONCH

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

NEWSLETTER

New Govardhana Community

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

May 2014

krishnafarm.com



NARASIMHA CHATURDASI

The Lord Protects His Devotees

HOLY NAME RETREAT

Mysterious Journey to Vrindavana



Gold coin donations help keep *The Conch* in print. Donation box in Temple Shop.

SRILA PRABHUPADA UVACA + KULI CATCHUP Q&A + UPCOMING EVENTS

NARASIMHADEVA'S APPEARANCE

By Ambika devi dasi

To uphold the statement of Shri Prahlada, a pure-hearted devotee who was but five years old, Lord Narasimha appeared from a pillar in the palace of the demonic atheistic king, Hiranyakasipu.

Unable to bear the fact that his son was a devotee of Vishnu, who had killed his brother and was his sworn enemy, the furious father had asked Prahlada where his God was. Prahlada's simple answer was that He is everywhere, which twisted Hiranyakasipu with rage. He asked if God was therefore in the column, and, cursing his son again and again, he struck his fist against the pillar.

With a tremendous roar that shook the universe, Lord Narasimha burst out of the pillar. Not recognising Him as his bitterest enemy, Hiranyakasipu was struck with wonder at the sight of this wonderful creature, who was half man, half lion.



Lord Narasimhadeva is pacified by the prayers of Bhakta Prahlada.

His angry eyes were like molten gold that stole the effulgence of the luminaries in the sky. His shining mane expanded His fearful face. He had deadly teeth, and His razor-sharp tongue moved about like a duelling sword. His ears were motionless and erect. His nostrils and gaping mouth looked like caves in a mountain. His whole body touched the sky and scattered the clouds. He had a short

neck, broad chest and thin waist. His body hairs were as white as the moon. His arms that spread in all directions were filled with weapons. His laughter was so shrill that Hiranyakasipu closed his eyes in fear.

Lord Narasimha played with Hiranyakasipu before finally laying him across His divine lap and ripping him to pieces with His nails. Sprinkled with blood, the Lord was unappeased in His anger. Little Prahlada was eventually pushed forward by the stunned demigods and pacified the Lord with his sincere prayers.

Thus, Lord Narasimha is worshipped as He who protects the devotees and annihilates the demons. In all our ISKCON temples, His prayers are sung after every *aratika*. If we remember Him when we are in danger, He will protect us. 🙏

Reference: Srimad-Bhagavatam Canto 7.8

JAYANANDA KI JAYA!

By Ambika devi dasi

Jayananda dasa joined the San Francisco temple in 1967. Mukunda Goswami, who was there at the time, said that right from the start Jayananda always proved to be responsible and selfless. He donated \$5000 to print *Bhagavad-gita* and drove a cab to support the temple.

Jayananda was known for his humility. He loved to distribute *prasadam* wherever he could and was always enthusiastic to tell people about Krishna.

He was instrumental in organising the tremendously successful first New York Rathayatra in 1976, and before his passing in 1977 he continued to serve by organising the first Los Angeles Rathayatra.

Although suffering from leukaemia, he was fearless in the face of death. He again donated \$5000 to Srila Prabhupada from funds set aside for medical expenses.

When he left, Srila Prabhupada wrote: "I am intensely feeling your separation." He asked all devotees to commemorate his passing annually.

References: Back to Godhead publications and from various devotees who knew him. 🙏

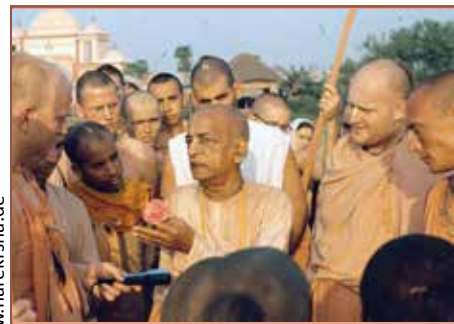


Photo: www.harekrnsna.de

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

Srila Prabhupada Uvaca

As soon as Hiranyakasipu struck the column, there issued forth a tumultuous sound.

At first Hiranyakasipu, the King of the demons, could not see anything but the pillar, but to substantiate Prahlada's statements, the Lord came out of the pillar in His wonderful incarnation as Narasimha, half lion and half man.

Hiranyakasipu could immediately understand that the extraordinarily wonderful form of the Lord was surely meant for his death, and thus he prepared to fight with the form of half lion and half man. The Lord performed His pastimes by fighting with the demon for some time, and in the evening, on the border between day and night, the Lord captured the demon, threw him on His lap, and killed him by piercing his abdomen with His nails.

The Lord not only killed Hiranyakasipu, the King of the demons, but also killed many of his followers. When there was no one else to fight, the Lord, roaring with anger, sat down on Hiranyakasipu's throne.

The entire universe was thus relieved of the rule of Hiranyakasipu, and everyone was jubilant in transcendental bliss. Then all the demigods, headed by Lord Brahma, approached the Lord. All of them stood not far from the Supreme Personality of Godhead and began offering their prayers unto the Lord, whose spiritual effulgence was brilliant as He sat on the throne.

Srimad-Bhagavatam 7.8 Summary

Cover Image: Arun S Nair.
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KULI CATCHUP Q&A

Krsnarupa devi dasi (ACBSP) interviews Sri Madhava Gauranga dasa

Q: You went to New Govardhana Gurukula (NGG) when you were just four and a half years of age. What are some of your happiest memories?

A: I recall with fondness the farm's natural environment, especially sliding down the hill behind the *gurukula* on cardboard, the mulberries and the river in summer. I remember most of the teachers being sweet-natured and kind.

Q: When did you leave NGG for Mayapur *gurukula*?

A: I left New Govardhana for Mayapur *gurukula* when I was eight years old.

Q: How did *gurukula* training help you in your spiritual life?

A: My *gurukula* training has been invaluable for establishing the value of self-improvement, respect, discipline, etc. *Gurukula* was, at the time, in an experimental phase, but although it wasn't easy I was lucky to have people whom I respected. These things helped me to see the value of spiritual culture. All things considered, I wouldn't have had it any other way.

Q: After *gurukula*, did you pursue further tertiary studies?

A: I left Mayapur when I was 15 and attended high school in Sydney. When I finished high school I moved back to Mayapur for a year and served as an *ashrama* teacher. My university studies began in Sydney some years later when I was about 25.

Q: When did you return to Mayapur?

A: I returned to Mayapur after completing a Traditional Chinese Medicine and Acupuncture degree in 2007 at UTS. I then married my wife, Sri Radhe devi dasi, who founded the girls' *gurukula* in Mayapur.

Q: What are your responsibilities in Mayapur now? How do you see their importance?

A: I serve as a Dean in the Bhaktivedanta Academy. I recently also took up the service of heading the agricultural division in ISKCON Mayapur, and I am also on the Mayapur Executive Council and Mayapur Policy Council. Srila Prabhupada clearly outlined his desires for, and the importance of, the future generations of ISKCON youth. I believe that implementing this vision is of the utmost importance to the future of society in general. I wanted to share with the newer generations all the benefits of the *gurukula* system of education without the negatives we suffered in the early days.

Q: You have achieved Master level in Tong Long Circular Kung Fu. How long has this taken you and how has it helped you develop?

A: It took me 12 years of training to achieve Master level. My martial arts training and the people I have been fortunate enough to connect with through that training, have been some of the most powerful influences in my life. I owe a great deal to Grandmaster Henry Sue, the founder of Circular Tong Long, and my master, Jason Stinson.

New Govardhana has a long history with training in this art. (Many devotees there used to train in Tong Long in the mid-1990s.) I would encourage devotees to connect with the Chinese Kung Fu Academy and train in this art for its life benefits. It complements spiritual life very naturally. I will be visiting New Govardhana in July with six of my senior students, and we look forward to sharing a demonstration with the New Govardhana community.



Photography: Source Unknown

(Top) Sri Madhava Gauranga as a student at Mayapur Gurukula. (Middle) Sri Madhava Gauranga dasa with his wife, Sri Radhe, and son, Anjaneya. (Below) From Left: Sifu Jason Stinson, Sifu Sri Madhava Gauranga dasa, Sifu Gung Henry Sue in Mayapur.

Holy Name Retreat



Friday 9 May

5.00 pm Kirtana, HNR introduction with Bhurijana dasa and Jagattarini devi dasi (Gurukula Hall)

Saturday 10 May

4.30 am Mangala Arati (Temple)
5.00 am Japa (Temple)
7.00 am Deity Darshan
Guru Puja / Kirtana (Temple)
7.30 am Srimad-Bhagavatam Class Katha and Kirtana with Jagattarini devi dasi (Temple)
9.00 am Breakfast Prasadam
10.30 am Kirtana
Japa Focus Session
Krishna-Katha: (Part 1)
Planting the Seed of a Most Mysterious Journey to Vrindavan with Bhurijana dasa (Gurukula Hall)
1.30 pm Lunch Prasadam
5.00 pm Kirtana
Japa Focus Session
Krishna-Katha: (Part 2) The Mysterious Journey to Vrindavana's Seed Begins to Sprout, Bhurijana dasa (Gurukula Hall)
7.00 pm Krishna Lila Katha with Jagattarini devi dasi (Gurukula Hall)

Sunday 11 May

4.30 am Mangala Arati (Temple)
5.00 am Japa (Temple)
7.00 am Deity Darshan
Guru Puja / Kirtana (Temple)
7.30 am Srimad-Bhagavatam Class Katha and Kirtana with Jagattarini devi dasi (Temple)
9:00 am Breakfast Prasadam
10.30 am Kirtana
Japa Focus Session
Krishna-Katha: (Part 3)
Planting the Seed of a Most Mysterious Journey to Vrindavan Bears its Fruit with Bhurijana dasa (Gurukula Hall)
3.00 pm Special HNR Sunday Feast Program (Temple)
Bhajan program with Janardan, Gitanjali, Radha Kanta, Mallika & Co
Amazing Mahaprabhu Lila Katha with Jagattarini devi dasi
5.00 pm Sunday Feast served
7.00 pm Bhajana and Krishna Katha program with Jagattarini, Janardan, Gitanjali, Radha Kanta, Mallika & Co (Temple)
8.00 pm Close of Retreat

Welcome to New Govardhana's Holy Name Retreat 2014

By Damodara Pandit dasa

The retreat this year is hosted by Bhurijana dasa and his wife, Jagattarini devi dasi. We also look forward to some wonderful *kirtanas* led by Janardan, Gitanjali, Radha Kanta and Mallika.

The local devotees will be able to help you with all your needs, but there are certain devotees allocated to specific areas.

General enquiries: Damodara Pandit dasa 0415 190 313
Accommodation enquiries: Bhakta Dean 0478 222 022
Transport enquiries: Caitanya dasa 0478 556 947
Farm tours: Mahamantra dasa 0413 669 345
All other enquiries: Ajita dasa 0419 645 305

We hope you have a wonderful stay and immerse yourself in the serenity of New Govardhan *dhama* and the nectar of the Holy Name. Nama Prabhu, ki jaya! Srila Prabhupada, ki jaya!

Meet the Retreat Facilitators

HG Bhurijana dasa first met Srila Prabhupada at 26 Second Avenue in New York, and was initiated in 1968. After preaching in Japan for almost a year, in 1970 he opened ISKCON's first Hong Kong centre.

Throughout the early 1970s, Srila Prabhupada frequently met with Bhurijana during Srila Prabhupada's tours of the Far East: Hong Kong, Japan, Philippines, Fiji, Australia and New Zealand.

In his last meeting in 1976, Srila Prabhupada requested Bhurijana to help develop the educational system. Since then, Bhurijana has taught both academic and *ashrama* courses in Gita-Nagari and Vrindavana and has conducted several teacher training courses in Vrindavana.

In 1987, in Vrindavana, he began the Vaisnava Institute for Higher Education (VIHE), where he has taught courses in teaching, writing and on Srila Prabhupada's books – *Bhagavad-gita As It Is*, *Srimad-Bhagavatam*, *The Nectar of Devotion*, *The Nectar of Instruction* and *Sri Isopanisad*.

Bhurijana has written several books, including *The Art of Teaching, Surrender Unto Me* (an in-depth study of the *Bhagavad-gita*), *Studying Srimad-Bhagavatam*, *My Glorious Master* and *Unveiling His Lotus Feet* (in-depth study of the First and Second Cantos of *Srimad-Bhagavatam*).



HG Jagattarini devi dasi joined ISKCON and first met Srila Prabhupada in America in 1970 (many of you may have heard of this famous story of a successful actress becoming a devotee). Through her connections with the movement, Jagattarini met her husband, Bhurijana dasa, and together they pioneered a *nama-hatta* centre in Hong Kong.

Srila Prabhupada encouraged her to use her artistic talents in attracting people to the cultural side of devotional service. Some years later, this manifested during her stay at the Gita Nagari farm in the US as a series of puppet shows, later presented for worldwide viewing by ITV. In 1983, she moved with her family to Sri Vrindavana *dhama*, and they spent the next 13 years teaching in Bhaktivedanta Gurukula, Vrindavana.

After touring the sacred land for years, Jagattarini amassed a treasury of realisations about different pastime places in Sri Vrindavana *dhama* and developed a deep attachment to them.

Since 1996, Jagattarini, Bhurijana and family have been based in Perth, where Bhurijana lectures on the *Bhagavatam*. Jagattarini continues to draw on her artistic inspiration from Vraja dhama, and since 1998 she has been working on producing miniature three-dimensional diorama exhibits, depicting Krishna's nectarean Vrindavana pastimes.



SPIRITUAL ARTISTRY

By Kunti Benson

Dhanesvara dasa, a loving and dedicated servant of Krishna, has been inspired throughout his devotional life to create spiritually motivated, Krishna conscious artworks.

Recently Dhanesvara was diagnosed with chronic arthritis. Although this condition caused him constant pain, it also offered him an opportunity for more spiritual advancement.

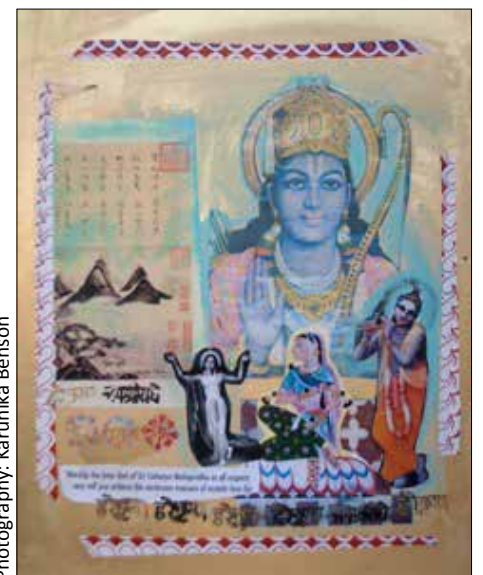
During his past few years of partial immobility, and then finally recovering from a recent hip replacement, Dhanesvara has been able to spend more time reflecting on the human condition of life and the greater pursuit of Krishna consciousness.

This period of illness and suffering was also a perfect time for reflection

on the very existence of our devotional life through chanting and reading Srila Prabhupada's books. Dhanesvara has drawn inspiration that has ultimately been expressed through his art.

He now has the opportunity to show his reflections to friends, family and the greater community. His spiritually inspired exhibition entitled 'Exploring Vedic Cultural Traditions' is being showcased at King Studios, Maclean, on 19 April for one month.

Dhanesvara also conducted print-making workshops on 25–26 April titled 'Vedic Symbolism' at King Studio. This was a rare opportunity for people to view the works of a Krishna devotee who is an established, reflective, spiritual artist within our community.



Photography: Karunika Benson

One of the collages Dhanesvara dasa is showing in the 'Vedic Symbolism' exhibition at King Studio, Maclean NSW.

NEW HOME FOR BRAHMACHARIS

By *Kisori devi dasi*

Mahamantra dasa, Narottama dasa and Bhima Heffernen are working with the contractors building the new *brahmachari ashrama*. This is quickly taking shape just opposite the upper car park.

Construction of this building is part of a bigger plan for increased accommodation facilities for New Govardhana residents. The long-

term plan also includes a commercial kitchen and a new temple building.

The construction of the *ashrama* is expected to be complete in three months. The building will contain six rooms for resident *brahmacharis*, a self-contained ensuite for visiting *sannyasis* or VIPs, as well as a guest room. There will also be a common room that could be used by visiting *bhaktas* if necessary.

Two nearby cabins separate from the *brahmachari ashrama* are intended for the use of older *brahmacharis*. 🌿

Photography: www.facebook.com



(L to R) Narottama dasa and Maha Mantra dasa riding high on the roof of the new brahmachari ashrama.

BHAKTI YOGA GRADUATES

By *Uddhava Priya dasa*

The New Govardhana Bhakti Yoga Course (held from 15 January to 12 April) recently had its second stream of graduates. Eight devotees graduated on 12 April in a ceremony held in the Gurukula Hall. The course provided an essential foundation in the practices, philosophy and culture of Krishna consciousness.

The next Bhakti Yoga Course is scheduled from 2 May to 26 July 2014, with classes held on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 4–6 pm. For further course details, please contact Uddhava priya dasa at uddhavapriya.rns@gmail.com or 0490 137 463.

TESTIMONIALS:

“After 10 years of study at school, I finally studied the real thing at the Bhakti Yoga Course.” – Jue

“The Bhakti Yoga Course provided a solid foundation for my new start in devotional life. The knowledge I gained I can take with me wherever I go.” – Teiana

“There is so much knowledge to be gained by participating in the Bhakti Yoga Course. Easy to understand for newcomers and still full of nectar for those who have been practising for a long time.” – Kera

“Every class I attended in the Course encouraged me to go the right way and gave me positive energy to keep going.” – Yumin



Photography: Ariel Pattillo

Bhakti Yoga Course graduates proudly display their Bhakti Yoga Certificates, with Temple President Ajita dasa, and Course Director, Uddhava priya dasa. Left to right: Jue, Yumin, Kera, Param Purusha Nitai dasa, Ajita dasa, Uddhava priya dasa, Tulasi Robson, Teiana, Yogita and Patricia.

“This Course has given me inspiration for attentive chanting and attending the morning program. It has taught me to regulate my activities and change my consciousness towards Krishna.” – Parama Purusha Nitai dasa

“They say that as a *gurukuli* one can take advantage of Krishna consciousness, and I think I am taking advantage in a good way. I’ve realised that materialistic people are looking

for happiness in so many ways, but I don’t need to look elsewhere because I have found real happiness.” – Tulasi

“I learned a lot from the Course as a beginner. I found that it has given me a good foundation. There is a lot more to learn and realise, but the Bhakti Yoga Course provides a kick start. All the basic principles are covered and it is well structured and well presented.” – Yogita 🌿

IN FOCUS

By Mandakini devi dasi

Photo: Urvasi devi dasi



Ambika devi dasi.

Ambika devi dasi joined ISKCON Sydney in 1971. Her days soon became fully occupied with Deity worship and book distribution.

In January 1974 she was invited to relocate to Mumbai, where she worshiped Their Lordships Sri Sri Radha Rasabihari. At that time, the Deities were housed in a simple shed.

After six years of dedicated service, Ambika returned to Australia to take up the worship of Lord Jagannatha in Melbourne. She also actively preached at Gopal's drop-in restaurant several days a week.

Her next service was teaching at New Govardhana *gurukula* from 1983 until 1997. Her kind and patient dedication to the children endeared her to the community.

Ambika recently moved back to Murwillumbah with her husband, Paul. Together they run their car

and truck driver training business, listed as Budget Driver Training (0499 652 025), with Ambika handling the administration.

Besides assisting Paul in that capacity, and worshiping her striking home Deities, Ambika helps with the Deity worship at New Govardhana.

She regularly submits articles to *The Conch* and gives inspiring *Srimad-Bhagavatam* classes. 🙏

Anyone interested in learning to drive a car or truck, please contact Budget Driver Training 0499 652 025

GO-VEG CYCLE TEAM

By Bhakta Ben

It has been seven years since the Go-Veg team started as the first Hare Krishna cycling team here in the Northern Rivers. Since then, they have participated in many events, both local and interstate, and are currently competing in the A Division.

The members are Phalguna Krishna dasa, Narottama dasa and Sridhama dasa, who, through discipline and constant training, are able to hold their ground with the other riders. This shows the rest of the cycling community that being a vegetarian is no hindrance to performance. In the beginning, some wondered how the Go-Veg team would be able to keep up with the others, but now some of their fellow competitors have actually adopted a veg-based diet; some even eliminating meat altogether.

Photo: Gaura Shakti devi dasi



One of the most picturesque but challenging rides in Australia, the Rainbow Ride cycle challenge was a charity ride – for the Byron Emergency Accommodation Project – that goes around the Northern Hinterland known as the Rainbow region from Byron Bay NSW. Recently the Go-Veg team won the team event. L to R: Narottama dasa, Phalguna Krishna dasa and Sridhama dasa.

By dovetailing their lifestyles and keeping Krishna at the centre, these three men have been able to introduce Krishna consciousness into the lives of many unsuspecting souls. They hope that by getting out there and giving it a go, devotees of all ages will be inspired to keep their bodies fit and healthy, so that they can go about their respective duties with little physical hindrance.

The Cardamom Pod restaurant is a sponsor for the Murwillumbah Cycling Club and donates a meal for two to the winner of every division.

For more details on upcoming events, the Go-Veg team would be happy to answer any questions about what it is they do out there – over the bridge. 🙏

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

The Conch is your community newsletter, and we invite you to submit articles for publication. Articles should be 300 words or less and supplied in MS Word via email to newgovconch@gmail.com. Photographs must be in JPG format. Please provide the name of the author and

the photographer. Anonymous submissions will not be published. Deadline is the 12th of each month. Occasionally a submission could be held over to a later edition. All submissions may be edited, proofread or rejected without notice.



EDITORIAL BOARD:

Damodara Pandit dasa, Govardhana Seva dasa, Kera Miners (assistant), Krishnarupa devi dasi (ACBSP), Laksmi Priya devi dasi (JG), Mandakini devi dasi, Urvasi devi dasi (layout and graphic design).

For enquiries, comments or suggestions, contact: newgovconch@gmail.com

DVD RELEASE

Australian KuliFest 2011 DVD

The KuliFest concert was a highlight of the 2011 Australian Kulimela Festival, showcasing the talented youth of ISKCON from around the world.

KuliFest DVD is the professionally produced 100-minute music video of that amazing night. Featuring an introduction by HH Mukunda Goswami and Sri Prahlad, the 11 acts include the Natya Shakti Dance group; Gaura Vani and the Mayapuris; the sensational Apsara Fashion show; a *raga*-style *bhajana* by Haribhakti Dey; a beautiful song by Caitanya Dasi; rap and hip hop by Azitiz and the Dovetales; Canada's Ghost Brothers Band; and more. It also includes a piece by Unkle Crazy before they reincarnated as the well-known Australian duo, Willow Beats.

Edited from many HD cameras, and using an audio mix from a live recording, the quality is superior to previous Kulimela productions. Haribhakti Dey and Soolaba Doyle have independently financed, co-produced and released the DVD, which is now available at the New Govardhana Gift shop for \$20.



Watch the official five-minute Kulifest 2011 DVD on You Tube: <http://youtu.be/BDFRcDQOYCo>.

Nitai Chandra dasa is planning another Kulimela for 29 June 2014 on the Rathayatra weekend.

NEXT MONTH: Cida Dahi Mahotsava. Join the festivities and decorate a pot of chipped rice for the transcendental auction. Proceeds to Deity Department.

UPCOMING EVENTS

HH Devamrita Swami
Friday, 23 May 2014 at 5.30 pm
183 Byangum Road, Murwillumbah

For more information, please contact Nandaraja dasa on 0488 178 632.

Saturday, 24 May 2014

Srimad-Bhagavatam class.
 Program starts at 7.00 am.



Artwork: Urvashi devi dasi

HARINAMA SANKIRTANA KI JAYA



Wednesdays 10.30 am

Byron Bay *harinama* at the park opposite the Post Office. For further details and transport information, contact **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

MAY CALENDAR

(from *Vaishnava calendar* www.vaisnavacalendar.com)

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| 2 Fr | Candana Yatra starts (continues for 21 days) |
| 8 Th | Srimati Sita Devi (consort of Lord Sri Rama) – Appearance
Sri Madhu Pandita – Disappearance
Srimati Jahnava Devi – Appearance |
| 11 Su | Fasting for Mohini Ekadasi |
| 12 Mo | Rukmini Dvadasi (break fast 6.19 am – 7.53 am) |
| 13 Tu | Sri Jayananda Prabhu – Disappearance |
| 14 We | Nrsimha Caturdasi Appearance of Lord Nrsimhadeva (Fast till sunset today) |
| | Tulasi Jala Dan ends |
| 15 Th | Krsna Phula Dola, Salila Vihara
Sri Paramesvari Dasa Thakura – Disappearance
Sri Sri Radha-Ramana Devaji – Appearance
Sri Madhavendra Puri – Appearance
Sri Srinivasa Acarya – Appearance |
| 19 Mo | Sri Ramananda Raya – Disappearance |
| 25 Su | Dvadasi (suitable for fasting) Fasting for Aparā Ekadasi |
| | Srila Vrndavana Dasa Thakura – Appearance |
| 26 Mo | Trayodasi (break fast 6.27 am – 9.57 am) |