

# padayatra

## WORLDWIDE

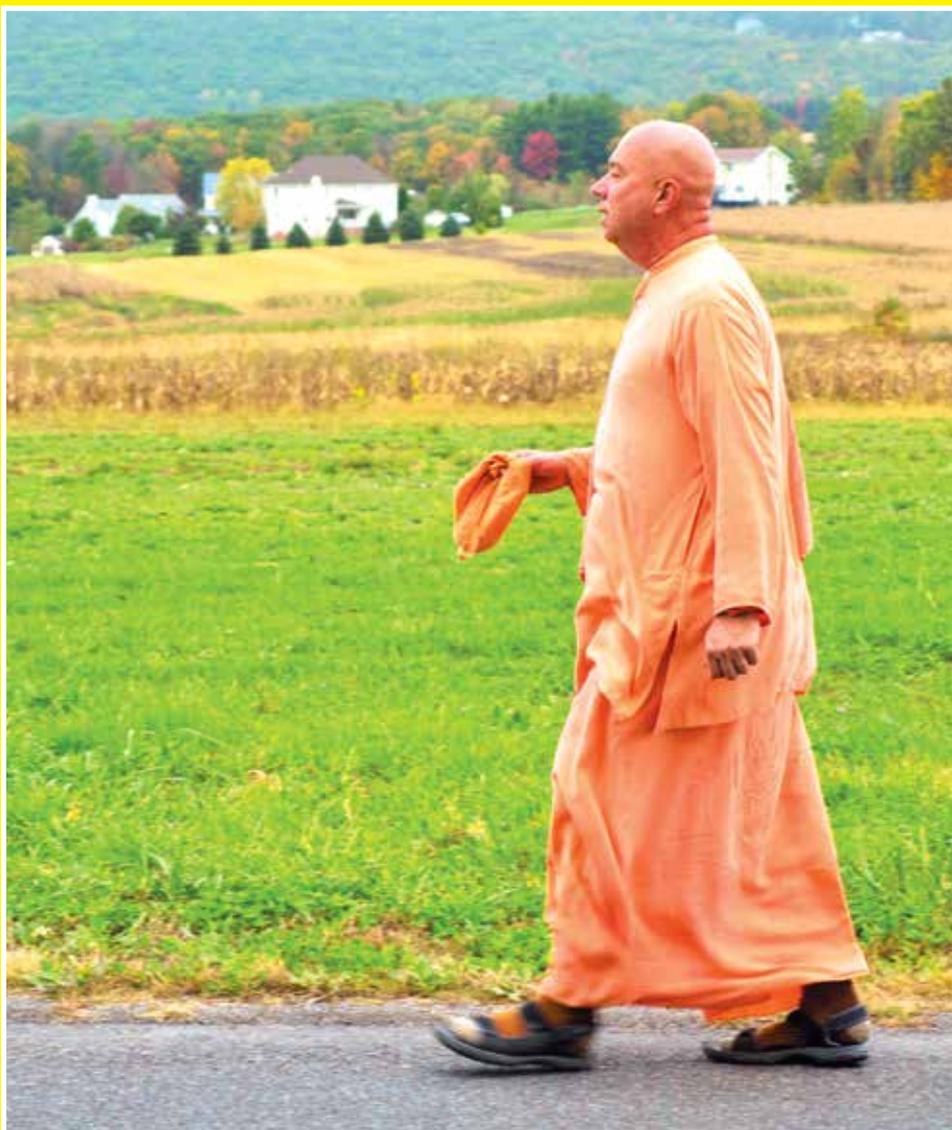
Newsletter 2016

PLEASE POST IN YOUR TEMPLE



# 50

PADAYATRAS  
BY THE END  
OF 2016 FOR  
ISKCON  
50TH BIRTHDAY



“Lord Krishna created us with half of our body made up of legs, so I believe in using them for Him. I find there’s no better or more personal way to meet people than with the low-tech, highly organic approach of using your legs. The legs were made for walking and the mouth for speaking about the Absolute. What a perfect combination.” **Bhaktimarga Swami**



*Prabhupada walking murti*

This newsletter is dedicated to  
**ISKCON Founder-Acarya,**  
**His Divine Grace**  
**A.C.Bhaktivedanta**  
**Swami Prabhupada.**

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*Cover photo*  
 Bhaktimarga Swami walking  
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## EDITORIAL

by Lokanath Swami

*Here we are, at the beginning of 2016, the year of ISKCON's Golden Jubilee, which brings me back to the beginning of 1996, Srila Prabhupada's centennial year. At that time the Padayatra Ministry had pledged to have padayatra in 100 countries, but in May 1996, even after holding a global Padayatra Week, we still hadn't reached our goal. We had made so much noise about padayatra in one hundred countries, and we sincerely didn't want to fall short. I believed that as long as Padayatra India, the mother of all padayatras, stayed on the road, padayatra would continue to spread worldwide. And it did! The Lord's infallible plan became clear when Ramiya Dasa, North American Centennial coordinator, inspired several devotees to take padayatra to the Caribbean, when Bhakti-tirtha Swami arranged walks in West Africa, and when Parasurama Dasa helped organize padayatra in East Africa. And especially when Ekanatha Dasa, the leader of Padayatra Europe, toured most of the thirteen new countries (now CIS and Central Asian countries) that timely political changes had created in the ex-USSR. By the end of 1996 Padayatra Worldwide had reached 105 countries – five more than its quota.*

*For ISKCON50 the Ministry has pledged to have 50 padayatras from Gaura Purnima 2014 to the end of 2016. It does not mean that they will have to take place in 50 different countries, like at the time of the centennial. Every different padayatra in the same country will be counted, unless it is an annual walk or a continuous one spanning a few months or years. This new system allows us to honour the various walks taking place in large countries such as America, Russia, and especially India. To this day, the beginning of January 2016, 26 padayatras have been completed, 9 are planned and 15 remain to be done. Once again, we feel some apprehension about being able to reach our goal. We are praying to Sri Sri Gaura Nitai, knowing that They are the Supreme Controllers, and if They want something, nothing or nobody in this world can stop Them. They have Their infallible plan, no doubt. But since we are all Their servants, it really depends on all of us, including you, to jump on the*

*bullock cart wagon if you have one, or just to put on our best walking shoes and get moving. As our international walking monk, Bhaktimarga Swami stated, Krishna has given us these two legs to walk and this mouth to speak about the Absolute Truth, chant His glories and His holy names. Here is your chance to get in shape, both physically and spiritually, and to give yourself a break from the daily routine. Are you not tired of spending hours in front of your computer or on your cell phone, and hankering to hear the sound of birds chirping, of cows mooing, of rivers flowing, of the wind blowing, and of the holy names sung with great love by a group of blissful devotees?*

*Our goal is not just a numerical one - counting up to fifty – and then blowing our own trumpets once it is achieved. There is much more at stake. Padayatra is an essential part of Srila Prabhupada's preaching strategy for ISKCON to bring the whole world together with the holy name, festivals and prasadam in every town and village. As it was stressed twenty years ago, padayatra is also a great opportunity to unite and reunite Srila Prabhupada's family, to have friendly exchanges with devotees, to invite or visit devotees who have done much service to ISKCON, but may have taken distances for various reasons. I'm sure that promoting this spirit of unity in diversity will be most pleasing to Srila Prabhupada, our dearest founder-acarya and the eternal well-wisher of all his followers.*

*For this fiftieth anniversary, we are proposing that padayatris do something that has not been done much in ISKCON before: get feedback from the public. It's always interesting, positively challenging and very educational, both individually and globally, to know how we are perceived by others. We may think of ourselves as the saviours of this world, but we might be annoying or even antagonizing some people without being aware of it. We thus invite all of you to take a bold step and use the survey printed in this newsletter. As usual, the dynamic Czech Padayatra team is leading the way. After all, the process of bhakti is all about loving exchanges, with Krishna, His devotees, His sons and daughters of different nationalities, races and creed, His creatures, and His entire creation. So, get into action now. Become a leader yourself if your present leaders are too busy to organise a padayatra. It's very simple, as you'll see in the guidelines. When there's a will, there's a way.*

*Wishing you all a joyful, exciting and rejuvenating time on padayatra!*



# Celebrate ISKCON 50th Anniversary With Padayatra

by Gaurangi Devi Dasi

Throughout 2016 ISKCON will celebrate its 50 years since its incorporation on July 13, 1966. The Padayatra Worldwide Ministry started to work on taken place, 10 are planned and 14 remain to be done. Each different padayatra in the same country is counted as one, unless they are continuous or annual walks. This system allows us to honour the several padayatras taking place in India and other large countries.

Most of the following suggestions are based on the contents of the International Briefing Pack produced by the ISKCON50 international team. We invite all of you to carefully view the entire ISKCON50 International briefing pack posted on the Padayatra website in 2 formats, Word and Adobe Reader. This will greatly help you to plan and organise all your Golden Jubilee celebrations.

Padayatra, being always in contact with all sorts of publics, is a program that can easily fulfill all of the ISKCON50's goals :

□ To inspire a better and larger public appreciation for the values and contributions of Krishna Consciousness

□ To make Srila Prabhupada, ISKCON Founder-Acharya, more known and appreciated

□ To unite and inspire devotees in celebration

□ To get increased attention from the media, government, interfaith communities, etc.

□ To enhance and improve ISKCON's reputation

The chosen key public message - THE JOY OF DEVOTION - is already being spread and exemplified by padayatris chanting, dancing and serving together in great bliss as they go from town to town and village to village. 'Devotion to God, Compassion to All' is ISKCON's world contribution, it is the purpose, the solution; it is the lifeblood and mission of ISKCON.

## Organize a padayatra if you have not planned one already

\* Padayatra is already included in the list of events proposed by the international ISKCON50 team : An international padayatra initiative (The Padayatra Ministry) exists through which your endeavours may be connected. For a modernised concept, centres may consider hosting 'Fun Runs', sponsored mountain treks or walks, or half-marathons as a form of non-competitive celebration.

\* Encourage the organisers of World Holy Name Week to do it, partially or entirely, through a padayatra.



In 2016, the World Holy Name Week will specially commemorate and bring attention to the first public harinama led by Srila Prabhupada fifty years ago in New York City.

\* Choose the padayatra formula that will best fit your situation (time available, manpower, financial resources)

\* Talk to your local leaders (GBCs, temple presidents, festival organizers, etc), suggesting to include a padayatra in their 50th anniversary's celebrations.

\* Post an attractive poster advertizing the goal of 50 padayatras.

\* Keep your congregation informed through emails and articles in your local newsletter.

## How to 50ize your walk

The following guidelines and suggestions are presented on more details in the International Briefing Pack

● Use the chosen key public message - THE JOY OF DEVOTION.



● Include key ISKCON50 messages in speeches, display the World Exhibit and commemorative merchandise, screen the films, and position logos in artwork.

● Use the materials that will be provided by the international team, including logos, banners and posters ; exhibition material, theming, and media messages ; publication material - ISKCON50 magazine, films, and exhibits.

● Replace the showing of *Your ever well-wisher* with the new *Acharya* film

● Show the 'Joy of Devotion', a documentary that conveys Srila Prabhupada's key messages, the movement he built and how ISKCON continues to transform the lives of both its members and the people of the world.

● Display the exhibit encapsulating all the different aspects of our Krishna conscious culture.

● Make your own banners (Padayatra celebrates ISKCON 50th anniversary), fliers/brochures, with the help of the material provided by the ISKCON50 team.

● Get VIPs (local councillors, Indian business leaders, cultural ambassadors, favourable celebrities, and heads of relevant organisations) to come to your padayatra event.

● Disseminate educational materials that will enhance the understanding of ISKCON : fliers, brochures, and especially the ISKCON50 magazine (it can be translated in your local language).

● Increase your prasadam distribution on the road and during festivals

● Increase book distribution (with more Lila-mritas on Srila Prabhupada) to the public and also to public libraries, interested community groups, and educational institutions.

● Distribute the 2016 March-April issue of the international BTG (and the full Indian version) which has a 14 page feature on Padayatra.

● Launch or end your padayatra at one of these commemoration dates:

\* July 13, 2016 : incorporation of ISKCON

\* Other dates connected to Srila Prabhupada : vyasa-puja day, the day he visited your temple or yatra, etc

● Inform the media about the 50th anniversary theme of your padayatra and increase your media exposure : appoint a padayatra media coordinator who will follow specific instructions in the form of media messages, statements, and press releases but also broader guidelines from the ISKCON Communications Ministry.

● Hold various seminars on Srila Prabhupada, and sessions for sharing memories and realisations of His Divine Grace, during the walk.





## SIMPLE THINGS TO DO TO RAISE PADAYATRA CONSCIOUSNESS

- \* Post the annual Padayatra Newsletter (if you do not have a paper copy, download it from the Padayatra website) in a prominent place in your temple
- \* Read it yourself, and encourage others to do so
- \* Regularly visit the Padayatra website : [padayatra.com](http://padayatra.com)
- \* Hold a Padayatra katha or a slide show session by using articles and photos of the website, stories from the newsletters, your personal experience of padayatra , and by inviting devotees who organised walks or participated in some



*The sankirtana travelling bus of the devotees from Baltic countries : Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia*

## INFORMATION AND CONTACTS

\* The Padayatra website ([padayatra.com](http://padayatra.com)):  
 Updates on the 50 Padayatras project, guidelines, manual and newsletters online, reports, schedules, contacts, photo gallery and videos.

**Contacts: Gaurangi Dasi,**  
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[gaurangi.lok@gmail.com](mailto:gaurangi.lok@gmail.com) or her assistant  
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[www.facebook.com/ISKCON50](http://www.facebook.com/ISKCON50)

# Choose Your Padayatra



## Different styles :

- \* Single walker: usually assisted by a support vehicle transporting him/her to accommodations and preaching engagements
- \* Walking party: (extended harinama) with deities on a palanquin
- \* Deity cart pulled by oxen, horses: or even humans with a walking party
- \* Walk and drive: walk only in populated areas and drive devotees, carts, equipment and optionally animals the rest of the way (this was done in Australia, Siberia and Lithuania)
- \* Walk and fly: harinama walk with deities on a palanquin in one place (country, city or island), then flying to the next one. (This was done in the South Pacific Islands.)
- \* Walk and take a boat: harinama walks in villages and cities along the



bank of a river or on the coast of an ocean. (This was done in the Caribbean Islands.)

## Different durations :

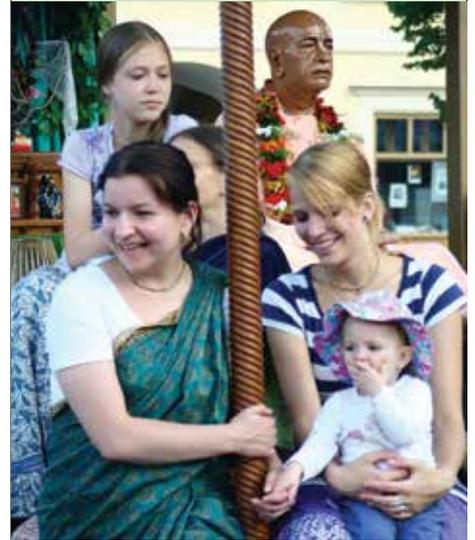
- \* A day, an extended week-end, a few days to a week
- \* A week to a few weeks to a few months
- \* One year or more

## Different organisers :

- \* One or several devotees, one or several families, one or several temples
- \* One entire yatra or several yatras from neighboring countries
- \* An independent travelling Padayatra Party
- \* A group not related to ISKCON : devotees could join groups of walkers, carnivals and parades, and pilgrimages organised by various religious groups. They should take advantage of Days without cars being now organized in many cities or countries.

*NB : We encourage all the organisers of World Holy Name Week to do it, partially or entirely, with padayatra. ☐*

## The Extended Week-End Padayatra



- \* If possible choose a week-end that includes a legal holiday on Friday, Saturday or Monday, in order to increase the number of participants (devotees and the public)

- \* Use vehicles to drop devotees where the walk starts and to pick them up at the end of the walk. This could help you solve the problem of accommodations for the night.

## Suggested schedule

- \* Friday evening: holy name katha followed by a harinama or a mini kirtan mela, preferably at the location where the padayatra will start the next day

- \* Saturday : long walk, with an afternoon or evening program for the public (kirtana, bhajans, conference, exhibits, dance, cultural presentations, and prasadam distribution)

- \* Sunday : early walk in a populated place. End the program around 5 pm so devotees will have time to get back to their homes or temples and get ready for their next day of work and /or service ☐



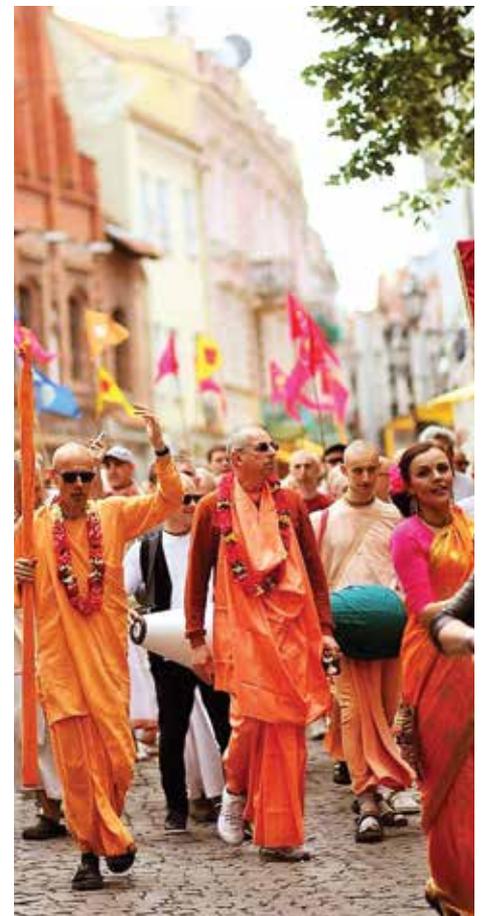
# Properly representing our parampara on padayatra by constant chanting, compassion for the fallen souls and determination in spiritual life

*by Niranjana Swami*

Bhakti Caitanya Swami asked us to share some of our realizations about the 2015 padayatra in Lithuania, and I do have some realizations that I would like to share. As we were speaking, I was thinking about what Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakur said in Sri Bhaktiloka. He talks about what it means to follow the path of the previous mahajanas and how sometimes, if people become proud after accepting the initiation, they do not follow that path but they invent new paths, and they cheat themselves and the rest of the world as well. Bhaktivinoda Thakur therefore gave the criteria of what are the symptoms of somebody who is strictly following the path set by our previous acaryas. He gives Srila Haridas Thakur as the example of one who strictly follows. Srila Haridas Thakur manifested three symptoms of this fact: his determination for spiritual life, this constant chanting of the holy names of the Lord and his compassion for the fallen souls. Haridas Thakur manifested these three symptoms. He said that he would never give up chanting Hare Krishna, even if they cut his body to pieces. So therefore, in his constant chanting, he manifested his determination and his compassion to others. Never giving up chanting, that was also his compassion towards

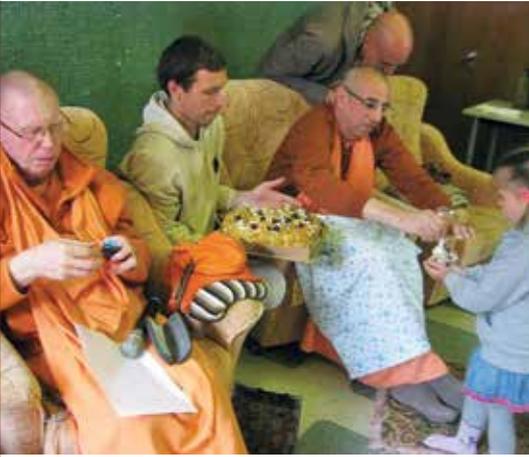
others, especially when he was challenged by one envious brahmana who said, "Why are you always loudly chanting the holy names of the Lord? Why aren't you just chanting to yourself?" In fact, the brahmana was accusing Haridas Thakur: "Because of your loud chanting, you are disturbing the Lord". So the brahmana challenged Haridas Thakur, who then explained that actually the loud chanting of the holy names of the Lord is considered to be a hundred times more potent than simply silent chanting. Wherever Haridas Thakur went, he was always loudly chanting the holy names. And then the brahmana asked him to please explain that, "How could you make such a statement that loud chanting is more beneficial?" Haridas Thakura explained that even the plants, the insects and the reptiles are benefited by the loud chanting of the holy names of the Lord. He said that somebody who just chants softly to himself is only thinking of himself, but somebody who is chanting loudly is actually thinking about the welfare of everyone. And then he gave the reference from Srimad Bhagavatam about the importance of loudly chanting the holy names of the Lord, which stated that even plants, reptiles, plants, animals are all benefited, what to speak of human beings.

So my realization of this Padayatra is that all three elements are here in this festival. You have the loud chanting of the holy names of the Lord, you have the compassion by benefiting others

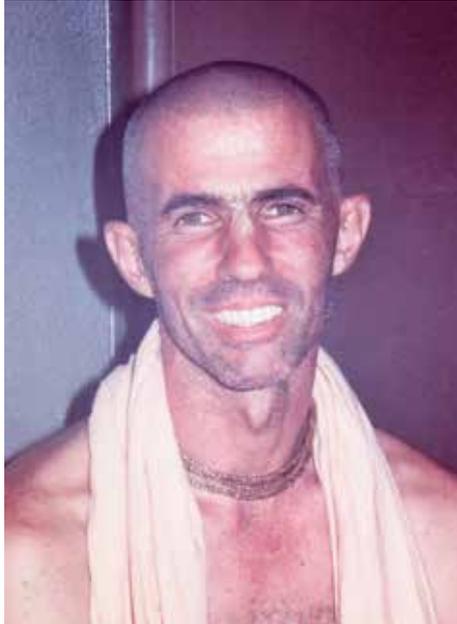


# Padayatra, The Most Purifying Program In All ISKCON

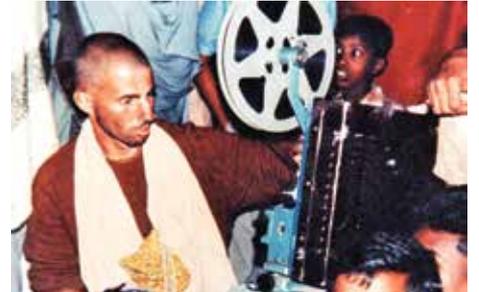
By Jaya Vijaya Dasa ( Padayatra India leader for 10 years, from 1986 to 1996)



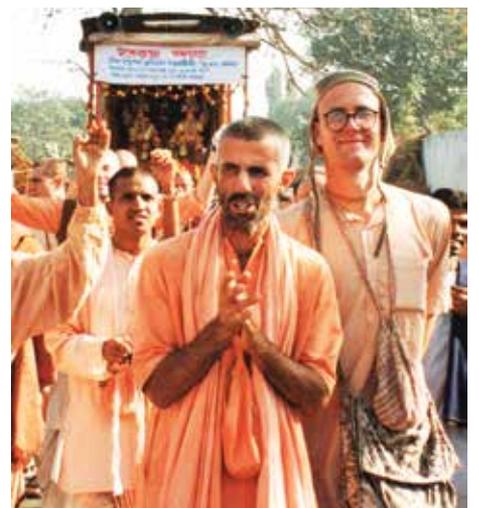
and giving them the opportunity to hear the holy names. And for those who are determined to always be engaged in chanting, not only in this festival, but to continue to go on with this process, even after this festival, this determination is also very pleasing, although just fully participating in this one week event requires determination. So all three elements are there of what is the bona fide path to follow and to properly represent our parampara: constant chanting, compassion and determination. This was very satisfying for me to see this. And especially what was also very, very satisfying to me was seeing that not only we are preserving the parampara by manifesting these three symptoms but that these events are also wonderful opportunity for distributing Srila Prabhupada's books. For me that is the icing on the cake. That makes it so sweet. These events are very, very good opportunities to inspire people to want to know more about this. And therefore these are very, very, good opportunities for making Srila Prabhupada's books available, so not only these people will hear the holy names but they will carry the embodiment of the holy names in their hands. Srila Prabhupada followed in the footsteps of Haridas Thakur and manifested these three symptoms of strictly following the path of the previous acaryas. This fully manifested in these books. So, all of you, by taking part in this event, are given the opportunity to fully take part in properly representing our tradition and our parampara, our sampradaya. This was particularly very inspiring for me ☐



When you watch a Padayatra India slideshow everything seems rosy, but in fact it was very difficult. Walking the highways in India is no place for a lady or gentleman. Some of the truck drivers are very rough – sometimes they go off the road or hit the oxen. We got malaria and dysentery. When the devotees get ill, it's difficult to recover and keep moving at the same time. They have to stay on the tractor. They don't have a private room. Maybe once or twice a month we might get a private room. Usually we stayed in open schools, where there was no privacy at all. People watched you when you took your bath or passed stool. Sadhu means "open book" – it is another definition of a sadhu – there is nothing to hide. You have to learn



to sit down on your mat and be in your own mental world and do your own thing. Sometimes it's hard to do it because you're tired and you have people looking at you, laughing at you, joking about you. It's a place to learn tolerance; it is not a joke. I have seen many devotees blow it or hit each other, not out of contempt but because they'd just had enough. I have seen lots of sannyasis go crazy with the kids. It is very difficult. Some devotees got injured. There were broken wrists and ankles, one devotee was hit by a truck, and another from Finland died when he fell under the tractor in South India. Sometimes we present the rosy side of padayatra, but to pick the roses there are many thorns, and sometimes you get pricked. It's not a piece of cake. In the long run it's very purifying – the most purifying program in our whole ISKCON society ☐





# Walking For Our Teachers

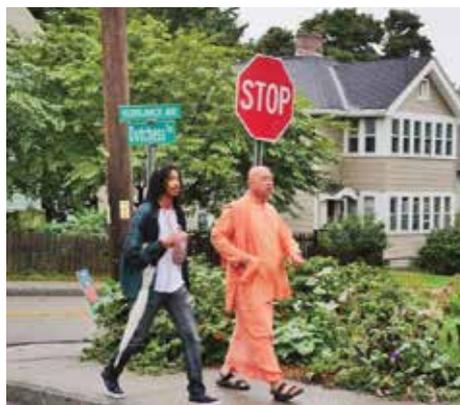
September 20 to November 10, 2015: Retracing Srila Prabhupada's trail from Boston to Butler and to New York

by Bhaktimarga Swami

I could just as easily have called this walk "The Trail of the Black Walnut" since throughout the stretch of the six states in America that I roamed, there was a plentiful yield of fallen walnuts lining practically every roadside, path, and trail. In my heart, however, I was compelled to take up this marathon trek not for any nutty cause, but with a spirit of saying something about our mentors and teachers who open doors to a world of newer opportunities, and especially for those who reveal to us the spiritual world. For my own internalization I was driven to honour our guru and guide, Srila Prabhupada, who opens the eyes of darkness and shows us a new angle on life. In any event, to do my own stepping up in recognition of ISKCON's 50th and His Divine Grace's entry into America in Boston in 1965, I decided to follow his trail from Boston to Butler and to New York. On foot, of course.

**Just what happened over that month and a half covering over 962 miles / 1548 kilometres?**

It all started on day one from Boston when my support person, Vivasvan, and I, trekked westbound from Commonwealth Pier, the place of Prabhupada's arrival, to reach as far as our legs would hold out. Somewhere in the midstream of our morning jaunt, a group of young men, 'party animals' I would call them, climbed into their vehicle when the last one noticed us both, raised his arms high in victory stance, declaring loudly, "Champions don't go to sleep!"



*Walking with Tre'von*

I don't know who he was totally referring to. He and his buddies looked as if they had done an all-nighter, and were destined for slumber. If indeed, he was referring to Vivasvan and I, the early Sunday morning pedestrians, then we considered it to be an honour to be labeled as 'champions'. At least, we appreciated the encouragement coming from the boisterous sector.

Day two, and small miracles of sorts took place. After an aggressive walk at a good clip, I and my associates (2 more joined), decided to rest under an oak tree in a park which happened to be the starting point of the renowned Boston Marathon. We had a good nap (or as Prabhupada used to say, "snap") and then we awoke to a fidgeting around of chairs, cameras, and people at the park's gazebo. Senior citizens were ushered to the front of the gazebo for exercise at their seats by an aerobics teacher. Our small pilgrim group teamed up with the seniors and followed the teacher's lead. I was



also asked to lead the group in some movement, so I concocted 'The Swami Swerve', an attempt at therapeutic moves. It went well. The instructor emailed me later on, saying that she added it to her repertoire.

Our group was then invited for a custom made meal at the seniors' home called, "Golden Pond", where naturally we made friends with kitchen crew as well as residents.

It was getting time to go back to the road, and as the day dragged on, fatigue also hit as the sun threw some heat. A nearby lake was tempting, but Karuna Sindhu, one of our brahmachari team, saw something lying at the lake's base, just where Pradyumna and I were going to dive and swim. It was a deity of Ganesh, as far as we could make out. He then, with care, was pulled out of submergence. We were astonished. "Here, in Massachusetts?" We decided he would be our new passenger on board our support van. As is known, Ganesh has the power to remove obstacles on the path of devotion. We could use a bit of that.

**Hartford: Teaming up with Tre'von**

It was in Hartford, Connecticut, that we met Tre'von, 19, an Afro-American, at the local temple. It was his first visit ever to a temple. I explained to him what our pilgrimage was all about, "A walk for teachers," and more specifically, for Srila Prabhupada. He expressed, "I wanna come."

"But you told me you're the top salesman at a men's clothing store," I expressed, "and you've got your girlfriend."

"I'll take care of that," he said reassuringly.

Tre'von then came on board to join, along with Ganesh, as a new crew member. We began to trek on the streets in his home city. We walked by

the home of Harriet Stowe, author of the best seller, "Uncle Tom's Cabin", a depiction of the black slaves fleeing to Canada during America's civil war. This struck a soft nerve in me, being born quite near to the famous cabin of Reverend Henson in Southern Ontario. When walking you meet history. Right next to Harriet Stowe's home, is the house of humorist Mark Twain. It's impressive. I always liked his sayings, especially the one about anger. "Anger is an acid that can do more harm to the vessel in which it is stored than to anything on which it is poured." Do any of us in the team ever feel tension, or perhaps get angry with each other? Answer is 'yes'. We are humans, but as devotional humans we learn how to cope and remember the higher cause, the cause for the teacher, Srila Prabhupada.

a bald white man in orange. Indeed, I was mistaken several times for being an escaped convict, who wear orange jumpsuits. We met many officers on that basis. It makes for a good laugh at the end of the day. False alarm!

**Meeting very receptive souls: media personnel, teachers, people and also animals**

We also got acquainted with media personnel. I was so amazed how very receptive these folks could be. For instance, Russ, from the Altoona Daily News, admitted that many of his coworkers are atheist. He was quite relieved to know that we see God as being the Source, omnipresent, and at the same time, a person. Brittany, a radio broadcaster in Indiana, Pennsylvania, just had so many



Tre'von is a rapper. He sports dreadlocks. I'm teaching him some Sanskrit songs along the way. In this regard, the road transforms into a type of classroom. Tre'von and I get along quite well, while I could easily be his granddad in age. I'm 63. We happen to share the same birthday. He's a real trooper and puts in many miles a day on foot. In some of the more conservative areas where we walked, there had been suspicion brewing from some of the country folk. Here we are. Pedestrians are rare, especially a young black dude with dreads and

questions that demanded clarification and dispelling of myths. When she told some friends that she was going to interview a monk, "The Walking Monk", they innocently asked, "How could that be? Monks don't talk, do they?" People do have misconceptions about the renounced order. They also get somewhat confused about the denomination. I'm often mistaken for being Buddhist. It's always a great triumph for me when the reporting makes it clear, and they spell it out, 'Hare Krishna Monk'. I get doubly thrilled when they include some

mention of Srila Prabhupada, our ultimate teacher, in describing the purpose of this mission. It was also great to see people participate from other religious camps and political arenas. One particular group of some liberal Catholics became quite immersed in the kirtana we led. One nun was dancing in great abandon in full regalia during our chanting session. On another occasion, it was also a mayor of a city in New York State who took to the maha mantra while dancing in the circle of kirtan. She was loving it.

On this walking trip we would not limit or restrain ourselves from singing to the human population. We would, in the course of stepping along, sing to the animals while in the gorgeous farmland, rolling hills and all, in Pennsylvania. And oh, how they would respond! The bulls, cows, goats, sheep, horses, donkeys, pigs, and chickens would be the recipients of the maha mantra. It was often the wildlife we could not get to in sufficient time. There were deer (and indeed, we saw one pure white one), raccoons, porcupines, skunks, possums, fox, squirrels, and snakes who were practically our everyday vision, dead or alive. Roadkill is very prevalent on roadways. Hence, the heightening of our sentiments becomes a reality about the merciless industrial world. Cars move at optimum speed and have little regard for defenseless creatures. Yes, dualities are well displayed on the road.

In coming through the more urban areas, you begin to view the bowels of a Kali Yuga; it's trash, congestion, and in many cases an obvious loneliness-syndrome amongst people who are sold out to the automobile, to the culture of drugs, and the purchasing of 'things'. While we experience a kindness from motorists, there appears to be a general lack of spiritual depth, and not of commercialism. When I met a senator in one town, I asked him, "How is everything?" He replied most candidly with a, "There's lots of problems," referring to the suffering of humanity.



*Tompkin's Square Park in New York*

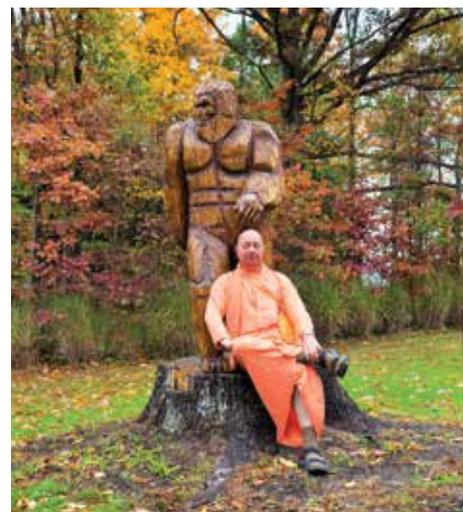
Yet while walking down those roads and trails, the obvious solution to an industrialized world can be revealed. The Amish people demonstrate more closely the art of life through more simple living and high thinking. I also should not fail to mention that on a daily basis, myself and walking companion, whoever that may be, experience the joy of grasping a beautiful organic apple by reaching out to an overhanging branch. Biting into its crisp nutritious flavour convinces you that back to the land and back to the animals is the direction we most imperatively must take. This is what Srila Prabhupada wanted, a participation into greener world.

It was at the Juniata College program in Huntingdon that probed students in the religious department to look at faith and their stance on ecology. Professor Prill, a vegetarian herself, listened to my reading of a selected verse from Sri Isopanishad, "Everything animate and inanimate that is within the universe is owned and controlled by the Supreme. One should therefore accept only those things necessary for himself which are set aside as his quota, and one should not accept other things, knowing well to whom they belong." Perfect and quintessential. The message is strong. It resonated well with the students. When the presentation was completed the professor showed us what is believed to be an 18th century Bhagavat Purana, with each page hand painted, pictorially and calligraphically. This was a gift to the eyes, and encouraged a final bit of pep-to-our-step as a few more miles had to be covered before the day's end.

## **Butler to Tompkin's Square Park in New York city**

Walking has been somewhat a challenge over the 45 days, for in all six states, there is rarely a shoulder to the road to accommodate walkers or cyclists. The area has been mountainous, and the up and down elevations, help somehow to recognize some leg muscles we didn't know we had before. The gorgeous scenery definitely compensated for some of the struggle.

The middle point of the entire trek, which averages at 20 miles a day, was Butler, Pennsylvania, where our dear Srila Prabhupada spent a good month before his launching of ISKCON, the Hare Krishna Movement. The final steps of our walk led us to Tompkin's Square Park in Manhattan after ambling along in New Jersey through drizzles and rains. The park's central elm tree under which His Divine Grace sat to lead kirtan in 1966 is now a shelter for many pilgrims who come from various locations around the world. It is from the site of this tree that many seeds of bhakti, devotion, were actually planted to affect a change in the lives of so many people. This is something that teachers usually do, they affect a positive change. All in all the gratitude I personally feel for Srila Prabhupada, meagre as it is, deepened a few notches after walking those many steps in his honour. And I say that also on behalf of my fellow pilgrims ☐





Muni Priya Dasa

# CZECH REPUBLIC : A very dynamic and innovative father and son team inaugurates the first padayatra survey

by Muni Priya Dasa (father) and Nrsimha Caitanya Dasa (son)

For our 2015 padayatra, apart from book distribution which remained our most important feature, we wanted to focus on better advertisement and contact with the public. Shortly before padayatra we both attended an internet marketing course, after which we designed a completely new poster and flyer to advertize our evening cultural programs. The main group of people we targeted was the simple folks from villages and small towns. It worked out very well. The results were shocking: although we did not walk through the most kind-hearted area of the Czech Republic, attendance of our evening programs rose by 50 % compared to last year! Over 1200 people in 2015 compared to about 800 in 2014 !

The last improvement we made in connection with the public programs was the questionnaires that we distributed during the program and collected at the end. The goal of the questionnaires was not only to get our guests' opinions and suggestions about our programs, but also to stay in touch with them. On the front side there was the program's venue, the person's contact information and questions regarding the program. The back side was meant to find out which kind of programs the person might be interested to do with the devotees (cooking lessons, adopt an ox, getting some literature, etc.)

## How we inspired people to fill out the survey

The most interesting part was how we inspired visitors to take part in the survey and provide their contact information. After informing them about the worldwide padayatras and our own Czech padayatra project we told them that we would like to know what kind of impression our festival left on them. At that point devotees started to distribute the first questionnaires but the breaking point came when we announced that we would draw at random a few of the questionnaires containing all the contact details and present a gift to the winners. Suddenly we had a full basket of filled up questionnaires. There was a lot of excitement in anticipation of hearing who were the winners, and each winner, kid or adult, got a thunderous applause. You can guess what the prizes were ! Srila Prabhupada's transcendental books. Third place winners got a small book - *Coming back*. Second place winners could choose between a *Krishna Book* and a biography of Srila Prabhupada, and the lucky ones at the first place took with them a *Bhagavad-gita as it is* right from the stage.

## What people said in the survey

We were most interested to see how our cultural program and padayatra as a whole affected our visitors. So the first question was "Did today's festival influence your view of life and the world around you? If yes, can you explain how?"

Here are the most interesting answers:

- Yes, I realized that life is about something else (more than what we can see and the ordinary)
- I was positively touched by reflecting on the existence of the body and the soul
- Yes, my worldview became clear
- People should respect each other and value life
- Yes, I am glad there are people like you
- I understood that nowadays people can also be happy and not just be struck with fear
- It did not influenced me, I have a similar positive attitude, but it was an excellent experience
- I realised that the things that have value are above all inside us
- I was pleased with the Indian culture you presented – I spent one month in India- and I also like your spiritual teachings
- I have similar views, and I share your enthusiasm
- Yes, it was excellent!
- I was captivated by your program, and I would like to know more about your philosophy
- I liked the program very much, it gave me a lot
- Yes, I won't be racist anymore
- Yes, I understood that I am a soul

In general people appreciated, often in superlatives terms, some particular aspects of our program and the atmosphere of the whole evening. We also got nice replies to the question: « What were the reasons why you hesitated to come ? »:

- ⊗ I live far from here
- ⊗ Fear of the unknown
- ⊗ Toothache
- ⊗ Not enough time

- ☹ Terrible heat
- ☹ I had to cancel my regular exercise
- ☹ I do not like vegetarian cuisine

On the whole all those who were polled were satisfied and would recommend our program to others. Most of them were keen to remain in contact with us, and many showed a great interest in Krishna's cuisine courses ; others wanted to adopt one of our oxen or to get some of our litteratures.

### The practical results of the survey

Immediately after padayatra we began contacting individuals who had filled up the questionnaire. It was not easy since a lot of them were still on holiday or were busy, but within a short time we managed to do three cooking lessons. We already came back twice to one village and we're planning to return there many more times. The surveys was a confirmation that people are really interested not only in Krishna's cuisine but also in our philosophy and lifestyle. During our walks very often we received help from several mayors who started to appreciate our professionalism and our personal approach. Based on this appreciation and interest in our programs, we want to transform these friendly exchanges into long term relationships and increase our cooperation. Already we are preparing our first future lecture and the next big cultural event.

We are very happy to join our petty padayatra efforts to those of all the other devotees trying to fulfill Srila Prabhupada's mission, especially in the context of the 50th anniversary of ISKCON. With padayatra we're trying to fulfill this particular purpose of ISKCON , "To systematically propagate spiritual knowledge to society at large and to educate all people in the techniques of spiritual life in order to check the imbalance of values in life and to achieve real unity and peace in the world." In the spirit of fulfilling the seven purposes established by Srila Prabhupada the Czech padayatris have decided to expand their preaching. Every day since September 2015 we are holding harinamas in towns and villages. Sometimes there is just one devotee going out, sometimes we are more, but daily we go chant for the public. The results are very encouraging : our first public programs, more books distributed and more applicants for cooking courses. But most importantly, local people are starting to also chant ! ☐



### How To Use The Questionnaire/Survey

- Modify the contents according to your situation (temples can also use it)
- Translate it in your local language
- Make a sufficient number of photocopies
- Distribute them to the public
- Introduce padayatra and the contents of the questionnaire
- Announce that there will be a raffle for those who filled up the questionnaire, including the contact section, and that the winners will get prizes
- Prepare your prizes (books, free meal at your local restaurant, free gift at your gift shop, etc)
- Give the prizes to the winners

#### Do Not Wait Long To Do The Follow-Up :

- Enter all the information from the questionnaire in your data base
- Contact the people for cooking classes, sponsoring oxen, getting books, etc

#### Feedback and introspection are always beneficial, collectively and individually

*by Gaurangi dd*

It's certainly important to know how we are perceived by the public (even Lord Ramacandra went out incognito to find out what His citizens were saying about His reign) so we can make adjustments and improvements accordingly to whatever program we are doing. It's equally useful and beneficial to be aware of how other devotees are perceiving us individually. Our late and dear Bhakti-Tirtha Swami conducted several relationship seminars in which he asked us to do so. Of course, such an exercise is only for the bold and courageous, to either humbly hear what others have to say about them, or to respectfully, honestly and lovingly express how they perceive others.

I'm convinced that if a good number of ISKCON devotees, from the bottom to the very top, would do this exercise we would see significant improvements in our society. Maybe this 50th anniversary is an excellent opportunity to get out of our comfort zone and develop deeper, more personal and genuine relationships.

◀ *Nrsimha Caitanya Dasa with his sweetheart*

## Questionnaire For The Public

Padayatra Communication Team

Devotee doing the interview..... Date.....

Name and surname of person interviewed..... Man [ ] Woman [ ] Child [ ]

Age :..... City or village..... Profession.....

Hobbies (things that interest you)

Is that the first time you participate in a padayatra festival? Yes [ ] No [ ]

Do you know who are these people organizing this walking festival? .....

Why do you think they are doing it? .....

How do you like the Hare Krishna people, and what do you think of them? .....

Have you bought any of their books?..... Yes [ ] No [ ].....

If you read some, which one (s)? and what did you learn from it (them)?.....

Have you tried chanting with the devotees? Yes [ ] No [ ] Dancing? Yes [ ] No [ ]

If yes, how did you enjoy it? Not at all [ ] A little [ ] A lot [ ] Very, very much [ ]

Do you know what they are singing and what it means?.....

Would you like to know, and try it yourself?.....

Which things did you like the most about this padayatra?.....

What could the Hare Krishna people improve or change to make this festival and the way they present themselves better?.....

Anything else you would like to say?.....

### Which projects would you like to participate in ?

Getting the catalog of our literature [ ]

Receiving our books [ ] Sponsoring cow protection [ ] Vegetarian cooking classes and/or spiritual programs at a nearby Hare Krishna temple [ ] Distributing Hare Krishna literature [ ]

Hosting padayatris and/or other preachers of the Hare Krishna movement [ ]

Other .....

Name..... Surname..... Country.....

Street Name And Number .....

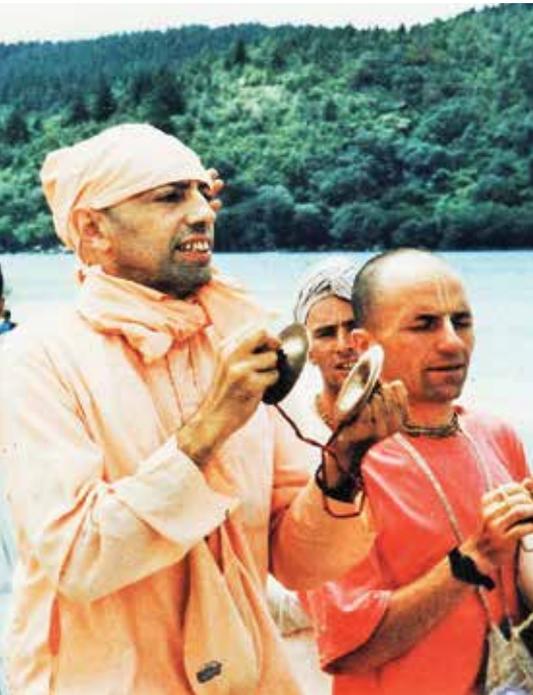
City..... State..... Code.....

Telephone Numbers : Home..... Cell Phone.....

Email Address..... Skype.....

# People want to know: do we care about the environment ?

by Mukunda Goswami



“On May 4, 1991, the North American GBC banned styrofoam from use in temples along with non-biodegradable detergents and soaps. The resolution also directs each temple to use recycled paper wherever possible and to take up recycling programs in the disposal of garbage. ISKCON World Review, BTG, and ISKCON Communication Briefings now state in each issue that they are printed on recycled paper.

This resolution (voted by the North American GBC and temple presidents), although jurisdictional only in North America (and enforceable maybe nowhere), is almost revolutionary for ISKCON. Rarely does the GBC attempt policies with this powerful an impact on temples’ economic independence. The exceptional move signals a sensitivity on the part of ISKCON leadership to public concerns about the environment. Environmental quality has become the most important single worldwide issue of the day, and public opinion experts say this will continue, probably through the remainder of the decade.

If ISKCON follows this GBC resolution, it will help demonstrate to a public generally ignorant of Krishna consciousness that devotees care about the quality of life on our planet, a fact generally unknown to the public.

Okay, you might say, but we have a pamphlet on the environment, and we’re putting out a book about our perspective on the environment; and our philosophy is that Krishna consciousness in and of itself is the highest welfare work. Why endeavour extraneously, worrying about garbage disposal, styrofoam, and recycled paper?

In a recent lecture in the New York temple by Romapada Swami, a guest challengingly asked why the temple used cups and plates made of styrofoam, whose manufacture is widely thought to erode the earth’s ozone layer and add to non-biodegradable waste. After explaining that it was probably because styrofoam costs less, the guest volunteered to help find inexpensive alternatives to styrofoam. Romapada Maharaja feels that the implementation of certain environmentally conscious habits is a great and important challenge for ISKCON. He fears that after publishing a book on the environment we might be regarded as hypocrites if we don’t clean up our environmental act.

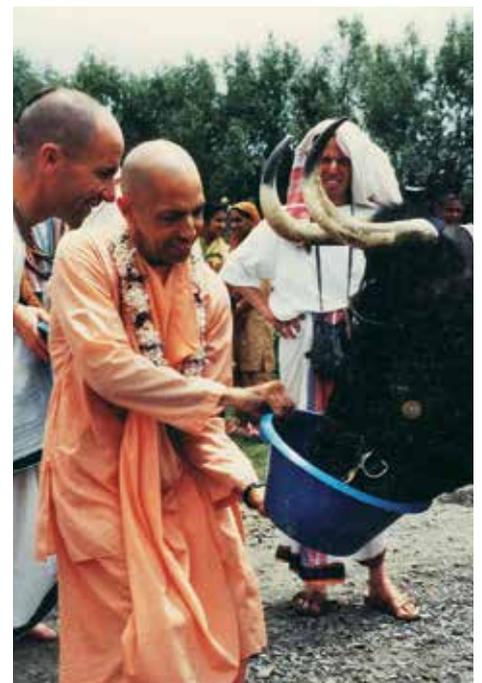
It’s essential to provide the philosophical basis for creating a purer world, but, as Srila Prabhupada said many times, “practice is better than precept.”

Part of an excellent communications program these days is the capability to make appropriate changes in our personal and collective behaviour to meet current preaching needs. Instead of contradicting or compromising our Vaisnava principles, appropriate changes will support them. A

commitment to renounce styrofoam, use recycled paper, and manage waste responsibly would be a great place to start.

**Comments by Gaurangi Dasi: Let’s get in action right now!**

I am amazed to see how this article published more than twenty years ago in ISKCON Communications Briefings is still very much relevant today. I realize how ISKCON devotees all over the world, on padayatra, in temples and in their own homes, still have a long way to go in the area of recycling and being respectful to Mother Bhumi—especially in India, where people have the habit of throwing ALL their trash in the streets, the fields, out the window, just about everywhere. They argue that the sweeper wallah will sweep this off the next morning. In the past the only refuse that country people were throwing in the streets was organic materials (leftover fruits and vegetables) quickly gulped down by pigs who enjoyed these with great delight.



# No Plastic In Vraja



*Tharmacol plates near an ISKCON temple after a festival*

In his letter to the Vraja Mandala Parikrama website Deena Bandhu prabhu talks about the disastrous effects of plastic bags for nature, farmers and the animals who eat those bags. But there are other kinds of refuse thrown everywhere, not just plastic bags, and not just in Vraja. Alas, even in my little village in France, I can see this trashing trend increasing: every day I find plastic bags, containers and bottles thrown on the side of the road. On the side of large roads there are also huge billboards admonishing drivers not to throw their refuse (furniture, garbage, bottles, etc) on the side of the road.

If we want ISKCON to be relevant today, a time when environmental concerns are at the top of the list, let's start to take simple steps as indicated by Mukunda Goswami. Let's walk our talk, even if it costs us a little extra effort or a little more laksmi! After all, is not Laksmi an energy and a servant of Narayan/Krishna? ☐



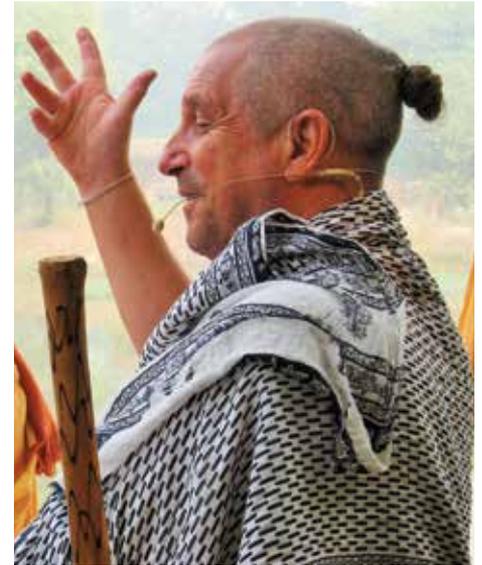
*Not a feast for Mother Cow and Mother Earth*

*A letter from Deena Bandhu Prabhu, posted on the Vraja Mandala website, during Kartika*

My Dear Maharajas and Prabhujis,

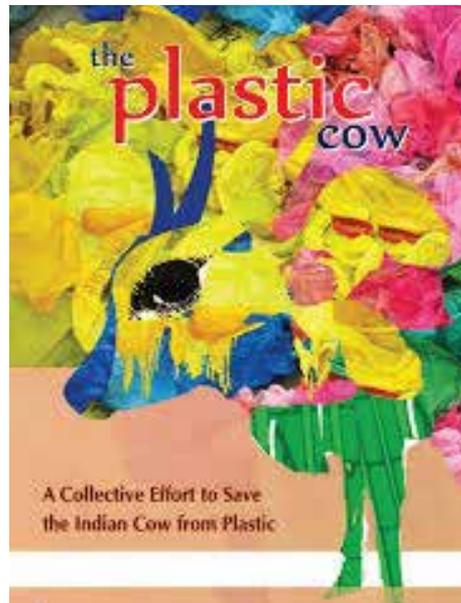
Please accept my humble obeisances . All glories to Srila Prabhupada.

Now Kartika is upon us and I know many of you will be bringing your congregation for doing parikrama in Braja. I have one humble request that you do not used plastic plates and cups! My heart is sorely broken seeing all this plastic litter polluting all over our wonderful Braja Dhama.



At Vrinda Kunda, we have another problem. The dogs, the wind, and whatever scatters the plates into the fields, and the farmers come and fight with us! They also know it will not break down and only ruin their fields. They never bothered us before plastic came along.

So this Kartika, it is my humble petition to please use only leafplates, leafcups, and paper cups. And I'm giving advance warning, WE WILL NOT ALLOW PLASTIC WHATSOEVER at Vrinda Kunda! If you don't bring with you, you will have to take leafplates and leafcups from our Pujari, or you will not be permitted to take your prasadam at Vrinda Kunda! We firmly request you to please cooperate in this way ☐



Since 10 years, our Krishna Balaram Mandir does not use plastic at all. We only use leafplates, leaf cups, and paper plates. These things will break down and become earth again very soon, whereas plastic takes 30,000 years to break down!! Not only is plastic polluting our Holy Dhama, but the cows eat it, become sick, and die! Since many years now, Radhanatha's Swami's yatra has given up plastic at my humble request and they come in the thousands! You all mainly have 2-3 buses, so it is not difficult problem to cooperate with us for this seva of saving Brajadhama from pollution.

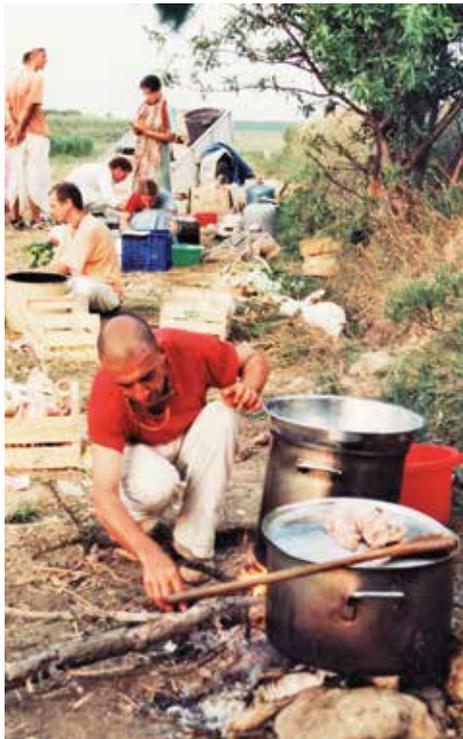


# The Ecological Padayatra Camp

☛ **Totally renounce styrofoam and plastic** plates, cups and, if possible, plastic spoons and forks.

☛ Ask padayatris to bring their own metal plate, glass, cup, bowl, fork and spoon.

☛ Have a stock of metal plates, glasses and spoons for guests and organize the clean-up (each person washing their own plate might require too much water, which can be expensive in some places).



plastic, glass, organic waste, paper and cardboard items. Bring your own trash bags.

☛ Only burn paper and cardboard items.

☛ Recycle your organic waste:

☛ Feed vegetables peels and remnants (the ones they like and can digest) to your oxen or other animals

☛ Give organic waste to someone who has a compost in their garden (good opportunity to make friends with your neighbours).

☛ Throw or bury the rest of your organic waste in an isolated place.

☛ RECYCLE! Inquire about the

location of recycling containers in the nearby town or village (you'll

find none in India, unfortunately) and dispose of your waste in appropriate containers.

☛ Recycle glass bottles and, separately, plastic bottles and containers wherever possible

☛ If there are no recycling containers close by, store the filled trash bags in a padayatra vehicle until you can properly dispose of your waste: do not dump your refuse just anywhere!

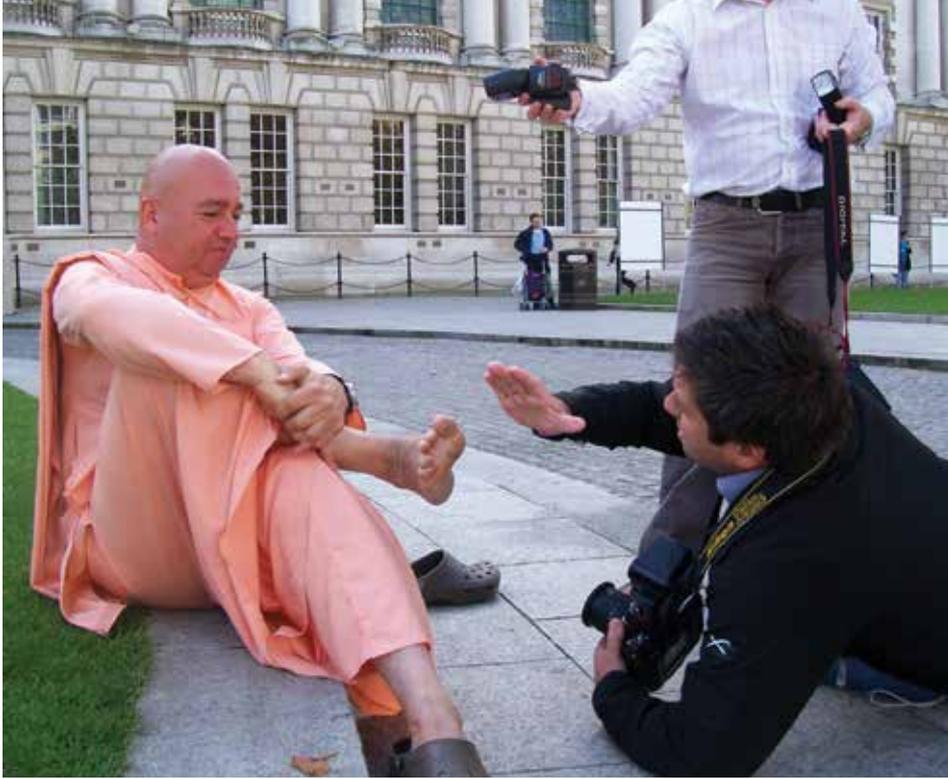
☛ Dry toilets: If possible install dry toilets, which do not necessitate water and do not smell bad. The waste can be used as fertilizer for fields and gardens ☐

☛ If no other option is available, use regular paper plates that can be burned or even better biodegradable plates (they are more expensive, so find sponsors) or, in India, leaf plates.

☛ Use biodegradable soap for cleaning cooking utensils (or earth and ashes, as it is done in some Indian villages).

☛ Manage waste responsibly by having different trash containers for





# The Art Of Walking

by Gaurangi Devi Dasi

**What does our ISKCON's Walking Monk have to say?**

Many books have recently been written on the art of walking, but it seems that devotees who walked for years and thousands of kilometers on all kinds of roads, in different countries and in various climates are the most qualified to speak on this topic. Bhaktimarga Swami, our ISKCON Walking Monk, has covered a grand total of 32,512 kms (13,202 miles), 29,500 kms (18,330 miles) during his 4 crossings of Canada and 3012 kms (1871 miles) in other countries. He certainly has a lot to share with us on that topic.

Before starting his first trek across Canada in 1996 Bhaktimarga Swami had been encouraged by his doctor to regularly walk as it would help his back problems – and it did! In a recent interview I asked him if he felt more healthy, thousands of kilometers down the roads and he replied with a resounding « Yes, definitely! »

**Bhaktimarga Swami:** Sometimes people ask me if I'm getting tired and I say, "Actually, this is giving me life. I get tired from just hanging around.

I get energized from the movement from head to toe, it's natural for us, these bodies were meant for walking. »

I get personally enthused when I see people who have caught onto the need to take care of themselves physically, because whatever you do physically is going to impact you psychologically. If you take care of your body you're likely to do some nice service, some nicer things for Guru and Krishna - at least you'll last a little longer. Also, I would like to encourage the notion of pilgrimage because, in the world in which we live, people have pretty much everything - they go to school, work, have their recreation, and so on. But there's one thing missing in human society, that our ancestors and ancient people used to do: to go on pilgrimage for some visualisation, some purging or some introspection.

All this walking has helped me to better assume my many responsibilities in ISKCON. I've gained experience by meeting so many people and I come back very refreshed, with new enthusiasm. My head's clear and I had time to think about my future projects. After the walk it's time to execute them, to have my dreams become materialized.

I would say that if everyone in the globe walked from one to one and a half hour in the morning it would be a different world. Think about the medicational issues or medicine we don't have to consume or inject because we are in good health. Just think about it. Then you have time to meet your neighbours, time to meet the air, the sun and the moon. You know you come out as a brighter person. Oxygen goes to your brain, you think things over better, and you become a little more decisive and thoughtful. It's all because we are designed for that very thing, walking. I'd like to see a little more emphasis on that in our new devotees training programs. Those who train them should include some kind of exercise on a daily basis. Forty minutes to an hour should be given to physical work, whether it's stretching or a little more intensive type of exercise. In any case it should be done because I've seen catastrophic situations where that has not been applied by renunciates. So I feel we should start as early as we can

Maharaja –who is now 63 – admits that besides being a release, a therapy, walking can also be an austerity, a strain on the body, especially if you walk an average of 30 kms every day for four months in a row. One has to expect a bit of pain doing this, but it's a good way to learn detachment from the body, he says. The roads, especially the highways, are not pedestrian-friendly. Traffic is noisy, polluting, and, in bad weather, throws up gusts of cold wind and splashes of wet rain. Walking on the shoulder of a highway isn't easy either. Because of these shoulder slopes, which throw off one's gait, during one of his treks he developed a pain in one of his legs and experienced muscle pain and inflammation around his knees.





**The utmost importance of proper shoes: flip-flops are not the best!**

When walking over long stretches of rugged ground or roads, it is of the utmost importance to have proper socks and shoes. It may seem obvious to any runner or sportsman but it's something most padayatri's haven't paid much attention to in some parts of the world. Plastic flip-flops are practical in certain situations, such as walking a few blocks to your local temple and in warm climates like India, but not be the best footwear for the 1991 padayatra in England when it rained practically every single day. Local reporters did notice this, and the May 14th issue of the Ripon Northern Echo came up with a very humorous article on the devotees entitled, « Spaced out in flip-flops on the road to Ripon. »

On the ancient market square yesterday some men in sheets and flip-flops danced and chanted. They did neither too long, possibly because they still had three miles to walk to their camp, and possibly because nobody was taking any notice.....Without dashing home to get the spare bed sheets knocked up into something to wear, the Riponians listened politely. Some of them asked questions, though these were probably more of the 'are n't you cold?' variety than the 'what is the meaning of life?' sort.....The Hare Krishna lot were clearly ill-equipped for walking. Those not in flip-flops were in sneakers. There was not a hiking boot in sight. Yet this was the 13th day of their great pilgrimage through the towns and villages of Britain.

Even though flip-flops could do the job in dry weather in India, devotees who walked there were faced with a typical Indian problem: people would steal their shoes whenever they left them at the entrance of a temple they were visiting or of the place where they were staying, and near the Deity cart. Sriman Pandit Dasa recalls: "Like other ISKCON temples, our traveling temple was attracting people for two things – free food and free shoes. The result was that a lot of times we had to walk without shoes on the hot

tarmac or hot sand, which caused lots of painful blisters and sometimes infections." Jaya Vijaya Dasa, leader of Padayatra India for 10 years, walked about 80% of the 50,000 km the party covered from 1986 to 1996. He went through a total of more than 40 pairs of flip-flops – about one pair every three months – even though vendors would brag while selling him these shoes that they were guaranteed to last a year. During one of the padayatri's visit to Dvaraka one Life Member donated 150 pairs of shoes, but, considering the life expectancy of flip-flops and the stealing factor, that impressive stock did not last more than two years for the twenty men party. We can joke about walkers wearing flip-flops, but in September 1992 one brahmacari almost slipped to his death while trekking to Badarinath high in the Himalayas because of wearing them. Rohini Kumar Swami remembers this adventurous trip : « The road there is cut into the sides of the mountains, on one side it drops 30 meters or more into the rapids of the Ganges and the other side is flanked by towering cliffs and overhanging boulders. The road is mostly wide enough for one vehicle, and there are blind corners at every turn of the winding route. On top of it there were many landslides over which we had to scramble and numerous waterfalls pouring down the sides of

cliffs, hitting the sides of the road, and shooting across it on their way into the deep gorge of the Ganges. If you were to slip while walking through that water you could easily be swept away to your death. “ Most of the devotees did not have proper shoes for this kind of terrain. By Gauranga’s mercy, no one died. I hope that the narration of this close call will be a strong incentive to all padayatra leaders to do an inspection of the shoes padayatris are wearing before the start of their walk, especially in mountainous areas.

### **Crocs, the Walking Monk’s favorite shoes**

During his 1996 cross-Canada walk, Maharaja wore regular running shoes and sneakers, but he found both too constricting. Knowing that whatever affects your feet will affect your organs, he then adopted the then latest craze in footwear – Crocs. Trying not to sound like a pitchman for the company whenever he was interviewed about his shoe choices, our walking swami swore that these rubber clogs were the absolute best. “They are made of different materials, they don’t suffocate your feet, they’re very lightweight, and they’re the best I’ve found for walking like this. Your feet can breathe through the holes, especially when you’re not wearing socks, and water just rolls off. The Creator made our feet so they would touch the earth, and a shoe that will allow you to embrace a variety of terrains is an advantage. Feet tend to crave a break, but I find I don’t need to change out of these shoes. They call them ‘holey shoes’ for more reasons than one.” Maharaja even found a way to improve on them by inserting an arch support that looked as if it had melded with the clog. He went through a pair of Crocs per month. He also likes Keen shoes, sandals that allow your feet to breathe ; they’re a good snug fit and have good support.

Bhaktimarga Swami : When it comes to footwear, if you’re walking 18 hours a day, it’s a good idea to give your feet a break by switching shoes. Use your favourite for a bit and then switch shoes, maybe at the end of the day. When it rains you may require a different type of footwear. But I think the feet require change, because there are different pressure points and muscles in the body.

When Bhaktimarga Swami walked in the attractive island of Mauritius he promised the local devotees that he would return only if they established a japa walking club. That never became official. However, weeks later he received emails reporting that week-end predawn trekking continued. He was sad when he picked up the sense that these islanders wished to catch up with the rest of the world and join the rat race. At the same time he felt very grateful to Srila Prabhupada for encouraging the sannyasa lifestyle, which embraces the culture of inspiring others and walking. May the Walking Monk stay very healthy and continue to inspire us to follow in his footsteps for many more years! □

## **WALK THE WALK**

*by Suresvara Dasa*

*They keep a close watch on these hearts of ours*

*Our Gour-Nitai like walkin’ more than cars*

*No time to fuss, fret, pout, or even balk*

*We don’t just talk, we walk the walk.*

*To Gour-Nitai it’s so easy to be true*

*They pick you up even when you’re feelin’ blue*

*So chant and dance and grow your creeper’s stalk*

*We don’t just talk, we walk the walk.*

*Throughout the dark of night and light of day*

*We’ll keep Them on our minds, that is the way*

*To taste the bliss that makes all people gawk*

*We don’t just talk, we walk the walk.*

*They have Their ways to keep us on Their side*

*For Gour-Nitai our love we just can’t hide*

*And Prabhupada he’ll watch us like a hawk*

*He’s walks his talk, he walks the walk.*

**ALL SHOUT: “ARE YOU READY TO WALK THE WALK?!”**

*Note: The song is a parody of a famous country rock song called “Walk the Line,” originally written and sung in the 1950s by a famous American singer named Johnny Cash. Cash was singing about his woman. Suresvara Prabhu, an American disciple of Srila Prabhupada, adapted the lyrics so we could sing it for Gour-Nitai and their Padayatra. If you want to know the tune he sang onstage with other devotees during a recent Gaura Purnima festival in Mayapur, just Google “walk the line johnny cash,” click on the YouTube icon, and listen to him sing.*



## WHY NOT TRY THESE SHOES ?

### Walking Like Barefoot With Leguano Shoes

We are not wearing shoes when nature brings us into the world. Moreover, in countries such as India where many people still go barefoot, western complaints such as back, hip and knee problems are virtually unheard of. Walking in shoes is part of western culture, but also the root cause of many associated conditions.

Our idea was to create a new type of shoe that would enable the healthiest and most natural form of forward motion: walking barefoot. Developed over the course of many years, our barefoot leguano shoes restore the full range of foot movement for wearers. At the same time, the feet are protected by hard-wearing, slip-resistant soles that adapt around every movement of the foot and the muscles.

The material used for the sole is tough enough to provide almost complete protection even from sharp objects. The uppers hold the foot firmly, allowing bodily heat to escape when walking or running and retaining

warmth when resting. leguanos can be used as running shoes, and in fact are suitable for all manner of indoor and outdoor usages. They are particularly recommended for children (at least old enough to start walking) and older people. Thanks to excellent slip-proof qualities on any surface and the resultant strengthening of the foot muscles, wearers are able to walk without assistance well into old age.

*(text from the website : <http://www.leguano.eu/index.php/leguano-international-en.html>)*

*Other sites : <http://leguano.ca/online-store/> <http://www.leguano.eu/index.php/faq-en.html>*

Note from Gdd : I recently found an add for these shoes in a magazine. I did not yet have time to get a pair but thought you might be interested to try these out. Maybe there are some shoes superior are at least equal to the famous Crocs ? Let me know ☐

## Did You Know That ?

Each of your feet has

26 bones,

16 joints

107 ligaments

20 muscles

and regroups 7200 nerve endings

This complex mechanism plays an essential role in our equilibrium and locomotion.





Padayatra India, 2014

# Palanquins or / and Carts ?

## The deity cart

\* The Deity cart can be pulled by oxen, horses, devotees, or even a car. When driven by oxen, it is the main attraction for the public in Western countries.

\* This cart is a travelling temple from which Sri Sri Nitai Gaurasundara and Srila Prabhupada will bless everyone: make it beautiful and colourful, and also functional.

## The children cart

\* A second cart with a large space to sit down can be added to the Deity cart. It has proved very convenient in many walks for:

\* Transporting children and tired walkers

\* Storing books, prasadam and fliers

\* Carrying walkers' belongings: luggage of devotees joining in the middle of the walk, bags, coats, raincoats, snacks, water, all items which otherwise would end up cluttering the Deity cart.

\* Storing items donated during the walk: fruits, flowers, vegetables, and feed for the



Padayatra India, 2014 at night



Padayatra India, 2014 Back of cart

## Advantages of palanquins

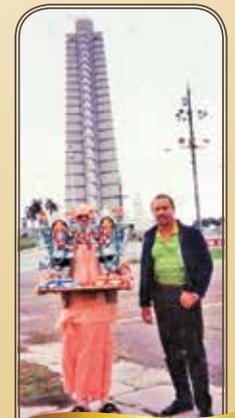
\* They are easy to make and do not cost much. They can be used in any country, in villages and cities, and on any kind of road (narrow, steep, etc), no matter what style of padayatra you chose.

\* Even if you have a Deity cart, you can also use a palanquin to take your utsava Deities on harinama in busy and narrow streets or in a location where oxcarts are not permitted.

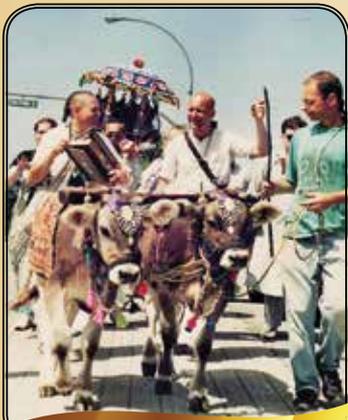
\* For the Deities's comfort and security, install a waterproof back side and a roof to your palanquin to protect them from rain and sun. Choose a cloth that does not fade in the hot sun.



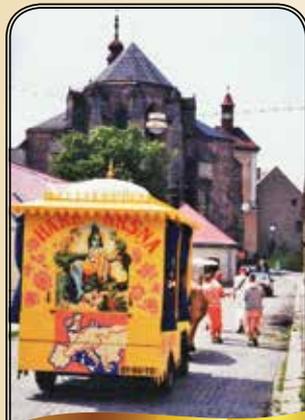
Padayatra Andhra Pradesh



Cuba, 1996



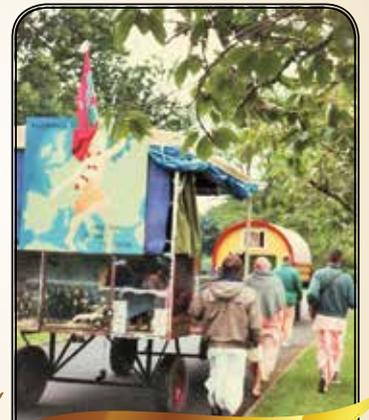
Canada (Vancouver), 1992



Czech Republic, 1996



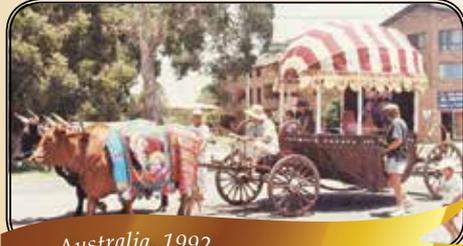
Ghana, 1996



Ireland, 1990 Deity cart



New Zealand, 2015



Australia, 1992



Argentina, 1996

## Renovate an old cart

- \* Visit old farmers to get tips on how to renovate or build an oxcart or a horsecart. They might still have an old one lying around.
- \* Adapt the design of a Ratha-yatra cart to your needs.
- \* Think functionally about the essential features:
  - The body
  - The roof, columns and domes
  - The wheels and tires
  - The harnessing system
  - The brakes
  - The turning system, for sharp angles
  - The security and comfort of the Deities

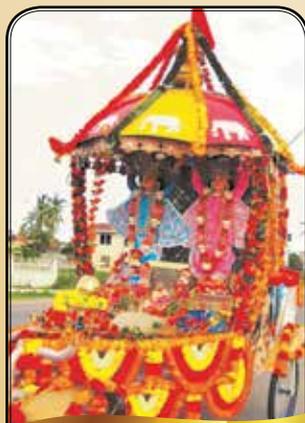
## Design your own deity cart

### 1) Use your creative imagination

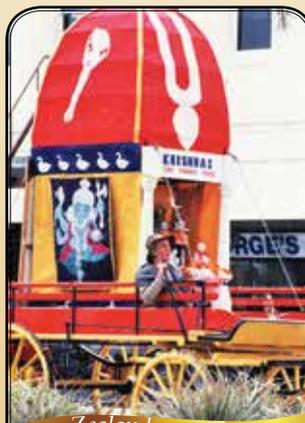
- ◆ You can either build your cart from scratch or revamp an old one. Padayatris around the world have used many different kinds of designs and styles:
  - ◆ Carts pulled by humans or animals
  - ◆ Cart built on a bicycle rickshaw
  - ◆ Very simple carts with a plastic cover or fancy ones with domes, display cases with dioramas on the side; with a Ratha-yatra style canopy, with elements of local architecture or of your imagination, such as the "Cinderella" style that was made in Australia 20 years ago.



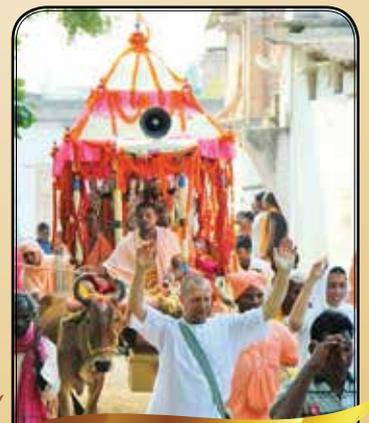
Malaysia, 1991



Guyana, 2014



New Zealand, (Yasodadulal Dasa) 1991



Padayatra Orissa, 2013

## 2) Plan well

◆ Plan every detail before starting the actual construction, as it will be difficult to make changes or additions once the construction is well advanced, what to speak of when you're on the road.

Consider all the following factors while designing your cart:

◆ Size: it should accommodate the number and size of your murtis

◆ Space: have sufficient space for the pujari to dress and worship the Deities, and sit down while distributing caranamrita. Think of the driver's seat.

◆ Weight: it will depend on the material you use and the load on the cart. It must be adapted to the terrain and the road conditions you'll meet: a heavy cart on mountain roads will exhaust the animals and the devotees in case they have to replace the animals for a while...

◆ Weight depends on construction materials and the load you'll carry.

◆ Width: it should not exceed the width of a regular car, for safety reasons on large and busy

◆ Height: think of the low bridges and overheads on your itinerary (once in England the cart got stuck under a low bridge!) You might want to opt for a collapsible top.

◆ Construction material: light wood (make it waterproof) and aluminium are best.

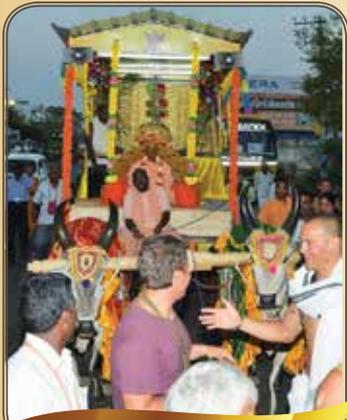
◆ Decorations: make your cart attractive:

◆ Paint it with bright colors.

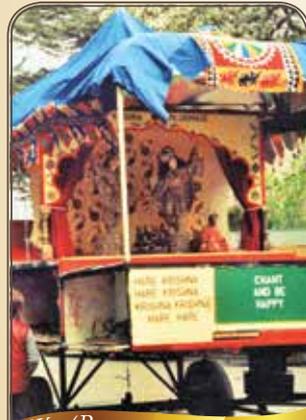
◆ Add decorations (festoons, balloons, garlands, etc.) on special occasions.

◆ Paintings and signs: maha mantra, Lord Krishna, Lord Caitanya, map of your country with itinerary, or theme of the walk.

◆ Dioramas in glass cases on the sides of the cart: changing bodies, karma in action (man with a cow's face killing a cow with a man's face), pastimes of Lord Krishna or Lord Caitanya.



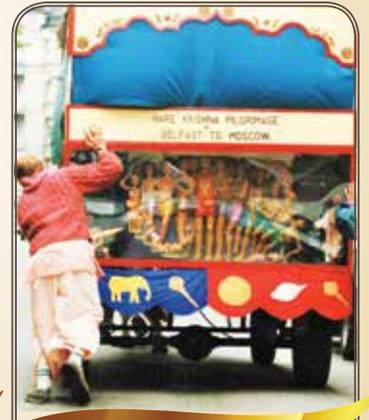
Padayatra Tamil Nadu, 2014



UK, (Parasurama Dasa) side Dioramas



UK, (Parasurama Dasa) Dioramas



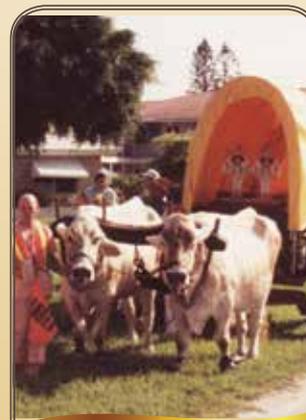
UK, Changing Bodies Dioramas



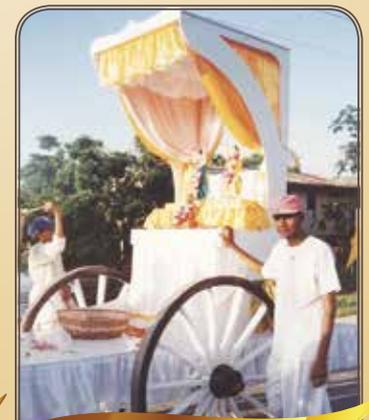
Slovenia, 2015



Philippines, 1992



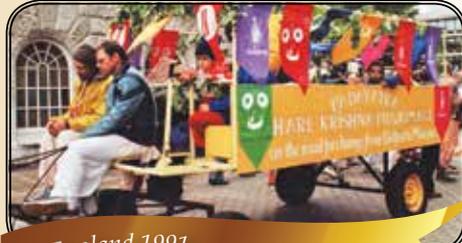
USA, (Saunaka Dasa) 1993



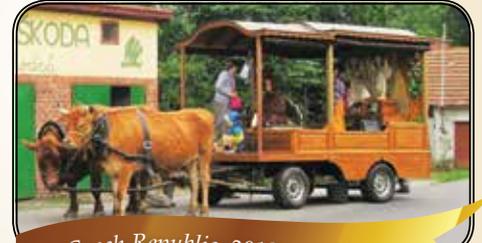
Surinam, 2014



Mauritius 2014



England 1991



Czech Republic, 2010



Navadvipa Mandala Parikrama 2014



New Zealand, (Nandalu Dasa) 1996



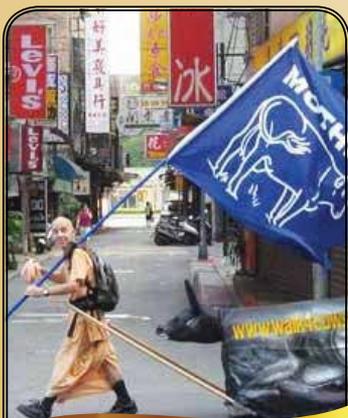
Guatemala, 1992

### 3) A model for you: the present Padayatra India's cart

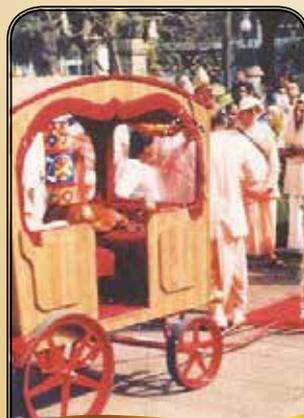
Since the first padayatra in India in 1976 Padayatra India leaders have used their experience on the roads to design the present cart in a very functional way:

- ◆ The Deity paraphernalia is easily accessible.
- ◆ The design allows all the functions taking place on the cart to go on smoothly: dressing the Deities, making bhoga offerings, offering aratis, distributing caranamrita and driving the cart
- ◆ Specific features:
  - ◆ Altar for murtis of Sri Sri Nitai Gaurasundara: large and / or small.

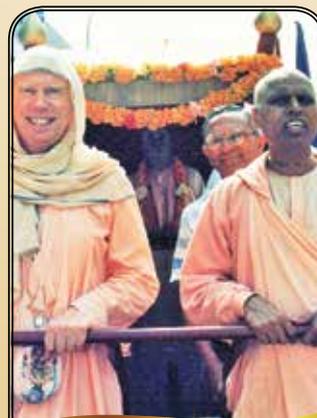
- ◆ Altar for murti of Srila Prabhupada.
- ◆ Space for Lord Caitanya's footprints.
- ◆ Security device to hold the Deities in place while the cart moves: the best device is a wooden base in two parts, tightened with screws. This wooden device is screwed on or nailed to the base
- ◆ Canvas or rolling shades on the sides and in front of the cart to protect the Deities from potential attacks and from rain, wind and excessive sunlight.
- ◆ Lighting features inside for night programs
- ◆ Fans for the Deities
- ◆ Rods to hang curtains around the cart.



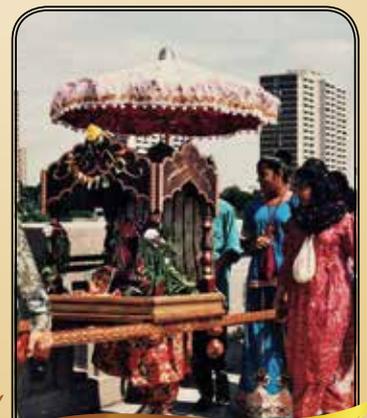
Taiwan, 2008



South Africa, 1994



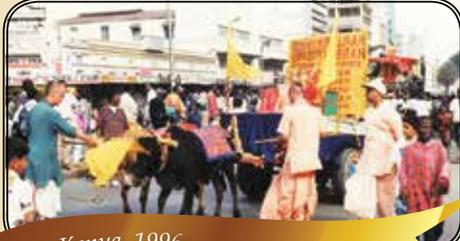
South Africa, (Durban) 1994



Canada (Toronto), 1996



France, 1991



Kenya, 1996



New Zealand, 1991 Footprints of Lord Caitanya



Padayatra Gujarat, 1997

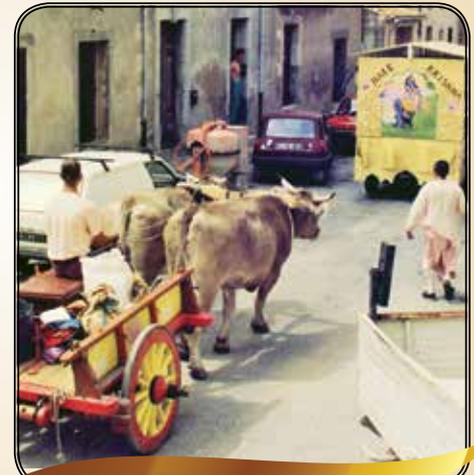


Slovenia, 2012

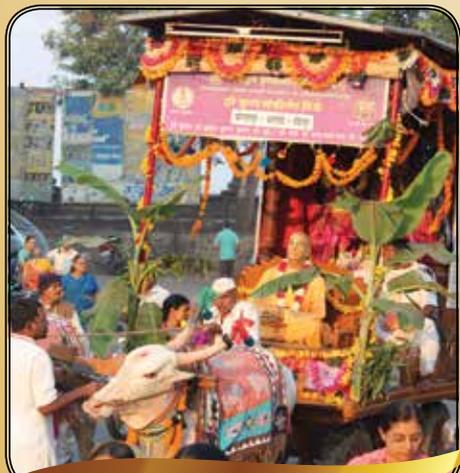


USA, (Avadhuta Siromani Dasa and Chandrabhaga Dasi) 2003

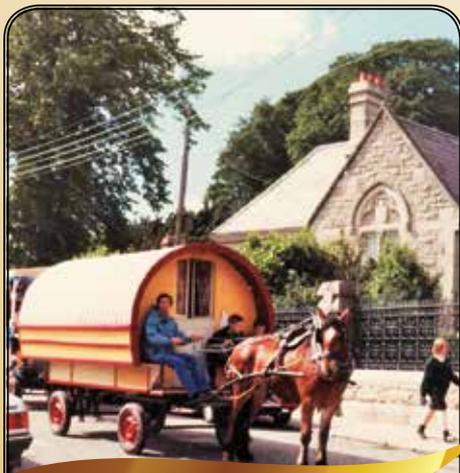
- ◆ Hooks or device to hang backdrops, peacock fan and camara.
- ◆ Seat for the driver, with accessible break.
- ◆ Storage units (with a strong lock on them) built on the sides, in the back and underneath. You can store Deity clothes, backdrops, jewelry, water and arati paraphernalia.
- ◆ Donation box(es): Padayatra India has three boxes, one on each side: it is very practical when large crowds gather around the Deity cart. Secure the box to the cart so no one can steal it and remove its content every night.
- ◆ Box for musical instruments



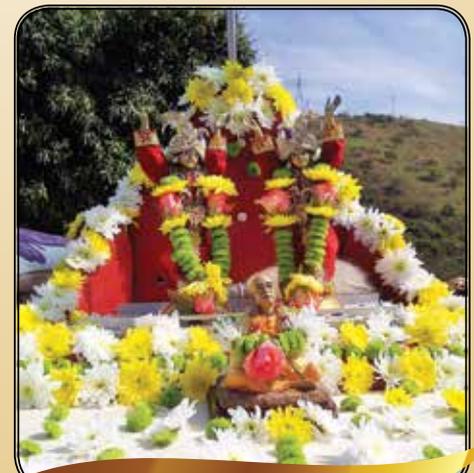
France, 1992



Dindi Maharashtra (India), 2014



Ireland, 1990 Gypsy caravan



South Africa, 2013

# SPECIAL STORIES

## “He’s the one we’ve been waiting for!”

by Srivasa Dasa

The following event took place in 1996, during the second padayatra in Ghana. When we got to one village, something astonishing happened with an old woman in her late seventies. After a powerful kirtana and preaching session, when she saw Srila Prabhupada on the cart, she immediately started crying and shouting to all the people around, “He has come! He has come! He’s the one we’ve been waiting for! He has come!” All the devotees said, “Waouh!” They were moved to see someone who had never seen devotees in her life or heard the maha-mantra react in such an amazing way. She then stepped forward and claimed that Srila Prabhupada was her lost brother and that therefore she wanted us to leave him behind with her in the village. No amount of explanation could convince this old woman that the form she was seeing was a murti of Srila Prabhupada. When we did not heed her request, she decided to walk with us. She walked nine kilometers – through three villages – before returning to her village. She didn’t chant, but she heard the maha-mantra. It was such a strange situation that this elderly woman from a remote village in Ghana claimed a blood relationship with Srila Prabhupada. Who knows who was this woman? ☐



## Scary encounters

by Bhaktimarga Swami



One summer day during my 2013 crossing of Canada I was walking at dawn on the southerly route in British Columbia, on Highway 3 called the ‘Crow’s Nest Pass’. I saw two grizzly bears in the bushes across the road from me. I had just newly acquired my Samsung cellphone that can also be used as a camera, and I thought, ‘Oh my God, I got to take a picture of these guys.’ I tried to type in the password, but it did not work, and then I tried the buttons, but that also wasn’t working. Then I heard some hurried noise and I thought, “Those guys are going to come over here and devour me”. But it ended there, the bears were more scared of me than I was of them, so they took off. Sometimes it’s recommended to use bear spray to keep the black bears off, but I don’t know how effective it is on grizzlies. I heard the story of a fellow who was cycling through the mountains with a mountain bike. A grizzly pounced on him and sent him flying off his bike. The fellow’s back pack fell off, and the grizzly started to smell through it. It sunk his teeth into a can, but it was a bear spray can. It went ‘sszzzhhhhhhhhhhh’ and the bear took off. I’ve had some other close encounters with aggressive creatures, the crawling types, like rattle snakes, but I think it’s the human beings that are the ones you have to really look out for ☐

# «Just keep walking down the line, Bhaktimarga Swami!»

by *Bhaktimarga Swami*

Walking by myself on the road there's all kinds of encounters, here's one thing that happens sometimes, people who will try to seduce me, women and the others too. In the mornings, I like to wave to people in their vehicles, especially when the sun is shining. One time I was walking on Highway 2, waving to the cars. One car turned around and pulled over on the side of the road. A woman and her dog came out. I could see she was a little drunk and the way she was dressed was a little erotic. On the radio, Johnny Cash was singing this song "I keep my eyes wide open all the time because you're mine...I walk the line". So she came closer to me and asked in a very seductive way, "What are you doing?" "Well, I'm walking across Canada to promote pilgrimage." I replied. She then continued in a seductive tone, "Well you know, I know a real nice place down the valley where the sun comes up." In the meantime her dog was barking and Johnny Cash singing. Then I said, "Well, I can't leave this spot, my support person is dependent on me being here. If I left the road to look at some nice scenery, he wouldn't know where I was and he would get frustrated or angry with me so that wouldn't work." From that point on she got so disappointed. I just kept on hearing Johnny Cash's line, "Just walk the line..." Yes, just keep walking down the line, Bhaktimarga Swami, just get out of here as fast as you can. These kinds of instances happen on the road. What we have to understand is that there are a lot of lonely people out there, there's a



lot of depression. People are wanting. They are in despair. They resort to drugs, contemplate or commit suicide. I have a chance to ask people what's going on in their life, how's their family life, their relationship and immediately they open up. I'd say that 50% of the people say it's not going so well. Then I get a chance to say something of this sort, "You know our real relationship is with the creator. Ultimately, nearly everyone in this world is going to disappoint you, you might forget that. You might want to consider not giving that so much priority and put the priority on the absolute." That's the kind of human encounters I have ☐

# Dhamesvara Mahaprabhu, the best of all doctors !

by *Nilambari Radha Devi Dasi*

Right before the 2015 parikrama I developed a severe pain in my knee. It was so bad that I could not sit on the floor at all, I had to use a chair all the time. I could forget this pain only during kirtana, but it came back when the kirtana was over. I went on parikrama anyway, even though it was so difficult to walk. One day we stopped at the Dhamesvara Mahaprabhu temple. After leading an ecstatic kirtana Sacinandana Swami told us the story of that Deity. « This deity of Caitanya Mahaprabhu is so merciful, he said, He's begging us to take Krishna-prema. We can even ask Him to help us with our health issues. » I felt so desperate that I had no other choice but to ask Lord Dhamesvara for help. « How long should I still

suffer like that ? », I asked him. I was intensely begging Mahaprabhu to help fix that knee so that I could serve Him during this parikrama.

That very night I met my godsister Visnupriya dasi, a very sweet and kind Indian lady. When she asked me how I was doing, I told her that my spirit was happy but that my body was failing me. Seeing me in such pain and desiring to help me, she gave me a very good massage – very painful and also very, very useful. I was screaming out in pain, « Gauranga ! Gauranga ! », then « Radhe ! Radhe ! » I fell asleep immediately after the massage. The next morning I woke up with just a tiny pain in my knee, and by the end of the day, the pain had totally disappeared. I



could happily walk on parikrama, and jubilantly dance all the way.

Alglories to Dhamesvara Mahaprabhu, the best of all doctors ! ☐

# Grand welcome to Sri Sri Nitai-Gaurasundara

by Acarya Dasa

On June 19th 2015 June Padayatra India arrived in the village of Konati in Andhra Pradesh, dancing while singing the holy names as usual. The villagers were amazed to see the padayatra party and the Deities. Most of them started following us and paying obeisances to Sri Sri Nitai-Gaurasundara, and within a very short time almost all the villagers had come for darsana. Then the sarpancha (or panchayat, the head of the village), Mr Suresh Gayake, came with his wife, carrying an arati tray, fruits and garlands, which they offered to the deities. After inquiring about our residence they did all the necessary arrangements for our party to be comfortable.

After taking some rest we went for nagar sankirtana. As we moved along with the ratha, we were surprised to see that at every door ladies were standing with an arati tray, fruits and garlands to welcome Gaura-Nitai. We stopped at each and every house for arati, and the ladies even washed the feet of two of our oxen, Jaya and Ghanshyam. The villagers had swept the road, put water and flowers in the streets to welcome Their Lordships. When it was time for Krishna katha,

they were all there, eager to hear. When we were about to depart from the village they all offered dandavats to the deities and followed the procession till the last house in the village. « Please, come again with the Lord to our village, they said, we will be waiting for you ! »

In that village we meet a devotee named Smith Krishna. He's a student who has been in contact with Rupa Goswami Dasa on Facebook. He had never met Rupa Goswami (the previous Padayatra India leader), but as a result on his internet association with him he had started to chant 16 rounds a day and putting on tilak. This boy was very happy to see us and attended all the programs, including mangala-arati the next day.



Footnote : Sometimes we are not as fortunate as in Konati and we have no proper place for residence. In one village we had to stay an entire night under a tree while our oxen were standing in the rain. We tried to cover them with a plastic sheet, but in vain. Despite this incident, we still feel sustained by the mercy of Gaura Nitai, Srila Prabhupada and Gurudev, and we have full faith that they will always protect us ☐



# Mydukur school children have never been so happy

by Acarya Dasa

On August 3rd we reached the town of Mydukur in the Kadapa district of Andhra Pradesh. As we were doing nagar sankirtana and book distribution in the town, the principal of one school became very much impressed by our party. He asked us many questions about padayatra, how it started, who was our inspiration and

so on. We took this great opportunity to glorify Srila Prabhupada, ISKCON and Lokanath Maharaja, our beloved Padayatra minister and leader. We told the principal details of Maharaja's life, and how he inspired us in our spiritual life. The principal then invited us to do a small program for the school children. We took it as Sri Sri Gaur Nitai's mercy and happily headed for the school. During kirtana, all the children sang and danced with us with full vigor, greatly enjoying themselves, jumping high with loud shouts of "Haribol! Haribol!", their bright faces reflecting the happiness they felt. Afterwards we had a short and simple lecture for

the children, trying to inspire them to take up spiritual life at an early age by following devotees' example. One of the teachers said he had never seen his students so happy before. Our country certainly needs such principals in all its schools, persons who are themselves interested in spirituality and also want their students to take up spiritual life. Then only can there be a happy and prosperous future for all ☐



# Harinama sankirtana brings much needed rain in a draught struck area

by Acarya Dasa

The miraculous events taking place on Padayatra India could turn even a stone disbeliever into a surrendered soul. The following act of mercy of the Lord in some famine struck villages of South India is indeed no exception. The day was August 19th as padayatra entered Nandyal, a city located in the Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh. We received a warm welcome as we entered the city streets, performing sankirtana. The local people began to wash the path for the cart and the padayatris and showered us with flowers as we walked along. They also stopped to offer arati and coconuts to Gaura Nitai. We were pleasantly surprised to see that the villagers continued to follow us, enjoying the kirtana all the way to the town square, where we performed an arati and held a katha with those still around. The next morning, while we were preparing to move to our next destination, we were approached by local people who requested us to stay for one more day. So we did. On both days, when harinama started, clouds started to flood the skies and it began to rain heavily. Little did we know that padayatra and the sankirtana performance had become associated with the heavy downpour of rain. We later learned that it had not rained in that area for a couple of years.



The news of this miracle spread around and as a result we were approached by the villagers of Krishnapuram who requested us to come to their nearby village. When we asked them why, they told us that their village had not had a single drop of rain in two years and so there were no crops. People did not have much to eat. The villagers said that they had heard that it had started to rain when we did to also come to their village. Even though we were meant to be embarking on a different route we decided to honor their request and go to their village. As

we were walking to Krishnapuram we started wondering, "What if it doesn't rain?" However, we knew that Gaura Nitai are all merciful and we left it up to Them. When we arrived we did harinama, and, sure enough, the sky began to fill with clouds and rain poured from the heavens. The villagers were ecstatic as they jumped and danced in the kirtana. Afterwards we put together a small katha describing the importance of the sankirtana yajna in the age of Kali Yuga. We explained that this yajna should be done to get rain.



*"annad bhavanti bhutani  
parjanya adanna-sambhava  
yajnad bhavati parjanya  
yajnah karma-samudbhava"* (BG 3.14)

All living bodies subsist on food grains, which are produced from rain. Rains are produced by performance of yajna [sacrifice], and yajna is born of prescribed duties. Therefore in Kali-yuga the sankirtana yajna is recommended. Besides rain, harinama brought two new persons to the padayatra party; these villagers said that they had never seen such a sankirtana before. As we left, the villagers requested us to come again with Sri Sri Gaura Nitai to bless them with more rain and katha. Sankirtana yajna ki jai! ☐

## Drenched in mercy

by Acarya Dasa

On September 12th, when we reached the village of Muchakota in Andhra Pradesh, the heavens had opened up and it had been raining heavily for days. The rain caused us many difficulties: the bullocks needed shelter and we needed a place to store the kitchen ratha and the book trolley. It was getting increasingly difficult to find a suitable place to take shelter from the downpour. If the rain continued at this rate, all the books and the other material we were carrying would get damaged. And the devotees of the advance party would not be able to go to the next town to make arrangements. As the oxen were getting soaking wet we housed them in a local goshala ; it was still less than ideal because even though they were no longer getting wet, the goshala

floor was saturated with water so they could not lie down and get a well-deserved rest after having walked and pulled the carts for many long kilometers.

Drenched and looking for an escape from the rain we managed to get shelter in a Nrsimhadev temple in the village. We took darsana of the Lord and meditated on His form as the protector of devotees. We were thinking that it was funny that harinama sankirtana had become known for bringing rain, and yet now we were in need of shelter from the same rain. All the padayatris began to pray intensely to Lord Nrsimhadev, begging Him to protect us from the heavy downpour just as Lord Krishna had protected the vrajvasis from the torrential rains sent by Lord Indra. The Lord was quick to reciprocate with our sincere prayers for shelter and protection, and just as we had desired the rain stopped.

We peacefully slept the whole night through, knowing that our belongings were protected. The next day the astonished villagers hurried to meet us. They told us that what had happened was a miracle! They explained that it had been raining heavily all over this area and that it was pouring down just two kilometres from the village, but not a single drop of rain fell within the village where we were staying. The padayatris all smiled and chanted loudly, "Bhakta vatsala Nrsimha Bhagavan ki jai! ». They had witnessed how Lord Nrsimhadev is the ultimate protector of devotees. He protected the boy Prahlad from the cruel onslaughts of his demonic father –it was only natural then that He had protected His dear padayatris. In this epic padayatra tale, the devotees, helpless and scared, had surrendered to the Lord's mercy, begged for His protection, and got His special mercy in the form of a miracle : no more rain ! ☐

## The Lord does take care of His devotees

by Acarya Dasa

This happened in December 2015 around Tirupati in Andhra Pradesh. One day, as we were very tired and hungry we stopped at a place to cook prasadam for all of us. Everything was ready, the ingredients, the vegetables, the pots and pans and the stove. But

when the cook was about to light the gas, he realized that the gas cylinder was empty. There was absolutely no chance at all to get gas in the nearby village. Feeling more and more hungry, we were wondering what to do next. To our surprise a Marwadi mataji who was passing by in her car stopped when seeing the ratha. After we explained our plight, she invited us to her house to get something to eat, but we politely refused, telling her we don't eat outside food , only what we have cooked ourselves and offered to the Lord . « So, what do you want

now ? » she said. « Just tell me, I will make all the arrangements. » And she did ! Within half an hour she sent us a gas cylinder along with grains and vegetables. We all looked at Sri Sri Nitai Gaurasunda with much gratefulness to the joyous shouts of « Jaya ! Jaya ! », knowing that what happened was Their causeless mercy and that They are our only shelter. Devotees, there is no need not worry if any problem comes in your life, just have faith that Krishna is with you, just relax and chant His holy name, He will certainly send all the necessary help ☐

### Make Your Own Padayatra Poster

☛ Photocopy the poster/drawing on the opposite page or download it from the padayatra website in the section ISKCON50.

☛ Add all the information about your padayatra in the empty space at the top of the drawing : PADAYATRA (week, week-end, day, etc.), theme

of the walk ,dates , itinerary, names of the devotees to be contacted ,plus their emails and phone numbers). You can write this information by hand in an artistic way or type it in your computer.

☛ Make many photocopies  
☛ Ask all the children ( big or small) of your community to colour the drawing on the opposite page.  
☛ Select the best drawing(s) and give a reward to all those who

participated, and of course a bigger one for the winner(s).

☛ Pin or glue your poster on the temple's information board, print it in your local newsletter, and/ or post it on the temple's website.

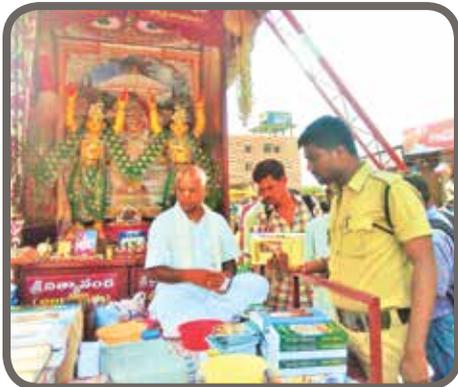
**SEND YOUR BEST POSTERS TO THE PADAYATRA MINISTRY : We'll use the best one on the front cover of the 2017 Padayatra newsletter.**



# Padayatras that took place in 2015



Czech Republic.. Winners of the dance competition



Andhra Pradesh.. padayatra



Russia.. Rostov, by the Don river



Odisha.. Reception by villagers

1 Padayatra India ( called the “All India Padayatra”): on the road since Sept 1984. Still traveling in Andhra Pradesh. Leader since September 2009 : Acarya Dasa.

2 Andhra Pradesh/Telangana (India): bullock cart padayatra. On the road since the end of 2012. Leader: Visnuswami Dasa

3 Odisha (India) : ISKCON Bhubaneswar’s annual bullock cart padayatra since 1992. Latest leader: Trailokyanath Dasa.

4 Tukarama Dindi from Dehu to Pandharpur via Pune (Maharashtra, India): annual 18 day 250 km bullock cart padayatra. Organised by ISKCON Pune since 1996.

5 Aravade Dindi from Aravade to Pandharpur (Maharashtra, India): annual 7 day 110km walk organised by ISKCON Aravade since 2001.

6 Solapur Dindi from Solapur to Pandharpur (Maharashtra, India): annual 4 day 70km walk organised by ISKCON Solapur since 2006.

7 Vraja Mandala Padayatra (India): the 29th bullock cart padayatra during Kartika, organised by Parasurama Dasa.

8 Czech Republic : annual bullock cart padayatra. Leaders since 1994: Muni priya Dasa and his son Nrsimha Caitanya Dasa.

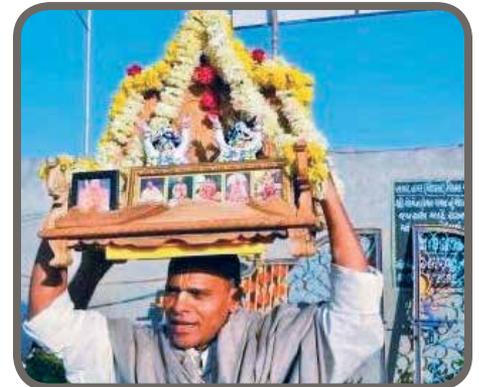
9 Slovenia : annual walk (around 15 days). Leader since 2002: Lalita Govinda Dasa

11 Mauritius: annual padayatra since 1984. Organised during World Holy Name Week since a few years. Present leader: Ayodyanatha Dasa

12 South Africa: one day padayatra in the province of KwaZulu Natal.



India.. Newspaper article in telugu



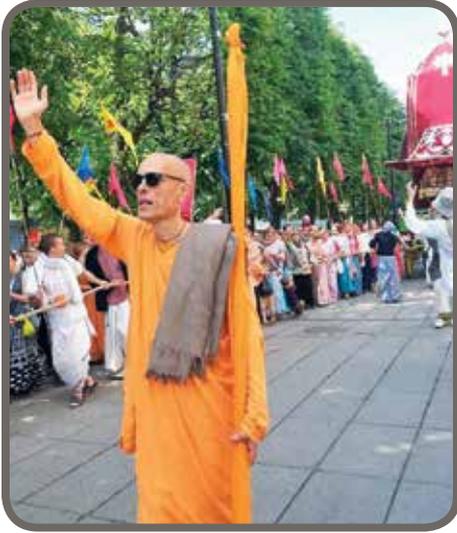
Gujarat.. Organiser Murlimohan Dasa



India.. Akhiladhara Dasa with Muslims



South Africa .. Northdene, padayatra



Lithuania.. Bhakti Svarupa Caitanya Swami in Kaunas

13 Lithuania: annual Padayatra/ Ratha-yatra since 1995. Leader since 2013: Ananda Gaurangi Devi

14 Russia: 2014 and 2015 summer walks. Leader: Narada Dasa.

15 France: July 2015: 190 km solo walk from Angers to New Mayapur, by Devarshi Dasa,

16 New Zealand: Since July 2015, Yasodadulal Dasa embarked on a one year solo padayatra with a wagon pulled by a horse.

17 Hungary: September 2015: one week padayatra by Bhakta Peter.

18 USA: Bhaktimarga Swami's solo walk from Boston to New York, and then to Butler,

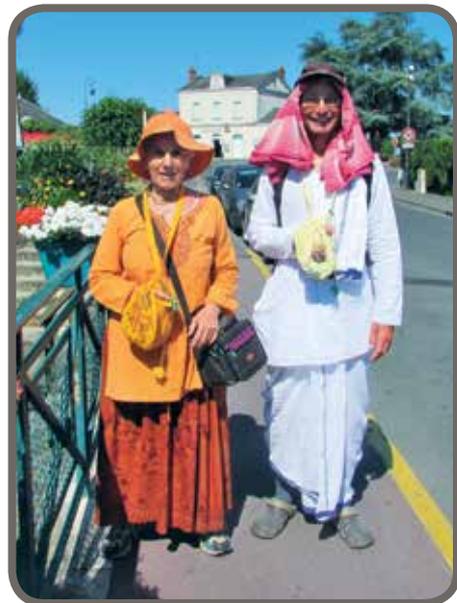
19 Gujarat (India): November 29th's trial padayatra from Samrat Nagar (14 kms from the Ahmedabad ISKCON temple) to the Kathawada Hare Krishna farm. This trial walk was followed by the Week Walking Festival (WWF), January 15 to 19, 2016.

YOU CAN FIND DETAILED REPORTS OF THESE WALKS ON THE PADAYATRA

WEBSITE : [padayatra.com](http://padayatra.com)

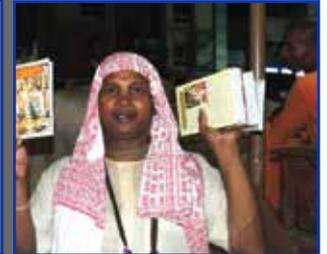


Slovenia.. Prema-gopi Dasi



France.. Devarshi Dasi and Gaurangi Dasi walking 17 kms in 38°C (=100 °F) weather

| PADAYATRA INDIA 2015<br>BOOK SCORES |                 |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Maha books                          | : 20,790        |
| Big books                           | : 1,487         |
| Medium books                        | : 904           |
| Small Books                         | : 73,221        |
| Grand total                         | : 96, 402 books |



| PADAYATRA ANDHRA PRADESH<br>BOOK SCORES<br>(2 years and 11 months since the end of 2014) |                  |
|--|------------------|
| Maha books   | : 10 sets        |
| Big books  | : 5,000          |
| Medium books   | : 10,000         |
| Small Books  | : 4,00,000       |
| Grand total  | : 4,25,000 books |

# HOMMAGE TO TWO LATE PADAYATRA LEADERS

## The Unique Taiwan Padayatra Of Sankirtana Dasa

by Lokanath Swami

Sankirtana Dasa quit his body on Janmastami 2015, after a few years of struggle with cancer. He was certainly a valiant vaisnava soldier. Fully dedicated to the mission, willing to take risks and undergo austerities to spread the holy names and the glories of Sri Sri Radha Krishna. To honor his memory and help us remember and appreciate him better, we'd like to share with all of you this section of my future padayatra book. You'll see that Sankirtana Dasa very much wanted to continue padayatra around Taiwan. I pray that in his memory some devotees will be inspired to organise more padayatras in Taiwan or in any other country.

### His black magic cow

In 1987 Sankirtana Dasa walked for



almost a year on Padayatra India, distributing books along the way. Then Tamal Krishna Maharaja, who had come to padayatra for a short visit, invited him to Southeast Asia, and Sankirtana ended preaching in Taiwan for about six years. In 1995 he returned to India to assist the team at the Centennial Office in Delhi, coordinating the Sahasra Tirtha Jala project until the end of 1996. One of the aims of the Centennial was to have padayatra in one hundred countries, so Sankirtana corresponded with a devotee from Taiwan to encourage him to do padayatra there, but the walk

never happened. Sankirtana Dasa: I always had the idea to do a padayatra in Taiwan. In the summer of 2008 I went to Bali, where the devotees are very artistic. They helped me build a little ratha - basically, a cow with an aluminum body. It was very light. It was one meter long, one meter high, 40 centimeters wide, with had two small wheels of about 20 centimeters in diameter. It has two long wooden sticks for a harness. We made the small cow body with bamboo and then covered it in black fabric. It had a nice styrofoam head with beautiful horns. Then I shipped it to Taiwan. There are three small centers in Taiwan, but no full-time devotees. I tried to get some local devotees to walk with me, but all of them had full-time jobs and couldn't come during the day. But I wasn't discouraged. I had planned it as a one-man performance. My idea was to first find out how it would be before inviting other devotees from abroad to walk around the whole island.

Sankirtana walked from Taipei to the northern half of the country in the beginning of September 2008. He was alone with his magic black cow! On the side of the cow he had written the name of his website in large yellow letters: "www.walk4cows.net." Those who visited his site could read several articles related to cow care and the benefits bestowed by mother cow. His main message was that people should make an effort to break free from the oppressive industrial society, and that to accomplish this goal they needed to be educated in spiritual life. Through a small door in the cow's side he placed books, a mosquito net, a mat, an extra dhoti, a bucket, and some dried fruit and muesli. On top of the cow's frame he installed a sound system and an MP3 player to constantly play Srila Prabhupada singing the mahamantra. Few people speak English in Taiwan, but after having spent six



years in Taiwan Sankirtana was fluent in Chinese. Communication wasn't a problem

### Well appreciated as a monk

Sankirtana Dasa: The first day out, one devotee came with me for a few kilometers to take pictures, and then I was alone. There are lots of weird people in Taiwan, and maybe some of those who saw me pulling this unusual cow, also thought I was weird! Sometimes people thought I was insane, but because I was shaved up and looked neat and clean, they realized I was indeed sane and appreciated that I was a monk. Despite an enormous modernization of the country during the past fifty years, the Taiwanese people have retained much of their culture and, with it, a service attitude toward monks, many stopping to offer me water, milk, or

fruit. Many simply made gestures of approval. Whenever I got a donation I gave a little book in Mandarin, *Elevation to Krishna Consciousness or Easy Journey to Other Planets*. One time the leader of a Taoist group gave me the equivalent of \$65. There were lots of exchanges as people invited me to sit with them and then asked me questions. Sometimes they stopped their cars to have a better look and talk with me. Without an advance party, I was able to find suitable resting places in either a Taoist or Buddhist temple or under cover in a housing area. A few times people invited me to stay in their homes for the night. Sometimes I would sleep in the open on a mat and under a mosquito net. I tried to stay near a petrol pump or temple, because then I would have water to bathe with in the morning. The next day I would get up, chant Hare Krishna, and walk 40 km from 6 a.m. until 9:30 p.m.

The impact on the public was positive. During the first six days of his walk, Sankirtana did two radio interviews and was featured in a newspaper article. The themes developed on his website seemed to appeal to all classes of people, especially the elderly. In the past, the cow and the ox used to be somewhat respected for economic considerations - the milk she was giving and the labor he was providing - but China is now a heavy meat-eating country.

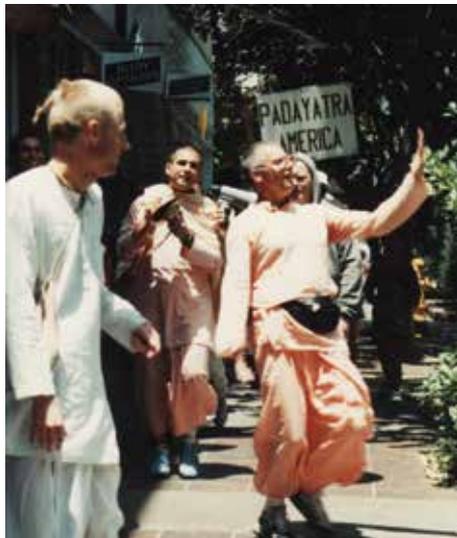
At some point, Sankirtana Dasa interrupted his walk to take some of his yoga students to India, resuming his place with his magic cow three weeks later for another seven days on other parts of the island.

Sankirtana Dasa: Basically, it was a trial run. I discovered that walking on the street with the cow ratha was not too risky and that the police patrols never seemed to bother with me. I wanted to see how it would be with more devotees. Now I can see that we can easily take a bigger cart, a bigger sound system, and a bigger battery and we'd be able to trek around the whole island in about two months ☐

## The Spontaneous Dedication Of Jada Bharata Dasa, Late Padayatra America Leader

by *Abhay Dasa*

### Unique qualifications to bring padayatra to the West



*Jada Bharata (left) with Raya Krishna in Santa Cruz*

Coming to America was an important moment in the history of Padayatra Worldwide. The United States truly represents the West with all its sophistication, organization, and regulation. It would seem that Lord Caitanya needed to send certain souls to help make padayatra in the West a reality. Jada Bharata Dasa was gifted in ways that made him just the man for the job. He stands among those padayatra men and women who stepped forward at the required time with his unique qualifications and a natural love and spontaneous dedication to padayatra.

At the beginning, we faced several obstacles to padayatra in the West, and some devotees believed it wasn't a concept appropriate for the U.S. Jada's nature as a sankirtana maharatha, however was to take a challenge and strategize how to achieve victory through hard work. The conviction he'd gained through his sankirtana experience was that anything done with the right amount of effort and intelligence on behalf of Srila Prabhupada would succeed. Jada was definitely a one-of-a-kind character.

Krishna broke the mold after creating him. He appeared unsophisticated, but was actually a deep-thinking devotee who understood how ISKCON worked and had a kind of hard-knocks education.

One time, we had just opened our padayatra office in the L.A. brahmachari asrama, and the next morning I woke up a little late. He sat me down after I had showered and said, in a serious tone, that we were facing a great battle to organize and collect for a project some viewed as foreign. If we both attended mangala-arati every day without fail, however, "no one could touch us."

Eccentric in a spiritual way Jada could be unpredictable - almost eccentric - but in a spiritual way. Shortly before Kartika in 1988, when we were busy preparing for the padayatra that would begin in May 1989, Jada suddenly announced that he was going to do Vraja-mandala parikrama. This program had only been done once before. It was an unusual time to leave - we had a lot to do. I asked him why he wanted to go, mentioning it would be very austere. This was before support vehicles, accompanying doctors, or even bottled drinking water were available. He replied that he had seen several devotees' faces when they had completed the walk - he said they had a "thousand-mile stare" - something, he said, he'd only seen on the faces of Brijabasis. He said he wanted to experience that "thousand-mile stare." So Jada bought his ticket to India and performed the month-long parikrama barefoot. The funny thing is that a devotee snapped a photo of him just as Lokanath Maharaja was garlanding him at the concluding ceremonies at Visrama-ghata in Mathura, and sure enough, in the picture you can see Jada clearly has a thousand-mile stare.

As I mentioned, Jada had the gifts we needed to organize padayatra in America. For example, he had Abhay



*Abhay Dasa, Jada Bharata, Lokanath Swami and Badarayani Dasa*

incredible powers of observation and the uncanny ability in a room full of potential donors he didn't know to point out the high net-worth individuals. Even if they seemed regular people to me, Jada could always tell by how they carried and conducted themselves. This is an important skill for a fundraiser.

Over the years I've seen that many key padayatra organizers have apparently contradictory natures. All of them have an innate loyalty to ISKCON, yet they also have a slightly independent nature that allows them to see the importance of a program outside the standard model. If you look at the remembrances of Jada Bharata on his Facebook memorial page (he left our external vision in September 2014), you'll see that one devotee writes that Jada taught him the importance of following senior authorities; another that he taught him to stay sane by practicing self-preservation in ISKCON. Jada was a soul fully dedicated to the mission, yet he retained his independent thoughtfulness, something Prabhupada wanted in his devotee brahmanas.

### **An excellent tactician and fund-raiser**

Jada presented himself as an unassuming individual, which hid the brilliant tactician he truly was, yet he engaged this ability in his service to the padayatra. I'll share a story that I've never shared before to illustrate this point. At one time, our attempts to plan for a padayatra down the West Coast of the U.S. started to come to a head. We had several programs cancelled by those worried we would take funds from local projects. Sankirtana devotees would report back to the temple treasurer if we were seen collecting in areas thought to be for their exclusive use. To make Padayatra America happen, we were going to have to be cleared for fundraising on a larger scale by the powers that be. In early 88, Badrinarayana Dasa (now Maharaja) set up a meeting in L.A. with devotees Jada referred to as "big men" to discuss how Padayatra America was to be funded.

The day before the meeting, Jada sat me down and explained exactly how the meeting would play out. He predicted who would speak, in what order, and what each would say. He then looked at me gravely and said that at

one point, everyone would turn to me and ask my opinion on where the money was going to come from. He told me it was critical that I didn't say anything – there would be severe repercussions if I did.

The next day we were called into the meeting room with the leaders of the Southern California zone – Badrinarayana Prabhu, Svavasa Prabhu, and others. Jada and I sat on the floor. Our seniors began to discuss where the money would come from, each of them saying they didn't see how funding the project was possible considering each temple's situation. Everything unfolded exactly as Jada had predicted. After they had all spoken, whipping up a kind of frenzy concerning how this money could ever be found, they turned to Jada and asked "Do you know where we'll get the money?" In the most sincere voice, he said, "No" and shrugged his shoulders. This sent everyone into a bigger spin, as they now felt it was really on their shoulders.

Suddenly, everyone in the room looked at me and in an intense voice, Badrinarayana asked "What about you, Bhakta Anthony, do you know where the money is going to come from?" Being almost unable to resist the opportunity to address such a rarified assembly, my mouth started to open. But Jada shot me a look that would have sent a chill up the spine of the Grim Reaper! "No," I said quickly, and pressed my lips shut. This sent the discussion into further chaos, with everyone offering conflicting opinions, mostly of doom. Finally, Jada slowly raised his hand. He spoke now as a mediator, not as someone who was making a proposal they needed to approve. He said, sheepishly, that he wasn't sure, but maybe if the padayatra organizers, including Lokanath Maharaja, travel to the California temples and others in America that were favorable, they could fundraise at the Sunday feast. A wave of relief washed over the group, and after looking at one another they unanimously approved the idea and the meeting quickly adjourned.

We never had a problem raising funds for Padayatra America again. In fact Padayatra America became instrumental in raising huge funds for the legal expenses related to the Robin George case. In early 89 Badrinarayana invited Jada to attend an emergency meeting to discuss how money would be raised to pay for ISKCON's appeal to the Supreme Court after the courts in California upheld part of an unfair judgment in favor of disgruntled former devotee Robin George that amounted to more than five million dollars. The courts were already taking steps to sell the L.A., Laguna Beach, Dallas, New York and other temples to satisfy the judgment. At this meeting Jada suggested that they use the Padayatra America fundraising team headed by Lokanath Maharaja to duplicate what they had done for Padayatra America, but this time travel to every temple in North America to do fundraisers for the court case. They accepted his proposal, and the team went on to raise almost a quarter of a million dollars for the ISKCON Legal Defense Fund ☐

# PRABHUPADA GHAT TO ACCOMMODATE MILLIONS OF PILGRIMS IN PANDHARPUR DHAMA

by Brajprem Dasa



## Up to 8 million pilgrims on Ashadi Ekadasi

During His padayatra to South India Lord Caitanya spent fourteen days in the holy city of Pandharpur in Maharashtra. Lord Nityananda and Lord Visvarupa, the elder brother of Gauranga Mahaprabhu also stayed there. It is in Pandharpur, the Vrindavana of Maharashtra, that Lord Nityanand took initiation from his guru Laxmitirtha Swami. Lord Visvarupa chose Pandharpur as His sannyasa kshetra and ended His pastimes there. Like all other pilgrims, They bathed in the waters of the sacred Chandrabhaga River and took darsana of Lord Vitthal, the presiding deity of the city of Pandharpur.

It is said that Visvakarma, the architect of the demigods, created this river. The mere darsana of Chandrabhaga, which is non different from Ganga or Yamuna, destroys all sins and blesses one with ultimate liberation. The Dindi yatra is a 700 year old tradition in Maharashtra during which millions of pilgrims ( also called Varkaris) walk from various cities in Maharashtra and neighboring states to take a purifying bath in the Chandrabhaga and touch their head to Lord Vitthal's lotus feet for a few seconds. Depending on the place the padayatris start from, they can walk up to 200 kms to reach Pandharpur, and then more during parikramas around the city. There are always pilgrims coming to Pandharpur, but many more on every ekadasi, when they usually stay 3 to 4 days (dasami, ekadasi, dvadasi and

trayodasi). On the auspicious day of Ashadi Ekadasi Chandrabhaga's bosom is filled with 8 to 10 lack (800 000 to 10 million) pilgrims, but due to a lack of proper facilities, they experience much inconvenience. There are insufficient toilets, which results in very dirty - to say the least-river banks and water pollution, and not enough arrangements for food and drinking water.

## An offering to Srila Prabhupada for ISKCON Jubilee

ISKCON Pandharpur, under the leadership of Lokanath Swami, took the initiative of constructing a ghat on the eastern bank of the Chandrabhaga, right down the temple property. On July 11, 2011, the day of Ashadi Ekadasi, the Bhumi puja of the



Prabhupada ghat was performed in the presence of the Chief Minister and Gardian Minister. Lokanath Maharaj wants us to finish this project and inaugurate it by the main Ekadasi of Kartik 2016.

The government of the state of Maharashtra, being very culturally and religiously inclined, is very cooperative and is helping the project in a very significant way. Maharashtrian in general are very favorable towards spiritual activities. So far the government has given 1 crore (10 million) Rupees through the Sri Siddhivinayak temple, one of the famous temples in Maharashtra ; this temple located in Mumbai is under the direct supervision of the Maharashtra's government. Both the government and ISKCON devotees are very concerned about the development of the banks of the sacred Candrabhaga river in the holy Pandharpur tirtha.

The Prabhupada Ghat project will be beneficial in many ways :

- ♦ It will protect the sanctity and cleanliness of the holy river by installing many utility rooms and toilets in the ghat project
- ♦ It will provide clean facilities for huge crowds to take bath



♦ It will avoid water pollution as direct access of vehicles and animals will be prohibited by the presence of the ghat.

**ISKCON's massive prasadam and book distribution on Ekadasi**

Besides bathing and taking darsana, pilgrims perform kirtana, dance and chant various songs to Lord Vitthal and the great saint Tukarama; they also go on parikrama to visit other places near Pandharpur, give donations to temples, goshalas and other charitable organisations. ISKCON devotees feed thousands of pilgrims with Krishna prasadam, especially during the 4 main ekadasis : Kartik, Ashadi, Chaitra and Magh. On other ekadasis we just do a small Food for Life at our temple. Ashadi Ekadasi is the biggest one in terms of number of pilgrims : around 8 lacks (8 million). Pilgrims also visit our ISKCON temple in Pandharpur, and some get accomodated there. To house such big numbers of people in the city there are different mathas, temples, institutions, and dormitories arranged by the government.

During the four main ekadasis we distribute water and prasadam under the banner of Food for Life and we accomodate as many varkaris as possible on our own premises. In two days, ekadasi and dvadasi, we distribute up to 2 lacks (200 000) plates of prasadam at different spots along the itinerary of the pilgrims : near the Vitthal- Rukmini temple, at Tukaram Bhavan, Naath chowk Junction, Shivaji Chowk, the Pandharpur bus stand, and of course at our ISKCON temple. It takes 15 devotees to cook and around 30 devotees to serve the prasadam which is being transported in 4 vans.

On Ashadi ekadasi, the most crowded day of all, our Bhaktivedanta hospital in Mumbai arranges for more than 100 teams of doctors and staff to set up medical camps in order to give free medical aid to all pilgrims. We also arrange pandal programs at ISKCON Pandharpur with kirtana, pravachan, drama and other cultural activities.

We have a team of 15 to 20 young boys and members of the congregation distributing lots of books : Bhagavad-gitas, small Prabhupada's books, the marathi Back to Godhead and Bhuvaikuntha, Lokanath Maharaja's book on Pandharpur. This book exists in Marathi, English, Hindi and also in Telugu and Kannada. Herein Maharaja describes the various holy places in Pandharpur and the pastimes that took place there. He also explains how special is Pandharpur Dhama : it is the only place where anyone from any caste, sect or country can come and touch the lotus feet of Lord Krishna in His black form of Lord Vitthal. There is only one more place in the universe where anyone can touch a self-manifested deity of the Lord, Jagannatha Puri in Odisha. But only in Pandharpur can anyone touch the lotus feet of the Lord . Since Lord Jagannatha does not have feet, you can embrace Him and touch other parts of His body.





## Still 50% of the funds to be collected

Since this ghat project is both a spiritual and a social service rendered for the welfare of people and an initiative helping the development of Pandharpur Dhama, we are contacting all kinds of people to collect funds. Happily the general mass of people are devotees of Vitthal/Krishna, and we also approach non devotees, and people belonging to any caste or sect. Already 50 % of the funds have been collected and we still need 5 crores and 85 lacks of Rupees (58, 500 million) to complete the construction. The total cost of the project is 10 crores (1 000 million). All donations are tax exempt under 80 G.

We invite all ISKCON devotees to visit Pandharpur, the Vrindavana of Maharashtra, behold the wonderful sight of Radha Pandarinath at our ISKCON Pandharpur temple, reside at our comfortable guesthouse and touch your head to the lotus feet of Lord Vitthal. He is waiting for your visit, His hands on His hips. Why not come during one of the main ekadasis, experience the amazing dindi yatra, chant and dance with the pilgrims and participate in one of our programs ? In any case, your generous donations to the Prabhupada ghat are welcome ! Helping the construction of this ghat is direct service to Lord Vitthal and the holy Candrabhaga river. Please contribute as much as you can and get Their blessings.

## PRABHUPADA GHAT PROJECT

Chairman :

H.H. Lokanath Swami Maharaj

Board of directors :

Devakinandana Dasa,  
*ISKCON Mumbai zonal secretary*

Braja Hari Dasa,  
*ISKCON Mumbai temple president*

Sura Dasa,  
*ISKCON Khargar temple president*

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Gauranga Dasa,  
*ISKCON Chowpatty Mumbai temple president*

Prahlad Dasa,  
*ISKCON Pandharpur temple president*

Project head:

Brajprem Dasa,  
*ISKCON Pandharpur resident*

For more infos, photos and videos :

Pandharpur websites :

[www.pandharpurdham.org](http://www.pandharpurdham.org)

[www.iskconpandharpur.com](http://www.iskconpandharpur.com)

Ghat project :

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kylpDBvdhrl>

## TO MAKE A DONATION :

Contact

Project Director,

**Braj Prema Dasa**

Email: [brajpremdas@gmail.com](mailto:brajpremdas@gmail.com)

Cell phone : 9987786442

Pandharpur temple president

**Prahlada Dasa.**

Cell number : 9405233108

Email : [prahlada183@gmail.com](mailto:prahlada183@gmail.com)

You can also give online. The account number is mentioned if you click on the « donate » option.

## ISKCON PANDHARPUR'S 2015 BOOK SCORES

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| Bhagavad-gitas                               | : 15,789 |
| Medium books                                 | : 4,532  |
| Small books                                  | : 18,248 |
| Bhuvai kuntha                                | : 768    |
| <i>(Lokanath Swami's book on Pandharpur)</i> |          |
| Back to Godhead                              | : 25,678 |
| Srimad-bhagavatam                            | : 267    |
| Sets   |          |



## PADAYATRAS OUTSIDE INDIA from 1989 till August 2015

| Countries or continents        | Details  | Period   | Leaders   | Kilometers (kms) & miles (ms)         |
|--------------------------------|--|--|---|---------------------------------------|
| Europe                         | Belfast (Ireland) to Moscow (Russia) via 26 other countries  | May 1990 to the end of 1996 : during summers   | Local leaders with Parasurama Dasa and then Ekanath Dasa from Spain onwards | Distance walked: 7500 kms =4660 ms    |
| Europe                         | Portugal, Denmark, Iceland, Latvia, Estonia and 9 other countries  | June 1992 to the end of 1996: during summers   | Parasurama Dasa (11 countries) and local devotees                           | 2050 kms = 1273 miles                 |
| Middle East & North Africa     | Cyprus, Israël, Jordan, Palestine, Egypt, Tunisia  | Short walks before the end of 1996   | Parasurama Dasa   | 250 kms                               |
| Africa                         | Kenya, Uganda, Zambia, Malawi, Tanzania, Botswana  | Short walks before the end of 1996   | Parasurama Dasa   | 400 kms                               |
| USA California                 | San Francisco to Tijuana (Mexican border)  | 1989 (4 months)  | Abhay Dasa and Jada Bharata Das   | 1200 kms = 700 ms                     |
| Mexico & Belize                | Guadalajara to Chetumal via Mexico City  | 1990   | Badarayani Dasa and Saunaka Dasa  | 700 kms                               |
| USA                            | Boston to Miami<br>Extra walks   | Non-stop June 29 1990 to July 1991.<br>Then up to 1996                                       | Saunaka Dasa, Krishna Vilasini Dasi and team                                | 2414 kms =1500 ms<br>525 kms = 326 ms |
| Central America                | Belize, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama   | Non-stop Dec 1991 to January 1993  | Saunaka Dasa and Krishna Vilasini Dasi                                      | 1400 kms = 1056 ms                    |
| Atlantic Islands               | Jamaica, Santo Domingo, Puerto Rico, San Miguel, Cuba and Caribbean islands  | Short walks before the end of 1996   | Saunaka Dasa and Krishna Vilasini Dasi                                      | 150 kms                               |
| New Zealand                    | North and South Islands (several walks)  | 1991 to 1996   | Yasodadulal Dasa  | 2000 kms                              |
| Australia                      | Brisbane to Sydney<br>Sydney to Melbourne  | 1992 : 3 months 1996   | Damodara Pandit Dasa  | 800 kms                               |
| WORLD                          | Nepal, Brazil,, Argentina, Peru, Fiji, Philippines, Siberia, Canada, Malaysia, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Mauritius, Reunion, Pacific Islands, Nigeria, Benin, Togo, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Guinea, Sierra Leone, South Africa | 1990 to 1996<br>Europe : 300 kms<br>Americas : 500 kms<br>Africa : 200 kms<br>Rest : 900 kms | Local ISKCON leaders  | 1900 kms                              |
| Canada & other countries       | a-4 walks across Canada<br>b- Ireland, Fiji, Guyana,Trinidad, Israël, Mauritius  | 1996 to August 2015<br>a- 29,500 kms<br>b- 1464 kms  | Bhaktimarga Swami   | Total : 30 964 kms = 12 240 ms        |
| Czech Republic                 |  | Summer walks : 1997 to 2015  | Rajarama Dasa and then Muni Priya Dasa and Nrisimha Caitanya                | 4400 kms                              |
| Hungary                        |  | Several walks : 1998 to 2009   | Caitanya Dasa   | 3900 kms                              |
| Russia                         |  | Summer walks : 1998 to 2011  | Nimi Dasa   | 3900 kms                              |
| Slovenia                       |  | Summer walks : 2002 to 2015  | Ananta Dasa, Mukunda Dasa & Urukrama Dasa                                   | 3500 kms                              |
| Italy                          | Peace Walk to Assisi   | Annual walk: 1997 to 2005  | Various leaders   | 3000 kms                              |
| Argentina, Brazil              |  | End of 1997  | Rupa Raghunath Dasa   | 2700 kms                              |
| Bangladesh                     |  | 1999: 3 months   | Local leaders   | 1200 kms                              |
| Lithuania                      | Padayatra/Ratha-yatra  | Annual walk: 1995 to 2015  | Ananda Gaurangi Dasi  | 1200 kms                              |
| WORLD                          | Mauritius, Italy, Ukraine, Russia, Slovakia, Holland , Brazil, Poland, Malaysia, Ireland, UK, Guyana, Philippines, Spain, South Africa, Taiwan, Madagascar   | Short walks : 1997 to 2015   | ISKCON temples and various leaders  | 6300 kms                              |
| North,,Central & South America | Gita Nagari , Pennsylvania (USA) to Ecuador  | Non-stop: May 2003 to May 2006   | Avadhuta Siromani Dasa and Candrabhaga Dasi                                 | 8500 kms                              |

**PADAYATRA WORLDWIDE : ALMOST 6,5 TIMES THE EARTH'S CONFERENCE**  
From 1976 to August 2015

|  |  |
|--|--|
| India  | 168,300 kms = 104 576 miles (4, 2 times the Earth's circumference)           |
| Europe   | 32, 491 kms = 20 189 miles   |
| North, Central and South America                   | 47, 514 kms = 28 281 miles   |
| Asia, Australia, New Zealand, Africa, islands, etc | 0, 300 kms = 6400 miles  |
| Grand Total :                                      | 258, 605 kms = 160 690 miles<br>(almost 6,5 times the Earth's circumference) |

## THE LONGEST PADAYATRAS

| Countries or continents          | Details   | Period   | Leaders   | Kilometers (kms) & miles (ms) |
|----------------------------------|---|--|---|-------------------------------|
| India                            | Now on its sixth tour of India                              | March 1986 to August 2015  | Jaya Vijaya Dasa, Sanak Sanatana Dasa, Istadeva Dasa, Rupa Goswami Dasa and Acarya Dasa | 78,000 kms = 48467 miles      |
| North, Central and South America | Gita Nagari in Pennsylvania to Ecuador                      | May 2003 to May 2006   | Avadhuta Siromani Dasa and Candrabhaga Dasi   | 8500 km = 5282 miles          |
| Europe                           | Belfast (Ireland) to Moscow (Russia) via 26 other countries | May 1990 to the end of 1996 : during summers, as an offering for Srila Prabhupada's Centennial | Ekanath Dasa : Spain to Russia  | 7500 kms = 4660 miles         |
| India                            | Dvaraka (Gujarat) to Mayapur (West Bengal) via South India  | September 1984 to March 1986 to celebrate the 500th anniversary of Lord Caitanya's appearance  | Lokanath Swami<br>Managers : Havirdhana Dasa, Jayadvaita Swami and Bhadra Dasa          | 7,000 kms = 4350 miles        |
| USA and Central America          | Boston to Miami to Panama                                   | June 1990 to January 1993  | Saunaka Dasa and Krishna Vilasini Dasi  | 3814 kms = 2370 miles         |

### PADAYATRA MINISTRY

Please send news, articles, reports, photos, questions and suggestions on how to improve the Padayatra Newsletter and the Website to the Ministry's coordinator:  
Gaurangi Dasi "gaurangi.lok@gmail" or her assistant:  
Govinda Nandini Dasi "govindseva@yahoo.com"

### OFFICIAL ISKCON PADAYATRA WEBSITE

[www.padayatra.com](http://www.padayatra.com)

Website managers: Gaurangi Dasi and Lila Suka Dasi  
Contents (regularly updated):

- Reports, history, schedules, contacts
- Newsletters (to be downloaded)
- Padayatra manual (to be downloaded)
- Photo gallery
- Videos
- Songs, poems and much more



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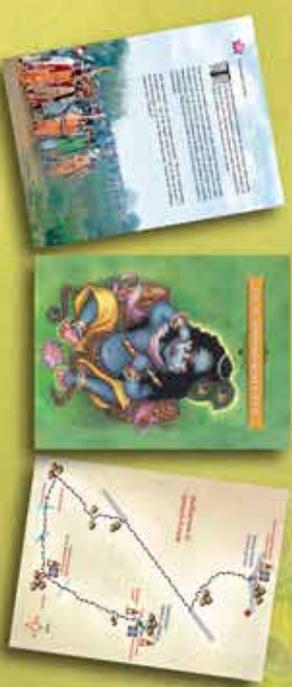
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