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ISKCON PUNE TODAY

June-July 2022

ISKCON NVCC
NEW VINDIC CULTURAL CENTRE
Pune's Spiritual Landmark



UPCOMING FESTIVAL

JANMASHTAMI 2022



JAGANNATH RATH YATRA 2022



Upcoming Sri Krishna Janmashtami!

Sri Krishna Janmashtami is the most blessed day of the year when devotees celebrate the most wonderful appearance of Lord Sri Krishna in this world. Lord Sri Krishna is the Supreme Absolute Truth, the Original Narayana, the source of all that be in both the spiritual and material worlds. What a blessed day it was when the Supreme Personality of Godhead made His appearance on the earth a little over five thousand years ago. Devotees of the Lord all over the world celebrate this most blessed day with great enthusiasm.



This year, we are celebrating **Sri Krishna Janmashtami on 18th and 19th August**. The festivities have started for the same.

Lord Sri Krishna is worshipped in a variety of art forms such as singing His glories, playing musical instruments for His pleasure, by enacting dramas and several other cultural activities. These art forms help the performers as well as the audience think about, remember and appreciate the wonderful names, qualities, forms and activities of the Lord. In order to facilitate this wonderful aspect of Krishna Consciousness, we will be having a cultural festival for seven days in the run up to Sri Krishna Janmashtami.

We will be having a mega cultural **festival called "Vande Srikrishnam"** from 13th to 19th August. From 13th till 18th August, this festival will be in the temple hall from 5PM to 9PM. On 19th, it will be in Bhaktivedanta Hall from 5PM until midnight.



This mega cultural festival will feature vocal performances, classical dances, dramas, enchanting musical instrumental performances by renowned artists. We will have participation from various wings of ISKCON such as Vidyashram, VOICE, congregation members, Sankirtan department as well as from renowned artists across India. We encourage one and all to participate whole heartedly in these festivities.

To attract people to the Janamashtami festivities, plans have been made very carefully. The centre of attraction for everyone are the all-attractive Lordships Themselves, Sri Sri Radha Vrindavanachandra, Sri Sri Jagannath Baladeva Subhadra, Sri Sri Gaur Nitai and Lord Balaji. Devotees are most welcome to take Darshan of Their Lordships. They will have the option of getting a Puja Thali for Their Lordships. They can participate in the various activities at different stalls, get souvenirs



and gifts for loved ones, relish Prasadam, and register for many wonderful activities which will happen throughout the year. On the 19th, there will be a special Abhishek for Their Lordships in the evening and Darshan will be open until midnight.

ISKCON Pune organises festivals, camps for devotees of all age groups, food distribution programs, programs for cow protection and multiple other activities for the welfare of one and all. Devotees are encouraged to contribute to these activities generously. Several ways of contributing financially have been mentioned on the last page of this newsletter.



We will be celebrating the Vyasa Puja festival of our Founder Acharya, His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada on 20th August. The highlights of this festival will be a recorded Srimad Bhagavatam class by Srila Prabhupada, Abhishek of Srila Prabhupada, and Maha Prasadam for all. Everyone is encouraged to express their gratitude for Srila Prabhupada by participating wholeheartedly in this festival.

Sri Krishna Janmashtami

18th & 19th August 2022

Srila Prabhupada Appearance Day - 20th August 2022

ISKCON NVCC - Katraj - Kondhwa Road, Pune 411048

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Sri Jagannath Snan Yatra & Gundicha Marjanam



This year, Sri Jagannath snana yatra, the bathing ceremony of the divine siblings Sri Jagannath, Sri Baldev and Subhadra Maiya, was celebrated on 14th June 2022. All devotees were blessed with the opportunity to bathe Their Lordships. The deities came out of the altar in milky white dresses. Numerous shining copper pots filled with water, milk, honey, juices, etc were arranged. Amidst the transcendental sound of conch shells and melodious kirtan, snan yatra began. Devotees turned up in multitudes, patiently waiting for their turn to perform the abhishek. The darshan of Their Lordships after Abhishek was a sight to behold. They were royally adorned with beautiful silver jewelry and crowns. The decoration of trees, leaves and fruits enhanced Their beauty. Separate arrangements were made for children. They excitedly lined up in colorful and traditional attire to perform abhishek of the smaller deities.

Beautiful pastimes of Lord Jagannath were narrated by HH Ananta Krishna Das Goswami Maharaj and HG Krishnananda Prabhu.

Gundicha Marjanam, the festival of cleansing our hearts to welcome the Lord was celebrated on 26th June 2022, Sunday.

Devotees came in large numbers for the annual cleaning of the temple. All assembled in front of the Bhaktivedanta Hall at 1:00 PM.

His Grace Mukunda Ananda Prabhu and his team of volunteers did wonderful service in orchestrating the event. All the cleaning equipment like brooms, wipers, cloths, buckets etc. were provided by the temple. Each devotee was assigned to a particular area and reported to an area coordinator for cleaning.

We witnessed great excitement among the devotees of all age groups from small children to elders. Each one was focussed on meticulously cleaning the assigned area. They experienced "Cleanliness is next to Godliness!". The festival ended with snack prasadam for all participants.





Pune Ratha Yatra 2022

The Ratha Yatra is a most joyous event in which Their Lordships Sri Sri Jagannath, Baladeva and Subhadra Mayi come out of Their temple and ride on Their chariots to bless one and all. Devotees at ISKCON Pune celebrated this festival on 3rd July, 2022. This year, the enthusiasm was especially high since we were celebrating the festival on a grand scale after a gap of two years. Thousands of devotees from Punya Nagari, Pune participated wholeheartedly in the celebrations which began from Hotel Central Park and passed through the heart of the city via JM road, Khanduji Baba chowk, Bajirao road, Laxmi road, Balgandharva Rangamandir and other such places.



The celebrations began at ISKCON NVCC where Their Lordships were ceremonially taken to Their waiting vehicles in a blissful festival called Pahandi which was accompanied by enthusiastic celebrations and wonderful music. After Their Lordships arrived at the starting point of the Ratha Yatra, there was a wonderful Arti Ceremony after which, the Ratha Yatra started. Through the entire Yatra, there were joyous Kirtans and distribution of Prasadam and books. At several places along the route, different organizations had arranged refreshments for devotees. At several places, people came out with offerings for Their Lordships. An enthusiastic team of devotees created Rangoli for the pleasure of Their Lordships all along the path. There were several bands who played for Their Lordships along the way. The devotees joyfully pulled the Ratha which symbolizes bringing Their Lordships to Vrindavan.



His Holiness Loknath Swami Maharaj, His Holiness Sri Krishna Chaitanya Swami Maharaj and His Holiness Bhakti Purushottam Maharaj were special guests for this year's festival. For two days preceding the festival, His Holiness Bhakti Purushottam Swami Maharaj enthralled the devotees with various pastimes of Lord Jagannath. His Holiness Loknath Swami Maharaj and His Holiness Sri Krishna Chaitanya Swami Maharaj led especially wonderful Kirtans during the Ratha Yatra.



The Ratha Yatra, which was very well organized with adequate care for all concluded at the starting place at around 8PM. There were wonderful arrangements for Prasadam for almost ten thousand devotees both in the afternoon and for dinner.

The joyous festival saw participation from millions of people and was a grand success. All glories to Their Lordships Sri Sri Jagannatha Baladeva Subhdara Mayi and Their wonderful devotees!

His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedānta Swamī

Srīla Pradbhupada



Kṛṣṇa's birthday is called Janmāṣṭamī, and in this verse Kṛṣṇa uses the word janma in referring to "My birth." Because there is birth, there are some activities. Kṛṣṇa's birth and activities are transcendental, which means they are not like ordinary births and activities. One may ask how it is that His activities are transcendental. He is born, He takes part in a battle with Arjuna, he has a father by the name of Vasudeva and a Mother Devakī and a family - what can be considered transcendental? Kṛṣṇa says, *evam yo vetti tattvataḥ* - we must know of His birth and activities in truth. When one knows of Kṛṣṇa's birth and activities in truth, the result is: *tyaktvā dehaṁ punar janma naiti mām eti so 'rjuna* (Bg. 4.9) - when he leaves this material body, he is not born again but goes directly to Kṛṣṇa. This means that he becomes a liberated soul. He goes to the eternal spiritual world and attains his constitutional position full of bliss, knowledge and eternality. All this can be obtained simply by knowing in truth the transcendental nature of Kṛṣṇa's birth and activities.

Ordinarily when one quits the body he has to take up another body. The lives of the living entities are going on simply due to the living entities' changing dress from one body to another - transmigration of the soul - according to the work of the living entities. At the present moment we may think that this material body is our actual body, but it is like a dress. In reality we do have an actual body, a spiritual body. This material body is superficial compared to the real spiritual body of the living entity. When this material body becomes old and worn out, or when it is rendered useless by some accident, we put it aside as we might put aside a soiled or ruined suit and take up another material body.

*vāsāmsi jirṇāni yathā vihāya
navāni grhṇāti naro 'parāṇi
tathā śarīrāṇi vihāya jirṇāny
anyāni samyāti navāni dehī*

"As a person puts on new garments, giving up old ones, similarly, the soul accepts new material bodies, giving up the old and useless ones." (Bg. 2.22)

In the beginning the body is the size of a pea. Then it grows to become a baby, then a child, a young boy, a youth, a grown man and an old man, and finally, when it becomes useless, the living entity changes into another body. The body is therefore always changing, and death is simply the ultimate change of the present body.

*dehino 'smin yathā dehe
kaumāraṁ yauvanaṁ jarā
tathā dehāntara-prāptir
dhīras tatra na muhyati*

"As the embodied soul continually passes, in this body, from boyhood to youth to old age, the soul similarly passes into another body at death. The self-realized soul is not bewildered by such a change." (Bg. 2.13)

Although the body is changing, the dweller within the body remains the same. Although the boy grows into manhood, the living entity within the body is not changed. It is not that the self who was there as a boy has gone away. Medical science agrees that at every moment the material body is changing. Just as living entities are not bewildered by this, an enlightened man is not bewildered when the body undergoes its ultimate change at death. But a person who does not understand things as they are laments. In the material condition we are simply changing bodies all the time; that is our disease. It is not that we always change to a human body. We may change to an animal body or a demigod body depending on our activities. According to the Padma Purāṇa there are at death. But Kṛṣṇa promises that one who knows His birth and activities in truth is freed from this cycle of transmigration.

How does one understand Kṛṣṇa's birth and activities in truth? This is explained in the Eighteenth Chapter of Bhagavad-gītā:

*bhaktiā mām abhijānāti
yāvān yaś cāsmi tattvataḥ
tato mām tattvato jñātvā
viśate tad-anantaram*

"One can understand the Supreme Personality as He is only by devotional service. And when one is in full consciousness of the Supreme Lord by such devotion, he can enter into the kingdom of God." (18.55)
-(book: On the way to Kṛṣṇa, chapter 2)

H.G. Radheshyam Prabhuji

Message From The Temple President



Dear devotees of ISKCON Pune,

Hare Krishna. Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada and Guru Parampara.

Sri Krishna Janmashtami is fast approaching and this year we again have the opportunity to remember Sri Krishna on his divine appearance.

Krishna descends not just to maintain law, but to awaken love. The love that our heart longs for through relationships with various persons finds fulfillment only when it is reposed in the Supreme Person, God. Because when we love Krishna, our love is never interrupted, never betrayed, never let down, never disappointed.

Lord Krishna comes into this material world and performs superhuman activities which reveal His Supreme position to all and His unparalleled love for His devotees. The Lord lifts the Govardhan hill like a child lifting a mushroom and offers shelter to all residents of Vraja. Through such incredible acts, the Lord invites us to become His devotees and thus re-enter the world of endless love, our eternal home, the kingdom of God.

Over 5000 years ago on Janmashtami, the Lord appeared at midnight, which has a deeper significance. Midnight is the time of maximum darkness and from the moment the Lord appeared the darkness all around was dispelled. Similarly our heart is dark, being afflicted by multiple anxieties and miseries. But when Krishna appears in our heart, darkness is driven out and light of wisdom and bliss spreads, bringing us back to our original position of pure love of God.

The Lord appeared in a prison cell amidst shackles and then freed His parents. This indicates that all of us who are shackled in our little world by our own petty material desires which bring us repeated miseries, can be freed by the Lord who appears in our heart, which is like a prison house. Janmashtami commemorates the appearance of Lord Krishna in this world and in our heart.

Srila Prabhupada's appearance follows Janmashtami day. He taught us how we can keep our hearts in an enlightened and englanded state by simply chanting the Holy Names of Hare Krishna Maha mantra. His literary contributions, cultural presentations, expert organization in reaching out the message of Vedas to every nook and corner of the world is admired and applauded by innumerable leaders worldwide. By all these efforts he transformed the hearts and lives of the modern day materialistic population and turned thousands of them into Krishna devotees and as Preachers!

This is a wonderful opportunity for all of us to introduce new people to ISKCON Pune Temple during this holy occasion and also inspire them to donate abundantly in charity for Lord's seva and make their families all auspicious. Let this be the glorious beginning of Krishna conscious life of your friends, relatives, neighbors, colleagues and family members.

Our sincere prayers and best wishes for you and your family members on this holiest occasion of Lord Krishna's Janmashtami and Srila Prabhupada's appearance day. Hare Krishna.

Seva

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Sri Sri Radha
Vrindavanchandra Seva



Lord Sri Balaji Seva



Sri Sri Radha
Kunjabihari Seva



Go Seva



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Camp, Pune,
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TIMINGS

04:30 AM - 05:00 AM
07:30 AM - 08:00 AM
08:30 AM - 11:55 AM
12:30 PM - 01:10 PM
04:30 PM - 06.30 PM
07:00 PM - 08:45 PM

ISKCON NVCC KATRAJ

Katraj - Kondhwa Rd, Tilekar Nagar,
Kondhwa Budruk, Pune,
Maharashtra 411048

TIMINGS

04:30 AM - 05:00 AM
07:30 AM - 11:50 AM
12:30 PM - 01:00 PM
04:30 PM - 06:00 PM
06:45 PM - 08:00 PM
09:00 PM - 09:10 PM

For any suggestions or feedback, please write to: newslettersevice108@gmail.com