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ISKCON PUNE TODAY

April-May 2022



Narsimha Chaturdashi Celebration

15th May 2022

Lord Narsimha Dev Abhishekam

Narsimha Chaturdashi, the appearance day of Lord Narsimha Dev observed on 15th May, 2022 this year, was grandly celebrated in ISKCON NVCC Pune. The temple was wonderfully decorated with fruits, flowers, garlands and by the best of the devotees' offerings in the form of prayers. Lord Sri Sri Radha Vrindavanchandra, Lord Jaggannath Baldeva Shubhadra Maiyya and Sri Sri Gaur Nitai were wearing the shades of silver white with mixed colours gracing everyone with Their presence.



The celebration began with the mesmerising chants of Hare Krishna kirtan. In the midst of the Kirtan, the Abhishek of the beautiful Deity of Lord Narsimha began. The beautiful Narsimha Dev deity dressed in the shades of grey silver colour was capturing everyone's attention and focus. The ecstatic Hari Naam Sankirtan combined with the divine Abhishek mesmerised everyone. Lord Narsimha Dev was wearing a beautiful garland of fruits with Lord Sheshnaag, one of closest devotees of Lord Narsimha acting as canopy over the beautiful crowned head of the Lord. The Maha Abhishek was followed by the flower petals offered to the Lord.

Following the Abhishek of the Lord, Narsimha Aarti was performed, sung ecstatically by the devotees. Dancing and sankirtana continued throughout the event. It was the Hari naam Sankirtana day.



The devotees also got an opportunity to attend the lecture series on the occasion of Narsimha Chaturdashi festival by devotee saints. We had the most blissful association of His Grace Vaiyasaki Prabhu for several days around this festival. He gave wonderful Srimad Bhagavatam classes inspiring the devotees to take shelter of Lord Nrasimahdeva and glorifying Srila Prabhupada and led wonderful kirtans on several occasions.

Narsimha Chaturdashi reminds us of “Keshav Dhrta NarHari Roopa!”, the wonderful form who appeared to save his dearest devotee. Let's pray to our Dearest Lord Narasimha for His mercy.

BhaktiVedanta Vidyashram

The annual event of BhaktiVedanta Vidyashrama(BVVA) took place on the 1st of May 2022. This is first ever annual get together organised by BhaktiVedanta Vidyashrma since its inception .The program was presided over by His Grace Radheshyam Prabhu and some of the senior counsellors and devotees from ISKCON Pune community. BhaktiVedanta Vidyashrama is a children's educational initiative of ISKCON, Pune that imparts spiritual education to children aged 7 to 18. BVVA was started in the year 2016 and it has two girls batches and five boys batches that operate on weekday morning, evening and during week-ends. There are more than 70 students participating in the online and offline classes conducted by BhaktiVedanta Vidyashrama.

In a mood of transcendental competition, the girls batch stole the heart of the audience with their unique and soothing Nama Ramayana dance drama. The youngest girls batch recited shlokas and sang devotional songs for the Lords pleasure.



After much preparation and enthusiastic participation from our students and teachers during the practice sessions, the annual get-together was a joyful occasion for all, especially for our children. Adhering to the theme of Guru tattva and devotional service which was the central theme of the event, each batch came up with a unique presentation. When on one hand we had the youngest boys batch present a drama showing the importance of visiting the temple, on the other hand, the older boys batch performed a drama on offering one's everything for the service of the Lord. The boys had written their own script and had recorded their voice overs with good precision and gusto.

The get-together was not only a platform for performances but was also a meeting ground for various batches of students and their parents to feel a sense of transcendental family. The event was dedicated to HG Vrishanbanu Nandini mataji who recently left this world .. She had provided great support for the start of Vidyashrma and kindly given her apartments for conducting Vidyashrma classes for four years. On behalf of Vidyashrma core team HG Nitya seva prabhu provided an update about various initiatives and accomplishments of Vidyashrma and also briefed about the overall vision and future plans .

HG Radheshyam Prabhu in his short talk greatly appreciated the students performances and also expressed his gratitude to organisers and teachers of BhaktiVedanta Vidyashrma. Also prabhuji emphasised on regular spiritual value based training from early childhood .The event concluded with gift distribution by HG Revati pati prabhu, HG Bamsigopal prabhu and HG Radhika mataji to the participants. Thereafter both the students and the parents honoured prasadam animatedly discussing the day's events.

Rama Navami Celebrations

This year on 10th April 2022, Sunday, we celebrated the most auspicious Rama Navami festival, the appearance day of Lord Ramachandra. The temple was dazzling with beautiful flower decorations that gave a natural look of Ayodhya.



On this occasion, special abhishek of Their Lordships Sri Sita, Sri Rama, Laxaman, and Hanuman was performed. They were bathed with milk, curd, honey, shower of colorful water and then with rose petals. The temple hall was packed with devotees relishing the abhishek amidst the melodious kirtans and bhajans of Lord Rama like-
‘Raghupati Raghav Raja Rama...’.

Abhishek was followed by the festival class given by HG Prem Harinam Prabhu. He described enthralling pastimes of Lord Ramachandra. He enlightened the audience with golden lessons of relationships we can learn from the exemplary life of Lord Ramachandra. He highlighted the principle of unity in diversity amongst different devotees of Lord through the pastime of Vibhishan taking shelter of Lord Rama. Class ended with beautiful vaishnav bhajan 'Jai Jai Jagannath' that says Lord Chaitanya is non different from Lord Ramachandra.

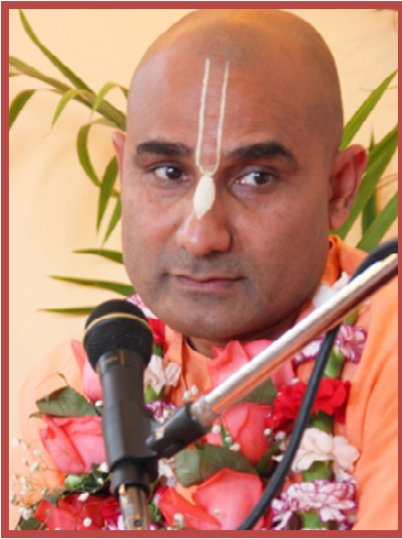


After hearing the glories of the Lord everyone participated in the Maha Aarti followed by feast prasadam for all.



Celebrations continued in the evening when the utsav murtis of Sri Balaji, Sridevi, and Bhudevi came out of the altar to enjoy the pastime of boating (Nauka Vihar) in the pond. The heart shaped boat was so beautifully decorated that it captured the heart of all the present devotees. The pond was looking attractive with the floating flower bouquets.

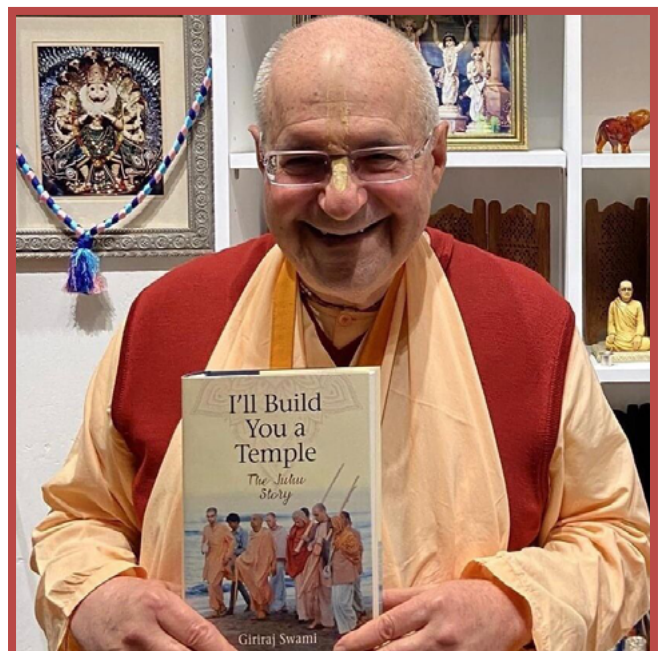
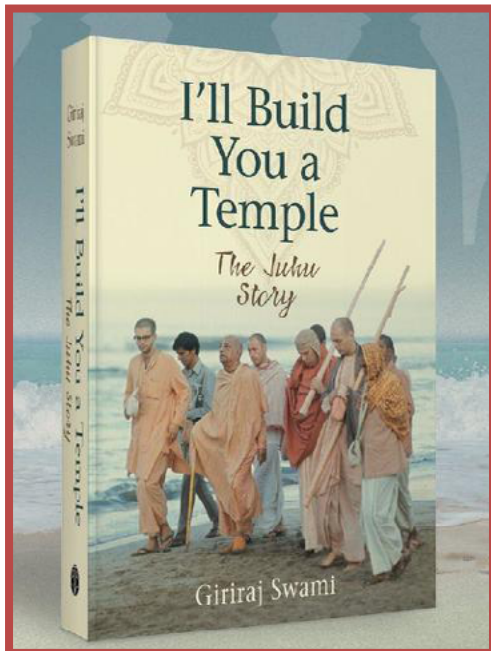
Devotees surrounded the pond in all directions, some climbing the stairs and temple gallery to get a glimpse of this wonderful pastime.



This year ISKCON Pune was blessed to get the association of HH Bhakti Brhad Bhagavata Swami Maharaj for 4 days during the Rama Navami festival. In Srimad Bhagavatam classes Maharaj gave a very wonderful Sri Rama Navami lecture series for 3 days. He narrated and explained the glories of Hanuman, Mother Sita and Lord Ramachandra. It perfectly set everyone's mood for the Rama Navami Celebration.

He also conducted the Bhakti Sadachar course (Krishna Conscious behavior) for 3 days. It was conducted very expertly, was very well organized and attended by more than 50 devotees.

This course was very well received. It was very interactive as it included dramas, enacting various situations, and a lot of question and answer sessions.



The highlight of Maharaj's visit was his distribution of the book '**I'll Build You a Temple**' -**The Juhu Story**, by Giriraj Swami. Single handedly he distributed hundreds of books.

He described this book as modern day Mahabharata that talks about the insurmountable odds faced by Srila Prabhupada in building the Juhu temple.

Bhakti Vedanta Gurukul

in Mukhai village, Shikrapur District Maharashtra



In order to fulfill the vision of Srila Prabhupada of imparting Vedic education and training children in Krishna consciousness, Congregation devotees and Brahmacharis started Bhaktivedanta Gurukula in May, 2022. This gurukul aims at making children responsible, Krishna conscious human beings and selfless contributors to the upliftment of the whole world by following in the footsteps of Srila Prabhupada & Gaudiya Vaishnava Acharyas. The Bhaktivedanta Gurukula is located 55 Km from ISKCON NVCC Temple in the village of Mukhai. By the inspiration of His Grace Radheshyam Prabhu, a team of four brahmacharis & one congregation devotee with some working devotees shifted to this place. This gurukul admits children from age 8 to 11 years and facilitates both academic & spiritual training. This gurukul is fully residential and with no fees, as said by His Grace Radheshyam Prabhu that it's revolutionary and Vedic idea to keep gurukul free of cost where students won't imbibe the pride for paying their teachers resulting into disrespect and disobedience towards teachers and Brahmanas would also be able to do their duty of speaking and spreading the knowledge of Absolute Truth. This gurukul is nicely benedicted with the divine presence of Sri Sri Radha Gokul Chandra (beautiful marble deities) & Sri Sri Gaur Nitai in a beautiful natural setting with animals like horses, ducks, cows, mango orchards, nice agricultural fields, and cash crops. Apart from Vedic knowledge & mantras children would also be getting trained in different traditional & Vedic activities and skills. Academics will be coordinated through Kasturi Shikshan Sanstha and with some residential teachers here at gurukul.

In the month of May from 14 to 21 (Camp 1) & from 22 to 29 (Camp 2), two selection camps were conducted in the gurukul premises with the purpose of choosing the right candidates for admissions. Camp information and brochure had already been circulated through mails and WhatsApp to most of the places inside and outside of Maharashtra. Around 100 registrations came up. Finally after interviews and other processes, 17 and 23 children turned up for camp 1 & camp 2 respectively. The camps were very educative and filled with lots of activities. Early in the morning children were woken up at 4:45 AM and taken for bathing. The Divine darshan of Sri Sri Radha Gokul Chandra & Sri Sri Gaur Nita during mangal Arti would fill their hearts with grace & beauty.

Then at 6:00 AM there was sloka recitation class combined with chanting of Hare Krishna Mahamantra. Children later went for morning walk/jogging along the pathways of agricultural fields. They breathed fresh air & saw the beautiful Sun rising along the horizon. Later they had

Shringar darshan and learned from the lives of great children devotees (from Srimad Bhagwatam and Chaitanya Charitamrita) which would inspire devotion in the hearts of children. To test the academic standing of all children, some of the subject teachers from Kasturi Shikshan Sanstha, Shikrapur came & conducted basic language, maths, science & social science exams for all the children. Children also got engaged in varieties of services for kitchen, deities, cleaning, serving prasadam etc. Learning to wash their own plates and clothes was a new experience for some of the younger children. In the afternoons, activities like caring for cows, making dhoop sticks, flower bouquets, narsimhadev mask, learning kartal, dumb-charades and Vaishnav etiquettes demonstrations taught children various new skills with a lot of fun. Later in the evening children went for horse riding and games followed by Gaur aarti. Delicious but light meals along with Krishna smaran ended their day by putting them to sleep by 8:00 PM.



Children greatly liked the variety and opulence of prasadam in the gurukul. Finally after the camps ended, the final list of selected candidates was released. Tentatively Gurukul will be commencing from 20 June 2022 this year. We hope & pray for the blessings & prayers of all the Vaishnavas for the success of this gurukul. If anyone would like to render any seva for this Gurkula, please contact us. Thank you very much. OM TAT SAT.



We need 1 academic teacher (devotee) to teach languages, Maths & Science to the students from class 3 to 9. We will be paying him/her in the range of Rs 15,000 to 25,000 based on his experiences. There will be a living facility near gurukul in some rented house & prasadam will be at gurukul. Please contact us for more details: 7030240242

Summer Camp 2022

The Summer camp was held in the month of May for the kids in the age group of 7 to 13 years. It was held at 3 different locations - NVCC Katraj, Iskcon Pune Camp and Magarpatta. Close to 100 kids participated in this summer camp. The theme for this year was Narsimha Dev.



The kids had an enjoyable time beginning each day by taking darshan of the Lords, followed by chanting the Hare Krishna Mahamantra on beads. They then had story time by sharing Narasimha dev's pastime. This was followed by art and craft activities, shloka recitation, drama and dance practice. Each day ended with lunch prasadam for the children.

Some kids were engaged in fireless cooking. They were delighted in making sandwiches, and laddoos and after the offering they relished their own preparation as prasadam. The kids thoroughly enjoyed all the activities and their involvement and participation was 100%.



There was a parenting seminar for parents on the last day. The culmination of the camp was a presentation in front of an audience which were their parents, grandparents, and friends. The kids presented a dance and drama based on Sanatan Goswami and a drama on Nrsimhadeva appearance.

The parents of these children were so impressed with what the kids learnt during the camp, that they have now registered their kids for value based education starting soon.



His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedata Swami
Srila Prabhupada

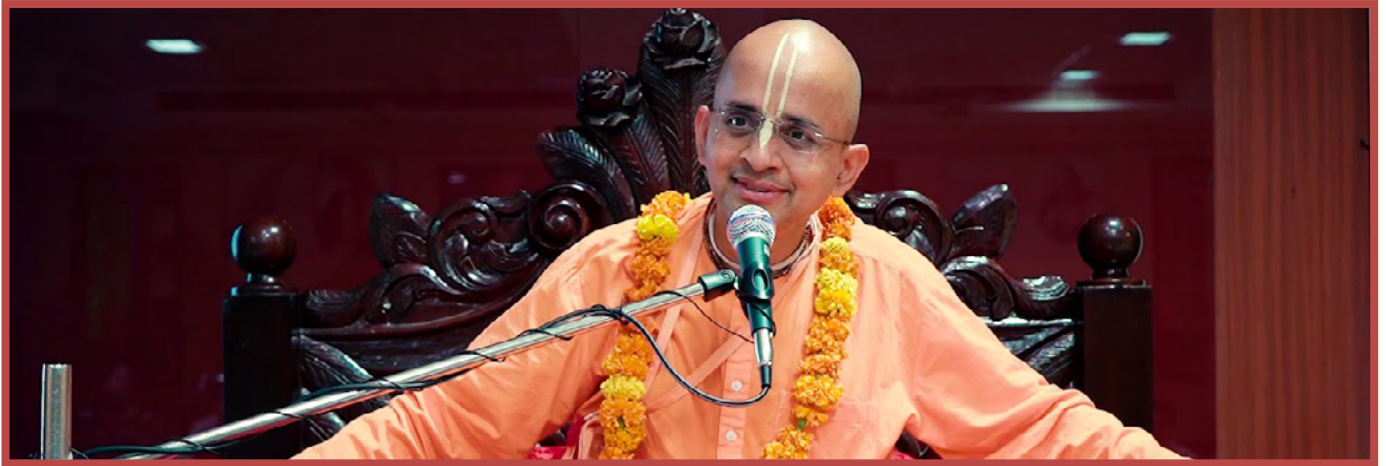
Srila Prabhupada writes (Bhagavatam 7.8.51, purport):

The Supreme Personality of Godhead in His transcendental form of Lord Nrisimhadeva is always ready to kill the demons who always create disturbances in the minds of honest devotees. To spread the Krishna consciousness movement, devotees have to face many dangers and impediments all over the world, but a faithful servant who preaches with great devotion to the Lord must know that Lord Nrisimhadeva is always his protector.



H.G. Radheshyam Prabhuji

Message From The Temple President



Modern day Education is producing a class of perverted intellectuals who are materially mad and spiritually blind. We just don't want to blame the education system like an old man and keep mum. Every follower of Srila Prabhupada would want to do something positive to make this world a better place for spreading Krishna consciousness. Keeping this in mind, HG Jayasri Janani dd and Dr. Palande Sir have given their place at Mukhai for starting a Gurukula by supplying their school teachers for teaching academics to the 20 children who have joined the Gurukul. She has also organized a team of three Brahmacharis – HG Madhava seva Prabhu, HG Madhava Kripa Prabhu and HG Arjun Ishwar Prabhu – to lead the spiritual training. Also thanks to HG Jagadish Prabhu, a CA by Profession who has voluntarily come forward to dedicate himself fulltime to taking care of the Gurukul children as a Mentor. The children are well rested for eight hours at night and are jubilantly up for the morning program and varieties of spiritual training programs such as learning Scriptures, Sloka recitation, Niti sastra, Mahabharata, Ramayana, Srila Prabhupada's books; besides the spiritual training they also are engaged as per Panch kosa development to bring about a well rounded personality from them. We foresee a bright future for these Gurukul children in ISKCON Society and we hope that they will spearhead initiatives taking the sublime philosophy of Krishna consciousness far and wide, walking in the footsteps of our Founder Acarya Srila Prabhupada and his faithful followers. As Srila Prabhupada says in his letter below, HG Jayasri Janani dd and Dr. Palande Sir have kept the Gurukula training free of charge and they will be grateful to any of you who can support their cause in shaping the great spiritual leaders of tomorrow through this noble effort. Hare Krishna.

Letter to Mohanananda Das

DATE 13/10/73

CENTER Gandhi Gram Rd., Juhu, Bombay-54

ISKCON Gurukula

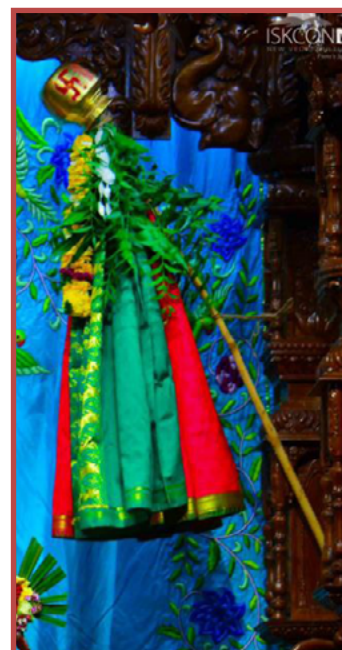
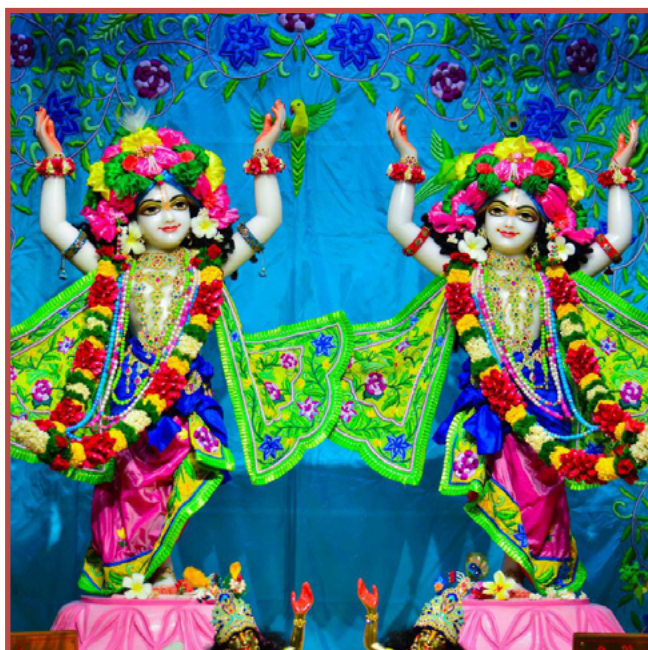
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Dallas, Texas 75223

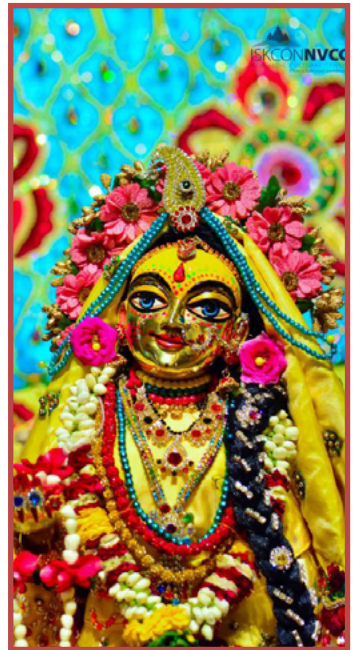
My Dear Mohanananda Das:

Please accept my blessings. I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated September 26, 1973 and have noted the contents carefully. In my opinion all Gurukula students should be educated free of charge, but outside students may be charged. Our own parents should without obligation contribute liberally, but we should not be hard with them if they cannot pay. Sometimes the parents get money from the Welfare Dept., so whatever money they get for their children must be paid to Gurukula.....But, on the whole the Gurukula standard should be free education, boarding, and lodging. People shall voluntarily contribute as far as possible. That should be introduced. We cannot enforce that if you do not pay, then take back your child. Rather the opposite. We must give free education to our children. We have to if need be provide money from the incense business or Book Trust, like that if sufficient income is not there.

Gudi Padwa Darshan



Chandan Yatra Darshan



Seva

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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,
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Maharashtra 411048

TIMINGS

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

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