



ISKCON KOLKATA

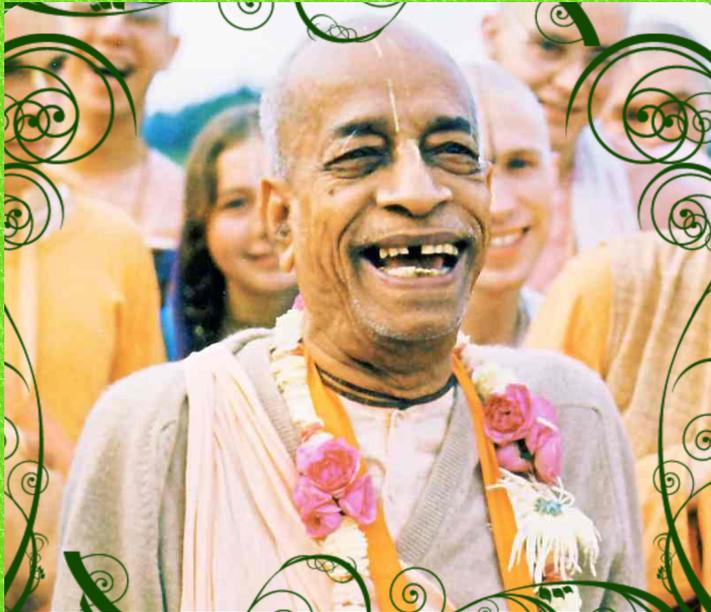
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International Society for Krishna Consciousness

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



Srila Prabhupada Jaani

So Ramacandra's life, God's activities, pastimes, if we hear, that means we are associating with Ramacandra. There is no difference between His form, His name, His pastimes, and Himself. He's absolute. Therefore either you chant the holy name of Rama or you see the statue of Rama or you talk of His pastimes, transcendental pastimes, everything, that means you are associating with the Supreme Personality of Godhead. So we take advantage of these days when the incarnation of God appears or disappears, and we try to associate with Him. By His association we become purified. Our process is purification. Krsna consciousness means simply we are purifying our consciousness. (Lecture on Ram Navami, Hawaii, March 27, 1969)



LORD SRI RAMA

When Vibhishana came to seek shelter of Lord Rama, Lord's associates were unhappy and thought that he cannot be trusted. However, Lord Rama happily welcomed him and never doubted his motives. Lord Rama even declared that even if Ravana comes to His door, He would happily embrace him. This is why Lord Rama is called very merciful. Being the Supreme Lord, all the living entities are His parts and parcels and in spite of us rejecting Him, He is always ready to forgive and forget our previous mistakes and sins. Even our tinniest of endeavour attracts Him. During the construction of Rama Setu, all the monkeys were doing phenomenal job but there was a little squirrel, who was only able to move a small speck of stone, due to his insignificant body size. But Lord Rama appreciated the effort of the squirrel and praised his work.

On this auspicious occasion of Ramnavmi, the appearance day of Lord Rama, let us give up our selfish motives and desires and welcome Lord Rama. Let us take a pledge to do something for the pleasure of Lord Rama, like the little squirrel. Our effort will never go in vain and soon we will find the presence of Lord Rama within our heart.

Gaura Purnima Celebrations



Gaura Purnima, the appearance day of Lord Chaitanya Mahaprabhu was celebrated with great pomp, in the presence of HH Bhakti Vigna Vinasa Narsimha Swami Maharaj, a Srila Prabhupada disciple, and 50 Chinese devotees accompanying him. On 22nd March evening, more than 100 devotees, led by Maharaj, went for Harinaam Sankirtan on the streets of Kolkata.

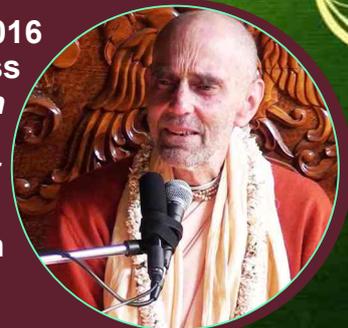
On 23rd March, Gaura Purnima, there was special Sringer Darshan of Their Lordships and Gaura Katha by HH Bhakti Vigna Vinasa Narsimha Swami Maharaj, He was explaining ".....'tamo nudau', Lord Chaitanya and Nityananda, who are like sun and moon, came to eradicate the darkness of cheating propensity of those who are posing as religious". HG Asraya Gauranga Prabhu & HG Acarya Ratna Prabhu also gave Gaur-katha classes in morning.

In the evening, more than 2500 devotees gathered and the festival begin with abhishek of Lord Chaitanya, followed by katha by Maharaj, in which he explained that Chaitanya Mahaprabhu is accepted as Lord, not on basis of sentiment, but scriptural evidences. He also explained that Mahaprabhu is special incarnation as He is a covered incarnation. This was followed by dance-drama on Mahaprakash-lila of Lord Chaitanya, followed by Aarti, dancing kirtans. The festivity concluded with sumptuous feast Prasadam for all.



Vaishnava Sanga.....

HH Hanumat Presaka Swami Maharaj visited Kolkata from 9 to 18th March 2016 and addressed the devotees during Srimad Bhagavatam classes. In one class he explained "The first step in God realization is to see God in His creation, in His universal form and the second step is to realize His Paramatma feature." In another class he was explaining and glorifying the book 'Nectar Of Instruction'. He mentioned that "Krishna Consciousness is like an elephant ,if you grab something say chanting, reading scriptures, associating with devotees, etc, once you know one thing then other things will be known "



Bhakti Vriksha Annual Convention 2016



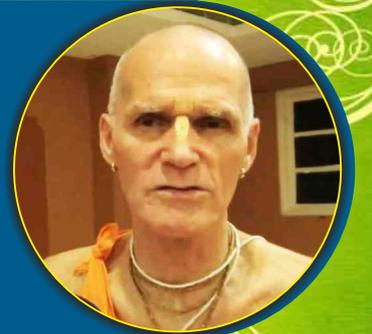
On 26th and 27th March, 2016, the 9th Bhakti Vriksha Annual Convention was celebrated at Gurusaday Road, which was attended by around 500 devotees from various Bhakti Vriksha circles connected to ISKCON Kolkata. HH Bhakti Charu Swami Maharaj, HH Bhakti Madhurya Govinda Swami Maharaj and HG Acarya Ratna Prabhu addressed the devotees on the first day. HH Bhakti Charu Swami Maharaj explained the six processes of surrender, based on the songs of Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakur.

On second day, HH Bhakti Charu Swami Maharaj explained how Srila Prabhupada was especially empowered to fulfil the prediction of Lord Caitanya

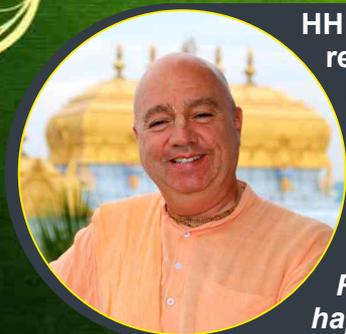
Mahaprabhu. In the evening session, HH Jayapatka Swami Maharaj gave an inspiring class through skype. Maharaj elaborated on the special position Srila Prabhupada by describing the predictions of Lord Krishna, Caitanya Mahaprabhu and other acaryas about him. He also explained that the process of Krishna Consciousness is of "ananda"- bliss. HH Bhakti Madhurya Govinda Swami Maharaj and HG Dayaram Prabhu also addressed the devotees. Apart from lectures, there were prize distributions, enchanting dance-dramas and melodious kirtans during the convention.

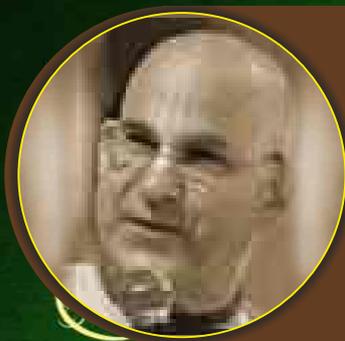
Vaishnava Sanga

On 28th Feb 2016, HH Bhakti Raghav Swami Maharaj, a disciple of Srila Prabhupada and India's Minister for ISKCON Daiva Varnasrama Ministry (IDVM), visited Kolkata. In Srimad Bhagavatam class he explained "according to scriptures there are seven mothers : one's own mother, nurse, king's wife, spiritual master's wife, cow, land & brahman's wife. All of them are being neglected today, especially bhumi and cows. As devotees, we should protect the cows to bring harmony and satisfaction in the modern society.Land, cow and Krishna is the formula , when we learn to love cows we learn to love each other."



HH Bhakti Marg Swami Maharaj, also known as 'The Walking Monk', He achieved the remarkable feat of walking across Canada 4 times (i.e. around 30,000KM) was in Kolkata from 9th to 14th March. Maharaj gave Srimad Bhagavatam , brahmachari class & Sunday feast class in which he presented a wonderful drama with his team. Describing the vast experience of his travelling, In one of his class, he recollected "During my travels, I meet people who are averse to me and even want to harm me; on the other hand, I also meet people want to selflessly serve and support" He gave a simple yet powerful "Principle of Remembering"- Remember the good things that happened to you and count your blessings to be happy."





HH Bhakti Madhurya Goivinda Swami Maharaj, one of earliest Srila Prabhupada disciple, was in Kolkata during 15th to 21st March and from 25th March to 6th April 2016. He charmed the devotees with his dramatic way of narrating the pastimes of Lord Nrsimhadev and Prahalad Maharaj. During one of his classes, he explained the meaning of disciple. "Disciple follows the Acharya; an admirer of guru is not a disciple. It is good to admire a saintly person but there are many admirers of sport personalities too. So, a disciple means one who follows the Acharya." elaborated Maharaj.

Well Wisher Forum : Panchanga Bhakti Seminar



With the aim to explain the importance of five major limbs of devotional service, 'Panchanga Bhakti' seminar was conducted by the Well Wisher Forum from 25-27 March 2016 at New Alipur, in which 25 donors enthusiastically participated. The topics covered were Chanting, Deity worship, Visiting Holy places, Association of devotees & Bhagavat seva. Faculties were HG Anang Mohan prabhu, HG Ritudvip Gaur prabhu and HG Sridama Sakha prabhu. The workshop was filled with wonderful dramas and melodious kirtans and all the participants were hankering for more such workshops.



Sphurti Camp : PURI

Sphurti Camp 2016 was organised by IYF Kolkata on 5 & 6 March in Sri Kshetra Puri. Around 200 students from prestigious colleges of Kharagpur, Dhanbad, Raurkela, Jamshedpur & Kolkata participated in spiritually enlivening camp. Devotees were enlivened with ecstatic kirtans, drama and lectures by HG Sundar Shyam prabhu, HG Acharya Ratna prabhu, HG Mukund Lila prabhu & HG Prem Swarup prabhu. Devotees visited Jagannath temple, mangal aarti in sea beach and relished sumptuous prasadam.



Vaishnav Calender April 2016

- 1 Apr : Sri Srivas Pandit appearance
- 4 Apr : Ekadashi (Papmochani)
- 5 Apr : Sri Govind Ghosh disappearance
- 11 Apr : Sri Ramanujacharya Appearance

- 14 Apr : Tulasi jaladan beigns
- 15 Apr : Rama Navami (Fasting till sunset)
- 17 Apr : Ekadashi (Kamada)
- 22 Apr : Sri Balaram Rasayatra
- 29 Apr : Sri Abhiram Thakur disappearance