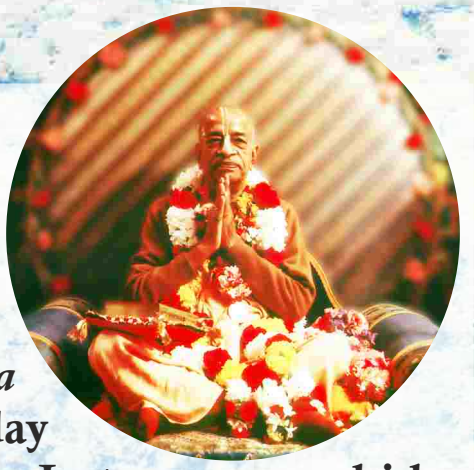
ISKCON Kolkata Newsletter February 2016

International Society for Krishna Consciousness
Founder-Acharya: His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

Srila Prabhupada Vaani

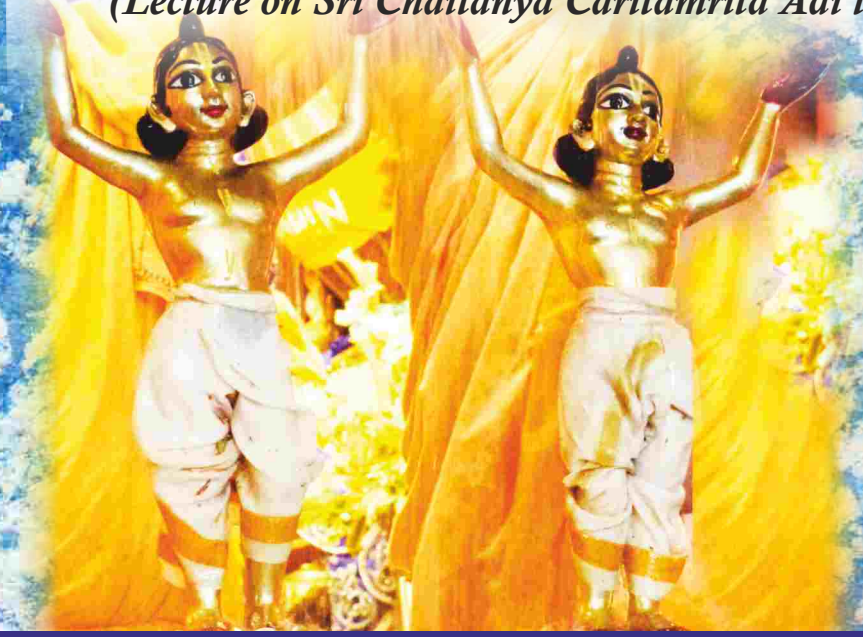


Without Baladeva's or Nityänanda's grace, one cannot make advancement.

ara kabe nitai-canda karuna karibe
samsara vasana mora kabe tuccha ha'be

This is the grace of Nityananda Prabhu. Narottama dasa Thakura explains, *ara kabe nitai-canda, karuna karibe*. Narottama dasa Thakura is aspiring for the day when Nityananda Prabhu will be pleased upon him. Just like Jagai-Madhai was delivered by the mercy of Sri Nityananda Prabhu, so we have to pray Nityananda Prabhu. He's very merciful. He's so kind, Baladeva, He gives spiritual strength. Then we can approach the Supreme Lord. Therefore we chant *"Nitai-Gaura."* This is the process. We cannot change this policy. Panca-tattva must be worshiped…

(Lecture on Sri Chaitanya Caritamrita Adi lila 7.4 at Mayapur on March 4, 1974)



Nityananda Trayodasi

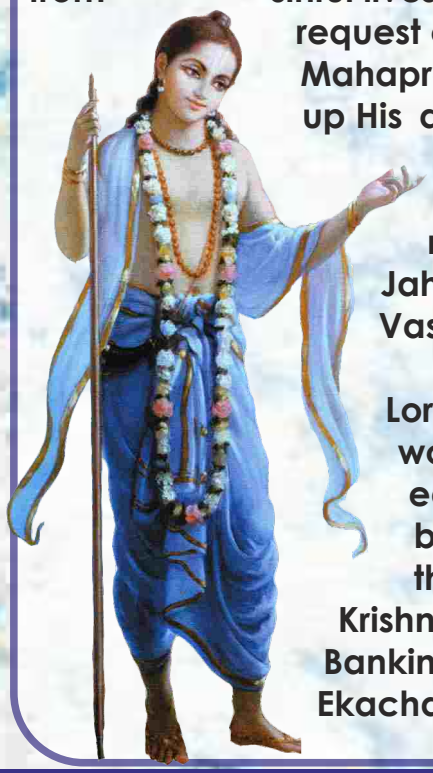
The auspicious Appearance Day of Lord Nityananda will be celebrated on 20th February, 2016.

Lord Nityananda Prabhu

Lord Nityananda Prabhu was born on the thirteenth day of the bright fortnight of Magha in the village of Ekachakra in 1395 Saka (1473 AD) to Hadai Pandita and Padmavati devi. He is the eternal associate of Lord Chaitanya Mahaprabhu and serves as the adi-guru of all devotees. Vaishanava acharyas emphatically state that people who try to understand Chaitanya Mahaprabhu without getting the mercy of Nityananda Prabhu will never succeed.

As a child, He would enact the role of Lakshman from Lord Rama's pastimes and enchant the entire village of Ekachakra, where He spent first 12 years of his life. From his 13th year, He traveled with Lakshmipati Tirtha for about 20 years, during which He visited all the holy places and ultimately, met Lord Chaitanya at the age of 32 in Nadia.

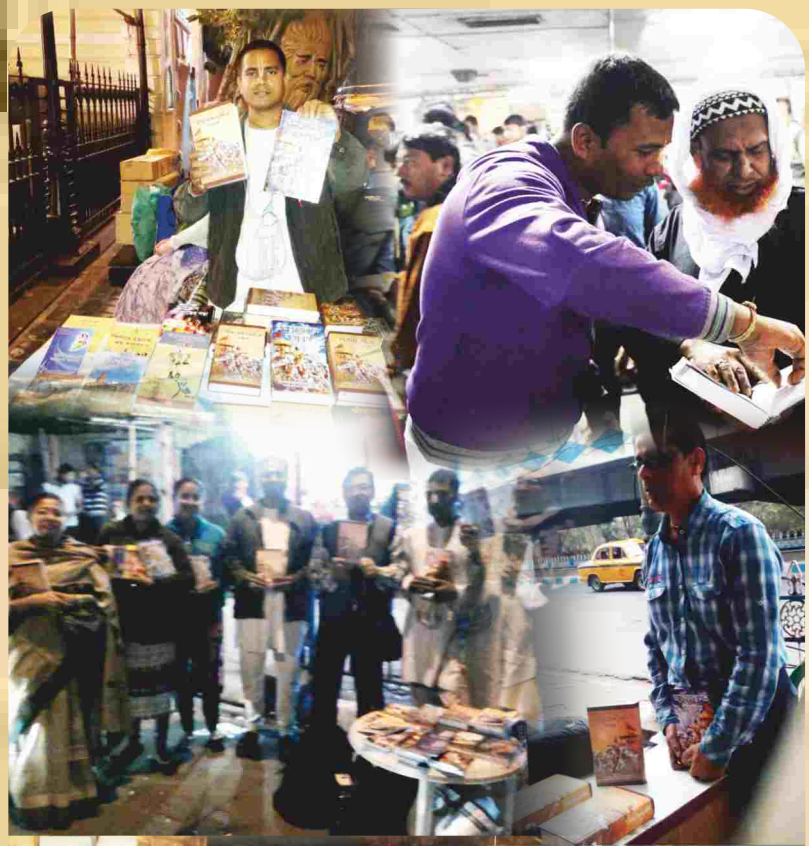
Nityananda Prabhu was instrumental in spreading the sankritana movement all over Bengal and Orrisa. His mercy knew no bounds and even fallen souls like Jagai and Madhai were delivered from sinful lives. Later, at the request of Mahaprabhu, He gave up His avadhuta status and became a householder, marrying Jahnava Devi and Vashudha.



Lord Nityananda wound up His earthly pastimes, by merging into the Deity of Krishna, known as Bankim Ray in Ekachakra.

Srila Prabhupada Book Distribution Marathon 2015

Spreading the mercy of Lord Nityananda Prabhu, in the form of Srila Prabhupada books, ISKCON devotees around the globe celebrated Book Distribution Marathon 2015 during December 2015 and January 2016. At ISKCON Kolkata, all the devotees- congregation, residential brahmacaris, youths- got together and distributed Srila Prabhupada books around the city. They set up tables at various vantage points like railway and metro stations, residential complexes and important road crossings. Due to everybody's tireless efforts, the devotees distributed 35,000 Srila Prabhupada's Bhagavad Gita As it is during the marathon this year.



HH Bhakti Vigna Vinasa Narsimha Maharaj Visits Kolkata

A leading Srila Prabhupada disciple and initiating guru within ISKCON, HH Bhakti Vigna Vinasa Narsimha Swami Maharaj visited Kolkata from 17th to 19th January. On 17th January, Maharaj gave the Sunday Feast and Special Youth Class, in which he elaborately explained how friendship in Krishna Consciousness is different from material friendship. He also gave Srimad-Bhagavatam classes on 7th Canto, elaborating on the teaching of Prahlad Maharaj.

Sri Navadvip Mandal Parikrama

A four days Sri Navadip Mandal Parikrama organised by ISKCON Kolkata Bhakti Vriksha, with HG Ashraya Gauranga Prabhu. The yatra was from 23-26 January 2016 and around 800 Bhakti Vriksha devotees attended the yatra. Devotees received blessings and association of HH Jayapatak Swami Maharaj, at Surabhi Kunj where he narrated sweet pastimes of Lord Chaitanya. Also, HH Bhakti Vighna Vinasa Nrsimha Swami Maharaj blessed the devotees, at Rajapur by narrating Lord Jagannath's pastimes. With ecstatic kirtan and katha by HG Ashraya Gauranga prabhu, the devotees completed the parikrama of nine islands in four days.

Children Winter CAMP

Around 50 children aged between 4 to 10 years participated in ISKCON Kolkata's Winter Camp from 8th to 10th January, 2016. The camp consisted of many engaging activities art & craft, meditation, yoga, dancing kirtans, etc. The most entertaining part of the camp was special magic show. At the end of the camp, all the participants were loudly chanting "Hare Krishna" and "Hari Bol!"

Inaugaration of Govinda's Restaurant in Dum Dum

To serve wide range of devotees in a more better way, ISKCON Kolkata under the guidance of HG Dayaram prabhu and HG Radha Raman prabhu inaugurated Govinda's Reastaurant at Motijheel Dum Dum on 24th January, 2016. This Govinda's will provide the facility for Prasadam delivery to devotees traveling to Mayapur & at Airport.
This place is donated by Mr. Sankar Lal Chakraborty in memory of his mother, father and brother.

Well-Wishers' Picnic to Khardah

That Devotional life is not a monotonous one, but full of multi farious activities was again proved in a gathering of 200 donors and their families. On 3rd January 2016, Well-Wishers' Forum, led by HG Ananga mohan prabhu, had its annual picnic party in Khardah on the bank of mother Ganga. People of all ages took part in KC games and group dramas. Picnic ended with Krsna katha, dancing kirtan and delicious prasadam. The presence of our temple president HG Dayaram prabhu & HG Prem Manjari Mataji added a unique flavor to the gathering.

Announcement

His Holiness
Radhanath Swami Maharaj
Visits ISKCON Kolkata
From : 19 to 21 February 2016

20 Feb: *Nityanand Treyodashi evening Katha at Gurusaday*
21 Feb: *Srimad Bhagvatam at Gurusaday at 9:00am*

HG Nadu Gopal prabhu Kolkata Visit

HG Nadu Gopal Prabhu & HG Sri Harikant Prabhu along with kirtan team visited ISKCON Kolkata from 19th -21st January 2016. HG Nadu Gopal pr spoke on Sanyas Lila of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu and in the evening they did kirtans for pleasure of Sri Sri Radha Govind ji.

Vaisnava Calender- February 2016

4 Feb- Sat Tila Ekadasi
13 Feb- Vasant Panchami, Sarasvati puja,
Appearance:- Srimati Vishnu priya devi, Sri Pundarik Vidyanidhi, Sri Raghunandana Thakur, Srila Raghunath das goswami.
Disappearance:- Srila Vishvanath Chakravarti thakur
14 Feb- Sri Advait Acharya appearance
16 Feb- Sri Madhvacarya disappearance
17 Feb- Sri Ramanujacharya disappearance
18 Feb- Bhaimi Eakadashi
19 Feb- Varah Dvadashi (appearance of Lord Varah dev)
20 Feb- Nityananda Trayodashi (appearance of Lord Nityananda) Fasting till noon
22 Feb- Srila Narottam Das Thakur appearance
28 Feb- Sri Purushottam Das Thakur disappearance, Srila Bhaktisiddhant Sarasvati Thakur appearance (fasting till noon)

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