



ISKCON World Review

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Founder Acharya: HDG A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

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The Month of Damodar *A period to share and brighten people's lives*

From the 6th of October to the 4th of November is celebrated in the Gaudiya Vaisnav Calendar as the Karthik/Damodar month. During this month, we offer a lamp to Lord Krishna every evening. Why do we do this? Here is a pictorial insight into this offering of love to Krishna.

1 Lamp offered in the month of Karthika

Oct 6th - Nov. 4th 2017



Sri Sri Radha Krishna are pleased

"Lord Krishna is very pleased by the offering of a single lamp during the month of Karthika. Lord Krishna glorifies anyone who lights a lamp for someone else to offer"

44, Kartika Mahatmya, Hari-bhakti-vilas



Sins are destroyed



No more rebirth



Attain Lord's abode

The scriptures give us several easy bonus offers to encourage our participation in spiritual activities and to help us speed our advancement. One such offer is the Damodar/Karthik month where all spiritual activities are blessed with multi-fold results.

ISKCON, with an anxiety to share this bonus offer with all people, is eager to arrange programs in your house/office/institution where we can share with your family/friends/staff the glorious opportunity of offering a lamp to Lord Krishna. ISKCON devotees will come to the venue, explain the pastimes where Lord Krishna, showing His subservience to pure devotion, accepts to be bound by Mother Yashoda, organise the lamps for offering and sing the special damodarastakam as the lamps are offered. Contact our office on 044-24413466, 044-24456199.

Lamps can also be offered every evening in the temple and on Sundays in the afternoon also. You can also sponsor the lamps by giving a donation. Thus you get the benefit of "lighting a lamp for someone else to offer".

Hear the Damodara Ashtakam at <http://www.vaishnavsongs.com/sri-damodara-ashtakam/>

Govardhan Puja 20th October, Friday

When we see rain with thunder, we remember the incessant rains that tormented Vrndavana 5000 years ago whereupon Lord Sri Krishna, even though a mere boy, lifted up the Govardhana hill to protect the people, cows and cattle of his village.

The method and glory of Govardhana puja was personally shown by Lord Krishna and in the Srimad Bhagavatham, we read of His direction that His devotees must worship Sri Govardhana in a very grand way every year.

Join ISKCON in worshipping the Sri Govardhana hill.

- 05.00pm - Bhajans
- 06.00pm - Tulasi Puja
- 06.30pm - Sandhya Arati
- 07.00pm - Discourse on Govardhana
- 07.30pm - Anna Kut/Govardhan Puja
- 08.00pm - Prasadam

Please bring gifts of milk sweets, honey, fruits and flowers as an offering to Sri Govardhana. To sponsor the annakut or prasadam for devotees, please contact your ISKCON representative, or our office at 2445 6199.

World Holy Name Week



By the grace of Srila Prabhupada, the entire world has become familiar with the chanting of the Hare Krishna mantra and so many people in their lives, with their families and friends gather together to chant the holy names.

The World Holy Name Week was held between the 9th and the 17th of September 2017 celebrating the centennial anniversary of Srila Prabhupada arriving into the West to propagate the glories of the holy name and the message of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu.

ISKCON Chennai participated in this global festival by holding Nagar Sankirtan - the traditional method of singing the holy names in the streets. Programs were also held in schools, homes and other places to expose as many people as possible to this easy method of chanting the Hare Krishna mahamantra for individual and social upliftment.

Tulasi-Saligrama Vivaha, 4th November, Saturday, 6-8pm.

The Padma Purana describes the story of Tulasi, who was formerly Vrinda, the daughter of a giant named Nemi, and the faithful wife of demon Jalandhar. Being born in water Jalandhar claims sovereignty over the ocean and demands the 14 treasures churned out of the ocean in Vishnu's second incarnation. He declares war and becomes a cause of danger to the demigods. More so because of a boon that he would be free from death till his wife Vrinda was chaste.

As a last resort to kill Jalandhar, Vishnu beguiles Vrinda by assuming her husband's form. Vrinda in her wrath cruses and turns Lord Vishnu into a Black stone (Saligram) for his deceit. Vishnu too retaliates but in admiration of her impeachable chastity and piety, he transfers her into the sacred Tulsi plant and promises to marry her annually on this day of Kartik. Her body turns into the Gandaki river and her hair into the sacred Tulasi plant. The origin of the ammonite black stone or Saligram found on the bed of the river Gandaki may be attributed to their legend.

As a consequence, all devout Hindu women worship the Tulsi plant with flowers and milk assuming Lord Krishna to be present on it on this auspicious day and conduct their marriage.

Every year, ISKCON Chennai conducts the marriage of Tulasi and Saligrama. Participate in this joyful marriage. Do bring gifts for the bride and groom!

Vaishnav Calendar

- 13 Oct Fr Appearance of Radha Kunda Bahulastami
Sri Virabhadra -- Appearance
- 15 Oct Su Ekadasi
- 16 Oct Mo Break fast 06:57 - 09:56
- 19 Oct Th Amavasya, Dipavali
- 20 Oct Fr Govardhana Puja.
- 23 Oct Mo Srila Prabhupada -- Disappearance
- 28 Oct Sa Gopastami
- 31 Oct Tu Fasting for Utthana Ekadasi
Srila Gaura Kisor Das Babaji-Disapp.
First day of Bhisma Pancaka
- 1 Nov We Break fast 06:02 - 09:55
- 3 Nov Fr Last day of the 4th Caturmasya month
- 4 Nov Sa Sri Krsna Rasayatra
Tulasi-Saligrama Vivaha
Sri Nimbarkacarya -- Appearance
Last day of Bhisma Pancaka
- 5 Nov Su Katyayani vrata begins



Damodar/Karthik Maas 6th Oct. - 4th Nov. 2017

The month of Damodara. Throughout this month, devotees commemorate the pastime of naughty Lord Krsna's being bound with ropes by mother Yasoda. Devotees offer lamps daily. It is described in the scriptures as the best among months for performing austerities.

Lord Shri Krishna says, "Of all plants, the sacred Tulasi is most dear to Me; of all months, Kartik is most dear, of all places of pilgrimage, My beloved Dwarka is most dear, and of all days, Ekadashi is most dear." (Padma Purana, Uttara Khand 112.3)

Observing vrata in the month of Kartik is glorified in the Puranas.

"As Sat-yuga is the best of yugas (ages), as the Vedas are the best among scriptures, as Ganga is best of rivers, so Kartik is the best of months, the most dear to Lord Krishna." (Skanda Purana)

This vrata begins on 6th Oct (this year), and one may observe the following foremost activities throughout the entire month of Kartik:

* Japa – chanting the holy names of the Lord.

* Worship the Lord by offering ghee lamps (diyas), flowers, incense,

food, etc.

* Practice brahmacharya – celibacy.

* Worship Tulasi Devi.

* Give charity.

* Perform austerities.

Following are excerpts from some scriptures (Puranas) describing the glory of the pious Kartik month:

"If somebody performs even a little worship of Lord Shri Hari in this month, He offers that devotee His own abode."

"If somebody burns a lamp in the temple of Lord Shri Hari even for a short time (in the month of Kartik), then whatever sins, he has acquired for millions of kalpas (one kalpa equals 1000 yugas) are all destroyed."

"A person, who for the entire month of Kartik eats only once a day, becomes very famous, powerful and heroic."

"O Narada! I have personally seen that a person who happily reads the Bhagavad Gita in the month of Kartik does not return to the world of birth and death."

"Of all gifts, the gift of a lamp during the month of Kartik is the best. No gift is its equal."

"The pious result obtained by bathing in all holy places and giving

all charities is not equal to one ten-millionth part of the result obtained by following the vow of Kartik."

There is complete happiness in abstaining from meat, O monarch. He that undergoes severe austerities for a hundred years and he that abstains from meat, are both equal in point of merit. Even this is my opinion, In the lighted fortnight of the month of Kartika (the last of the four caturmasya) in especial, one should abstain from honey and meat. In this, it has been ordained, there is great merit. **He who abstains from meat for the four months of the rains acquires the four valued blessings of achievements, longevity, fame and might.** He who abstains for the whole month of Kartika from meat of every kind, transcends all kinds of woe and lives in complete happiness. They who abstain from flesh by either months or fortnights at a stretch have the region of Brahma ordained for them in consequence of their abstention from cruelty - Bhisma dev, Mahabharat Anushasana Parva.

Srila Prabhupada Disappearance Day

Who was Srila Prabhupada? Perhaps we will never be fully able to understand or measure his glories, or measure how he was able to effect the lives of millions of people so deeply. We are most fortunate to be able to assist him in some insignificant way. It is his great mercy that he can utilize someone as useless as I am in his and Krsna's service.



Srila Prabhupada's glory is that he took people addicted to material life and made them saintly persons, fully engaged them in devotional service, empowered them to spread Krsna consciousness all over the world and established a mission that would continue to spread for the next ten thousands years.

He ordered everyone one of us to give Krsna to everyone we meet and in this way become Gurus. By his mercy it is possible for us to do this.

Srila Prabhupada is inviting everyone serving in ISKCON to take Lord Chaitanya's desire tree of Divine Love to every town and village, [and electronic device] on earth. To do this successfully, we need to deeply connect to our Founder-Acarya's life, teachings, mood, and mission. Janme janme prabhu sei. Birth after birth, Srila Prabhupada is our life and soul, and the harmonious living force of ISKCON's mission.

by HG Mahatma das

Program 23rd October, Monday

- 7.30am - Darshan Arati
- 7.45am - Guru Puja
- 8.00am - **Video Lecture of Srila Prabhupada**
- 9.00am - Bhajans
- 10.00am - Devotees speak about Prabhupada
- 11.30am - **Abhishekam of Prabhupada murti**
- 12.30pm - Arati
- 01.00pm - Prasadam

ISKCON Hall Available for Functions

You will be happy to know that we have a hall in the temple premises, used for our preaching programmes, seminars and cultural activities. Subject to availability, devotees and life patrons can use the hall for functions. Mini hall also available.

Please contact: Sri Tirumal Rao - 9282138879.

Bhakti-sang in your neighbourhood

In more than 75 areas in Chennai, ISKCON has Bhakti-sang programs. This is a program for you and your family to learn and practise the principles of the Bhagavad-gita in the association of like minded people. To know the locations nearest your home, please contact 9840027800/9380666794.

Shuddha-Sattva - the Higher Taste of Sri Krishna Prasadam

Shuddha-Sattva is designed with great detail to ambiance and food that is full of Krishna's love. At Sudha-Sattva, you can also host Birthday parties, Team lunches, Upanaynam functions, Anniversary celebration etc.

To make your booking, call Mr.Murali - 9445954740.

**Hare Krishna Hare Krishna
Krishna Krishna Hare Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama
Rama Rama Hare Hare**