

Voice of opening the 'Vrinda-Devi' temple gets stronger

'Namo Namo Tulasi Krishna Preyasi'. Vrinda-Devi stuti vandana was performed by the students of the 'Bhaktivedanta Gurukula & International School' to glorify 'Vrinda-Devi' on the occasion of 'Tulsi-distribution' programme at the Vrinda Devi Temple situated in the 'Govinda-Dev' temple. The 'Tulsi plants' were grown in the Friends of Vrindavan's nursery. The Tulsi plants were distributed among the devotees who visited the Govind Dev Temple.

The Tulsi plant distribution was organized by Friends of Vrindavan with the support of the Braj-Vrindavan Heritage Alliance. The programme was chaired by Shri Sukumar Goswami, sevait of Shri Govinda Dev Temple of Vrindavan who said that every house of Vrindavan should have a 'Tulsi Plant'.

Acharya Naresh Narayan, senior member of the BVHA expressed his dissatisfaction on the negligence of the ASI in maintaining the historical temples of Vrindavan.

He said that although 'Vrinda-Devi' was taken to 'Kama' during Aurangzeb's invasion on Vrindavan in 17th century, but the temple should be left open for the meditation and other rituals for the 'Goddess of Bhakti'. He said that he was pained to see the temple of Vrinda Devi being used as store by the ASI. "We have sent a memorandum to the Regional ASI

office at Agra demanding opening of the temple, but the department has not acted so far", added Acharya, who is the Chief Editor of the monthly magazine 'Anant Sandesh'.

Pratibha Sharma, advocate, said that it is a shame for the residents of Vrindavan if we can't get Vrinda-Devi's temple re-opened. We need to install a Vrinda-Devi deity in this temple. It is very important for us as the town was named after the goddess of Bhakti i.e Vrinda Devi. She said that 'Vrinda-Devi' can't be kept in prison anymore.

The doors of the temple have to be opened for the visitors. A delegation should meet the ASI officials and the Goswamis in Jaipur to get this temple functional once again.

Glorifying Vrinda-Devi Dr. Chandra Prakash Sharma said that without the mercy of Vrinda-Devi one can't attain the Krishna Consciousness and enter in Raas.

He said that that 'Vrinda-devi' is very close to the Divine Couple. He said that he will work with FoV to organize the Tulsi plants distribution more frequently in different temples of Vrindavan.

Several dignitaries and members of FoV also addressed the agenda. Jagannath Poddar, Director of FoV gave vote of thanks to all present in the meeting.

In the News



Celebrations of 500th anniversary of Shri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu's advent to Vrindavan



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“Chaitanya being Krishna Himself can't be contradicted”

The temple town of Vrindavan was completely gripped under 'Harinam' fervor on the event of 500th anniversary of Shri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu's advent to Vrindavan. Mahaprabhu arrived in Vrindavan on the day of Kartiki Purnima in the year 1515. The celebration of Mahaprabhu's Vrindavan arrival coincided with the Kartik Niyam seva which doubled up the excitement of the devotees.

A grand celebration to glorify Chaitanya Mahaprabhu was being organized at Imlitala, which is the place where Mahaprabhu used to sit for several hours each day after taking bath in the Yamuna, immersed in Krishna consciousness.

Every day several renowned scholars, priests, saints and preachers delivered a discourse. On the 3rd and 4th days of the celebration the audience had the opportunity to hear Shrivatsa Goswamiji speak. He is a sevait of the Radharaman deity who runs the Shri Chaitanya Prema Sansthan out of Jai Singh Ghera.

Goswamiji glorified Shri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu and elaborately described the reason for his appearance. Maharaj ji sang several bhajans while glorifying Gouranga.

Shrivatsa ji stressed, "Shri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, being Shri Krishna himself, can't be contradicted. Shri Krishna manifested his appearance in this world in order to enlighten it with his causeless mercy by distributing the highest loving service to himself, which had never been

granted to any conditioned soul prior to his appearance. He descended on the earth as a spiritual master in the form of Mahaprabhu and proclaimed the Naam Sankirtan, enabling the souls of even the in the sinful age of Kaliyuga, to attain the absolute truth.

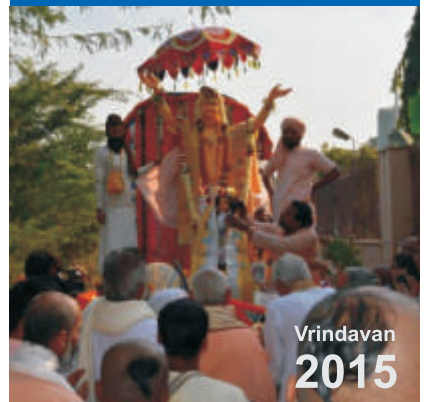
"Shri Krishna wanted to experience the ecstatic bliss of Radha's love towards him, by carrying her heart in him. Therefore Shri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu appeared as the combination of Radha and Krishna," added Goswami ji.

According to Shrimad Bhagvatam 1.7.13-14, Chaitanya Mahaprabhu was Krishna himself in the garb of a devotee of Krishna and therefore the version of both Lord Krishna and Shri Krishna Chaitanya Mahaprabhu are identical.

"Sometimes Shri Krishna himself wonders how much transcendental pleasure is within him, and in order to taste his own potency, he sometimes takes the position of tasting himself. Lord Chaitanya is Krishna himself, but he appears as a devotee to taste the sweetness of the transcendental mellow in himself, which is tasted by Shrimati Radha Rani the greatest of all devotees, as indicated in Shrimad Bhagvatam 3.33.4.

In the Adi Purana and in Narada Purana, the Lord says, "I shall advent in the form of a Brahmana devotee (aham eva dvija shreshtho), I shall hide my factual identity (pracchanna vighraha), and I shall deliver all the worlds (lokam raksami sarvada).

Confluence of devotion, emotion and service rocked Vrindavan



Five hundred year old history repeated itself as Shriman Chaitanya Mahaprabhu walks to Imlitala from Akkur village with thousands of devotees chanting, dancing and prancing in joy. There could not be any better ecstatic experience of Nagar Sankirtan for the followers of Chaitanya Mahaprabhu than accompanying him in the advent to Vrindavan.

Thousands of devotees participated in the 'yatra' which began from the Akkur temple. The devotees followed the two chariots carrying the deities of Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, which came from Puri. They expressed their gratitude to the Lord for re-discovering Shri Dham Vrindavan.

Owner speak:

Dr. Pankaj Agarwal (Dentist) & Dr. Ashu Agarwal (Dentist)
K.D. Dental College, Mathura
Agra Resident

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Chaitanya Mahotsava inaugurated by President Mukherjee

The 500th anniversary celebration of Chaitanya Mahaprabhu's advent in Brij-Vrindavan got off to an auspicious start with many prominent government figures coming to glorify him at the Parameshwari Dhanuka School in Goshala Nagar Colony.

The hosts of the program began with a recapitulation of Mahaprabhu's life. After the President had arrived, everyone stood for the national anthem, played by the school's brass band.

Padmanabh Goswami came to the podium to welcome all the guests and to set the theme for the program by quoting Mahaprabhu's own verse,

*nāhaṁ vipro na ca narapatir nāpi vaiśya na śūdro nāhaṁ
varṇī na ca gr̥hapatir no vanastho yatir vā |*

*kintu prodyan-nikhila-paramānanda-pūṇāmṛtābdher
gopī-bhartuḥ pada-kamalayor dāsa-dāsānudāsah |*

I am not a Brahmin, nor am I a Kshatriya,
I am not a Vaishya, nor a Shudra.

I am not a brahmachari, nor a householder
nor retired man nor renunciate monk am I

But since Lord Krishna, lover of the gopis,
and the overflowing ocean of nectar is the

one source of supreme immortal joy,
I aspire to be a servant to the servant
of his lotus feet.

The Governor Ram Naik spoke briefly, like everyone, but was also exultant about Mahaprabhu's message of universal love, invoking the vasudhaiva kutumbakam verse. He expressed wonder at the wide influence Mahaprabhu had made on northern Indian culture in a day when communications were different from today.

Similarly President Mukherjee spoke of the humanistic side of Mahaprabhu's message, with reference to Chandidas's words, "Humanity is above all things; nothing is above it." He spoke of great historical leaders of the Bengal renaissance like Shishir Kumar Ghosh, and Lala Babu.

President Mukherjee's said that Indian civilization is 5000 years old and has developed a strong culture of tolerance, so much so that no country in the world can match it for multi-culturalism that has endured for so many millennia with only minimal disruptions. And Mahaprabhu contributed to this heritage by breaking

down caste and race barriers in the worship of God."

He also added that he did so through the medium of song and dance, "presenting the conclusions of the great philosophers..." He inspired Bengali poetry and song, and recharged society with the unity that comes from love, compassion and affection.

Hema Malini, the local MP, was most unabashedly devotional in her remarks. She began with "Radhe Radhe!" followed by a verse from Chaitanya Chandramrita. She was the only speaker other than the hosts to recite a Sanskrit verse:

*ānanda-līlā-maya-vigrahāya
hemābha-divya-cchavi-sundarāya
tasmai mahā-prema-rasa-pradāya
caitanya-candrāya namo namas te*

I offer my obeisances unto Sri Chaitanya Chandra, whose body is the embodiment of an ecstatic pastime, whose beauty is divinely beautiful, a picture of golden light, and who is the giver of the highest taste of supreme love of God. (Caitanya-candramrtam)

CLICK OF THE MONTH



Hon'ble President of India Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Shri Ram Naik, Governor, U. P. and Shrimati Hema Malini, the local MP graced the 500th anniversary celebration of Chaitanya Mahaprabhu's advent in Brij-Vrindavan. Also present on the dias were Pradeep Mathur (MLA, Mathura), Mukesh Gautam (Vrindavan city council chairman), and Narayan Das Agarwal, chancellor of GLA University.

Significance of Mokshada Ekadashi Gita Jayanti and Vaikuntha Ekadashi

Mokshada Ekadashi, Gita Jayanti and Vaikuntha Chaturdashi, all fall on the same day. For the occasion of Mokshada Ekadashi, Hindus who follow Vaishnavism fast for 24 hours and honour Krishna, an avatar of Vishnu. The fast is observed from the dawn of the day on Mokshada Ekadashi to the day of the next day. However, there are many devotees who may find it difficult to observe such a long fast, these people observe partial fasts instead and partake vegetarian foods like fruits, dairy products, nuts and vegetables. Eating things like rice, pulses, onions, beans and garlic is not permitted on this day. It is believed that people who observe the rituals of this day with absolute faith throughout their life attain salvation after death. They are freed from the cycle of birth and death and their souls transcend to heaven.

Another important festival celebrated on the same day is that of Gita Jayanti. This happens to be the day when the Pandava prince Arjuna received the holy sermon of the Bhagavad Gita from Krishna himself. Through the course of the 700 verse scripture that is told in the beginning of the kurukshetra war in The Mahabharata, people get to know of a lot of philosophical ideas that prove useful to overcome dilemmas in day to day life as well.

Vaikuntha Ekadashi is the third festival that is celebrated on this day. It is believed that on this occasion the Vaikuntha Dwaram or the door leading to the inner sanctum of the gods, is opened. Vishnu temples all over the country arrange

special prayers, discourses, speeches and yajnas on this day. The Vishnu Purana says that this day is so auspicious that people who fast on this day need not fast on the rest of the ekadashis of the hindu calendar. Most Vishnu temples construct a door like structure on this day to symbolize the devotees crossing over to the inner sanctum of the gods.

Utpanna Ekadashi

The ekadashi that occurs during the dark fortnight of the kartik month is called the utpanna ekadashi. This day is a dedication to the damsel who emerged out of the eleven senses of Vishnu. Many people observe a fast on utpanna ekadashi. They wake up in the wee hours of the morning on this day and take a bath. After this they worship Lord Vishnu with fruits, flowers and incense sticks. In order to successfully observe the fast, the devotees avoid consuming garlic, lentils or non vegetarian food on that day. They also stay awake through the night and get together and sing devotional songs. Apart from this, the devotees also donate various items to ten Brahmins on this day.



Did you Know?



Krishna & Radha still appear in Madhuvan

It is a common belief among the residents of Vrindavan that Radha and Krishna appear in Madhuvan or Nidhivan every night and engage in Raas Lila. This is where, back in the Dwapar Yuga, Krishna used to meet and spend time with Radha and the gopinis. Even though this belief is so strong among the Vrindavan dwellers, no one dares venture out to the forest in the night and actually confirm the story.

Aaj Tak channel had even done a special segment based on this. In the middle of this forest, there is a spot where Radha and Krishna supposedly rest after dancing in the night. The local priest leaves water and various articles there in the evening. He says that in the morning these articles appear as if they have been used.

From the Bhagwad Gita

अन्नाद्भवन्ति भूतानि पर्जन्यादन्नसंभवः।

यज्ञाद्भवति पर्जन्यो यज्ञः कर्मसमुद्भवः ॥ १४ ॥

"From food the living beings come into being; from rain production of food; from yajña or sacrifice rain comes into being and yajña springs from action"

Bhagavadgītā (Bhagavad Gita): Chapter III (Karmayoga) Stanza 14

Watch out!

7th December : Utpanna Ekadashi
21st December : Mokshada Ekadashi,
Gita Jayanti &
Vaikuntha Ekadashi
22nd December : Matsya Dwadashi
24th December : Dattatreya Jayanti