



BI-MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF ISKCON JAIPUR

ISSUE: JAN-FEB 2023

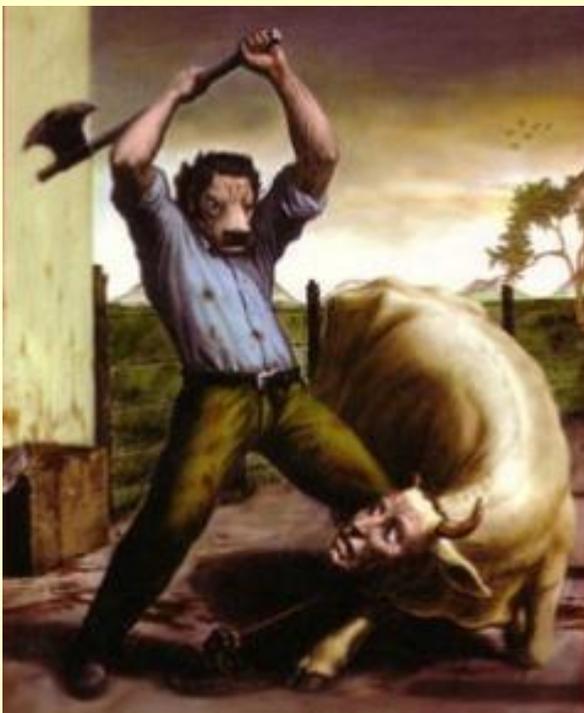
SRI SRI GIRIDHARI DAUJI TIMES

Bodily Concept of Life

Based on the class given by H.G. Pancaratna Prabhuji on S.B. 6.2.38

AGREE AND DISAGREE

In your preaching, you would have likely come across people who tend to agree with what you say but shy away from following the same. For example, a person may agree that Harer Nama is the only solution for this age. Yet, when you give him Japa beads, he makes an excuse to only do it later. Similarly, a person may claim to have read the book *Coming Back* or the *Higher Taste*



where both these books have a strong argument of how killing animals will bring a strong karmic backlash. Still, when asked if they have taken to a vegetarian way of life, they will flatly refuse it.

It is thus sometimes incomprehensible, how a person may agree to something and yet is too afraid or reluctant to follow through. The fundamental reason for this is the famed 'bodily concept of life.' But just what is this bodily concept of life?

This concept entails that the person thinks of himself to be the body and identifies with the experience. Thus, if his understanding matches his experience -- as being his body -- he agrees to it. However, if the experience contradicts or does not conform with his previous conclusion, he will disagree.

When Ajamila saw the Vishnu-Dutas and Yama-Dutas arguing with each other on who should take his soul, it was his personal experience. He could relate to his personal experience and that convinced him to take up the life of devotional service in Haridwar for the next phase of his life.

Compare that to a person who may have read it in the *Srimad Bhagavatam*. For such a person, his mind immediately starts to challenge -- "Can there be people with 4 hands? I have never seen such a thing. Can there be people who can fly like these Vishnu-Dutas do in thin air? I think it may require an airplane or at least a set of gliders"

In fact, the truth is that all the residents of Siddha Loka have the ability to fly, and don't need any specialized instruments to do it. Thus, the mind

of a person not accustomed to devotional parlance, may rebel and prevent him from believing the message of the Srimad Bhagavatam. That explains the behavior of a person, as was discussed at the beginning of this article.

BODILY CONCEPT EXTENDED

The bodily concept of life takes a different turn for devotees. They have developed sufficient faith, that they don't openly refute the message of sastras, though doubts may remain.

For example, a devotee who has been practicing for 5-10 years, may have a misgiving – “Why don't I see any change in myself? Is the process working for me?”

A devotee may hear about pure devotional service, yet he may think – “But I cannot become a pure devotee myself, I am deeply entrenched in lust and greed. My heart is too impure.”. This is again a manifestation of the bodily concept. Because Srila Prabhupada has emphatically said that everyone can become a pure devotee. One simply must have faith and apply himself to the process.

The same goes for book distribution. Some time back, we heard a devotee distributing more than 40 sets of Srimad Bhagavatam in a single day in a parking lot. When we hear about such an amazing feat, we begin to doubt it. We may think that there may be some trick involved that is not being disclosed. Maybe the devotee had lots of help who distributed on his behalf or other such thoughts and we begin to mistrust the news based on our disbelief.

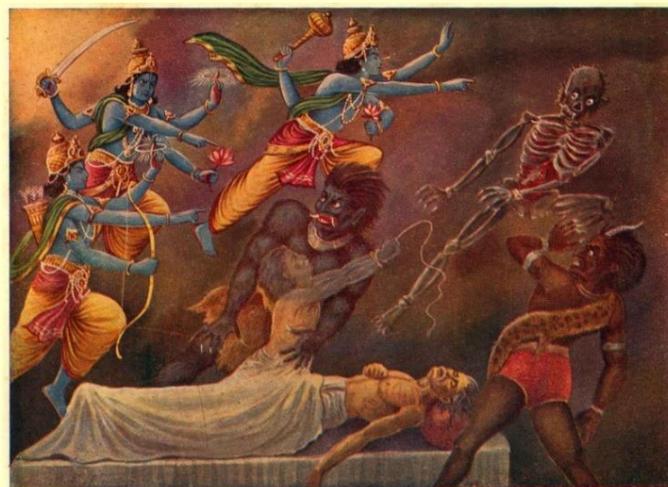
This is like the person not believing that Vishnu-Dutas can fly. Simply because his bodily experience does not allow him to believe such a thing. Thus, we don't believe in such amazing feats because we have never seen anything like it.

Due to this bodily concept of life, we end up judging other devotees and project our limitations upon them. This can quickly spiral into a mental block that prevents us from

experiencing the power of pure devotional service. We may end up living a life limited and impeded, simply because our consciousness is stuck in the bodily concept of life.

COMING OUT OF THE BODILY CONCEPT OF LIFE

The best way to come out of bodily concept is to hear with faith, chant with enthusiasm and always keep in the association of devotees. Just as Ajamila says in the verse of Srimad Bhagavatam 6.2.38 – “Simply because I chanted the holy name of the Lord in the association of devotees, my heart is now becoming purified. Therefore, I shall not fall victim again to the false lures of material sense gratification. Now that I have become fixed in the Absolute Truth, henceforward I shall not identify myself with the body...”



Having come out of the bodily concept, we will no longer disbelieve such things as impossible. When devotees would distribute a record number of books, Srila Prabhupada would set higher targets for next time. Devotees sometimes would doubt – “How can we do that”. In that context, Srila Prabhupada once remarked – “Because you don't have faith, so our progress will be slow”. We simply need to have faith in the words of the Guru, Sastra, and Sadhu. With that, we can do seemingly impossible things. We can even wake up every day for Mangal Aarti and yes that is possible!

New Year Celebrations at ISKCON JAIPUR

ARUNODAYA YOUTH FESTIVAL

ISKCON JAIPUR year-end youth festival (also known as Arunodaya) was held on **31-Dec-2022**. More than 700 youth devotees participated in the festival.

The Youth boys stayed overnight in the temple and woke up early to attend the first mangalarti of the year.



By waking up early in the brahma-muhurta,

taking bath, and chanting and dancing before the deities, the young boys started with a very auspicious beginning of the new year

DEADDICTION DRIVE

His Holiness Bhakti Vaisnava Ashraya Maharaja spoke at length on the importance of human life and how it can be directed towards the higher goal of life.



The youth were also addressed by the ISKCON JAIPUR temple president His Grace Pancaratna Prabhuji on how the youth can engage themselves in positive spiritual and social development activities that will help them keep away from all bad habits including addiction to a substance.

His Grace Hari Bhakti Prabhuji and his team conduct weekly seminars for the youth, and close

to 300-400 youth students participate in these seminars every week.

KIRTANA MELA

On **1st Jan 2023**, a mega kirtan mela was organized at ISKCON JAIPUR, starting at evening 4:00 pm and ending at 10:00 pm at night. With melodious kirtan, accompanied by musical instruments and beautiful dancing before the deities Sri Sri Giridhari Dauji, Sri Sri Radha Madan Mohan Ji, Sri Sri Gira Govardhan Ji and Sri Sri Gaura Nitai Ji, the event saw a jam-packed temple hall with more than 500 devotees participating with singing, clapping, and dancing.

This made the first day of the year memorable for all those who participated.

BHAKTI VRIKSHA MAHAMILAN

1st Jan 2023 evening also saw an assembly of more than 350 devotees of 11 Bhakti Vriksha programs running at ISKCON JAIPUR. The program was aptly named 'Bhakti Vriksha Mahamilan'.

For these 350 committed devotees who are seriously practicing Krishna Consciousness, it was an amazing experience where they could meet, greet, and talk to so many sincerely practicing devotees.



The evening saw wonderful sessions by His Holiness Bhakti Ashraya Vaishnava Swami Maharaja, His Grace Pancaratna Prabhu, and His Grace Shanta Nrsingha Prabhu. The evening concluded with a sumptuous dinner Prasadam.

Choosing Your Blessings for the New Year

Based on the lecture given by His Holiness Bhakti Ashraya Vaishnava Swami Maharaja in the 'Bhakti Vriksha Mahamilan' event organized at ISKCON JAIPUR on New Year's Eve

Once upon a time, there were four friends – a king's son, a rishi's son, a devotee of Lord Hari, and a butcher. It was New Year's Day, and they were walking down the street when they saw a learned pandit.

With the hope of winning his favor, all four of them approached the sadhu and paid their respectful obeisances, while asking for his blessings.

The pandit offered different blessings to each leaving them confused and perplexed. He told the king's son – "Raja Putra Chiranjeev"- which means that the *raja putra* should live a very long life. To the rishi's son, he blessed him saying – "You should die immediately." While, to the bhakta of Lord Hari, he offered – "You may live, or you may die." Finally, to the butcher, he offered his blessing: "You should neither live and neither should you die."

The four friends were puzzled and requested an explanation. The pandit replied – Since *raja putra* is wasting his life enjoying his senses, he should live a long life because in his next life different kinds of hells are awaiting him. On the other

hand, since the rishi's son is living a pure life of penance and austerity, when he dies, his next life will lead him to greater elevation. A devotee of Lord Hari is always engaged in His bhakti and so will enter the spiritual abode of the Lord upon death. Thus, it does not matter whether he lives or dies. Finally, for the butcher, who had already accumulated a huge number of sins in this life, if he lives longer, he will only continue to accumulate more. And when he does die, only hell awaits him. So, he advised: "don't live, don't die."

The story of these four friends gives us insight into what type of blessings could await us. Do we want more and more sense gratification like the *raja putra*, whose actions call for a future hellish life; or, do we want to live the pure life of a devotee and engage in the divine service of the lotus feet of Lord Sri Sri Radha Madan Mohan Ji? And lastly, do we want to live a life of sin like the butcher? Ultimately, the choice is ours.

We are confident that you will make the right choice in the new year which could very well be the turning point in your life.



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ISKCON FOOD FOR LIFE

The devotees of the Lord are released from all kinds of sins because they eat food that is first offered to Their Lordships Sri Sri Radha Krishna. Every evening, ISKCON JAIPUR is thus freely distributing Khichdi Prasadam to all devotees who visit the temple. The timings are from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm on weekdays and 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm on weekends. We encourage all our readers to donate to this noble cause of 'Anna Daan'. The bank details and QR code are listed here.

Checking Anarthas in a Grihastha Life

Based on the lecture given by His Grace Shant Nrsingha Prabhu in the 'Bhakti Vriksha Mahamilan' event organized in ISKCON JAIPUR on New Year's Eve

There are two similar sounding words that mean totally different things. The first word is 'Grihastha' and the other 'Grihamedhi.' A Grihamedhi refers to an envious householder who lives with his family but whose focus is totally centered around the body. As Prahalad Maharaja describes, for such an envious person, the house (*graham*) becomes a blind well (*andha kupam*) into which he falls with no hope of being saved.

On the other hand, a Grihastha is a person who is dedicated to serving the Supreme Lord and engages his family in service. The word 'Krishna Consciousness' points to a service attitude (*seva bhava*) and a family which is engaged fully in serving the Lord and His devotees is a Krishna conscious family.

The path to becoming a Grihastha, however, is still fraught with several *anarthas* (unwanted qualities). There are a total of 6 obstacles described in Madhurya Kadambini for beginning devotees of which we can discuss a few here.

CHECKING OVER-ENTHUSIASM

When a devotee begins his journey of devotional service, he finds it very sweet. He thus begins to develop enthusiasm to engage himself more and more in the service of the Lord. While doing that, an *anartha* may develop where a devotee begins to neglect his family duties while falsely thinking that he is progressing in *bhakti*.

For example, a devotee's wife may ask her husband if he has taken care of their child's tuition. And if the husband replies "Don't disturb me, I am chanting, and I don't have time for the kid's tuition;" such is an example of this obstacle (*anartha*).

A grihastha's first duty is toward his family. He cannot afford to be neglectful of his responsibilities and duties. If he neglects his household responsibilities, it will lead to friction

and fights between husband and wife. Eventually, neither will the devotee be able to practice himself, and neither will he be an inspiration for his family to progress in Krishna Consciousness. The same is true for a wife being overly enthusiastic and neglecting her household duties.

HOBNOBBING WITH MAYA

Sometimes, while practicing devotional service, a beginning Grihastha devotee may develop an internal fight within himself. One part wants to enjoy sense pleasure while the other wants to renounce these same desires. Thus, while fighting *maya*, a Grihastha may end up indulging in it.

A Grihastha should be very careful to avoid entertaining sense gratification, even if on a restricted basis. Both husband and wife should develop a service attitude and eagerly pray to the Lordships Sri Sri Radha Madana Mohan Ji to not fall prey to *maya*.

ALTERNATE THINKING

This 'anartha' is also known as 'Vyuda Vikalpa.' When a devotee finds that maintaining and managing a family is problematic, he may think that it is not possible to practice bhakti within family life and assumes that in order to become an ideal bhakta, he must renounce his home and join the temple.

Accordingly, the devotee may want to run away from the responsibilities of family life and find refuge in the so-called renunciation of an easy life. Such misguided thinking is an 'anartha' and a Grihastha devotee must always be on guard against it.

Practicing devotional service in a 'Bhakti Vriksha' chapter, under the guidance of a mature devotee while sharing our mind with him and accepting his direction, gives us an opportunity to escape from falling prey to these and other *anarthas*.

Gita Jayanti Celebrated at ISKCON JAIPUR

The appearance day of Srimad Bhagavad Gita, also known as 'Gita Jayanti,' was celebrated with vigor and enthusiasm at ISKCON JAIPUR on **3-Dec-2022**. The program was inaugurated by Shri Om Prakash Modi Ji. The program saw a recitation of all 700 slokas of the Srimad Bhagavad Gita.



This was followed by the Tula Daan where devotees donated 'Bhagavad Gita as It Is', equivalent to their weights.

Session Conducted at B.Lal Institute of Biotechnology

HG Pancaratna Prabhu Ji was invited by B Lal Ji, owner of B Lal Laboratory and diagnostic center on **7-Dec-2022**, to deliver a lecture at their Biotechnology Institute at Malviya Nagar. It was attended by almost 100 students.

The session was very interactive, intriguing for young minds, and very scientific. The topic was 'Inner Engineering'. The College Management & faculty appreciated the lecture very much and showed interest to organize these classes at regular intervals. After the class Prabhuji

The program was concluded with an Aarti and sumptuous Prasadam. On this occasion, Shri Jyoti Maheshwari extended his warm greetings and felicitations to all those who joined the program and made it a roaring success.

All participants also got a free copy of Bhagavad Gita as It Is, courtesy of Shri Om Prakash Modi Ji.

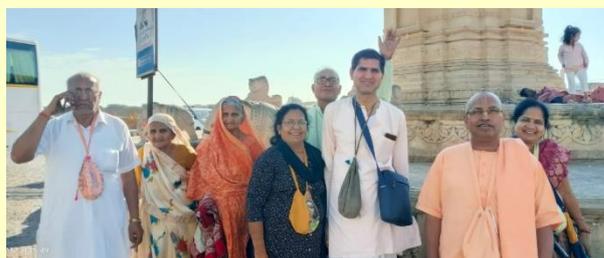


distributed 80 Bhagavad Gita to most of the students present there. The Gitas distributed were sponsored by the college.



Dwarkadheesh-Somnath-Dakor Dham Yatra Completed

Under the stewardship of His Grace Shant Nrsingha Prabhu Ji, about 56 devotees of ISKCON Chomu



completed the journey of Dwarkadheesh-Somnath-Dakor Dham. This journey was completed from **20th December to 26th December 2022**.

Summary of the Sunday Evening Program on 25 December 2022

Sunday Evening saw a tumultuous crowd of devotees participate in the evening Sandhya Aarti. The hall was almost full, with close to 300 devotees participating in ecstatic Kirtana.



The high-energy Kirtana was led by H.G. Adhir Krishna Prabhu, accompanied by an able team of more than 10 volunteers accompanying him on Kartals, Mrdangam, and even a Djembe Drum.

The high point of the Kirtana was the madly ecstatic troupe of youth devotees, dancing high up in the air. The synchronized dance steps before their Lordships Sri Sri Giridhari Dauji, Sri Sri Radha Madan Mohan Ji, Sri Sri Giriraj Giri Govardan Ji and Sri Sri Gaur Nitai Ji were one of the most beautiful sights to behold.

The ecstatic Kirtana was followed by Gita Tula Daan, where several devotees thronged the Tula, with their kids sitting on one side and the Divine Bhagavad Gita as It Is resting on the other. These devotees donated the Bhagavad Gitas in this

auspicious month of the appearance of the Srimad Bhagavad Gita and as part of the Prabhupada Book Distribution Marathon drive as well.

This was followed by a very thoughtful lecture given by H.G. Chanchal Krishna Prabhuji.



The topic of discussion was B.G. 7.3, where he called out the rarity of devotional service and the good fortune of those who could take time to hear the transcendental topics.

There were close to 60 devotees who attended the lecture and toward the end, Prabhuji explained 'How to Chant the Hare Krishna Maha mantra' on beads.

This created a very positive influence and close to 8 devotees stayed back to chant one full round. The program concluded with devotees enjoying the sumptuous Khichdi Prasadam.

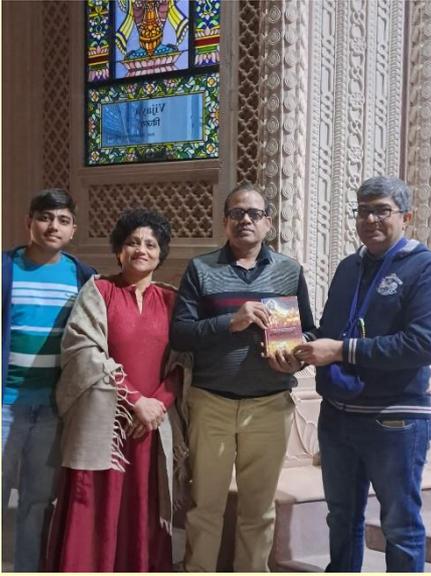
Overall, it was a wonderful evening program and all gratitude and kudos to the teams who participated and made this a success.

Do You Want to Write for Sri Sri Giridhari Dauji Times?

Do you study Srila Prabhupada books and want to share your readings on the topic of devotional service? Would you like to share what you have heard on the Devotional topics? Do you want to share your experience of a recent yatra you attended? Or do you want to give any feedback? Please do write to us at iskcon.jaipur.newsletter@gmail.com. We would be glad to provide all our readers a platform to share their writings, with all devotees. Regards!

Book Distribution at ISKCON JAIPUR

ISKCON JAIPUR is on a mission to distribute Srila Prabhupada books. Our team of volunteers from various Bhakti Vriksha teamed together to distribute books and encourage people to sponsor the 'Bhagavad Gita as It Is' for students.



The gift of knowledge goes a long way. Lord Krishna says in Bhagavad Gita – One who explains this supreme secret to others is very dear to Me.” This is because one good book, can change the course of your life. Millions have experienced a positive change

in their lives by reading – Bhagavad Gita as It Is published by ISKCON and applying the principles in their lives. Readers can also take advantage of connecting with various Bhakti Vriksha sessions to clarify their doubts and questions on Bhagavad Gita.

If you would like to sponsor the gift of Srimad Bhagavad Gita for schools, libraries and other institutions or your workplace, coaching institute and the like, please connect with Hari Bhakti Dasa at : 905-791-5927 (whatsapp)

ISKCON NEWS

OPENING CEREMONY OF ISKCON SARDARSAHAR CENTER CELEBRATED ON 26-DEC-2022

After an amazing journey of a year or so, good fortune dawned on the city of Sardarsahar. With the vision and guidance of H.G Pancaratna Prabhuji and the tireless efforts of H.G. Shastra Swaroop Prabhuji, we now have the official ISKCON Sardarshahar center.

INAUGURATION CEREMONY OF ISKCON SRIGANGANAGAR NEW ALTAR ON 26-DEC-2022

ISKCON SRIGANGANAR celebrated the inauguration ceremony of the new altar for the temple. H.G Sri Bhagavan Prabhu Ji along with his team of devotees have worked tirelessly to freely distribute the mercy of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu to the city of Sri Ganganagar.



H.G Pancaratna Prabhuji was the chief guest for the new altar inauguration ceremony and he did the honors of inaugurating the new altar. The new altar is an exact replica of the ISKCON JAIPUR temple altar.

This was followed by the offering of '56 bhog' to the Their Lordships. There was Aarti, Kirtana, and a session on Srimad Bhagavad Gita.

The ceremony was marked with 24 hours of Kirtana which was attended by a large number of devotees, singing and dancing with joyous abandon.

ISKCON HANUMANGARH COMPLETES 1 YEAR IN DEC 2022

This December 2022 marks one year of the opening of ISKCON HANUMANGARH. During this

period, the temple has progressed by leaps and bounds.



The temple is conducting regular morning programs for the devotees. A daily nagar Sankirtana by the devotees is filling the city with renewed energy.



In the first public program, more than 500 people attended. Devotees have also taken to preaching in nearby villages.



More than 5000 people attended the program in Janmastami.

A New Beginning for Wonderful Kids

His Grace Vamsi Krishna Prabhuji , his good wife, Her Grace Padmakshi Devi, and his whole family have been running a kids' preaching program for underprivileged children. The program completed 2 years in December. While in ordinary course of life, the kids would have whiled away their time loitering around, but now the kids have completely transformed.



They are participating daily in Sandhya Aarti, Narasimha Aarti, reciting Sikshastakam prayers and attending classes in the evening on Srimad Bhagavatam. The program lasts for close to 1.5 hours and is concluded with Prasadam.



Vamsi Krishna Prabhu is also helping with essentials like clothing and warm sweaters as the weather demands. This makes it one of the movement's unique preaching programs and the transformation observed in these kids is simply amazing.



All the kids have memorized several Aartis, Slokas and are chanting 16 rounds. On some days they even chant extra rounds and have learnt to keep themselves clean, both internally and externally.



We pray to their Lordships Sri Sri Giridhari Dauji, Sri Sri Radha Madana Mohan Ji, Sri Sri Giri Govardhan Ji and Sri Sri Gaura Nitai Ji to bless H.G. Vamsi Krishna Prabhu and his family to continue doing this wonderful service and for the kids so that they continue to progress more and more in devotional service to Their Lordships.

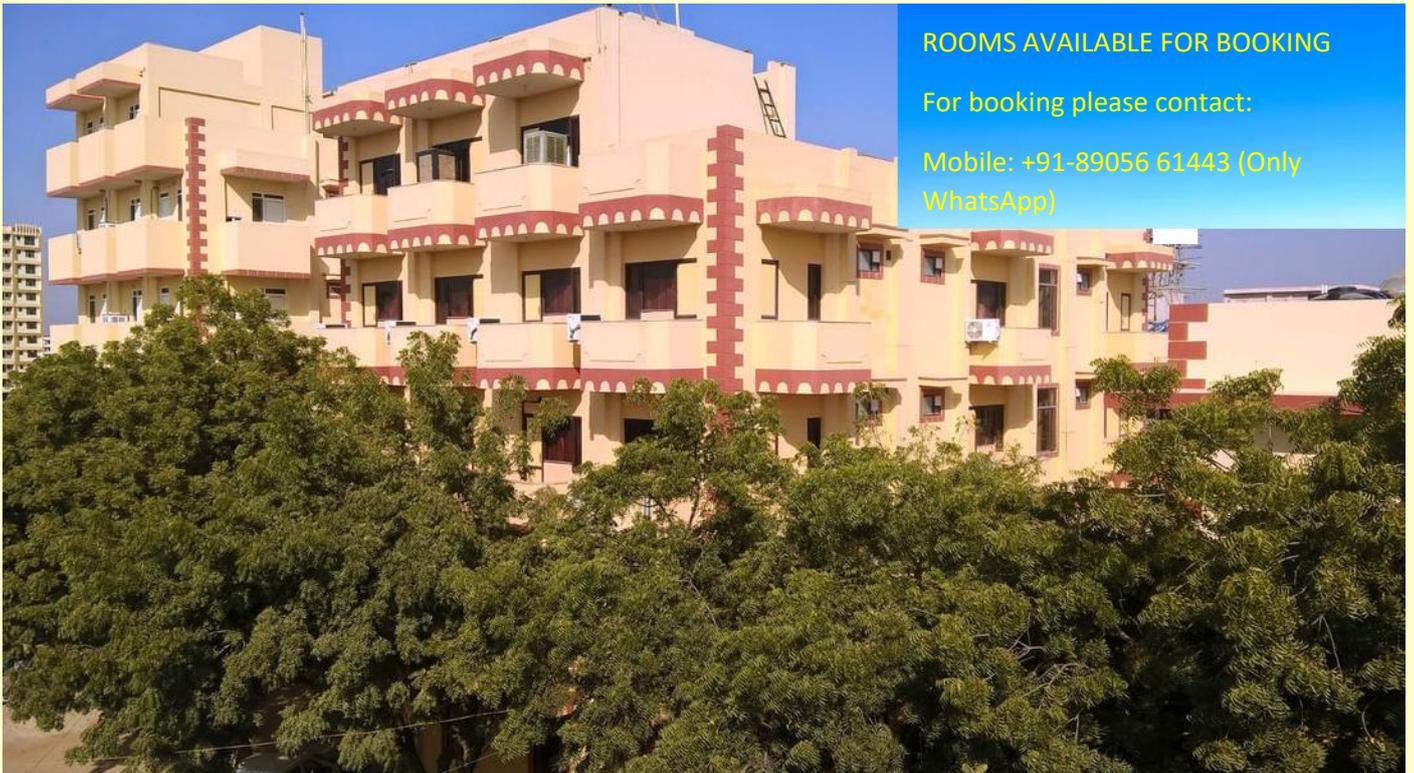
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iskcon.jaipur.newsletter@gmail.com

Vaisnava Calendar For Jan – Feb 2023

DATE	DAY	EVENT
02 Jan	Monday	Putrada Ekadasi
06 Jan	Friday	Pushpa Abhishek
12 Jan	Thursday	Appearance Day of Srila Gopala Bhatta Gosvami
13 Jan	Friday	Disappearance Day of Sri Jayadeva Gosvami
14 Jan	Saturday	Disappearance Day of Sri Locana Dasa Thakura
15 Jan	Sunday	Gangasagar Mela, Makara Sankranti
18 Jan	Wednesday	Sat Tila Ekadashi
26 Jan	Thursday	Appearance Day of Srimati Visnupriya Devi, Srila Raghunatha Dasa Gosvami, Sri Raghunandana Thakura & Sri Pundarika Vidyanidhi Disappearance Day of Srila Visvanatha Cakravarti Thakura Vasanta Panchami & Sarasvati Puja
28 Jan	Saturday	Appearance Day of Sri Advaita Acharya
29 Jan	Sunday	Bhismastami
30 Jan	Monday	Disappearance Day of Sri Madhvacarya
31 Jan	Tuesday	Sri Ramanujacarya Disappearance Day
01 Feb	Wednesday	Bhaimi Ekadasi
02 Feb	Thursday	Varaha Dvadasi
03 Feb	Friday	Nityananda Trayodasi
05 Feb	Sunday	Appearance Day of Srila Narottama Dasa Thakura
11 Feb	Saturday	Appearance Day of Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Prabhupada
17 Feb	Friday	Vijaya Ekadasi Vrat, Disappearance Day of Sri Isvara Puri.
19 Feb	Sunday	Siva Ratri
21 Feb	Tuesday	Disappearance Day of Srila Jagannatha Dasa Babaji, Disappearance Day of Sri Rasikananda
23 Feb	Thursday	Appearance Day of Sri Purusottama Dasa Thakura

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