

Arcana News

ISKCON Deity Worship Ministry

March 2009

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Upcoming Dates

March 2009

- 09 - Boat festival (Mayapur)
- 11 - Gaura Purnima
- 12 - Jagannatha Misra Utsava
- 21 - Boat Festival (Vrndavana)

April 2009

- 3 - Rama Navami
- 9 - Vasanta Rasa
- 14 - Tulasi Jala Dan
- 27 - Aksaya Trtiya - Candana yatra for 21 days

Advertise your temple's festivals here. Please send us the dates two months in advance.

Links

Websites

www.deityworship.com

www.mayapuracademy.org

Mayapur Academy Blog

<http://mayapuracademy.wordpress.com>

Welcome to our March Newsletter

Dear Friends,

Hare Krishna. Welcome to the March edition of ISKCON Deity Worship Ministry / Mayapur Academy newsletter.

Wow! What a month! This month saw the conclusion of the second semester of the Mayapur Academy Diploma course on the 21st and the graduation ceremony on the 26th. I also attended the GBC meetings from the 12th to the 23rd, participated in the abhiseka for Lord Nityananda and organized and participated in the maha-abhiseka of the Pancatattva. Jayapataka Maharaja returned to Mayapur for a week in February before leaving India to continue his rehabilitation in the West. His recovery is nothing short of amazing.

Thanks to everyone who gave feedback on our first newsletter. Your comments help shape the content of future newsletters.

Look forward to hearing more from you all soon.

Your servant,

Nrsimha Kavaca dasa

nkd@pamho.net

Srila Prabhupada Quote

Srila Prabhupada stressed that the preliminary qualification for performing deity worship was brahminical initiation, as highlighted in this quote from Srimad Bhagavatam 4.31.10.

"In our Krsna consciousness society, unless one is twice initiated – first by chanting Hare Krsna and second by the Gayatri mantra -- he is not allowed to enter the kitchen or Deity room to execute duties."

Mayapur Academy News

Classes concluded on February 14th followed by 5 days of practicum, where devotees were engaged in various services in the Mayapur deity department. Many students have commented that having the opportunity to put into practice everything they learnt was the highlight of the course.



Contact Details

Mayapur Academy

2nd flr. Caitanya Bhavan
ISKCON Mayapur

Dist. Nadia

West Bengal

India

+91 3472 245-480

www.mayapuracademy.org

ISKCON Deity Worship Ministry

www.deityworship.com

nkd@pamho.net

Would you like to help?

Mayapur Academy is a new project and needs all kinds of things to help us grow.

Vaisnava scriptures, commentaries of our acaryas, various spiritual books, Sanskrit dictionaries, etc.

Art and craft books, jewellery making, dress design and making etc. etc.

We also need deity paraphernalia for dressing and worshipping our deities.

If you are unable to help with any of these and would like to make a donation, please visit our websites:

www.deityworship.com

or

www.mayapuracademy.org

The graduation ceremony was presided over by Jayapataka Maharaja, Radhanatha Maharaja, Kavicandra Maharaja, Jananivasa prabhu and Pankajanghri prabhu. In all, 29 devotees graduated from the Mayapur Academy this year, with 19 devotees receiving diplomas and 10 receiving certificates for individual units.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Deva Gaura Hari prabhu to the team. He will be taking care of the website as well as teaching. Prabhu already has a new mantra course planned for next year.

Prabhu has already done a full redesign of the website, which you can see at www.mayapuracademy.org. We are interested to hear your comments.

Highlights from the Ministry Report

The end of the year is a particularly intense time for me. As well as getting ready for the Mayapur Academy there are many reports to be made to the GBC. Each year ISKCON Deity Worship Ministry is required to submit a financial report and an activity report to the GBC.

Here are some highlights from ISKCON Deity Worship Ministry's activity report:

Publications

- A draft of "The Method of Worship" (formerly known as the Pancaratra Pradipa) was again used as the handbook for the Mayapur Academy.
- Four chapters of this work are now completed with two remaining chapters and appendixes to be completed.
- At the current rate of progress we will be ready to publish the "Method of Worship" by Gaura Purnima 2010.

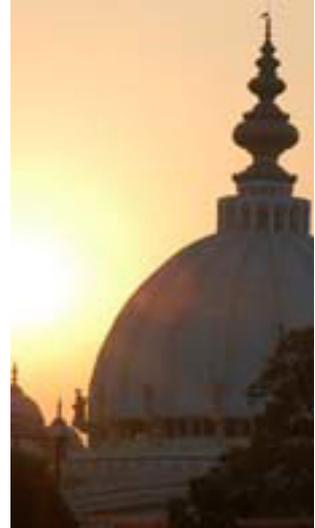
Websites

- The new Mayapur Academy website is now online and can be viewed at www.mayapuracademy.org

Mayapuracademy.org offers information about the training available at the Mayapur Academy as well as facility for online enrolment. Currently we are developing a range of online courses that will offer preparatory training for devotees planning to attend the Mayapur Academy courses.

Mayapur Academy

- The response to the Mayapur Academy has been encouraging. Since opening in December 2007, we have trained more than 200 devotees in various aspects of deity worship and Brahminical culture and lifestyle.
- To date the Mayapur Academy has presented courses on Temple Worship, Samskaras, Deity Cooking,



Our thanks to the following devotees for their assistance and support:

Dulal Candra prabhu – USA – four sets of Srila Prabhupada's books for the Mayapur Academy library.

Arjuna Hari prabhu – India

Visnu Murti prabhu – India

Rasanandini mataji – for the drawings for the Pancaratra Pradipa revision

Haridasa prabhu – UK

Gadagraja prabhu – USA

MVT – for their generous donation to refit our kitchen classroom and purchase more deities.

Doyal Govinda prabhu – Germany

Dhevsivanand Govender – USA

Narendra Krsna prabhu – Vrndavana

Mayapur International Boys School – Mayapur

Monthly donors

Guru

Abhiseka

Visvatma

Chetan

Devamrta dasa

Krsna Candra dasa

Murlidhara dasa

Brahma Kunda dasa

Thank you all very much for helping to make the Mayapur Academy a success.

Hare Krishna!

Deity Dressing, Deity Dress-making, Tulasi Care & Worship, Brahminical Culture & Ethics, and Festivals.

- This year we added units on Vedic astrology and flower arranging. We will introduce courses on Salagrama worship, advanced temple worship and other topics in the near future.
- All the devotees attending the course said they greatly benefited from the course, and we noticed a significant improvement in the attitude of the devotees as they became more inspired to worship the Lord.
- A former student is now head pujari in Butterworth, Malaysia and another is head deity cook in London, Soho St Temple.

Pancatattva Maha-abhiseka

The abhiseka for the Pancatattva was a massive endeavor; a challenge to even the most experienced pujaris. Even the size of the Pancatattva presents a special challenge: we had to build a special scaffold for the devotees to stand on to pour the liquids.

In a normal abhiseka the total quantity of ingredients might go as high as 200 litres, but the Pancatattva are no ordinary deities! For the abhiseka of the Pancatattva in Mayapur we used more than 4200 litres of liquids, plus 4000 litres of water; a massive total of more than 8000 litres! It took 47 devotees two days to prepare for and bathe the deities. A huge endeavor, but very blissful.

Ministry News

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, after leaving Mayapur my wife, Asesa Sadhini devi dasi, and I will go to Vrndavana. We will also stay a few days in Calcutta helping the devotees to improve the worship there. Over the past few months I have visited several times and the devotees have made many significant improvements. Inspired by Radhanatha Maharaja they are eager to improve their service to Radha Govinda.

From there to Delhi, a few days at the Punjabi Bagh temple and a few days at the New Delhi temple.

The revision of the Pancaratra Pradipa with Jananivasa prabhu is coming along nicely. We just finished the chapter on standard worship and tonight hope to start on the elaborate worship.

Praying for the mercy of Krsna that I can continue this offering to Hari, guru and the Vaisnavas

Your servant

Nrsimha Kavaca dasa