

Arcana News

ISKCON Deity Worship Ministry

February 2009

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Upcoming Dates

February 2009

February 7

Nityananda Trayodasi

Aravade deity installation &
temple opening

Nityananda Festival - Ujjain

February 25

Pancatattva Maha-abhiseka

March 2009

March 11

Gaura Purnima

Links

Websites

www.deityworship.com

www.mayapuracademy.org

Mayapur Academy Blog

<http://mayapuracademy.wordpress.com>

Welcome to our First Newsletter

Dear Friends,

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

Today is the auspicious appearance day of Advaita Acarya and I am in Mayapur, so what better day and place to begin this newsletter.

This newsletter keeps you up-to-date with developments and happenings of the Mayapur Academy and ISKCON Deity Worship Ministry.

The Mayapur Academy is a co-operative effort of the Mayapur Deity Department and ISKCON Deity Worship Ministry.

We will be regularly posting quotes from Srila Prabhupada about deity worship, announcing upcoming courses (in Mayapur and around the world) and reporting on events, festivals and seminars. There will also be interesting information posted that will help you develop your knowledge and resources on the process of arcana.

This is my first attempt at a newsletter, so please feel free to write to me with any suggestions or comments on how to improve this service to the Lord, Srila Prabhupada and ISKCON.

I have included a few pics from the abhiseka for Advaita Acarya.

Hope you like the newsletter.

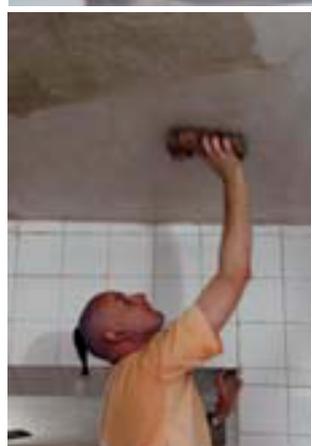
Your servant,
Nrsimha Kavaca dasa

nkd@pamho.net

Srla Prabhupada Quote

Srla Prabhupada constantly emphasized cleanliness in deity worship. Therefore I will begin this section with a quote on cleanliness.

Deity worship means to be very, very clean. You should try to bathe twice daily. The Deities should never be approached without having bathed first and changed to clean cloths after passing stool, etc. Keep teeth brushed after each meal, fingernails clean and trim. Be sure that your hands are clean before touching anything on the altar or the Deities. And cleanse the Deity room, altar and floor daily thoroughly. Shine the various



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

Aratrik paraphernalia after Aratrik. This is described in the booklet for pujaris written by Silavati Dasi. The idea is summit cleanliness -- that will satisfy Krsna.

Letter to: Rukmini -- Los Angeles 20 March, 1970

The Mayapur Academy

Thirty students enrolled in the 2nd Mayapur Academy Diploma semester, which runs from 10 November 2008 until 14 February 2009. Students undergo a 4-month intensive study program that covers all aspects of arcana.

Experts in their respective fields including Jananivasa and Pankhajanghri prabhush teach the diploma. This year the Mayapur Academy was happy to receive an increased number of enrolments from international and local devotees.

Two more subjects were added to the course to help provide a well-rounded view of all brahminical arts and sciences. These new courses are Vedic Astrology and Vedic Arts and Lifestyle.

Student Activities

One of the most popular units in the Mayapur Academy Diploma is 'Cooking for the Deities'. This course runs concurrently with the deity dressing seminar.

Students spent 2 weeks being trained by a host of ISKCON's finest chefs. This year students were trained by Radha Madhava raja bhoga chef Baliraja dasa, sweet chef Prema Nitai dasa, Bengali specialists Manorakshi Radha dd & Amrita Mayi dd and international cuisines by Prema Manjari dd and Yaksa dasa.

The course culminated in the students cooking a raja bhoga offering in teams of 2. Forty guests and students were all the happy recipients of a 86 course feast.

Now that was one yummy exam!

Mayapur Academy Student Profile

Ujjal Nilamani prabhu (bottom picture) joined ISKCON Mayapur Candradoya Mandir in 2003. His serves in life membership.

He enrolled in the courses at the Mayapur Academy to gain an overview of all aspects of worshipping Lord Krishna – which he also feels will assist his preaching. Often when he meets with people in the course of service they ask him questions about deity worship, and until now he has been unable to answer them.

Ujjal: "I am really enjoying the experience. I now feel confident enough in my knowledge of deity worship to perform deity and preach to congregation about the methods and benefits of deity worship."



Ministry News

I am in Sridhama Mayapur for the Mayapur Academy Diploma semester. The semester finishes Feb 21. and overlaps with the GBC meetings which are 12-23 Feb.

After this my wife and I will go to Vrndavana for one week and then return to Australia.

During the days I am at the Mayapur Academy working on assessments etc. and most evenings I work on the revision of the Pancaratra Pradipa with Jananivasa prabhu.

It is really a treat being in Mayapur and associating with the transcendental twin pujaris, Jananivasa and Pankajanghri prabhus.

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

Your servant

Nrsimha Kavaca dasa

