

HAPPY HOLI

Spring is the season of beauty and love. During this season the whole earth looks magnificent with colorful, fragrant flowers and greenery all around. Love is in the air and everyone is happy. Thus galvanized by the entire atmosphere, people play with red powder (Gulal) and red water color. Red color is the symbol of love (the meaning of Sanskrit word 'Rag' is love and Rag means red color as well). Shri Krishna and Radha are the embodiment of Divine Love. The main purpose of Shri Krishna's appearance on earth was to shower love on deserving souls. Hence He eagerly awaits this "season of love".

Following is a leela description by Shri Maharaj Ji of a Divine Holi in Vrindavan during the time of Shri Radha Krishna's descension 5000 years back.

In the spirit of the season, everyone in Braj is smitten by the love bug. All Gop(friends of Shri Krishn) and Gopis (girlfriends of Shri Radha Rani) of Vrindaban, have assembled together to receive 'Rag' (love in the form of red powder and water color) from the Divine Couple and to throw their Rag (Love) on them. The scene of the Divine play of Holi, with thousands of Gop and Gopis standing in a circular formation with Shri Radha Krishna in the center is spectacular and beyond description.

वृन्दावन धूम मची होरी ।

Vrindaban dhoom machee hori.

The festival of Holi is being celebrated with great pomp and color in the Holy land of Vrindavan

**सखन सखिन को सखिन सखन को,
लै पिचकारिन रंग बोरी ।**

**Sakhan sakhin ko, sakhin
sakhan ko,**

lei pichakarini rang bori.

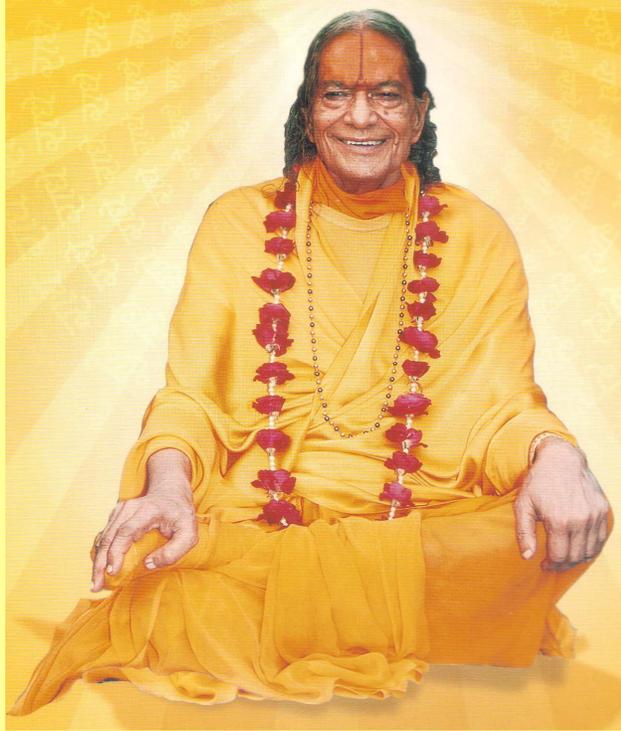
The cowherd friends of Shyam Sundar and girlfriends of Shri Radha Rani are drenching each other in colored water sprayed from their pichkaris (water guns).

DIVYA SANDESH

Divine Message

Holi Edition

March 2009



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लली लाल मंडल बिच ठाढ़े, दुहूँन दुहूँन किय सरबोरी ।

Lalee laal mandal bicha thaarhe, duhun duhun kiye sarabori.

Shri Radha and Krishna, who are standing in the centre of the circle, are also drenching each other with colored water from head to toe.

लाल गुलाल लाल भये बादर, लाल लाल भई ब्रज खोरी ।

Laal gulaal laal bhaye baadar, laal laal bhaeen braj khori.

On this joyous and colorful occasion of Holi, large quantities of Red Gulal (red powder) is blowing in Braj, due to which it appears that the clouds have taken a red hue. Even the lanes of Braj have turned red.

छस्त व्यस्त सब के पट भूषन, करत परस्पर झकझोरी ।

Srast vyast sab ke pata bhooshan, karat paraspar jhakajhori.

Because of the ensuing tussle between the groups of cowherd boy friends of Shri Krishna and girl friends of Shri Radha, their clothes and ornaments have become disarrayed.

तब "कृपालु" कह साँझ भई अब, काल होय होरी हो री ॥

Taba "Kripalu" kah saanjh bhaee aba, kaal hoy hori ho ri.

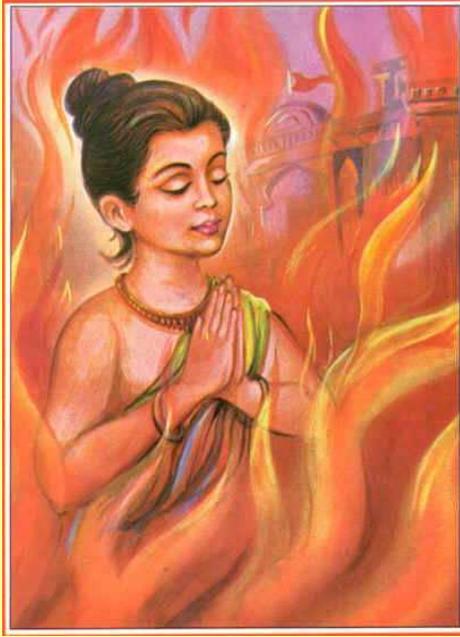
As the evening approaches, Poet Shri Kripalu Ji Maharaj Ji announces, "It is evening now and the play must end for today. The play shall resume here tomorrow".



The Real Significance of Holi

Prahlad: The Crest Jewel Of Devotees

By Didi Braj Banchary Ji



India is famous for the religious characteristic of its festivals. Readers may be inquisitive to know the spiritual significance of Holi? The most prevalent notion, in this regard is that Holi is a festival of playing with water colors and gulal, having loud fun, eating lots of sweets and rich and fried food!! However, relatively fewer people know that this festival relates to Bhakta Prahlad whose life is an exemplary example of the power of devotion, which can effortlessly nullify the mightiest of demonic powers. Thus, the true meaning of Holi, is to understand the philosophy propagated by Bhakt Prahlad and put it into practice to conquer all evils and attain the unfathomable divine grace.

Who was Prahlad?

Prahlad was the youngest and most virtuous son of demon king Hiranyakashyapu. Only one virtue of Prahlad i.e. his natural love towards the lotus feet of Lord Shri Krishna from the time of his birth is sufficient to describe his glory.

वासुदेवे भगवति यस्य नैसर्गिकी रतिः ॥ भागवत

Since his childhood years, Prahlad had no interest in playing. Instead he used to be lost in deep remembrance of the Lord. Lord Shri Krishna's grace and kindness had so captivated his heart, that he was not conscious of the outside world. He would feel that God Himself had taken him in His lap and was embracing him. Being lost in such intimate feelings about God, Prahlad used to go about performing the worldly chores such as eating, drinking, sleeping, sitting, walking etc., without even realizing that he was doing so. Sometimes he would start crying loudly, thinking that God had left him and gone. Sometimes, experiencing in his mind that the Lord is right in front his eyes he would start laughing in ecstasy. Sometimes experiencing sweet happiness by remembering Him, Prahlad would start singing loudly. Sometimes ignoring the world around him, he would start dancing in gay

abandon. Sometimes Prahlad would get so lost in thoughts of Shri Krishna's pastimes that he would forget himself and start imitating Him. Sometimes experiencing the soft divine touch of the Lord, he would become ecstatic and sit down quietly. At those times, each and every pore of his body would rejoice. His partly open eyes would be full of steadfast love and tears of happiness.

The demons had appointed Lord Shukracharya to be their priest. Shukracharya had two sons - Shand and Amark. Both his sons, lived next to the Kings palace and taught the virtuous and competent Prahlad and other Asura kids about diplomacy, economics etc. Prahlad would listen to his Guru's teachings and repeat the same back to them. However in his heart he did not find it good. One day, Prahlad's father asked his son Prahlad -"Son! What do you like?". On hearing Prahlad's answer, Hiranyakashyapu felt a pain much deeper than the pain he had felt on hearing about the slaying of his younger brother Hiranyaksh. Prahlad smilingly said

बनं गतो यद्धरिमाश्रयेत् । भागवत

Father! I like going to the forest and performing uninterrupted devotion to Shri Krishna, the best.

Hiranyakashyapu was blinded with anger. He called for Shand and Amark - Shukracharya's sons. And said "Take Prahlad away! Let him not be in front of my eyes. Make him understand, teach him to read and write. Teach him about the 4 diplomatic principles of *saam*-reasoning, *daam*-monetary allurements, *dand*-punishment, *bhed*-creating divisions, educate him on the objective of the kings, their subject etc". What did Prahlad have to learn? He was a descended saint. Despite that, whatever Guruji used to teach him, he would recite the same back to his Gurus unwillingly. In his heart he found that knowledge useless. After a while when his Gurus were convinced that Prahlad was sufficiently educated in the diplomatic affairs of pacifying public leaders, appeasing them by giving them lucrative posts, dividing and ruling over them, and punishing them in cases of disobedience, they took him to his mother. Prahlad's mother very lovingly gave him a bath, dressed him in nice clothes and beautiful ornaments, and presented him before his father. Prahlad paid respects to his father. Hiranyakashyapu again took a happy Prahlad in his lap and tears of love started flowing from his eyes wetting Prahlad. He asked, "Son, Now tell me, what do you like? What have you learnt? What have you understood from your Gurus?"

श्रवणं कीर्तनं विष्णोः स्मरणं पादसेवनम् ।

अर्चनं वन्दनं दास्यं सख्यमात्मनिवेदनम् ॥ भाग.७.५.२३

इतिपुंसार्पिता विष्णौ भक्तिश्चेन्नवलक्षणा ।

"Father! There are 9 ways of performing devotion to Lord Vishnu - Listening, singing and remembering God's glories, names, pastimes, serving His lotus feet, offering Pujan, bowing to Him, worshipping Him considering oneself to be His servant or His friend, worshipping Him with unconditional surrender. First surrender to God and then

perform **Navdha Bhakti**. This is the knowledge that I have earned".

Hearing this, Hiranyakashyapu, pushed Prahlad out of his lap. He called his generals and ordered them to kill Prahlad by any means. The generals tried every possible way to kill Prahlad. They pushed him from a tall mountain, threw him in the sea, got him crushed by an elephant, got him bitten by a venomous snake, made him drink poison. They tried all possible ways of killing him. However, Prahlad remained unscathed. Seeing his own helplessness, Hiranyakashyapu got really worried. He could not think of a way to kill Prahlad. Heeding to the advice of the Guru sons, he again sent Prahlad to study. Guru sons starts teaching Prhalad about *Dharma* i.e performing duties towards the family and the society, *Arth* i.e. means to achieve economic, social and political success and *Kam* i.e all sorts of enjoyments. Prahlad lived in the hermitage like a humble servant. However, he did not like the knowledge being imparted by his Gurus. One day, when his Gurus had gone out for some household related work, Prahlad started giving a sermon to the demon kids in his sweet voice. All kids assembled around Prahlad and started listening to Prahlad's words very attentively, with their eyes lovingly fixed on Prahlad.

Prahlad said

कौमार आचरेद् प्राज्ञो धर्मान् भागवतानिह ।
दुर्लभं मानुषं जन्म तदप्यध्रुवमर्थदम् ॥
भाग. ७.६.१

i.e. One must take the shelter of the goddess of Shri Krishna Bhakti from early childhood. Leaving devotion to the future is a grave mistake. The Vedas say- Do it now.i.e

न श्वः श्वः उपासीत को हि जानाति कस्याद्य मृत्युकालो
भविष्यति ॥

i.e. do not procrastinate saying "I will do it tomorrow. I will do it tomorrow". It is possible that you may not live to see the light of tomorrow. This human form even though being so precious that it is elusive to the celestial Gods is temporary. Therefore, one must commence Krishna Bhakti right away and not leave it to the future. Taking shelter of the Lord's lotus feet is the only success of this human form. Because God is the master, friend, beloved and soul of all living beings.

यदेष सर्वभूतानां प्रिय आत्मेश्वरः सुहृत् ।

To please God, it is not required to make a lot of effort, because He is the soul of all living beings. Prahlad declared:

प्रीयतेऽमलया भक्त्या हरिरन्यद् विडम्बनम् । भाग.७.७.५२

i.e. Shri Krishna's grace can only be obtained by selfless devotion, rest all other means are an illusion. Their result will be material. Meaning thereby that celestial forms increase ones tendencies towards enjoying sensual pleasures, other forms such as inanimate forms and forms of birds, animals etc do not have the power to grasp the Divine knowledge and philosophy. Therefore, it is only possible to

achieve the ultimate objective of life in the human form, by performing devotion to Lord Krishna. Prahlad further said, "Friends! In this world or in the human form the biggest objective is to attain Lord Krishna's unalloyed devotion".

The Asura kids asked him – "Brother Who imparted you this knowledge and When?"

He informed he had obtained this knowledge in the mother's womb. Hrinyakashyapu had gone to perform penances after Hiranyaksh was slain. It is at that time, that Prahlad was into Hrinyakashyapu's wife Kayadhu's womb. Indra thought – "This is a perfect opportunity! Destroy his entire family!" So, he attacked Hrinyakashyapu's kingdom with an army of all devtas. And he also tied up the pregnant Kayadhu and abducted her. He met Sage Narda on the way. Narad Ji asked "What are you doing?" "What am I doing? I am taking my enemy's wife to imprison her in a jail in Swarg". Narad Ji reprimanded him saying "You fool. She is carrying a saint in her womb and if you even think something against her – Your controller- God will take you to task!". He got her freed from Indra. Nardaji then took Kayadhu to his Ashram and recited philosophies from different scriptures. Prahlad heard all those lectures, memorized them and surrendered himself to Lord Shri Krishna. He became a devotee of Shri Krishna. Lord Krishna appeared to him in His divine form. All this happened inside his mother's womb. Hearing the story, all Asura kids started admiring Prahlad very lovingly. Prahlad gave them instructions on practicing devotion to Shri Krishna.

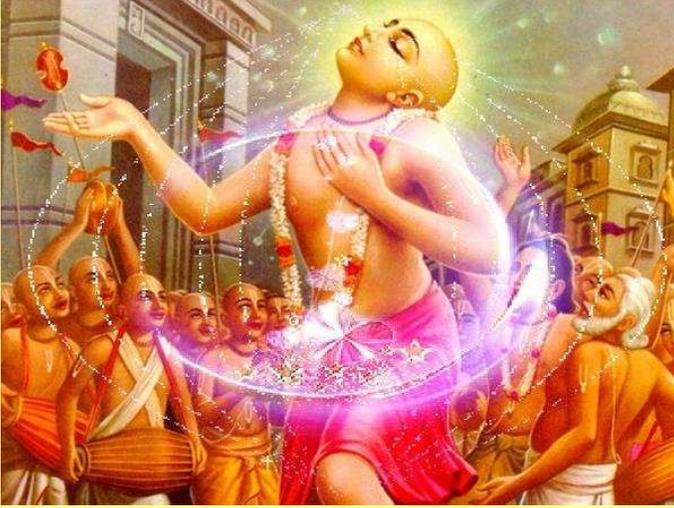
Listening to Prahalad's discourses, their minds got affixed to God. Seeing this, their Guru got scared and went and informed Hrinyakashyapu. Hrinyakashyapu started shaking in anger hearing this intolerable and unlikeable action. In the end he decided that he would kill Prahlad with his own hands. He asked Prahlad – "Where is your God? If he is omnipresent, then why can't He be seen in this pillar? When he could no longer control his anger, he jumped from his throne with a sword in his hand and slammed the pillar with great force. At that precise moment, there was a loud noise from the pillar. It sounded as if the entire universe had exploded. A scared Hrinyakashyapu started looking here and there. Narsingh Bhagwan (half man half lion) stood right in front of him. His form was terrifying. Nobody had the strength to go in front of him. Reaching the gates of the courtroom, Narsingh Bhgwan placed Hrinyakshyapu on his thighs and playfully tore him apart with his nails.

Seeing Narsingh Bhagwan's bright and angry face, no one could muster enough courage to serve him. Brahma, Shankar etc all demi-god's could not pacify Narsingh Bhagwan's anger, nor could they go close to Him. Devta's requested Mother Lakshmi to go and pacify Him, but seeing his incredible angry state even she could not muster enough courage to go close to Him. Then BrahmaJi sent Prahlad. Lord's anger was immediately pacified, seeing Prahlad. He picked up Prahlad and made him sit in His lap and placed His hands on his head. Prahlad became ecstatic and divine love started flowing through his heart and tears of love started trickling down his eyes.

Glory be to Prahlad- The Crown Jewel of Devotees



Mahaprabhu Jayanti



It is the auspicious day of the advent of Shri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, who was the combined Incarnation of Shri Radha Krishna. When Shri Krishna decided to descend on earth to deliver ignorant souls being misled due to incredible impact of Kaliyug, He requested Shri Radha to come along with Him. Shri Radha indicated that this is not an appropriate time for Her to descend. However, out of Her causelessly merciful nature and compassion for the ignorant souls, She asked Shri Krishna to descend with all Her attributes, so as to benefit all spiritual aspirants with both Their qualities and attributes.

Shri Krishna equipped with all of Shri Radha's qualities, descended in the year of 1407 AD as the son of a great scholar of Nadia, Pandit Jagannath Mishra

and Mother Shachi. He took birth under a tree of Neem, hence His parents called Him Nimai.

He was extremely beautiful, attractive and loving like Shri Radha. Yet he was extremely naughty and playful like Shri Krishna especially in His childhood. He became a great scholar very soon and at the tender age of 16 He had His own highly acclaimed and prestigious school for teaching scriptures. A little later in life, He pretended to receive initiation from Saint Ishwar Puri, following which He became a great devotee of Shri Krishna. He used to be in ecstasy of divine love bliss most of the time. His pangs of separation from Lord Krishna, His humble plea at the feet of His own devotees to impart Shri Krishna's love, His indescribable divine love, His luster etc., turned many notorious robbers, tyrant authorities and even ferocious wild animals into great devotees. He propagated devotion through the chanting of the divine names, that is why He is called **NAMAVTAR** as well. He was enlightened and enlightened many souls, Hence His another name is Chaitanya Mahaprabhu. His main teaching is to attain selfless divine love for Shri Krishna, which is achievable only by utmost humility and complete surrender. There must not be any room for any kind of pretense.

After spending 45 years on this earth, leading a devout life, drowning everyone-the deserving and the undeserving, in the ocean of unlimited Love-Bliss, Shri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu ascended to His Divine abode.



Jagadguru Diwas, a historical day



In addition to being the harbinger of the New Year, the month of January, is also immensely important due to a historical event of great significance. On the auspicious day of Makar Sankranti, i.e. Jan 14, the current original Jagadguru, **Shri Kripalu Ji Maharaj** had graciously accepted the exclusive title of "Jagadguru", after a gap of 700 years.

It was for the first time in the History of India, that the title of "**Jagadguruttam**", which means '**Best Of All Jagadgurus**', was awarded, as a recognition of the fact that Swami Shri Kripalu ji

Maharaj is not only the Supreme Acharya of Knowledge, but is also the Supreme Acharya of Bhakti. Likewise he is also an expert at reconciling and honoring the views of all the previous Jagadgurus, authentic scriptures and saints and presenting his own view, in line with the ancient Hindu scriptures.

We pay countless obeisances to the lotus feet of the foremost saint and our beloved master Jagadguruttam Swami Shri Kripalu Ji Maharaj.



KIDZ CORNER



Questions By Anishka, Answers By Didi Ji



Anishka - Didi Ji, why does God do Kripa on us, even when we do bad / wrong actions?

Didi Ji - God is causelessly merciful (**Akaran Karun**) by nature. Hence, God grants all the basic necessities such as air, water etc. to all living beings including plants, animals, birds, human beings etc., without any bias.

Although, God is Almighty, still there are some people who do not believe in Him or abuse and accuse Him just for nothing. He can punish them by depriving them of pure water, air etc. or making these inevitable things poisonous for them, yet He does not do so. This is because of His causelessly-merciful nature.

For example, a loving mother always gives same food to her disobedient children, as she does to the obedient children, even when they (disobedient children) misbehave and she is really angry at them. Likewise, God who is our eternal and most loving father and mother provides for all the basic necessities of life, to all His children, regardless of their actions.

In addition, just like a mother gives special treats to her most obedient and well behaved child, similarly God grants special favors to those who are good and surrender to God without any selfish or personal interest. In other words special favors or blessings are earned only by ones good actions.



Anishka - Didi Ji, You say that our body is made of soil, then why is it that some people are white, some are black and others are brown. Moreover, different

parts of our body have different colors such as the color of our teeth is white, lips is pink , hair is black etc. If we are made or Mitti/Mud, all the body parts should be all brown and all of us should be brown in color, as mud is brown in color.

Didi Ji - When we say that this body is made of Mitti/ Mud, it does not mean that the body is made out of the mud found on earth, like you'd make a snowman out of snow or you'd make a sand castle from the sand. Mitti / Mud is made up of five gross elements - space, air, fire, water and earth. Human body is also made up of the same five elements. That is why it is said that the body is made of Mitti / Mud.

Human body gets formed inside a mother's womb, based on a resolve by the Almighty God. Once the body starts getting formed, God sends soul inside the body. The soul gives life to the body and various organs of the body attain the power to perform their respective functions i.e the eyes to see, ears to hear, nose to smell, tongue to taste and skin to feel. At the time of death when the soul leaves this body, the body becomes one with mud. Also, since body and mud are made up of the same 5 gross elements, body grows only when it gets all the nutrients from the food that grows from this mud, like fruits, vegetables, grains etc. Thus, it is made of 5 earthly elements, it grows with the same 5 elements and eventually it merges into the same elements of earth. That is why it is said the body is made of earth.

The color of the body depends primarily on the climatic conditions of one's birth place and also on heredity factors. The structure and beauty of the body also depends on heredity factors, which are given to you according to your destiny (destiny is framed based on your previous actions). To give different colors to different parts of the body is an art of God similar to you filling different colors to your drawings and other pieces of art. Think, if the whole body was white, including your hair, how ugly would it look. Moreover, it would become more difficult to recognize each part of body as well.



Quiz

1. Who are the first and last original Jagadgurus in India?
2. Where and when was the present Jagadguru born
3. What is most essential factor in practice of devotion?
4. What is the highest divine form of God?
5. What is highest divine abode of Gods and Goddesses?
6. What is the exclusive path of God realization?



Laugh to be healthy

Little Tony asked a priest: "At what age can I stop praying to God as my daddy did?"

Priest: What time do you pray?

Tony: Only in the night time. This is because anybody can take care of himself in the day time.



Fat lady: I hate my talking weighing machine.

Friend: Why?

Fat lady: As I step on to it, each time it says, "One person at a time please!"



Teacher: Which are the two longest words in the English language?

Robin: Post Office. This is because they carry millions of letters between them.



Patient's wife: Doctor! Before taking your medicine my husband used to walk in his sleep, now he has started running.

Doctor: Didn't I tell you he'd improve for sure.



Whats Happening At Shri Kripalu Kunj Ashram

SKKA New Location



Shri Kripalu Kunj Ashram has moved to a more spacious location in Houston to accommodate a growing number of devotees. The present location is **2710 Ashford Trail Dr. 77082**. Phone: 713-344-1321

"Knowing who Shri Maharaj Ji is and knowing that this is the inaugural function of His Ashram in Houston, Shyamsundar and Shri Radha Rani are rejoicing and dancing in the flowery groves of Vrindavan".

The Inauguration Ceremony of SKKA's new home was a well attended event with devotees from Houston, Dallas and Toronto. The satsang started with a composition by Shri Maharaj ji - "Yugalvara Niratata Kunj Kuteer", in the melodious voice of Didi Braj Banchari Ji . Didi ji explained the song saying that

This was followed by a soul stirring and ever new "Hari Bol Sankeertan". Partaking the nectar, many devotees started dancing in ecstasy. The festivities concluded with a delicious 5-course Mahaprasad.



New Year Family Retreat 2009



Didi Ji singing a Keertan



Parikrama with Radhey Govind Geet



Didi Ji and devotees enjoying the bon-fire warmth



Cultural Program: Leela on stage

New Year Family Retreat 2009 organized by Shri Kripalu Kunj Ashram under the guidance of Didi Braj Banachary Ji was held in the serene, scenic surrounding of Lake Houston State park from **Tuesday, Dec 30 2008 to Thursday, Jan 1 2009**. The Retreat was attended by devotees from Houston, Dallas, Montreal and Toronto.

The highlights of the Retreat were the enlightening spiritual discourses by Didi Ji, soul stirring Keertans

led by devotees including the kids and Didi Ji, early morning Jagadguru Kriplau Yog sessions to relax the body and the mind, Parikrama around the state park, Hiking, Musical chair, Cultural programs especially the Kevat Leela followed by Kids Talent show, Bonfire on New Year eve and last but not the least, prize distribution to all retreat participants.





Altar at Shri Kripalu Kunj Ashram

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Or Email Us At: divyasandesh@shrikripalukunj.org

Or Register At: www.shrikripalukunj.org

Upcoming Festivals

Mahaprabhu Jayanti	10 March - Tuesday
Holi	11 March - Wednesday
Ram Navami	3 April - Friday
Hanuman Jayanti	9 April - Thursday

www.shrikripalukunj.org is changing. Visit us to listen / watch latest lectures by Shri Maharaj Ji and Didi Ji.

For an up to date schedule of Didi Ji 's programs, please visit <http://www.shrikripalukunj.org/events.htm>

To organize a lecture/Satsang program at your venue/home, please write to Neeharika Peter at neeharikap@yahoo.com



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