



TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Shiva: The Greatest Devotee of Lord Krishna
2. How to read Bhagavad Gita
3. Holi in Vrindavan
4. Recipe of the month
5. Verse of the month
6. Quiz corner
7. Words of Wisdom
8. Upcoming Events & Self-Help
9. New launch



HOLI SPECIAL



Shiva: The Greatest Devotee of Lord Krishna

When devotees of Lord Krishna venerate Shiva as the greatest devotee of the Lord, they are offering him the highest praise. Devotees of Lord Krishna honor Lord Shiva for his celebrated qualities and his exalted status in the hierarchy of beings.

Shiva's Post – A Gunavatara



Lord Shiva is in charge of the tamo-guna, the mode of ignorance, and is thus in the category of incarnations known as gunavataras

Srila Prabhupada writes, "The dissolution of the three worlds is effected by the incarnation of darkness, Rudra, represented by the fire of eternal time which blazes over the three worlds."

(Srimad Bhagavatam 3.11.28)

Shiva's Personality – Ashutosha



From being simple-hearted to being tricky, from being easily pleased to blazing with anger, Lord Shiva displays many facets of personality, all in the service of his dear Lord Sri Krishna. He exhibits dependence on Krishna and His devotees as well as surrender and service to them.

Shiva's Mercy on the Vaishnavas



Although Lord Shiva bestows benedictions upon devotees and demons alike, there is a gulf of difference in the way he blesses them. He is always pleased with the pure devotees of Lord Krishna, as he himself says: "Any person who is surrendered to the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Krishna, the controller of everything – material nature as well as the living entity – is actually very dear to me."

(Srimad Bhagavatam 4.24.28)

Shiva's Mercy on the Demons



Although Lord Shiva is easily pleased and his mercy is easily available to Krishna's devotees, demons and others have to undergo at least some endeavour to please him. He uses these demons to show his dependence upon his worshipable Lord Krishna. He also tricks them by offering them benedictions that seem to favour them but ultimately lead to their destruction.

Shiva's Anger



Another aspect of Lord Shiva's personality is his anger. He exhibits anger as part of his position as the destroyer of the universe. His anger, however, is born out of his compassion as well as his intolerance in seeing conditioned souls wasting time by not taking to devotional service.

Shiva's Benevolence



When the demigods and the demons churned the ocean of milk (Canto Eight), deadly poison came out in the beginning. Being helpless, they all took shelter of Lord Shiva, offering him fervent prayers.

The Glory of Rama Nama: Lord Shiva's Instruction to Parvati



There is a beautiful narration in the scriptures where Lord Shiva tells Mother Parvati about the supreme glory of chanting Lord Ram's holy name.

Lord Shiva says: "O Parvati, there are innumerable names of that Supreme Lord; however, In my opinion the Rama Nama is the best among all those names. These two syllabled mantra is greater than all the mantras, by utterance this even great sinners get the Supreme liberation.

Thus, Lord Shiva's attributes of mercy, anger, and benevolence and his various activities display his great character and devotion to the Supreme Lord Vishnu. In his great devotional ecstasy, he even holds on his head the water that emanates from the lotus feet of the Supreme Lord (the Ganges).

He is the epitome of devotion to Vishnu, and thus is the topmost Vaishnava. Lord Shiva stands as the perfect example of pure devotion. By honouring Lord Shiva as the greatest Vaishnava and following his example of humility and devotion, we too can advance steadily on the path of bhakti.

How to read Bhagavad Gita



The Bhagavad Gita is the essence of all Vedic knowledge. By study of just this one book, one can complete the study of all the Vedas, Puranas and Upanishads. However nowadays people do not read the Bhagavad Gita with proper direction.

A medicine's efficacy is best experienced if one follows the prescribed directions of the doctor. Similarly, the Gita can be understood and its benefits best realised only when we read it under the guidance of a pure devotee coming down in the disciplic succession originating from Lord Krishna.

The founder Acharya of ISKCON, AC Bhaktivedanta Swami Srila Prabhupada is pure devotee of Krishna. He has presented the Bhagavad Gita exactly the way Krishna Himself taught it to Arjuna, resulting in Arjuna's transformation from a hesitant, emotional and confused person to a focused warrior who understood his real self and duty.



Without any misinterpretations and personal opinions, Srila Prabhupada has given clear purports to all the 700 verses of the Bhagavad Gita, under the title "The Bhagavad Gita As It Is," by reading which millions of people around the world have been able to transform their lives.

One can purchase The Bhagavad Gita As It Is, which is available in more than 90 languages in all ISKCON temples and centres.

The purports of Srila Prabhupada can help us to not only understand the entire Gita deeply but also apply its teachings effectively in our lives.



The Bhagavad Gita needs to be read right from the beginning, systematically, verse by verse. The habit of reading the Gita ritualistically daily keeps us in remembrance of its teachings.

The preface and introduction help us in understanding the background and the purpose of the Bhagavad Gita. Since the Gita is the direct word of God Himself, it is His causeless mercy on all of us, and we can take shelter of this mercy irrespective of caste, creed, colour, community or nationality.



Prior to hearing the Gita from Krishna, Arjuna was in a very bewildering & chaotic situation in his life, unable to decide on the best course of action. Like us he too was going through work pressure, relationship issues, anxiety, fear of failure, egoistic desires, low self-esteem, expectations, desire for recognition, etc.

Just as Krishna's instructions in the Gita helped him calm his turbulent mind and gain a clear perspective on his eternal self, those very same teachings can help us even today to navigate through various situations in our lives, good or bad.



The Bhagavad Gita's teachings are timeless, amazingly transformative and a universal guide to making our day to day life more purposeful, fulfilling peaceful and happy.

Holi in Vrindavan



Holi in Vrindavan is deeply spiritual. It is known as the festival of colours, but it's much more than just throwing gulal. When we celebrate Holi, we're not just playing with colours—we're remembering Krishna's sweet and playful nature. Real happiness comes when we connect with Him.

It's not just a one-day festival—it stretches across several weeks, usually beginning in February and continuing into March. In this sacred land, where Lord Krishna spent His childhood, the spirit of His playful pastimes still feels present in the narrow lanes and ancient temples.



Braj Holi is different from other celebrations because each town follows its own tradition. Mathura, Vrindavan, Barsana, and Nandgaon celebrate in unique ways, yet all are centered on devotion. The entire region comes alive with faith, culture, and remembrance of Krishna, making Braj Holi deeply spiritual and special.

The Spiritual Significance of Holi



Holi begins with the sacred fire of Holika Dahan. This tradition comes from the story of the demon king Hiranyakashipu, an enemy of Lord Vishnu. Seeking revenge because Lord Vishnu, in His Varaha avatar, had killed his brother Hiranyaksha while rescuing the Earth, he was filled with pride and ego. Hiranyakashipu ordered everyone to worship him instead of Lord Vishnu.

However, his son Prahlada, a devoted follower of Vishnu, refused to obey. Despite many attempts to kill him, Prahlada was always protected by the Lord.

Hiranyakashipu's sister Holika, who had a boon that fire could not burn her, sat in a blazing fire holding Prahlada. Yet, due to Prahlada's firm devotion, he was saved while Holika was burned instead.

This victory of devotion over evil is remembered as Holika Dahan, observed on the full moon day of the Phalguna month. The festival of Holi celebrates the triumph of faith, goodness, and divine protection.

The following events are among the celebrations that make Braj Holi truly unique:

Ladoo Holi (Barsana)



Ladoo Holi at the Shriji Temple in Barsana is celebrated about a week before the main Holi festival. It marks the joyful beginning of the festivities in Braj. Devotees are showered with ladoos, remembering Krishna's love for sweets. The temple fills with bhajans as everyone celebrates with happiness and devotion.

Lathmar Holi (Barsana and Nandgaon)



Lathmar Holi brings to life the playful mood of Krishna teasing Radha and her friends. As part of the tradition, the women carry sticks while the men shield themselves, creating a lively and dramatic scene. The atmosphere is filled with laughter, folk songs, and bright gulal in the air.

Flowers Holi (Vrindavan)



In Banke Bihari temple, it is played with flower petals instead of colors.

Rangwali Holi (Color Holi)



This is the classic Holi with gulal and colored water. Temples and streets fill with colors, singing, and dancing, making everyone feel part of Krishna's joyful pastimes.

Huranga Holi (Dauji Temple)



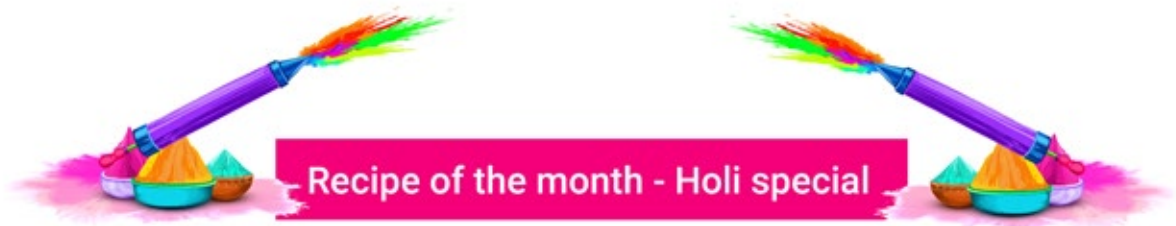
Held at the Dauji Temple, Huranga marks the grand closing of the Holi festivities. Men and women take part in playful traditions with colors and sticks, bringing the celebrations to a joyful end.

May the spirit of Braj Holi inspire us to colour our hearts with devotion and experience the lasting happiness that comes from divine shelter.

Dhulandi Holi (Color and Water Holi)



This is the main day of playing with colors and water. Streets and temples fill with bright gulal, laughter, and festive music as everyone joins in the celebration.



As Holi comes near, everything starts to feel more lively and cheerful. Holi is a festival where people play with colours and water, spreading joy all around. No celebration feels complete without preparing special sweets in the mood of offering them to Krishna with love.

One of the most popular Holi sweets in Braj is Malpua. Below is the recipe.



Ingredients:

- 1 cup flour,
- 1/2 cup milk powder/fresh cream,
- 1 cup milk,
- 1/2 tsp cardamom powder,
- 1 cup sugar (for syrup),
- 1/2 cup water,
- Ghee for frying.

Method:

- Make a thick, smooth batter with flour, cream, milk, and cardamom. Let it rest for 10-15 minutes.
- Make a one-string sugar syrup.
- Deep fry small ladles of batter in hot ghee until golden and crisp.
- Dip the fried malpuas into the sugar syrup for 2-3 minutes, then serve hot, topped with thickened milk (rabri).
- Offer it to Lord Krishna with tulsi

Verse of the month



**Srimad Bhagavatam 4.24.58 -:
Lord Shiva's prayer to Lord Krishna for the association of Vaishnavas**

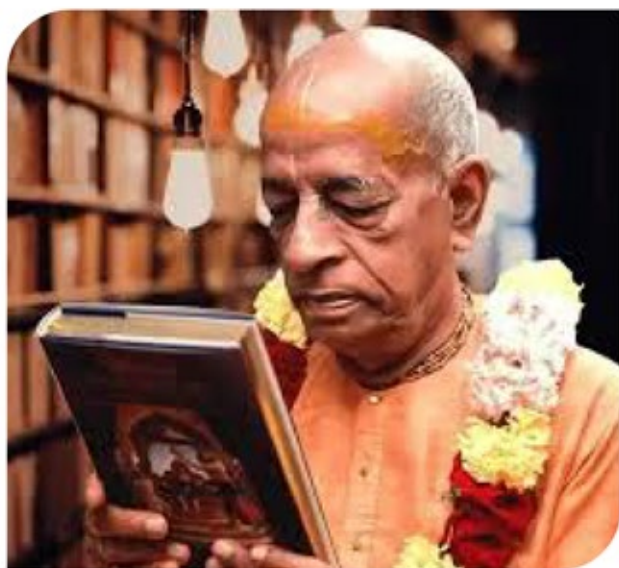
Verse -

athānaghārgghres tava kīrti-tīrthayor
antar-bahih-snāna-vidhūta-pāpmanām
bhūtesv anukrośa-susattva-śīlinām
syāt sangamo 'nugraha esa nas tava

Translation -

My dear Lord, Your lotus feet are the cause of all auspicious things and the destroyer of all the contamination of sin. I therefore beg Your Lordship to bless me by the association of Your devotees, who are completely purified by worshipping Your lotus feet and who are so merciful upon the conditioned souls. I think that Your real benediction will be to allow me to associate with such devotees.

Words of Wisdom by His Divine Grace Srila Prabhupada
April 6th, 1966, New York



karma-jam buddhi-yuktā hi
phalaṁ tyaktvā manīṣiṇaḥ
janma-bandha-vinirmuktāḥ
padaṁ gacchanty anāmayam

[The wise, engaged in devotional service, take refuge in the Lord, and free themselves from the cycle of birth and death by renouncing the fruits of action in the material world. In this way they can attain that state beyond all miseries.]

Now, last..., in our last meeting, we were discussing this verse, that karma-jam, every action, every activities that we are engaged in, it has got a reaction.

Any activity, it has got reaction. And that reaction is another bondage for me. Now I am engaged in one action, and I am producing another reaction. Now, at the present moment, I am bounded by one kind of activities, and I am producing another kind of activities.

Just like in the cinematographic spool, there are hundreds and thousands of pictures. One picture passed, another picture present, and another picture is ahead. The whole picture, when put into the machine, it represents some activities.

So we are bound up by nature's law in such a way... Why nature's law? Even in your state laws, we are bound up by so many laws. So this is our position. This is called conditioned stage of life. There is no freedom.

The so-called freedom... We declare that "I belong to the free nation. I am free." These are all simply mental speculation. There is no freedom. So long I am bound up by the conditions of nature, there is no freedom.

Now, here is a chance... Lord Kṛṣṇa says that karma-jam buddhi-yuktā. Now, here is an opportunity for you. In human form of your life, you have got sufficient intelligence, and the Lord Himself is before you to enlighten your intelligence more and more. Here is the book.

This book, what is spoken by Lord Kṛṣṇa, and Kṛṣṇa is not different. Because Kṛṣṇa, or the Lord, is on the absolute plane. Don't think that Kṛṣṇa is absent. Kṛṣṇa is present here.





Q.1. What is Lord Shiva's primary function in the universe?

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| A. Creation | C. Annihilation |
| B. Maintenance | D. Giving Karma |

Q.2. Pracetas were born in the dynasty of?

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| A. King Priyavrata | C. King Uttanapada |
| B. King Dhruva | D. King Prthu |

Q.3. Out of the 64 transcendental qualities fully manifested in Lord Krishna, how many are also present in Lord Shiva?

- | | |
|-------|-------|
| A. 55 | C. 60 |
| B. 45 | D. 49 |

Q.4. What are the qualities of Lord Shiva that makes him foremost of all the devotees?

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| A. His mystic powers | C. His opulence |
| B. His strength | D. His renunciation and compassion |

Q.5. Why is Lord Siva known by the name "Ashutosha"?

- | | |
|---|---|
| A. Because he becomes angry very quickly | C. Because he becomes pleased very easily by even simple devotion |
| B. Because he is always absorbed in deep meditation | D. Because he removes the fears of his devotees |

Mail your answers to email id support@iskconbhiwandi.org with "February-March Quiz Corner" in the subject. Names of the first three people who gave correct answers shall be published in the next month's newsletter.



Upcoming Events



Date	Events
15th March	Papamochani Ekadashi
16th March	Parana time 06:46 am to 09:43 am
19th March	Gudi Padwa
27th March	Ram Navami
29th March	Kamda Ekadashi
30th March	Parana time 06:34 am to 07:12 am



ISKCON Bhiwandi provides a range of devotional services with just one click.

Request consultation:

Speak to a Senior Priest

Request booking:

Sankirtan at home

Request Prasad

Download:

Spiritual literature.

Distribute:

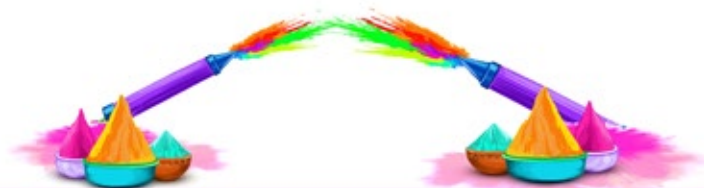
Prasad on your special day.

Feel free to connect with us and share your experiences.

We are delighted to be of service to you.

For more information about our activities, please visit www.iskconbhiwandi.org

You can reach us at +91 9175263178 or drop us an email at support@iskconbhiwandi.org



New launch

ISKCON Bhiwandi App

ISKCON Bhiwandi Now on Your Phone!!



Stay connected. The official ISKCON Bhiwandi App brings daily darshan, festivals updates, seva opportunities and much more - all in one simple and smooth experience.



App features

-  Daily Darshan
-  Festival & Ekadashi Reminder
-  Chant on the app
-  Vaishnava events
-  Seamless Donation
-  Download receipts & much more

