

All glory to Śrī Guru and Śrī Gaurāṅga

Śrī Nabadwīp Dhām Parikramā

&

Śrī Gaura Pūrṇimā Festival

28 February – 6 March 2015



Śrī Chaitanya Sāraswat Maṭh, Nabadwīp

Founder-Āchārya: Śrīla B. R. Śrīdhar Mahārāj

Successor-Sevāite-Āchārya: Śrīla B. S. Govinda Mahārāj

Present-Sevāite-Āchārya: Śrīla B. N. Āchārya Mahārāj

Address to the Assembled Devotees

at Śrī Chaitanya Sāraswat Maṭh, Nabadwīp Dhām

by His Divine Grace

Śrīla Bhakti Sundar Govinda Dev-Goswāmī Mahārāj

My dear devotees and friends, we are so fortunate to be assembled here in Śrī Chaitanya Sāraswat Maṭh, which is a super-sacred place in this world. We say that Nabadwīp Dhām is a holy place, but really we think it is more than that.

In this material world, we are suffering from birth and death, happiness and sadness, and so many things. We cannot cross this natural law, but if we take a little sincere interest in rescuing ourselves from the specific gravity of this material world, if we want to rescue ourselves and become members of the holiest place, Vaikuṅṭhaloka, as Goloka Vṛndāvan, where all auspiciousness and happiness is always existing, then we must surrender to this place Koladwīp in Nabadwīp Dhām.

Śrīla Guru Mahārāj, Om Viṣṇupād Śrīla Bhakti Rakṣak Śrīdhar Dev-Goswāmī Mahārāj, arranged this ashram Śrī Chaitanya Sāraswat Maṭh for us here on the bank of the holy River Ganges, which, as is stated in the scriptures, is coming down from Vaikuṅṭhaloka via Svargaloka to this material world. Guru Mahārāj chose this place for us because we are doing so much offensive work, which is giving us so much disturbance life after life—and that will all go if we surrender in this place [aparādha-bhañjan-paṭ]. It is a very beautiful ashram where Śrī Śrī Guru Gaurāṅga Gāndharvā Govindsundar are living and taking service from the surrendered souls. Śravaṇ, kīrtan—chanting the Holy Name of the Lord and glorifying the divine pastimes of Lord—archan, vandan, dāsya, sakhya, ātma-nivedan: the practitioners of this place are happily practising all the devotional activities, as described in the scriptures as navadhā-bhakti [the nine-fold practice of devotion].

Śrī Chaitanya Sāraswat Maṭh has now arranged all over the world the practising process stated in the scriptures,

harer nāma harer nāma harer nāmaiva kevalam

kालu nāsty eva nāsty eva nāsty eva gatiṛ anyathā

(Bṛhan-Nārādīya-purāṇa)

Śrī Chaitanya Mahāprabhu has given us this method. If you try to see the holy books, you will see everywhere that this process is the best in this Age of Kali. But Śrī Chaitanya Mahāprabhu said that if you want to take the Holy Name of

the Lord and want that that Name being chanted will be more pure, then it is necessary to follow these three directives,

**tṛṇād api sunīchena taror iva sahiṣṇunā
amāninā mānadena kīrtaniyaḥ sadā hariḥ**

[“One who is more humble than a blade of grass, tolerant like a tree, respectful to everyone, and free from desire for respect is qualified to always chant the Lord’s Holy Name.”]

Mahāprabhu Himself said that it is not necessary to read a Ganges full of the scriptures; it is not necessary to do anything except this chanting of the Holy Name of Lord, because the Lord is existing everywhere and in everybody’s heart, and that will be revealed through chanting.

When we will get connection with that transcendental divine form of the Lord all inauspiciousness will go out from us, everything will be set right, and the reactionary environment will leave us; we will get a positive connection with the transcendental world where there is love, affection, sincerity, and chastity, and everything is beautiful and harmless, and life is eternal, time is eternal, everything is eternal. We will get that opportunity within that eternal world.

We can stay anywhere with no problem if we follow these directives of Śrī Chaitanya Mahāprabhu and chant the Hare Kṛṣṇa mahāmantra in this Age of Kali.

At present we are seeing that so many auspicious souls all over the world are chanting this Holy Name of the Lord; they are chanting and getting the result, and they are coming, like you all, here to Śrī Chaitanya Sāraswat Maṭh. Seeing their face, we can say how much they are happy. Then, be happy, chant the Holy Name of the Lord and serve everyone through this Holy Name; distribute the method of Chaitanya Mahāprabhu. They will be benefitted, and you will also be benefitted.

Satyam, śivam, sundaram: everything is truthful, everything is very auspicious, and everything is so beautiful—that type of place, that type of mentality, that type of happiness will come to everyone if they will sincerely try to get this method and practise Kṛṣṇa consciousness in the line of Śrīman Mahāprabhu. Guru Mahārāj established this Maṭh here for everyone, and if they will come and stay a few days here, they will feel how auspicious it is and how much happiness will come to their heart.

Kṛṣṇa is so merciful and has given us this opportunity here in Chaitanya Sāraswat Maṭh; we will try to take that opportunity as much as possible. Śrī Chaitanya Sāraswat Maṭh—actually it is such a beautiful name! Here is no caste, creed, or criterion: we are all in one boat happily proceeding to Goloka Vṛndāvan.

Festival Schedule

- 28 Feb** (Sat) Gaura Daśamī. Adhivās Festival of Śrī Nabadwīp Dhām Parikramā. Beginning of annual seven day festival.
- 1 March** (Sun) Gaura Ekādaśī. Āmlakī Ekādaśī. Fast. Śrī Nabadwīp Dhām Parikramā begins.
- 2 March** (Mon) Gaura Dvādaśī. Pāraṇ by 9:54 a.m. Second day of parikramā. Disappearance of Śrīpād Mādhavendra Purī.
- 3 March** (Tue) Gaura Trayodaśī. Third day of parikramā.
- 4 March** (Wed) Gaura Chaturdaśī. Fourth day of parikramā and adhivās observance ceremony of the appearance of Śrī Gaurāṅga.
- 5 March** (Thu) Śrī Gaurāvīrbhāva Paurṇamāsī. Śrī Gaura Pūrṇimā. Divine appearance of Śrī Gaurāṅga. Total fast until moonrise, then no grains. Grand festival at Śrī Chaitanya Sāraswat Maṭh. Vasantotsav and Dol Yātrā of Śrī Śrī Radha-Govinda. Special offering of worship and āraṭi. *Śrī Chaitanya-charitāmṛta* reading and mahāsaṅkīrtan. End of 529 Gaurābda year.
- 6 March** (Fri) Kṛṣṇa Pratipad. Pāraṇ by 9:47 a.m. Ānandotsav of Śrī Jagannāth Mīśra. Last gathering of the week-long yearly meeting at Śrī Chaitanya Sāraswat Maṭh and yearly festival.

Śrī Nabadwīp Dhām Parikramā Schedule

Prepared by Śrīla B.P. Janārdan Mahārāj

Sunday—first day of parikramā

1 March. Gaura-Ekādaśī. **Amlakī Ekādaśī. Fast.**

Parikramā of Śrī Īsodyan, Śrī Yoga Pīṭha (Śrīman Mahāprabhu's appearance place), Śrīvās Aṅgan, Śrī Nṛsiṅha Mandir, Śrī Advaita Bhavan, Murāri Gupta Bhavan, Śrī Chaitanya Maṭh, Āchārya Chatuṣṭya Samanvita Śrī Śrī Gāndharvīkā-Giridhārī and Śrīman Mahāprabhu Mandir, Śrīla Prabhupād's Samādhi Mandir, Śrīla Gaura Kiśor Dās Bābājī Mahārāj's Samādhi, Śrī Kāzī Samādhi, Śaraḍāṅgā Śrī Jagannāth Mandir, Śrīdhar Aṅgan and Śrī Sīmantadwīp, Śrī Rudradwīp, Śrī Antardwīp.

Āraṭi at about 4:30 am. After all āraṭis parikramā party begins walking to ghāṭ where devotees take a boat to Māyāpur. In Māyāpur, the group goes to various Temples of the devotees of Śrīla Bhakti Siddhānta Ṭhākura.

Principal Temples and places:

1. Temple of Bhakti Dayita Mādhav Mahārāj with his Deities and samādhi.
2. Temple of Bhakti Sāraṅga Goswāmī Mahārāj: Śrī Nanda Āchārya Bhavan

where Mahāprabhu and His devotees met Nityānanda Prabhu. This will be a principal stop in Māyāpur, with kīrtan and lectures by international leaders.

3. Iskcon: Śrīla Bhaktivedānta Swāmī Prabhupād's Puṣpa Samādhi. Our group will not go into the general Iskcon Temple but will spend some time in the Puṣpa Samādhi glorifying Śrīla Prabhupād.

4. Yoga Pīṭha: the appearance place of Śrī Chaitanya Mahāprabhu. The kīrtan party will spend some time here, with chanting and speaking by world leaders.

5. Close to the Yoga Pīṭha is Śrīvās Aṅgan and various places that are very related with Mahāprabhu and His principal devotees.

6. The samādhi of Śrīla Bhakti Siddhanta Saraswati Ṭhākura. Devotees will spend time here to glorify Śrīla Prabhupād.

7. The main Temple of Chaitanya Maṭh, presided over by Śrī Śrī Guru Gaurāṅga Gāndharvikā Giridhārī. There are also other places related nearby, like Śrīla Gaura Kiśor Dās Bābājī's Samādhi.

8. Śrī Kāzī Samādhi: where Mahāprabhu led His saṅkīrtan movement and the Kāzī promised that neither he nor his descendants would interfere with the chanting of the Holy Name. Note: in recent years the entrance to this site has been locked.

9. Śrī Jagannāth Mandir: Deities of Jagannāth, Baladev and Subhadra, maintained by Iskcon. The Deities give darśan until about 1 pm. In the adjacent groves, there will be an Ekādaśī picnic for the devotees.

Although many devotees return to the Maṭh after lunch at the Śrī Jagannāth Mandir, the main parikramā party continues to other sites such as Śrī Simantadwīp and Śrī Rudradwīp.

Monday—second day of parikramā

2 March. Gaura Dvādaśī. Pāraṇ by 9:54 a.m. **Disappearance of Śrīpād Mādhavendra Purī.**

Parikramā of Vṛddha Śiva, Praudhā Māyā, Śrī Viṣṇu Priyā's own Deity of Śrī Gaurāṅga, Śrī Jagannāth Dās Bābājī Mahārāj's Samādhi Mandir, Koladwīp, etc.

After the comparatively long opening day parikramā on Ekādaśī, the second day's parikramā, in Koladwīp, is the shortest of the four days' parikramās. As with the first day of parikramā, visits to these sites will be accompanied by readings from *Śrī Navadvīpa-dhāma-māhātmya*.

Principal Temples and places:

1. Vṛddha Śiva Mandir. This site is on a main street of Nabadwīp, and an old Deity, or Liṅgam, of Lord Śiva, the Kṣetra Pāl, the protector of the Dhām,

is worshipped there. The parikramā leaders will speak to the assembled devotees who will sit in front of the Temple in the street.

2. The Deity of Prauḍhā Māyā in Poramatala. This site is always crowded with visitors and our parikramā party enters and has darśan sometimes without stopping.

3. Śrī Viṣṇu Priyā Devī's own Deity of Śrī Gaurāṅga. This is one of the three Deities worshipped during Mahāprabhu's time. (The others are the Gaura-Gadādhara Deities of Dvija Vāṇināth (which we visit on the fourth day parikramā) and the Gaura-Nitai Deities of Gaurī Dās Paṇḍit in Kalna.) We will spend time at this site and with kīrtan and discussion.

4. Śrī Jagannāth Das Bābājī Mahārāj's Samādhi Mandir: This is the final destination of Day Two, and devotees will glorify Jagannāth Dās Bābājī here.

Back at the Maṭh, beginning around 4 pm, a programme in honour of Śrīpād Mādhavendra Purī will be held, in addition to the normal evening programme.

Tuesday—third day of parikramā

3 March. Gaura Trayodaśī.

Parikramā of Śrī Godruma and Madhyadwīp, Śrī Surabhi Kuñj, Suvarṇa Bihar Maṭh, Śrī Nṛsiṃha Pallī, Śrī Harihara Kṣetra, and other places.

Principal Temples and places:

1. The parikramā party will proceed by foot to Śrī Surabhi Kuñj in Śrī Godrumadwīp, a walk of some time and distance. Having arrived, the devotees will visit the Temple there and hear from *Śrī Navadvīpa-dhāma-māhātmya*.

2. The devotees will then proceed a short distance to Svānanda Sukhadā Kuñj, where the bhajan kuṭīr and Puṣpa Samādhi of Śrīla Bhakti Vinod Ṭhākura is located, as well as Deities of Gaura-Gadādhara. Bhakti Vinod Ṭhākura's original quarters are preserved there and open to the pilgrims.

3. After this, the devotees will walk a considerable distance to Harihara Kṣetra, where there is the Deity of Harihara, half-Viṣṇu and half-Śiva. The Pastime of the churning of the ocean and the appearance of the Mohinī-avatār is often told at this site. The devotees will also take a late breakfast here.

4. The devotees then go to the site of Suvarṇa Bihar, where there is a Gauḍīya Maṭh Temple. Here there are readings, as always, from *Śrī Navadvīpa-dhāma-māhātmya*, and the section dealing with Suvarṇa Sen and his appearance as Buddhimanta Khān in Mahāprabhu's Pastimes will be cited.

5. The devotees then proceed to the old Temple at Śrī Nṛsiṃha Pallī, where they sing *Daśavatāra-stotram* and read from *Śrī Navadvīpa-dhāma-māhātmya*.

Wednesday—the fourth and final day of parikramā

4 March. Gaura Chaturdaśī. Adhivās observance ceremony of the appearance of Śrī Gaurāṅga.

Parikramā of Śrī Koladwīp, Śrī Ṛtudwīp, Śrī Jahnudwīp, Śrī Modadrumadwīp, etc., Old Śrī Gaura-Gadādhara Mandir, Vidyā Nagar Sarvabhauma Gauḍīya Maṭh, Śrī Vṛndāvan Das Ṭhākura's appearance place, and the Deity served by Śrī Sāraṅga Murāri and Vāsudev Datta Ṭhākura.

Principal places:

1. The first place visited is the site of Samudragaḍ where the devotees assemble and read from *Śrī Navadvīpa-dhāma-māhātmya*.
2. The devotees then walk to the Temple of Dvija Vāṇināth, of Śrī Śrī Gaura-Gadādhara. These Deities were worshipped during the time of Śrī Chaitanya Mahāprabhu. The devotees read about this place in *Śrī Navadvīpa-dhāma-māhātmya*, and discuss the Pastimes of this holy place related to Śrī Jayadev Goswāmī.
3. The devotees then go to Vidyā Nagar and visit the site of the residence of Vidyā Vāchaspati, the brother of Sārvabhauma Bhaṭṭāchārya.
4. Nearby, the devotees visit the Gauḍīya Maṭh Temple of Sārvabhauma Gauḍīya Maṭh.
5. The devotees, after stopping briefly at Jahnudwīp, go to the Temple of Śrī Sāraṅga Murāri. This Temple is somewhat small, and our party stops here briefly.
6. The final stop is the Temple of Vṛndāvan Das Ṭhākura's appearance place in Māmgāchi. This is the final stop of our parikramā, and after glorifying Śrīla Vṛndāvan Das Ṭhākura, our parikramā concludes with lunch prasāda in a park nearby.

Avoiding Offence

“This year so many devotees are coming from outside of India, and they are so enthusiastic for Nabadwīp Dhām Parikramā, and I am very happy. We will join there and not make offence: it is necessary to know the sevā-aparādha [offences in service], Dhām-aparādha [offences to the Holy Dhām], and Nām-aparādha [offences to the Holy Name]. You know and you are studying the Nām-aparādha. But what is the Dhām-aparādha? That is also necessary to know. And what is the sevā-aparādha? That is also necessary to know. Nām-aparādha, Dhām-aparādha, and sevā-aparādha. We are all living within the illusory environment; we are not free from illusion, so, as much as possible, we will try to follow the instructions of sādhu, Guru, and śāstra.”

Śrīla Bhakti Sundar Govinda Dev-Goswāmī Mahārāj

The Ten Offences to the Holy Dhām

1. Disrespecting Śrī Guru and the sādhus, who are the revealers of the Dhām.
2. Considering the Dhām temporary.
3. Harming the residents and visitors of the Dhām, or judging them by their birth.
4. Residing in the Dhām and engaging in mundane activities.
5. Earning money by, or making a business of, Deity worship on the pretext of serving the Dhām.
6. Considering the Dhām equal to places of the demigods or material land.
7. Considering that one can sin (and be absolved) because one resides in the Dhām.
8. Considering Nabadwīp different from Vṛndāvan.
9. Criticising the scriptures that glorify the Dhām.
10. Considering the glories of the Dhām exaggerated praise or imaginary.

Basic Temple Guidelines

Dear pilgrims, respectfully please note—

This is a spiritual place, and in the words of Śrīla Bhakti Sundar Govinda Dev-Goswāmī Mahārāj, “**The very minimum is that each devotee will daily attend at least the morning and evening āratīs, and engage in some Temple service.**” All are especially requested by Śrīla Govinda Mahārāj to attend these āratīs “for Śrīla Guru Mahārāj’s satisfaction.”

As soon as possible, **please register** your name, passport details, etc. at the Western office. This is a government requirement and you must follow all Indian laws, including having a valid visa. You should also have sufficient funds for your stay as well as for your onward journey.

We are here for the spiritual shelter of Śrī Gurudev. The accommodation provided is an extension of his mercy to us. Therefore, please respectfully take care of his facilities. And try to follow the principles of practising humility, tolerance, and giving honour to others.

Books are available for reading in the Museum’s reading corner or for purchase at the Bookstore. **Sevā is always available!** Please enquire.

Please always wear devotional dress (dhotī and kurtā for men and sari for ladies) whether inside or outside the Maṭh. How we conduct ourselves reflects on Śrī Guru, and especially so here in Nabadwīp Dhām.

Strictly: **Don't accept invitations to people's homes.** They may visit you here in public areas of the Maṭh.

Additionally, no one except registered guests may enter buildings designated for Western devotees.

Do not give donations to individuals. If you think something is a worthy cause please talk with the manager, otherwise this can (severely) disturb the peace. Also please do not change money anywhere except at an official money changer.

If you are taking drugs of any kind or have them in your possession **you may not stay here.** The instruction from Śrī Guru is very clear: it is absolutely not allowed.

Ashram life: try to be within the Temple grounds by 8.30pm and in your room with lights out between 9.30 or 10pm and 3.30am. Additionally, please be punctual for prasādam sevā.

As a standard precaution, please lock your room, preferably with your own lock when you're not there, and **ensure all fans, lights, and taps (faucets) etc. are turned off.** In particular take note of this if there is 'load shedding' (power failure), or the water runs out, at the time you leave the room. During the rainy season please ensure external windows are closed before you go out and bring in any bedding you may have had out in the sun.

Please inform somebody when you go out—we're a family.

When leaving Nabadwīp: please consider the next devotee who will use your room after you, and leave it as clean as possible. Please remember to return any borrowed sheets, pillows, blankets, or locks. Left luggage should only be deposited with the Western office manager.

We are all family—in the real sense—and we wish all of our relatives and friends a spiritually nourishing stay at home here in Śrī Chaitanya Sāraswat Maṭh.

If we may be of service in any way during your stay, please inform—we are here to serve.

Humbly in the service of Śrī Guru & the Vaiṣṇavas,
The Secretary

An Invitation to Śrī Nabadwīp Dhām Parikramā

Śrīla Bhakti Sundar Govinda Dev-Goswāmī Mahārāj

**bhramite habe nā āra saṁsāra-kānane
“ai śona”, gaura-jana ḍāke sarva-jane**

“You do not have to wander any longer in the forest of material existence. The devotees of Gaura call everyone: ‘Hey, listen!’

**“āya āya tvarā kari’ bāla-vṛddha nara-nārī
divya-chintāmaṇi-dhāma—gaura-janma-bhūmi
praṇayi-bhakta sane jīvanera śubha-kṣaṇe
gaurāṅga-janma-dine āya parikrami’**

“Men and women, young and old, come immediately! Come to the divine abode made of wish-fulfilling gemstone, the land of Śrī Gaurāṅga’s advent! Come and circumambulate this land in the company of loving devotees during the most auspicious time of your life: the day of Śrī Gaurāṅga’s advent.”

(Śrī Navadvīpa-dhāma-parikramāya Āhvāna: 6–7)

