



Bhaktivedanta Gurukula and International School

BGIS NEWSLETTER



Vrindaranyam
OCTOBER – MARCH 2023



A. C. Bhaktivedanta Srila Prabhupada
Founder Acharya, ISKCON

"If we want perfect education then we must follow the principle of Bhagavad Gita. Such education will help the whole human society. In all different fields of activity, social, political, religious, cultural, economic and so on"

Srila Prabhupada
Letter 1st May 1974 (Bombay)

Srila Prabhupada stressed that character development is an inseparable part of education. He explained that the teachers themselves should be exemplary role models to successfully impart Vedic knowledge to the students.

Setting a good example for the boys is the best precept. There is a saying that an example is better than a precept. Our exemplary character depends on strictly following the four principles, and this will conquer the whole world.

Simply by following our regular routine, the children can associate as much as possible with the Krishna Conscious program. They can learn our method of Krishna Consciousness by rising early, by following the spiritual activities, gaining knowledge of Sanskrit along with their academic studies of different subjects like English, Mathematics, science, history, geography etc.

Bhaktivedanta Gurukula & International School



Grand Inauguration Ceremony of Sri Sri Krishna Balaram Temple Bhaktivedanta Gurukula.

9th of November 2022 was a historic day and conclusion of a grand 5-day inauguration ceremony of Sri Sri Krishna Balarama Temple and Krish Dairy plant at ISKCON Vrindaranyam campus of ISKCON Bhaktivedanta Gurukula and International School. Hon'ble Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath ji inaugurated the grand temple along with the Krish Dairy plant on Monday. He was accompanied by Mathura MP Hema Malini and his other cabinet colleagues at the inaugural.

The Chief Minister, in his felicitation speech, recognized the efforts and contribution of ISKCON to the welfare of society through various projects. Hema Malini ji and other dignitaries also showered words of appreciation for Srila Prabhupada. Hon'ble Chief Minister glorified Srila Prabhupada's preaching efforts throughout the world and promised to extend all support for every positive endeavor in the direction of empowering villages through FPOs, dairy production, protection of cows, and propagation and promotion of Vedic knowledge.

HG Gopal Krishna Maharaj, HG Panchgaud Prabhu, and HG Lila Purushottam Prabhu shared the dias with the Chief Minister and were among the ones feted by him. The five-day-long inauguration ceremony was a grand event witnessed by hundreds of devotees from all over the world. Energized by spiritual vibrations and infused with life, the divine deities of Sri Sri Krishna and Balaram took residence in their magnificent abode.

✓ NOVEMBER 5

As soon as the Temple opened its doors on November 5th, devotees poured in and were immediately awe inspired by its beauty! Morning Bhagavatam class was given by HH Bhakti Mukund Maharaj which was followed by an ecstatic sankirtan procession to Goshala for cow worship. A special lecture on deity installation was given by HG Mukund Datt Prabhuji this day to set the right consciousness and enable devotees to perform the rituals over the upcoming days with sincere and pure minds.

✓ NOVEMBER 6

On this day, Sudarshan Homa, Sudarshan Abhishek and installation of Sudarshan Chakra and Kalash were performed to invoke all auspiciousness. Bringing Srila Prabhupada to reside with the Krishna-Balarama deities and Netromilan Darshan of the deities were main highlights of the day. Shayan Adivas Darshan in the evening increased every devotee's excitement for the next day.



✓ NOVEMBER 7

This was the long awaited day of the grand Pran Pratishtha ceremony. Sri Sri Krishna Balaram were woken up from their bed of flowers with ecstatic Kirtan. Hundreds of devotees poured in, to witness the deities being infused with a breath of life. On this day, Pran Pratishtha, was performed in the auspicious presence of many great devotees like HH Gopal Krishna Maharaj, HH Bhakti Purushottam Maharaj, HG Devaki Nandan Prabhuji and Srutakirti Prabhuji. As they performed the timeless Vedic rituals to request the Supreme Lord to be established in His deities, all the devotees, gazed lovingly at their beloved Krishna-Balaram and requested them to be forever established in both the magnificent temple and the temple of their hearts! When the curtain was unveiled and Sri Krishna-Balaram gave their very first Darshan to the devotees,

there was not a single dry in the prayer hall! Later that afternoon, devotees experienced wave after wave of grace flowing throughout the temple, as they lovingly performed the Abhishek to the divine deities! Hare Krishna Mahamantra chanting, and kirtans of HH Lokanath Swami Maharaj, reverberated in the temple, as pujaris and other senior devotees performed Maha-Abhishekam.

✓ NOVEMBER 8

This day witnessed the first Mangal Arti in the new temple attended by the scores of devotees. The another most awaited event of the day was 'Kirtan Mela' that glued devotees to their seats. Different Kirtnias held the audience spellbound by their enchanting kirtan. Devotees were moved to tears of joy by the mesmerizing Kirtan performed by HH Sachinandan Maharaj. Devotees were soaked in deep loving sentiments for the divine and experienced a deep sense of bliss! Divine discourses by different Maharajas each evening enlightened the audience. The Cultural Programs and the Presence of all the VIPs at the end of each day was a delight to all! Each day, devotees went home with so much more divine knowledge, grace and deep spiritual experiences, than they could possibly carry! Krishna-Balaram Temple is indeed Krishna's loving gift for His devotees! In continuation of the grand inauguration ceremony, Bhaktivedanta Gurukula and International School has planned many more events for future.

✓ NOVEMBER 9

On this day, which was the concluding day, awestruck by the construction of the grand temple, intricate sculpture work and the beautiful illumination, the visitors were all smiles, capturing the occasion on their cellphones and giving sound bytes to media persons.



Gopashtami in BGIS



Gopashtami is a Hindu festival celebrated every year in India, which is dedicated to Lord Krishna and cows who is believed to be a protector of cows. It is a day to worship cows. The festival is celebrated on the eighth day in the bright half of Kartik month. Last year, we celebrated on 1st Nov, 2022. Devotees of Lord Krishna know the fondness of their Lord towards the cows. Thus, this special occasion called Gopashtami is a day to worship the cows and in turn seek the blessings of Lord Krishna. It is believed that worshipping Lord Krishna and Shi Vishnu on this very special day of Gopashtami, brings peace, prosperity, and well-being to the devotees. Cows and calves are decorated on this holy day of Gopashtami. Devotees also pay special respects to cows for their utilities in daily life. Cows provide milk that helps in fulfilling the nutritional requirement of the people like a mother. This is why cows are held sacred and worshiped in the Hindu religion as a mother. The glories of the cow and her protection are discussed by senior devotees.

All of them feed the cows and take part in a feast near the goshala. On this day in many temples Srimati Radharani is dressed as a cowherd boy. Like every year Last year BGIS celebrated Gopashtami in a grand way. The children of senior and middle grades cleaned and decorated the goshala with leaves and flowers. The celebration started with a melodious kirtan and Sweet pastimes of Krishna by the guest of honor HG Hyagiva Prabhuji. The pastimes narrated by Prabhuji enthralled the children and the guests present. The cows were decorated with cloth and jewelry and Go Puja was performed. Devotees from Pune attended the festival and after Go Puja, the devotees circumambulated the mother cow and took blessings. The cows were fed with jaggery and fruits. Boys had arranged a stall of different spiritual books and done book distribution with the help of their mentors. The Cowherd boys who serve the cows were felicitated by the guest of honor HG Hayagriva Prabhuji. The program ended with a sumptuous feast in the goshala.



Achieving Silver at the 5th International Teakwando Championship

The 5th International Teakwando Championship held at Tyagaraj Sports Indoor Stadium, Delhi, saw an overwhelming participation from Bhaktivedanta Gurukula and International School. The competition saw the participation of more than 500 participants from all over the country. Amongst the participants was Dev Thakur, an eleven-year-old student of the school who had been preparing for this tournament for more than two months. Dev was an enthusiastic Teakwando practitioner and had a passion for the sport. He was determined to make it to the finals and win the gold medal.

The tournament was divided into several categories according to the participants' age and skill level. Dev was placed in the Under 12 category which consisted of 40 participants. After a hard-fought battle, Dev emerged as the runner up and won the silver medal in the championship.



The Bhaktivedanta Gurukula and International School was extremely proud and pleased with Dev's performance. The school's principal and the staff congratulated Dev on his achievement. The school also presented him with a trophy and a citation for his outstanding performance at the championship. Dev's success has inspired other students at the school to take up Teakwando and pursue excellence in the sport.





Celebrating the Auspicious Day of Gita Jayanti

Yesterday was the most auspicious day of Gita Jayanti, the day on which Lord Krishna spoke Bhagavad Gita for the benefit of humanity 5100 years ago. Under the blessings of Srila Prabhupada, the first Gita Jayanti program was celebrated at the Krishna Balaram temple in Bhaktivedanta Gurukula campus, Vrindaranyam.

The program was attended by students from Gurukula, GLA University and other schools in Mathura, along with some eminent businessmen and police officers. All attendees recited the entire Bhagavad Gita as part of the celebrations. The different chapters of Bhagavad Gita were rread by students of different grades. The toppers of Mathura District in the online Gitanushilanam competition were also given awards.

It was very inspiring to see the small kids from junior classes chanting the 12th Chapter of Bhagavad Gita with enthusiasm and clarity.

The event was filled with joy and elation as everyone was immersed in Lord Krishna's teachings. Some of the distinguished guests spoke about the positive changes that Bhagavad Gita had brought in their lives. At the end of the event, everyone left feeling inspired and empowered by the divine message of Bhagavad Gita. The Inter-House Sports competition at the School is always a hard-fought affair, which engages the children altogether.

Annual sports day at BGIS

The school involves all the students in the competition so that all get a sense of participation, and the houses are tested fully as far as their abilities are concerned. The Sports Meet commenced at 9.30 am on 25 November 2022 and continued for two days, 25th and 26th November 2022. The event started with a march past, garlanding Srila Prabhupada followed by torch burning and an opening speech by HG Lila Govind Prabhu.

Students were divided into four houses such as Barsana, Nandagaon, Vrindavan, and Goverdhan. Different games like races [100m, 200m, 400m], long Jump, high jump, discus throw, and shot-put for grades 6 to 12. The team games were football, kabaddi, volleyball, and tug of war. The students participated enthusiastically in all these games. Semi-finals and finals of all the group games were scheduled on another day by the School under the supervision of the sports teachers..





Annual sports day at BGIS

All individual winners were awarded various medals [Gold, silver and bronze] and Group winners received trophies . All the houses showed their might to win every event, and there were tough fights in all events. Not only the players but also the spectators of all houses were totally engrossed in all games because of the unexpected twists and turns of fortunes.

Moreover, the defeated houses sincerely congratulated their triumphant opponents and showed no signs of humiliation or vexation, Children gave thunderous claps and cheered up their respective houses while the first, the second, and the third-place winners received gold, silver, and bronze medals, respectively, in all events. Children had a lot of fun and excitement during the sports meet and participated enthusiastically.



The sports meet showed the real sporting spirit of all the houses and all sports were fun. The students cheered their houses vociferously. Their sporting spirit implied that the result is not the important thing but how the game is played and enjoyed. The conduct of every player added great enjoyment to all the events.

4X 100 meters relay and Volleyball match were the centers of attraction on the first day of the Inter-House Sports Meet on 25 November 2022. The winners and runner-ups were awarded gold, silver, and bronze medals by the Management and other teachers.



Nityananda Trayodashi

Bhaktivedanta Gurukula and International School celebrated Sri Nityananda Trayodasi with great gaiety and all spiritual fervor on Friday Feb 3, 2023, with all students, teachers and other staff flocking in together. This day marks the auspicious appearance day of Shri Nityananda Prabhu. Nityananda Trayodashi is the appearance day of Nityananda Prabhu

Abhishekam of deities was performed with varieties of fruit juices, flowers, Panchamritam, Panchagavyam, Sugandha Dravyas etc., followed by a Mangala Aarati along with bhajans and kirtans. Melodious Hari nama sankirtan was performed by teachers and students on this occasion.



The auspicious day began with a jam-packed morning program and a lecture on Shri Nityananda Prabhu's life by the school CAO, HG Radhakant Prabhu Ji, followed by a Mridanga demonstration and enchanting Kirtan by Middle School students. Various competitions and activities based on the life and teachings of Lord Nityananda were conducted to engage and encourage students.



Different pastimes of the Lord Nityananda came alive with the three dramas staged at Krishna-Sudama hall by primary school, middle school and senior school students respectively. HG Radhakant Prabhu Ji thanked all the devotees for their active participation and all the volunteers for their dedicated services. After Maha Mangal Aarati, a sumptuous Maha Prasadam was served to everyone.



Honorary Lieutenant Yogendra Singh Yadav, Inspires BGIS Students at ISKCON Vrindavranayam

On 25th February 2023, the ISKCON BGIS Vrindavranayam campus had the honor of welcoming Honorary Lieutenant Yogendra Singh Yadav, Param Vir Chakra recipient. The campus was filled with excitement and anticipation as BGIS students eagerly awaited his arrival.

The highlight of the event was when Lieutenant Yadav took to the stage and shared his live war experience with the students. He recounted how the war was planned and executed by the team, and how the soldiers bravely fought against the enemy. He also shared how the soldiers became shaheeds in front of him and how the enemy behaved like animals.



As soon as Lieutenant Yadav arrived, he was warmly welcomed by the students and taken to the temple for darshan. Afterward, he made his way to the assembly hall, where all the students were reciting the Srimad Bhagavad Gita 12th chapter slokas. Seeing the dedication and enthusiasm of the students, Lieutenant Yadav was very happy and took the time to appreciate and motivate them.



The BGIS teachers and students were amazed to hear his stories and were filled with pride for the Indian army. They were moved by Lieutenant Yadav's bravery and selflessness and felt inspired to serve the country in their own ways. After sharing his experiences, Lieutenant Yadav distributed medals and prizes to the BGIS students who had won the national-level art competition. The students were thrilled to receive the awards from a Param Vir Chakra recipient and felt encouraged to pursue their passions further.



FIRST TECH CHALLENGE Championship

The FIRST TECH CHALLENGE (FTC) is a Robotics Competition conducted for Middle and High School Children for the year 2022-2023. It is a program to inspire and recognize young talents in the field of science and technology. This year the Championship was held in Pune for 3 days. 60 National teams and 10 International teams participated in the event. Among them, the Bhaktivedanta Gurukula and International School, Vrindavan students made a remarkable impression through their performance, teamwork, and cultural representation. The team was led by Meethil Gupta as the captain exhibited excellent skills in robot design, programming, and communication. Young talented students, Haridas and Ramdas displayed great teamwork as robot controllers in the Robot Matches.

The team comprised Meethil Gupta as the team captain, Daksh Agarwal as the Budget Lead, Dev Verma as the Outreach Lead, Tanishq Gupta as the CAD Lead, Kavya Gupta as the Autonomous Programming Lead - AI, Ramdas as the Robot Controller, Parthsarthy Sinha as the Communication Lead, Rohininandan as the Engineering Portfolio Lead, Chinmay Saxena and Divyansh Mishra as the Robot Building Team, Aman Aryav as the CAD Co-Lead, and Haridas Mahatto as the Robot Building Lead & Controller.



All the team members performed exceptionally well, and their Robot Design completed all tasks. The team won 4 out of 6 qualifying matches, achieving rank 11. The team's achievement of Autonomous Programming using Artificial Intelligence was an excellent addition to their performance.





LEARN GITA LIVE GITA offline programs

LEARN GITA LIVE GITA is world's first such platform that offers thematic, scientific and transformative courses on all things spiritual. Each course is handcrafted by some of the best brains, who possess both spiritual purity and intellectual acumen, to educate the next generation of leaders. The design team is led by Dr. Lila Purushottam Das also known as Dr. Laxmidhar Behera, a Bhagavad Gita teacher and practitioner for the last 30+ years, academic leader with IIT Kanpur and a world-renowned scientist in the field of Artificial Intelligence & Robotics.



in order to improve our spiritual quotient & communication with parents, LEARN GITA LIVE GITA conducts Zoom sessions all parents on every Sunday on Bhagavad Gita and Bhagwatam. Thus, BGIS visions to inspire Gurukul students through Bhagvad Gita course and also encourages parents for the same by LEARN GITA LIVE GITA. LEARN GITA LIVE GITA is conducting offline programs for B.Tech (both 1st Year & 2nd Year) students from September, 2022 at GLA University, Mathura and once in a month for GLA faculties. Programs aims at awakening Consciousness for nature, environment, cow-protection, promoting natural farming to build a better human-being. GLA Students marked their sincere presence in Bhagavad Gita classes and voluntarily came forward not only to participate in Harinaam Sankirtan, Chanting but also exhibited sincere spirit in quiz contest, asked questions on difference between body and soul,

body consciousness against Krishna Consciousness, Concept of Infinity, importance of sound vibration to deepen their understanding on Bhagavad Gita. This course has helped many of them to build focus on studies, inspired many to live a life of discipline, loving care for God and His creation, nurtured an attitude of service and encouraged to embrace difficult situations. Such qualities are inherent in Bhagavad Gita Hence, students of BBA find it a true leadership course for them and many of them who are attending programs have shared their true stories of change like Yash Goyal (BBA, 2nd Year)



LEARN GITA LIVE GITA offers online programs for all age groups across the country. Hence, we genuinely request you to come forward to imbibe the principles of The Absolute Truth under the guidance of mentors of LEARN GITA LIVE GITA. Also, a visit to Barsana Dham on Maha Shivarati was conducted with 200 students who participated enthusiastically in Harinam Sankirtan, chanted Mahamantra at Holy Barsana Dham and visited many places like Pili Pokhar, Maan Garh, Srimati Radharani Temple etc and finally enjoyed divine Krishna Prasadam. We truly believe in these young minds who are brought trained and nurtured spiritually will become the true caretaker and assets of our of society.

Distinguished Guest

By Immense fortune We Receive Vaisnava Association

H.H Gopal Krishna Goswami Maharaj

HH Gopal Krishna Goswami is the Chairman of ISKCON and GBC for various part of the world has visited to Bhaktivedanta Gurukula. Maharaj is one of the highly respected spiritual leaders and devotee of Lord Krishna, who is renowned for his wisdom and dedication to the path of bhakti. As a senior monk and temple priest, he has inspired countless individuals on their spiritual journey



HH Gopal Krishna Goswami Maharaj inaugurated and establishment new deities Krishna Balaram. The ceremony was a moment of great joy and celebration for the school and the community, as they welcomed the divine presence of Lord Krishna and his brother Balarama into their midst.

For the students and community members who were present, the opportunity to be in the association of such an accomplished and dedicated individual as Gopal Krishna Maharaj was truly inspiring. His presence was a reminder of the deep spiritual roots of the school and the importance of cultivating a life of devotion and service to God.

As the event drew to a close, there was a sense of gratitude and joy in the air. The installation of the deity and the establishment of the new temple were seen as a significant milestone for BGIS, and the presence of Gopal Krishna Maharaj had made the occasion all the more special. It was a day that would long be remembered by all who were present, a day of celebration, inspiration, and spiritual renewal.

H.G Radheyshyam Prabhu

The Vrindaranyam campus of Bhaktivedanta Gurukula and International School (BGIS) was honored to host a distinguished guest visit from His Grace Radheyshyam Prabhu. Radheyshyam Prabhu on 22nd October, the President of the Pune branch of ISKCON (International Society for Krishna Consciousness) and Director of Vedic Oasis for Inspiration, Culture & Education (VOICE) shared his insights on the topic of Krishna Lila in Braj Mandal and the importance of Goseva by Gopala with the students of BGIS.



Radheyshyam Prabhu holds an M.Tech from IIT-Bombay, and has been a top ranker during his DME, BE.Mech Engg and M.Tech. With his vast knowledge and experience in spiritualism and education, it was a great opportunity for the students of BGIS to learn from such a distinguished and accomplished individual and gain insights on the profound and spiritual topic of Krishna Lila in Braj Mandal and Goseva by Gopala.

Distinguished Guest

By Immense fortune We Receive Vaisnava Association



H.G Gauranga Darshan Prabhu

The Vrindaranyam campus of Bhaktivedanta Gurukula and International School (BGIS) was honoured to host a distinguished guest, His Grace Gauranga Darshan Prabhu ji. Gauranga Darshan Prabhu ji, a spiritual author and mentor, is a disciple of HH Radhanath Swami and the author of the New York Times best-selling books "The Journey Home" and "The Journey Within". He shared his insights on the topics of Hari Katha and Sri Krishna Damodar Lila with the students of BGIS.

He holds a Master's degree in Systems Science and Automation from the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. He had a brief corporate career of two years, where he worked as a researcher for Force Motors and TCS Innovation Labs. During his academic and professional tenure, he had the rare distinction of publishing over 10 technical papers in the areas of language and speech processing and filing a provisional patent for his research. It was a great opportunity for the students of BGIS to learn from such distinguished and accomplished individuals and gain insights into the profound and spiritual topics of Hari Katha and Sri Krishna Damodar Lila.



HG Mukunda Datta Prabhu

The Vrindaranyam campus of Bhaktivedanta Gurukula and International School (BGIS) was honored to host a guest visit from HG Mukunda Datta Prabhu who has enlightened us with the divine appearance of Advaita Acharya prabhu, how he frequently prayed for Krishna to descend and save the society which was degrading day by day. Sri Advaita worshiped Krishna on the banks of the Ganges with Ganges water and Tulasi leaves, crying out and begging for the Lord to come to save the suffering souls. In response to Sri Advaita Acharya's devotion and compassion, Krishna decided to appear, in the form of His own devotee—Chaitanya Mahaprabhu.

Vedic Gurukul

By Immense fortune We Receive Vaisnava Association



INTRODUCTION TO VEDIC GURUKUL SYSTEM

The word Gurukula or Gurukulam is a combination of two words, Guru meaning teacher and Kula meaning family or home. Thus, the term gurukula translates to 'the home of the teacher.' This is exactly what the gurukula was—A home for pupils or shishyas to learn and acquire knowledge.

A residential schooling system whose origin dates back to around 5000 BC in the Indian subcontinent. It was more prevalent during the Vedic age where students were taught various subjects and about how to live a cultured and disciplined life. Gurukul was actually the home of teacher or Acharya and was the centre of learning where pupils resided till their education got completed. All were considered equal at the Gurukul and guru (teacher) as well as shishya (student) resided in the same house or lived near to each other. This relationship between guru and shishya was so sacred that no fee was taken from the students. However, the student had to offer a gurudakshina which was a token of respect paid to the teacher.

Though the ancient texts like the Vedas and Upanishads were sources of learning during the ancient system of education, it cannot be said that only the Vedas were taught in the Gurukuls. This system of Education aimed at overall personality development and Character Formation. Students would perform tasks that aimed at physical and mental wellbeing. Students were taught how-to live-in society with one another. Teachers monitored and observed the behaviour of students. The Gurukul System of education in the Vedic period also stressed skill-building. Certain skills like pottery, cooking, cleaning and other art forms were taught to students.

India has always boasted of a rich tradition in the area of learning and education since ancient times. It is well known that people from other nations such as Europe, the Middle East, and Portugal came to India to get the quality education. One of the famous educational systems practiced in India in the ancient times was The Gurukul System of Education In Srimad Bhagavatam 7.12.1

śrī-nārada uvāca
brahmacārī gurukule
vasan dānto guror hitam
ācaran dāsavan nīco
gurau sudṛḍha-sauḥṛdah

Nārada Muni said: A student should practice completely controlling his senses. He should be submissive and should have an attitude of firm friendship for the spiritual master. With a great vow, the brahmacārī should live at the gurukula, only for the benefit of the guru.

ISKCON Vedic Gurukula is an institution dedicated to manifesting Śrīla Prabhupāda's vision for Vedic education, a system meant to train its students in the philosophy and practice of Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

ISKCON Vedic Gurukula is now open at BGIS Vrindavan to push Śrīla Prabhupada's vision forward. It will flourish and reach new heights as BGIS has been doing for more than three decades now. Today parents, teachers, students, and members of the Iskcon community globally are proud of the exceptional school that BGIS has become, and are hopeful of a future where this kind of education can benefit the entire humanity at large.

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