



# New Talavan Times

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## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Nirjala Ekadasi—A Fasting Holy Day
- Meet Our New Pujaris from India
- Snana Yatra—Lord Jagannath's Birthday
- Who is Srimati Tulasi Devi?

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## Nirjala Ekadasi - A Fasting Holy Day

Nirjala Ekadasi is a Hindu Holy Day falling on the 11th Lunar Day of the waxing fortnight of the Hindu month of Jyestha (June 17th, 2024). This Ekadasi derives its name from the waterless fast observed on this day. It is considered to be the most austere and the most sacred of all 24 Ekadashis in the year. Food and water must not be touched during the fasting hours. However, those who cannot observe Nirjala Ekadasi can take milk and fruit. Grains are strictly prohibited, along with meat, fish and eggs. The fast must start at Sunrise. The fast must be broken the next day between 5:56am and 10:36am.

### The Story of Nirjala Ekadasi

Once Bhimasena, the younger brother of Maharaja Yudhishtira, asked the great sage Srila Vyasadeva, the grandfather of the Pandavas, if it is possible to return to the spiritual

world without having observed all the rules and regulations of the Ekadasi fasts.

Bhimasena then spoke as follows,



sacred day. Being very religious, they always tell me that I should also fast on that day.

“But, Oh learned grandfather, I tell them that I cannot live without eating, because as the son of Vasudeva (the digestive air), hunger is unbearable to me.”

“I can give widely in charity and worship Lord Keshava properly with all manner of wonderful upacharas (items), but I cannot be asked to fast on Ekadasi.”

“Please tell me how I can obtain the same merits or results without fasting.”

“Oh greatly intelligent and learned grandfather, my brother Yudhishtira, my dear mother Kunti, and my beloved wife Draupadi, as well as Arjuna, Nakula and Sahadeva, fast completely on each Ekadasi and strictly follow all the rules, guidelines and regulative injunctions of that

Story Continued on Page 3...



## Meet Our New Pujaris from India!

Please welcome our three new Pujaris from West Bengal, India, including Krpa Moya Caitanya prabhu, Bihari Krishna prabhu and Nanda Suta prabhu! We are very happy to have these qualified pujaris as they take care of Sri Sri Radha Radha Kanta, Sri Sri Gaura Nitai, and Srila Prabhupada! Please give them your blessings that they may serve Their Lordships nicely!



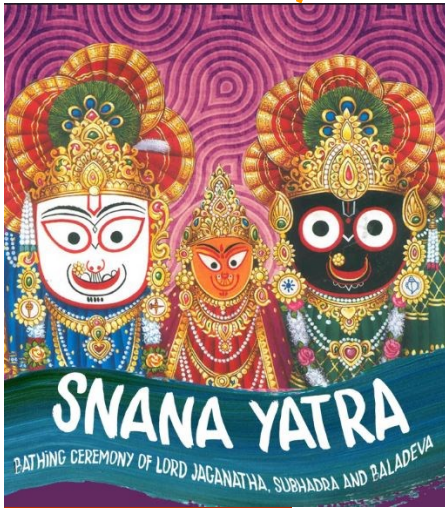
Krpa Moya & Bihari Krishna Prabhu's



Nanda Suta Prabhu

Would you like to donate towards the new Temple?

Please visit [www.newtalavana.org](http://www.newtalavana.org) to give online! Or call Dr. Jagdish at 828-403-1885.



Lord Balarama, Lady Subhadra, and Lord Jagannath

*“We have to work sincerely and because Krishna is in everyone’s heart, there will be no difficulty to have the necessary facilities.”*

*Srila Prabhupada*



Lord Krishna

## Snana Yatra—Lord Jagannath's Birthday!

A special bath of Jagannath takes place on the Purnima of Jyestha month (Devasnan Purnima) to commemorate the appearance day of Lord Jagannath. According to Skanda Purana, when Raja Indradyumna installed the wooden Deities, he arranged this bathing ceremony. This day is considered to be the birthday of Lord Jagannath. Held on the full-moon day of the month of Jyestha, this festival is also simultaneously held in Puri, attracts thousands of visitors and pilgrims from all over the country.

'Niladri Mohadaya', a religious text written in Orissan (Oriya) records the rituals of the festival. Sriharsa in his 'naisadhiya Charita' (XV.89) also refers to this festival of Purusot-tama. This bathing ceremony has a specialty. As this festival does not find mention in the early religious texts, it is believed to be a tribal ceremony. Lord Jagannath in His early form was being worshipped as Nilamadhava by a Savara chief called Viswabasu. The story is nicely told in the drama Jagannath Priyan natakam. Till now it is the Daitas and Savars (tribals) who have the exclusive right to conduct the festival. The tribals called Saoras (of southern Orissa) still perform a rite to bath their Deities ceremonially on the last day of the month of Jyestha. For this, they collect water from remote Jungles where it remains untouched, even by the shadow of the animals. over the country.

## Festival Dates for June 2024

June 2—Ekadasi

June 3—Dvadasi (Break Fast)

June 16—Disappearance of Sri Baladeva Vidyabhusana & Appearance Day of Gangamata Gosvami

June 17—Nirjala Ekadasi

June 18—Dvadasi (Break Fast)

June 19—Panihati Festival

June 21—Snana Yatra, Disappearance of Mukunda Datta & Sri Sridhara Pandita

June 22— Disappearance of Sri Syamananda Prabhu

June 26—Appearance of Sri Vakresvara Pandita

June 30—Disappearance of Sri Srivasa Pandita



*“The temple is a place not for eating and sleeping but as a base from which we send out our soldiers to fight with maya. Fight with maya means to drop thousands and millions of books into the laps of the conditioned souls. Just like during the war time the Bombs are raining from the sky like anything.”— Srila Prabhupada*

# Who Is Srimati Tulasi Devi?



Srimati Tulasi devi is one of the most exalted devotees of Sri Krishna. All scriptures stress on the importance of getting the mercy of Tulasi devi if one has to make progress in devotion.

If someone sows a Tulasi plant somewhere, certainly he becomes devoted to Lord Krishna. And when the Tulasi leaves are offered in devotion at the lotus feet of Krishna, there is the full development of love of Godhead.

In the Skanda Purana, it is said: 'Tulasi is auspicious in all respects. Simply by seeing, touching, remembering, praying to, bowing before, hearing about or sowing this tree, there is always auspiciousness. Anyone who comes in touch with the Tulasi tree in the above-

mentioned ways lives eternally in the Vaikuntha world.'

Above this material world is the eternal spiritual world comprising millions of Vaikuntha planets. The topmost planet in Vaikuntha is Goloka, presided over by Sri Krishna in His original form. Here resides Vrinda devi, an intimate associate of and an expansion of Srimati Radharani. Her partial expansion is Tulasi devi in the Vaikuntha planets, and all Tulasi plants are considered non-different from her.



## Nirjala Ekadasi - A Fasting Holy Day continued...

Another name for the fire of digestion is Vrika. It is this powerful fire that resided in Bhima's stomach.

Only when I eat to my full satisfaction does the fire in my stomach become satisfied. Oh great sage, I might possibly be able to fast only once, so I beg that you tell me of an Ekadasi that is worthy of my fasting and that includes all other Ekadashis.

At the beginning, I shall faithfully observe that fast and hopefully still become eligible for liberation's release."

Srila Vyasadeva replied, "Oh King, you have heard from me about the various kinds of occupational duties, such as elaborate Vedic ceremonies and pujas."

"In the Kali-yuga, however, no one will be able to observe all these occupational & functional duties properly."

"I shall therefore tell you how, at practically no expense, one can endure some small austerity and achieve the greatest benefit and resultant happiness."

"The essence of what is written in the Vedic literatures known as the Puranas is that one should not eat on either the dark or light fortnight Ekadashis."

Observing Ekadasi strictly is a great aid in that process, and here Srila Vyasadeva is simply stressing to Bhima the importance of the Ekadasi vratam.

"One who fasts on Ekadashi is saved from going to the hellish planets."

Hearing Srila Vyasadeva's words, the son of Vayu, Bhimasena, the strongest of all warriors, became frightened and began to shake like a leaf on a banyan tree in a strong wind.

The frightened Bhimasena then said, "Oh Grandfather, what should I do? I am completely unable and ill equipped to fast twice in a month throughout the year! Please tell me of the one fasting day that will bestow the greatest benefit upon me!"

Vyasadeva replied, "Without drinking even water, you should fast on the Ekadasi that occurs during the light fortnight of the month of Jyeshtha (May-June) when the sun travels in the sign of Taurus (Vrishabh) and Gemini (Mithun)."

"According to learned personalities, on this day one may bathe and perform Acamana for pratipokshana purification."

"One must certainly not eat anything, for if he does so, he breaks his fast. This rigid fast is in effect from sunrise on the Ekadasi day to sunrise on the Dwadashi day. If a person endeavors to observe this great fast very strictly, he easily achieves the result of observing all twenty-four other Ekadasi fasts throughout the entire year."

"Oh Bhimasena, one who can fast on this special Ekadasi in this manner reaps the benefit of having fasted on every Ekadasi during the year. There is no doubt of this, nor should there be."

Then He told me that, "One who fasts on this Ekadasi, without taking even drinking water or eating, becomes free of all sinful reactions, and that one who observes the difficult nirjala fast on Jyeshtha-shukla Ekadasi truly reaps the benefit of all other Ekadasi fasts."

"Oh Bhimasena, in the Kali-yuga, the age of quarrel and hypocrisy, when all the principles of the Vedas will have been destroyed or greatly minimized, and when there will be no proper charity or observance of the ancient Vedic principles and ceremonies, how will there be any means of purifying the self?"

"But there is the opportunity to fast on Ekadasi and become free of all one's past sins."

**Ekadasi**  
the day dear to  
Lord Krishna

As fire can immediately burn a great pile of cotton, so even just one Ekadasi can burn the great Mount Meru of sins accumulated over one hundred births. (Vedic Scripture - Garga Samhita 8.44)



## Community Directory List

- Temple President**—Yogindra das (601) 337-2224
- Vice-President**—Kalavati dasi (601) 916-0841
- Treasurer**—Danakeli dasi (810) 391-6820
- New Temple**—Dr. Jagdish Somani (828) 403-1885
- Kitchen**—Mahalaxmi dasi (601) 916-3096
- Garden**—Dwibhuja das (601) 799-3644
- Cows**—Jayanti dasi (601) 799-7669
- Security**—Bushaya das (601) 337-2023
- Deities**—Kaivalya dasi (601) 916-0049
- Fundraising**—Yogindra das (601) 337-2224
- Maintenance**—Prithu das (810) 391-6820



The New Talavan farm community is one of the original Hare Krishna farm centers and has been continually in operation since the farm's founding in 1974.

New Talavan began at the suggestion of His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, Founder-Acharya of ISKCON (International Society for Krishna Consciousness). Since then, we have been striving to fulfill our mission of "simple living and high thinking."

The New Talavan Farm community sits on 1,200 acres, in Carriere, Mississippi and currently provides sanctuary to just over 50 cows. We grow a number of our own fruits, vegetables and flowers in our gardens.

Consider New Talavan's temple as your home away from home. It's a true oasis! Here, you can freely bathe your soul in the transcendental sound vibrations, gaze in meditation on our captivating beautiful deities and read through our books which reveal the deepest mysteries of life as taught by the greatest teachers of Vedic wisdom for thousands of years. You can come and serve (volunteer) in our kitchen, gardens or with our cows!



**ISKCON New Talavan 31492 Anner Road, Carriere, MS 39426**

# How to Tithe (Give Laxmi) to the Temple

Would you like to give regularly to help take care of the temple and the Deities? Scan the QR Codes with your phone. Please feel free to donate any amount, and you can contribute to projects such as taking care of our 55 cows (six of which are milking cows), our garden where we grow organic vegetables, Deity Outfits and paraphernalia, Jewelry for the Deities, and Pujas done in your name. Here is a list of sponsoring prices:

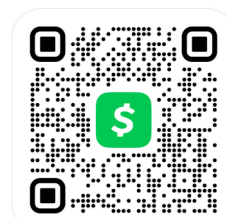
- Sunday Feast \$451
- Dhupa Arati \$51
- Ghee Wicks \$108
- Festival Feast \$501
- Flowers \$108
- Evening Deity Dress \$1008

\* Email [newtalavana@gmail.com](mailto:newtalavana@gmail.com) for queries. Hare Krishna! Thank you in advance for your financial support of New Talavan and Sri Sri Radha Radha Kanta and Sri Sri Gaura Nitai!



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