



Advisor:

HH Bhakti Raghava Swami
bhakti.raghava.swami@pamho.net

Editor: Vrndavanlila dd
vrndavanlila.brs@gmail.com

Co-Editor:

HG Rasamandal Das
Rasamandal.BRS@pamho.net

Editorial Consultant:

HG Hari Kirtan Das
hkd75@yahoo.com

Conception and Design:

Vrndavanlila dd

Damodar Mas

Volume: 01
Issue: Oct'09-Nov'09

Highlights of the issue:



The Sacred Oath

Dhaval, My Cow

Life with land, Cows, and Krishna

My Mother's Gift

Traditional Way of Making Pesticides

Simple Living and High Thinking: A Farm Report

Cow Focus



Do you Know?



Cow is the only animal, which like holy tulasi (basil) plant or pipal tree gives out oxygen. If one spoon of pure ghee is poured on the burning cow cakes dung (fuel), it produces one- ton of oxygen. This is why, ghee made with cow milk is used in sacrificial fires and havans. There is no other better method to remove pollution. Cow urine contains copper, which converts into gold inside the human body, removing the toxicity. Drinking cow milk strengthens and increases the pure qualities in human mind. The horns and hunch of cow are like two powerful pyramids. The place where the cow is tied nullifies vastu related ill effects. The malefic effect of any planet can be calmed down by serving the cow lovingly.

Make Vrndavan Villages 

Śrīla Prabhupāda Speaks on Cows

... In this movement, our one program is to respect the cows. We chant this mantra, *namo brahmanya-devaya go-brahmana-bitaya ca*. The brahminical culture and the cows... Why they have selected the cows? There are so many animals. Why cow protection is so important in Krishna Consciousness? Why Kṛṣṇa personally Himself became a cowherd boy and was taking care of the cows and the calves? Oh, that is very essential.

And here also, we see that the Dharmaraja is inquiring about the comforts of the cow. *Amba, kaccid bhadre, what is anamayam atmanas te. Amayam* means disease. So, "Whether you are quite comfortable by your health?" This is very essential to keep cows very comfortably. If they feel comfortable, then you get the most nourishing food, milk. We are practically seeing in our New Vrindavan center, because the cows are feeling secure in our custody, they're delivering milk up to eighty pounds daily. You'll be surprised. So if you get milk products, milk, then you can prepare so many preparations full of vitamins, which will nourish your brain.

-*Srimad Bhagavatam* I:16:19—Hawaii, January 15, 1974.

There are so many facilities afforded by cow protection, but people have forgotten these arts. The importance of protecting cows is therefore stressed by Kṛṣṇa in **Bhagavad Gita** (*kṛṣi-go-rakshya-vanijyam vaiśya-karma svabhavajam [BG.18.44]*). Even now in the Indian villages surrounding Vrindavana, the villagers live happily simply by giving protection to the cow. They keep cow dung very carefully and dry it to use as fuel. They keep a sufficient stock of grains, and because of giving protection to the cows, they have sufficient milk and milk products to solve all economic problems. Simply by giving protection to the cow, the villagers live so peacefully. Even the urine and stool of cows have medicinal value. [*Srimad-Bhagavatam*. 10.6.19 Purport]

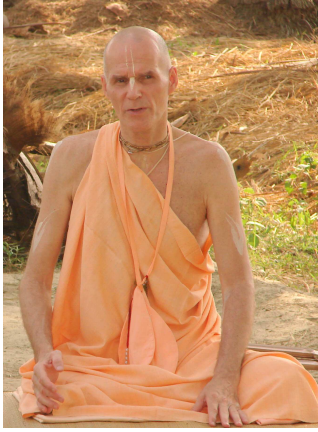
Painful, but True...

Delhi alone has 11,000 illegal slaughterhouses in the slums that kill hundreds of cows brought in from Haryana. A genocide is going on there with over TWO LAKHS cows being killed per DAY. Within 10 years we will have No COWS.



Make Vrindavan Villages 

• Visva Mangal Gou Gram Yatra: A Report by the Chief Editor



HH Bhakti Raghava Swami

HH Bhakti Raghava Swami attended the grand inaugural function of Visva Mangal Gou Gram Yatra as one of the special invitees, at Kurukshetra on September 30, 2009. About 50,000 people including leading saints from different parts of the country, scientists, environmentalists and agriculture experts gathered at the banks of holy Brahma Sarovar to express their total support to the yatra, and firmly resolved to protect the cow, village, and nature. Beginning from Kurukshetra the Yatra will conclude in Nagpur on January 17, 2010. Let us read the report from His Holiness' pen.

The Sacred Bath Protect Our Sacred Mothers- The Cows and the Earth

- III Bhakti Raghava Swami

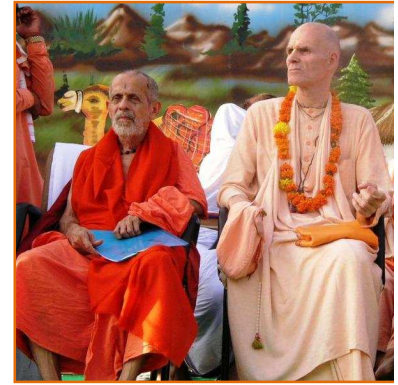
Om Surabhyai namah! Om Sri Gurave namah!

The recently launched Visva Mangala Gou Gram Yatra in Kurukshetra on

September 30, 2009, heralds the momentous 108-day historical sacred pilgrimage around India to save our cows, to save our villages, and to save mother earth herself. With the continuous ten-minute shankhnad (blowing of the conch) by world-renowned shankhwadak Shri Shavantha, this unprecedented event is a tribute as well as a pledge on the part of the organizers and the participants to bring about not only a revival but indeed a complete overhaul against the present misdirected policies of modern leaders towards restoration of the natural traditional village lifestyle upon which the protection of cows and the land is only made possible and for which a total ban on cow slaughter in India and around the world is an absolute must.

Many prominent dignitaries and saints representing different religions organizations from around India gathered at the historical site of Kurukshetra where Lord Krishna officially delivered the perennial teachings of the Bhagavad-gita 5,000 years ago before embarking in what the Founder-Acarya of ISKCON, Srila Prabhupada, referred to as the first World War in Kali Yuga.

The main inspirational force behind this event is Gokarna Peethadhishwar Shankaracharya Shri Raghaveshwar Bharati Swamiji who had successfully sponsored the national Go-Sammelon two years ago at his Ramachandrapur Mutt in South Karnataka where he safely preserves the only remaining 33 species of indigenous cows in India. He appealed to the countrymen to protect the cow and the villages: "The Gou Gram Yatra is an attempt to create an army of dedicated people who can fight against the atrocities on the cow. In real sense, the First World War was fought for mother Sita. The second World War was fought for Draupadi and the mother earth and the third World War will be fought for the cow".



HH Bhakti Raghava Swami with Shri Vishveshwar Teertha

Make Vrindavan Villages 

Also present for the grand opening was the head of the Madhava Sampradaya Saint H.H. Pejawar Swami Shri Vishveshtertha who stressed the need to protect four things— Gou(Cow), Gram(Villages), Gita (Bhagavad Gita) and Gayatri (Gayatri Mantra symbolizing Brahminical Culture):
“One of the reasons of growing terrorism in the country is that we have tiger as the national animal. The tiger symbolizes ‘terror’, while the cow symbolizes peace and prosperity. Therefore, we must declare the cow the national animal forthwith to restore peace and prosperity in the country.”

At the end of the auspicious ceremony, all the leaders present took a solemn oath whereby they pledged to restore peace and prosperity in India by protecting our mother cow and by rebuilding the traditional village life.



The Text of Sacred Oath

O most worshipable Mother Cow! You are our most affectionate Sacred Mother. You are the wish-fulfilling Kamadhenu who grants everyone's desires. You are the manifestation of all sacred places of pilgrimage, the support of all living entities and the ocean of all auspiciousness.

O most revered Mother Cow! You are the purifying Mother Ganga and the Goddess of Sanctity. You are the healer of all diseases, the bestower of good health and the embodiment of Maharshi Dhanvantari. You are the Goddess of Fortune and the provider of nourishing agriculture products.

O most venerable Mother Cow! Today I take this solemn oath to always remember my Mother India and my ancestors' noble heritage. With my mind, words and actions, I hereby pledge to always protect, preserve and serve you and all the wonderful gifts of nature such as water, earth, the forests, as well as all living entities and all sacred places of pilgrimages. I will actively strive to ensure that your glory spreads throughout the entire world.

O most honoured Mother Cow! In order that our villages become holy places of pilgrimage, I will endeavour with my mind, body and soul to protect the ancient wealth and beauty of traditional village life.

O most beloved Mother Cow! Please bless and empower this humble servant of yours with the necessary ability, strength, and courage to fulfill this solemn oath.

All glories, all glories, all glories to you, o eternally most Sacred Mother Cow! (Translated from Hindi)

Edited by HHH Bhakti Raghava Swami



Make Vrindavan Villages 



Beauty and the 'Beast'

~ Maneka Gandhi

Every year the vegetarian movement claims to be growing and when I read the figures of people who have stopped eating meat, I feel that my life has had some meaning. But the latest figure that the meat eaten in 2008 was the most ever eaten on this planet, has made me feel so useless that I feel like stopping my column. The statistics say that it is not a larger number of people eating meat; it is people eating more meat that has created this figure. This, in spite of medical and government warnings about meat causing animal related disease, illness, cancers and global warming. Are we the stupidest species on the earth? It is not just the eating of meat that makes me despondent, it is the increase in the number of uses we find for slaughtered animals.

In 2003 a company called Ebonex Corp asked the Food and Drug Administration to allow the use of pulverised cow bones to be made into a black pigment that could be used in cosmetics. In June 2007 the FDA gave permission to use bone black. It is now used in eye shadow, eyeliner, mascara and face powder. It is known as D& C Black No 3. or Ivory Black and has a matte finish. Bone black is put upon the market under all sorts of names, such as ivory black, ebur ustum, Frankfort black, neutral black, etc. The pigment is made from cattle bones that are heated to 700°C and then pulverised, rinsed and dried. The FDA noted that the pigment may contain low levels of potentially carcinogenic

polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon (PAH). Cattle that are fed meat develop a disease called Mad Cow (bovine spongiform encephalopathy) and people who eat this meat or absorb it run the risk of a brain meltdown that is irreversible. The FDA, while giving in to this multinational's demands recognized that safety concerns may arise surrounding bovine spongiform encephalopathy. Their lame response was to order that the cattle bones used to create the pigment should be checked to see that they did not carry "a high risk of transmitting the agent. "...something which is impossible to do unless every "fresh" bone has a tag on it identifying the killed cow and giving its medical background. It has also been allowed for wood stains, colored plastics artist colors, paper products, paints and lacquers, leathers and vinyls.

Bone char is burnt cow bones. This is now being used by some bottled water companies. Bottled water is in any case a scam with so many health and environmental implications that I will devote another article to it but suffice to say that many companies do not use fresh spring water but ordinary tap water which is then filtered and bottled. In England, one of the popular brands is Scottish water. Now it has been discovered that that they are using bone char filters. Even worse, the charred bones come from India where cow slaughter is illegal. The rationale is that the cows killed illegally in India are older than the two year olds killed in England, so their bones are denser. In 1998, it was found that cow bone char

• Varnasrama Musings

was being used by municipal authorities in Northern England to filter municipal water. The authorities called it “activated carbon” so that it escaped public attention. The hue and cry that ensued supposedly stopped the practice but now I learn that it is commonly done by many municipalities in the west. I am going to hunt for the Indian exporting companies so that I can take the matter up and I know it still masquerades as “activated carbon” or “abaiser”. In fact, according to a major information site on bone char, most bone char used for water and sugar refining comes from the bones of cattle from Afghanistan, Argentina, India, and Pakistan. The sun-bleached bones are bought by Scottish, Brazilian, and Egyptian marketers.

Sugar refining? Did you not know that the sugar industry uses huge amounts of bone char? The cow bones are heated to high temperatures (in the range of 400-

500 °C) in an oxygen-depleted atmosphere till they become grey brown ash. It is used in the sugar refining industry for decolorizing and whitening sugar made from sugarcane- a process invented in 1812. Sugar made from sugarbeet is not....Another use for bone char has been recommended in 2008 by ‘scientists’ of the Department of Civil Engineering, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore (An Institute which has been repeatedly caught for its mistreatment of monkeys as test animals). They recommend the use of bone char in concrete instead of river sand.

In this time of global warming, the survival of our species depends on phasing out the forcible growth of meat animals. The more useless uses we find for dead animals, the more animals will be forcibly grown and killed. Is this too difficult for the consumer to understand?

(Source: <http://www.bihartimes.com/Maneka/usesforslaughteredanimals.html>)

Modernisation at what cost?

If 73 million (as per 1990 statistics) cattle were to be replaced, we would need 7.3 million tractors at the cost of Rs 2.5 lac each which would amount to an investment of Rs 180,000 crores. In addition, Rs 2,37,50,000 tonnes of diesel which means another Rs 57,000 crore. This is how much we owe them, and this is what we stand to lose by killing them.

Loss of cattle deprives us of dung for fuel and fertilizer which means loss of biogas and trees cut for firewood. In 1994, India for the first time had to import cow dung from Holland. While chemical fertilizer import has gone up from about 1 crore in 1960 to about Rs 450 crores in 1990 to triple that in 2005. Other imports of animal products: Import of milk and milk powder has risen from 6 tonnes in 1950 to 65 tonnes in 1990 while butter oil has gone from half a tonne to 16 and a half tonnes. Again triple that for 2006. 16 lakh litres of water are needed daily to keep ONE moderate sized slaughterhouse clean. That is drinking water for 30 lakh people. Can India really afford to kill cattle anymore?

(Source: Maneka Gandhi, “Animals be protected from pain and sufferings”.)

Make Vrindavan Villages 

Dhawali, my Cow!

- Shaktin Radha



I am a cowherd boy and cow is my mother,
To her I am indebted forever
Here are the little words to glorify her,
I gather a handful of green grasses I greet her
Bowing down she thanks and says Oh dear!
As I stretch my hands to hug her
She licks me to say, "I am here"
Filled with love and compassion
Feeds everyone with no discrimination

Dhawali is her name
I shall sing aloud to spread her fame
Green pasture brings a smile on her face
But the yummy jaggery is her taste
Expression of love sparkles through her eyes
Do not take me to slaughter, she cries
She is an embodiment of purity
To serve and to protect her is our prime duty
Shyamala is my black beautiful cow,
She responds to me with her ears perked, I wonder how

Oh, mother! You're dear to Govinda, the supreme
Without you, how can I offer Him
butter, yoghurt and delicious cream?
Your presence makes my homeland a Gokul
Maa! I'll miss you when I go to gurukul
Serving you we can cross the material ocean

Your worship is a part of our devotion
Hamsi is her little calf
With whom I play and laugh
Oh, mother! You're dear to Govinda, the supreme
Without you, how can I offer Him
butter, yoghurt and delicious cream?
Your presence makes my homeland a Gokul
Maa! I'll miss you when I go to gurukul
Serving you we can cross the material ocean
Your worship is a part of our devotion
Hamsi is her little calf
With whom I play and laugh

Being enchanted by the sound of flute,
You stand still and mute
Being embraced by Gopal, the supreme
You look beautiful and cute
Oh! Listen
The jingling bells of simha mukhi
She is my prana sakhi
Her gentle touch makes me feel all auspicious
Across universe she is glorious
She is precious like shining pearls, deep in the ocean
Let's bow down to her with love and devotion
Aruni mooing around with pleasure and joy
has captured the heart of this cowherd boy.

Make Vrindavan Villages



• Varnasrama Musings

Life with Land, Cows, and Krishna

- H.G. Rama Lakshman Das

As I lay down on the floor of the tiny ashram room in Siem Reap, Cambodia wondering what to do I was suddenly inspired to go out. I set off with a few books in local language, one album which contained different farm project photographs, and a few cow (panchgavya) products in one bag. As always, Guna Avatar prabhu was also there to accompany me. He could speak a few words in the local Khmer language. After walking for about one kilometer, we spotted one cow. But soon our joy multiplied as we were blessed by darshan of many more wonderful cows along with a cowherd man. I was so overjoyed that I foolishly started introducing myself, but the cowherd man did not respond. He looked at me very strangely. Suddenly I realized he was not able to understand what I said. Guna avatar prabhu slowly translated and later we were good friends- we had common interest to protect the cows. Later that evening we also visited his farm house. To our surprise, he had grown many varieties of vegetables, fruits, and paddy; and all without using any chemical fertilizers. He prepared organic compost from cow dung. We began visiting him regularly. The relationship with him developed further to include his family also. On one occasion we invited him to our Sunday love feast. He came and also enjoyed his short stay at our ashram and promised to visit us more often and even regularly.



We shot maharaja



A few days later HH Bhakti Raghava Maharaj came back from Indonesia via Malaysia, where he had given successful seminars on varnasrama. As he returned with me to the ashram in a tuk tuk (local transport) I briefed him to the new development. Surprisingly, he wanted to meet that man with the cows on the same day. In the evening he got ready and visited our friend. All the cows had gone out for grazing, we had to wait. Meanwhile we went around the farm seeing the neem tree and many other vegetable plants. It was getting late for Gaura arati, so we went back to the ashram without the darshan of cows. Next morning, after our regular prayers and prasadam, his holiness was raring to go again to have darshan of cows.

On the way to the farm, maharaj told me how cow dung was like a gold mine and that in Malaysia one needed to buy cow dung. Finally we reached the farm. Maharaja's joy was boundless on seeing so many cows together. He spent almost three hours with the cows and talking with the cowherd man. a short film for the harinam week and then began chanting. Suddenly said, "prabhu Ramalakshman see mother cow is in ecstasy because of the chanting of holy name". I turned and looked at the cow. For the first time in my life I could see the potency of holy name so vividly. There was a stream of tears from the cow's eyes. A simple and brief stay on land and association with cows helped me realize the potency of the holy name and Krishna. And unfortunately in Cambodia, nobody knows how to milk the cows and we had to organize seminars for the purpose. But in India despite its rich Vedic heritage people were choosing the path of spiritual and material destruction by turning a blind eye towards cows. Meditating on my experiences in Cambodia, I returned India. Before nestling in Hyderabad in the company of my god-brothers and god-sisters, I went to Rameshwaram and Tirupati to thank the Lord to make me realize the close relationship of land and cows in the realization of God. No wonder our acaryas have stressed on the importance of varnasrama for spiritual growth.

Make Vrindavan Villages 

My Mother's Gift

Arundavanlila dd



“Namaste Narsimhaya...” My mother-in-law was singing as she patted my daughter, Radhika to sleep. I was looking at her face closely without she being aware of it. How would she be? She was blind. She had lost her eye sight as an aftermath of her brain tumor surgery. My daughter was sleeping peacefully as she sang. I knew if I was getting an opportunity to see all this and



feel her loving presence, it was all because of *Lali*, one red cow, who had been at my husband's (HG Gour Gopal Das) village home in Jaleswar (Orissa). Mommy was the precious gift made by another mother- cow.

My mother-in-law was diagnosed with brain tumor nearly 17 years ago. There was no facility for that complicated surgery in the village and she had to be taken to Cuttack. The doctor had indicated very slim possibility for the operation being successful. Even if it was, she was to survive at the most for another five years. Seeing no choice, baba (my father-in-law, HG Braja Bihary Das) agreed for the surgery. Leaving her in the hospital in the care of her brother and my husband who was then about 18-years old, he returned to the village to have a look at his other three children who were much younger than him, between 8-10 years old. He could not control his tears as he looked at their innocent faces, especially of the youngest daughter who fondly followed mother like a shadow. He crept in the cowshed, where he could freely give in to his grief. He caught hold of *bhai*, the recently-born calf of the red cow *Lali* and said to him between sobs, “You have your mother, I don't know if my children will have their mother when I come again to you all.” He looked at the soulful eyes of *Lali* and then again left for the city.



Mother in law after her surgery



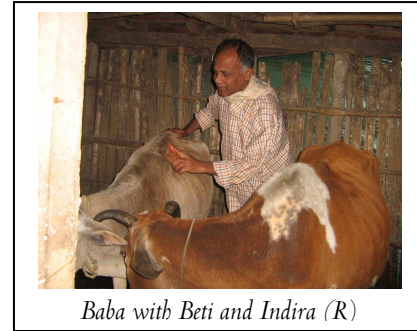
Her recent picture with baba

All of them sat huddled outside the operation theater, trying to emotionally support each other silently even as their eyes were glued to the colorful bulb blinking outside. Suddenly the doctor emerged. All the eyes turned, “I am sorry...” Young Gour could not hear anything further, but could only see everybody crying in grief, his father, maternal uncle...everybody present. So, mother is dead. Even the world's best neuro-surgeon could not save her. Something crashed and he unsuccessfully tried to control the tears. He could see his father's and other relatives' contorted faces amidst wails from behind the screen of his tears. He did not know what to do, but was thinking of his younger brother and sister who were too young to understand 'death'. Good that they were left behind in the village and were not seeing all this... “But how will my youngest sister take it?” His mind was benumbed.

There was a surprise development... the nurse came rushing out to the doctor and said, "I can feel her pulse again." The doctor rushed in. The surgery continued for another 3-4 hours before he came out again, but this time with a smile. It was all like a movie. She was alive! There was a small celebration, but round the same time some other child had lost its mother in the village. *Lali* died without any obvious reasons and *bbai* was orphaned. *Lali* had silently sacrificed her life to save our mother. No wonder, mommy outlived the doctor's prediction by more than a decade and is still hale and hearty. Every time we see mother, we are reminded of *Lali's* selfless love, which only a mother is capable of. No wonder, she is called go-mata. My husband's family had tried to mitigate for *bbai's* loss in different ways. He shared their bed room and the cot. He grew up fast and strong and in due course was released as the village bull. But we can never forget the debt. The love that *Lali* exuded was seen in her daughter, *Indira* too. Last year, in 2008, *Indira* left her body as her old body was not able to take the harshness of regular Orissa flood. She was well past child-bearing age, but she miraculously gave milk for 365-days till her last breath! But she would give milk only in response to baba's request- just a glassful for him. He could easily milk her as he hummed vaishnava and other tunes for her. There was another cow named after my daughter, *Radhika*. She used to walk with a proud gait, well aware of her beauty. Later on as her bone cancer spread, she kept herself alive till we performed the bhumi-puja for the goshala in the village. Every morning as my daughter chanted Lord Narsimha dev's prayer for her- "*Ugram viram maha Vishnu, jvalantam sarvato mukham...*" to help her bear the pain- she listened to it very carefully with her ears perked and cupped in the direction of the sound. She licked her with her tongue and even allowed my daughter to hug her though it might have been painful for her. She left her body in dignity the very next day of the function. Now we have one cow in the village- *Beti* and two bulls- *Radhika* and *Beti's* sons; but there are countless stories that baba tells us about their deep love. He may not be able to take care of them as opulently as he used to do earlier, but his love towards them is fathomless. He chooses to call himself as a cowherd man and loves to serve them in whatever humble manner he can. I think slowly I am getting to understand the importance of living in close proximity of cows, who are so dear to the Lord. Govinda, Gopala...



The two Radhikas together



Baba with Beti and Indira (R)

"Bharat is the soul of the world, village is the soul of Bharat, farmer is the soul of the village, and cow is the soul of the farmer. Now this chain has broken. With the breakdown of one relation between farmer and the cow all the relations have broken. It also damaged the relation of Bharath with the rest of the world. This relation has to be restored. The relation of cow and villages is like the relation of body and soul. If there is no soul, the body is dead and if there is no cow, villages are like a dead body. The cow too cannot be protected without villages. Therefore, the uplift of villages and cow has to be done together." - *Shri Raghaveshwara Bharati Swami.*



Simple Living and High Thinking at New Talavan

- Bhakta G Blake

Here at New Talavana in Carriere, MS we are working towards being simple servants of our spiritual master A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, continuing with the maintenance of and operating of a Krishna Conscious farm community. It is a labor of love and sweat and the rewards are fantastic. Use what you produce, and produce what you use- the self-sufficiency mantra. Guided by this simple instruction we are striving to achieve self-sufficiency in many areas, and by His mercy are also successful in some aspects.

The community has been here since 1974, when devotees from New Orleans slowly started to settle on the land, preferring quiet green countryside to the hustle of lively New Orleans, which is about 65 miles away. New Talavana was extremely blessed in 1975 to have been visited by our spiritual master Srila Prabhupada, elevating the site to the status of a *tirtha* or holy place of pilgrimage. You can still feel His presence here.

New Talavana is blessed with rich natural beauty and abundance. We receive abundant rainfall (50-60 inches a year), a relatively mild three month winter, great sandy/clay loamy soil, and year-round growing or conditions conducive for farming. The "deep-south" summer is very hot and humid and can be challenging. The forest is rich with green vegetation, full of valuable herbs, and even interesting growth like muscadine grapes and wild persimmons. A devotee couple down the road has voluntarily planted a wonderful diverse orchard and we are expanding

it further. We have figs, muscadine grapes, pomegranate, loquats, paw paw, apple, tangerines, pineapple guava, blueberries and persimmons. We have many old pear trees, including Asian pears that bear prolifically and are delicious. Our orchards contain much diversity of species and variety. We also have a large persimmon orchard of over 100 trees and many old pecan trees. This winter we plan to plant blueberry and tangerine orchards for use in the temple and supplementing farm income.

We have begun a large Fall garden in our massive fenced-in garden area. This garden stretches in about half an acre. We just planted many different pumpkins and winter squashes, yellow summer squash, watermelons, cantaloupe, bush beans, carrots and cucumbers. Soon we will put in cauliflower, broccoli, cabbage, southern greens, lettuce, salad greens and other winter crops. The soil is rich and loamy in the garden, and several devotees have been eagerly helping us out. Occasionally a large wheat crop is grown. We still have barrels of wheat leftover from a crop grown years ago. We want to experiment with alternative grains and other crops for oil, fiber, medicine, and other uses. We are also growing many wonderful fragrant flowers for our deities.

We have a great cow protection program here, with around 90 cows being cared for by several devotees. Right now three cows are milked twice a day by one very devoted mataji who has been doing this for well over 12 years. We get around 7 gallons a day of fresh organic milk

right now. This is made into very naturally sweet yogurt, paneer and whey, and also gets transformed into many sweet delightful treats for the service of our deities. We bale our own hay for the winter and have much open pasture land. Our cows are very loved and cared for.

Here at New Talavana we have wonderful pure well water to drink. One older Indian visitor said that it was the best water he had ever taken! The words coming from a man who had been a bottled-water salesman for years- it was a nice compliment. We are however trying to reduce our water consumption and protect this vital resource.

A new composting system is in place to return food scraps and organic matter to the land. Offered flowers, paper, grass clippings, spoiled food, etc, is being composted for garden use. This makes very rich fertilizer for our vegetable garden.

New Talavana is blessed with supportive devotee neighborhood, who offer various services. One devotee supporter raises bees on our land. He

has his hives set up in various locations and offers us a portion of this wonderful food. Another long time New Talavana supporter has a herbal medicine business right down the road. He uses mostly wild plants and "weeds" in traditional herbal preparations such as tinctures and salves. He is taking what some would see as a weedy nuisance and devoutly turns them into real medicine for treating ill devotees. His business is doing well and he's always happy to share his knowledge (and medicine). Many devotees also bring us homegrown produce like tomatoes, grapes, zucchini, etc. The neighbouring devotees are also lavish in bringing in beautiful flowers for offering in the service of the deities.

We are very blessed here and are excited to have this community to live in. We are eager to expand our self-sufficiency capacities and care for the land in bigger and better ways. We plan a Krishna Conscious eco-village community here at New Talavana that will be completely self-sufficiency and following the daivi varnasrama ideals.

*For further information you can contact us at talavan@hughes.net
Author:harekrishnanow@gmail.com*



Interesting fact about Cow

Dr. Mannem Murthy, a retired nuclear scientist has developed an electronic gadget called the Universal Thermo Scanner, which measures the bio-energy fields of animate and inanimate objects. The energies of cow and pancagavya have such high positive energies that they can be used to neutralize negative energies in the environment. Our ancients have used these positive energies for healing human ailments and for safeguarding the society in certain rituals in which the cow is very important. We have forgotten our culture and heritage inviting negative energies into our way of life. Machines have replaced cattle power and there is no place for cattle grazing. Hence, the livestock ratio of human cattle population is running down drastically. We are losing ecological balance. Such awareness should be brought to the state governments to protect the valuable gomata to save our ancient culture and heritage.

Contact details of Dr Mannem Murthy- (91) 040 27733366 , 09440596188.

Make Vrindavan Villages 



The Traditional Insecticide/ Pesticide Preparation

Cow urine serves as the best insecticide and fungicide. Besides this, it also contains hormones that stimulate plant growth. The organic manure can be easily prepared from the farm wastes and the following preparation will be useful for an area of an acre of land as a substitute of urea, DAP, super phosphates:



Ingredients:

1. 15 litres of Cow urine
2. 15 kg of Cow dung
3. 1 kg of any powdered dal (tur dal, urad dal or red dal etc.)
4. 15 kg of Mud from underneath a peepal tree/ a banyan tree/ a neem tree which has been in the place for over 15 years.

Method:

Mix all these ingredients and spread the mixture over the field either through water (irrigation facility) or manually using hands.

Other uses of the preparation:

The above mixture also acts as manure and increases the number of earthworms in the soil. The earthworms make tracts in the soil and leave their body waste which is an additional manure for the crop. The water on the soil goes deep and seeps into the internal made by the earthworms and this is a boon for the crop. Each earthworm produces 1,00,000 worms every year in the soil. Use of this mixture must be done every 21 days with water when there is crop. Without the crop, it can be done once in 30 days.

The plant products like Dashparni, Karanj cake, Lantana camera, Neem leaves, Custard apple seeds, leaves, jaggery, Turmeric are decomposed with cow urine for one month in earthen pots. This extract is further filtered and added in a well (specially constructed) for spraying, through rain guns.



Disinfecting the seeds

The seeds soaked in the mixture of 1 Kl Cow Urine, 1 Kg Cow dung, and 1 Kg Raw white chuna (generally found in the market) in 2-3 litres of water overnight before being sown in the field become insect or pest-resistant.



Getting rid of the weeds

Unwanted weeds that come up in the fields along with the crop should be pulled out from the soil and thrown in the same field. It results in a vaccination-effect- the same weeds will never grow in the field where they were thrown.

In a forest, we do not use DAP, Super phosphates, nitrates etc, but the trees grow 100 mts tall so why can't the crop grow without these chemicals in our fields?





Grand Inauguration of Vishwa Mangal Gou Gram Yatra from Kurukshetra

(Source: <http://eng.gougram.org>)

September 30, 2009. Kurukshetra. The 108-day Vishwa Mangal Gou Gram Yatra began from historic Theme Park in Kurukshetra. About 50,000 people including leading saints from different parts of the country, scientists, environmentalists and agriculture experts not only expressed their total support to the Yatra, but also firmly resolved to protect the cow, village and nature on the banks of the holy Brahma Sarovar. Beginning from Kurukshetra the Yatra will conclude in Nagpur on January 17, 2010. The entire Kurukshetra city was decorated with saffron flags, banners, hoardings and welcome gates displaying the messages of protecting the cow, village and nature by various organisations. This Yatra is an endeavour to present the whole issue in right perspective before the countrymen so that the nation could move in the right direction. Shri Raghaveshwar Bharati Swamiji, the main guiding force behind the Yatra, said the cow slaughter is going on due to ignorance. He said the answer to all the problems the country is facing today is to return to the cow-centred way of life.

Didi Maa Sadhvi Ritambhara said the cow must be protected as she gives life. "The blind use of

machines in the farming activities has made the people lazy. The farmers, who feed all, are today forced to commit suicide. The policy-makers must understand that our problems cannot be solved by blindly following the West. We have to move according to our own traditions. It is now a scientific fact that the Indian breeds of cows are the best in the world but they have been deliberately degraded. The country today needs a central legislation for cow protection as has been implemented in Jammu & Kashmir where there is a minimum ten years' punishment for cow slaughter," she said. Cows can be protected only at the homes of the farmers and not in gaushalas, she said. Appealing to enact a central law for cow protection, Chhote Mian Moinuddin Sabri said there should be a harsh punishment for those who indulge in cow slaughter. "I appeal to the people of all communities to extend their full support to this endeavour of protecting the cow," he said. Expressing his support to the Yatra, former CBI Director Sardar Joginder Singh informed that during the regime of Maharana Ranjit Singh, if there was death sentence for any crime, it was for cow slaughter.



Education Minister Releases ISKCON Book on Cow Protection

- Bhakta Chris Evans (Source: www.dandavats.com)

October 5, 2009. Minister of Education, Government of Andhra Pradesh, Sri D. Sridhar Babu launched the book "To Kill Cow Means To End Human Civilization", written by Dr Sahadeva dasa, in Secunderabad today.

On the occasion, 4 vice-chancellors of Andhra Pradesh universities were present. Minister spoke on the need for more information and awareness on cow science of ancient India and congratulated Dr Dasa for his work in this field. State and national media covered the event.

Today we are treating other life forms just like inert objects, as if they are devoid of any feelings whatsoever. We are showing unprecedented cruelty and callousness towards the dumb creation of God with whom we share this planet. Cruelty has been industrialized, barbarism has been institutionalized. Today the mistreatment of animals is phenomenal, unprecedented in human history. The unspeakable treatment meted out to poor animals before they become our dinner will never go unpunished by the stringent laws of nature.

This book deals with 'cow', the very representative of the aphonic creation of God, a symbol of selfless service to man in life and death. Our attitude towards this important animal will decide our fate. Strange it may sound or even eccentric, cow will prove to be the making or breaking point for humanity.

Already we stand at the cross roads today. Dangerous challenges are staring us in the face today from environmental, ecological, moral, social, economic, and health fronts. Global uncertainties are mounting and humanity's future prospects look increasingly bleak. Before it gets too late, mankind has to get back to cow, get back to the mother.

Make Vrindavan Villages 



Wonderful Cow of Gautham Nagar *(Translated to English from Telugu Daily by Sita Mahalaxmi)*

There is a wonderful cow, named Gauri, who drinks tap water, opening the tap herself to quench her thirst. So many people in Gautham Nagar are fond of Gauri. Details given in the newspaper article "Sabash ...Gauramma" are as follows:

Area: Malkajgiri & Lalapet surroundings

Nickname: Gauri (Gauramma)

Owner: Santosh

Specialty: Responding to the things going on around like a human being

Favorite food: Vegetarian food given by residents

Hobbies: Drinking water from the tap; using bore well water for bathing and using tap water for cleaning herself.

Time: From 4 years it has been doing this activity

Sad incident in this cow's life: Death of banana vendor who had been giving her bananas regularly. She did not touch the banana given by the vendor's wife because of the vendor's death.

Resident's opinion about the cow, Gauri: Cow Gauri is equal to God. They were surprised on seeing Gauri go in deep grief and cry on the death of banana vendor.

Owner's opinion about the cow, Gauri: His financial status has improved due to the existence of the cow, Gauri in his life. Once he decided to sell her but on seeing residents' attachment to her, he changed his mind.



Sensitive items import up 34.5% in Apr-July

October 9, 2009. New Delhi. An increase in imports of foreign farm products like dairy items, pulses, fruits and vegetables as well as tea led to a 34.5% expansion in import of sensitive goods during the April-July period, which stood at Rs 18,061 cr as against Rs

(Source: Financial Express)

13,424 cr for the same period last year, commerce and industry ministry release said on Thursday. Notably, the sensitive items account for 23% of country's total imports.



Food Shortages Face Flood-hit India *(Source: Al Jazeera)*

October 9, 2009. Government officials and aid agencies are warning of food shortages in India in the aftermath of deadly floods that swept several of its southern states. With large tracts of farm land inundated and crops damaged, agricultural production is set to plummet, they say.

Food production in the southern state of Andhra Pradesh is expected to decline by more than 900,000

tonnes, officials have said. "Rice and other crops in an area of 260,000 hectares (642,000 acres) have been destroyed," Raghuvendra Rao, the state agriculture minister, has said.

Last week's floods - after a long dry spell of drought - in Andhra Pradesh and neighbouring Karnataka have killed at least 300 people and displaced more than a million people.



Mills yet to pay Rs 122 cr to sugarcane farmers *(Source: Business Standard)*

October 9, 2009. The Indian sugar mills are yet to pay Rs 122.31 cr to farmers for the sugarcane purchased since 2006-07, even as their profit margin went up following rise in sugar prices. According to the latest official data, sugar mills in the private sector owe Rs 92.87 cr, while cooperative factories Rs 29.40 cr and public sector units Rs 400,000.

This cane arrear since 2006-07 season also includes a due of about Rs 8.50 crore recorded in 2008-09

season which ended on September 30, a government official said. According to the quarterly results of most of the sugar companies, the net profit has turned positive in 2008-09, while in the previous season they incurred losses. The turnaround is attributed to better realisation as the country produced 15 million tonnes of sugar against a demand size of 22.5 million tonnes.

Make Arndavan Villages 

• VRT Activities- Secunderabad Chapter



The VRT- Secunderabad Chapter, which has its office at New Govardhan, Mahindra Hills wears a new look. The inmates- HG Gour Gopal Das, Bhaktin Nandita, Bhaktin Radhika, and Vrndavanlila dd have achieved partial self-sufficiency in growing vegetables in the limited space that their house offers in the city. In fact they have been lovingly sharing their yields with the neighbors around and even offering it to the devotees. They do not buy flowers from outside for puja, and according to the season they have different flowers like marigold, rajanigandha, roses etc. Their roof top garden caters to various requirements. Their vegetable garden yields pumpkin, papaya, snake gourd, mint, aloe vera etc. A glance at the pictures reveals it.



• Mails to the Editor



“... this goes for you (Vrndavanlila dd) and all members of the next generation of Shrila Prabhupada’s worldwide family:

*May you always remain happy,
Sheltered by your guru’s grace.
May Lord Krishna ever guide you
As you preach from place to place.*

*May the Lord of the Heart inspire you,
With spirit’s grace from within.
May you purify this Kali Yuga,
And free the world from sin.*

*May your mind dwell forever,
At Radha-Krishna’s lotus feet,
May you impart this Krishna consciousness
Unto everyone one you meet.*

*May Prabhupada’s grace surround you
By the blessings of your Shri Guru.*

With affection to all of you soldiers planted by Mahaprabhu in His holy army.”

- HG Patita Pavana das Adhikary

The mails can be posted to eightpetalsnewsletter@gmail.com or vrndavanlila.brs@gmail.com

*May Providence direct your travels
And assist in all you do.*

*May every tirtha bhumis,
That served Shrila Prabhupada,
Keep you safe and free from harm
By the grace of the name of God.*

*May all blissful disciples
Pave the way for a better world
Where the bliss of Mahaprabhu’s sankirtan
Is tasted free for every boy and girl.*

*And may you always be happy,
Sure and secure that this
Krishna consciousness is the way to love,
And eternal life and bliss.*

Make Vrndavan Villages 