

### HIS DIVINE GRACE A.C. BHAKTIVEDANTA SWAMI SRILA PRABHUPADA

His Divine Grace, **Srila Prabhupada** is the Founder of the **International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON)** – a non-sectarian worldwide society of spiritually minded persons dedicated to the upliftment of all humanity through the development of values based on the spirit (or soul within the body) in relation with GOD who is the Supreme Spirit. His Divine Grace has stated that by re-establishing our spiritual heritage with that of GOD, we can recognize the commonality in all of humanity as our spiritual family and develop healthy loving relationships based on the common good. Spirit based activities can bring humanity closer together as one homogenous whole (as the children of GOD) rather than the opposite of becoming divisive due to being based on arbitrary bodily designations of sex, age, race, color, caste, creed, or any other divisive method based on the physical appearance of the body as the cause of dividing humanity into smaller and smaller groups not like any other.

This Rathayatra Parade and Festival is meant to revive our long lost relationship with GOD the Father of all souls through a joyful process of song, dance, and music that give freedom to our spirit to live a more joyful and fulfilling life gained through the real knowledge of the spiritual values of life. We value so many things in our lives, but are they temporary or everlasting? The ancient Vedic literatures of India teach us that the body is temporary and the soul within is everlasting and eternal. Therefore, we should endeavor to attain the everlasting while minimizing the temporary.

All Rathayatra parades worldwide outside India, specifically Jagannath Puri, in the state of Orissa were inaugurated and originated by **Srila Prabhupada** to uplift the spirit of all humanity by making the Lord of the Universe accessible to millions of persons worldwide who would never have had a chance, otherwise, to personally experience this unique soul stirring experience of a lifetime to start the process of reviving our long forgotten past of being eternal, full of knowledge, and full of bliss. The true nature of all souls is to be like the Supreme Soul, GOD, or Sri Jagannath (literally translated from the ancient Vedic teachings as Lord of The Universe) who is the originator of our own eternal, knowledgeable, and blissful nature. His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami **Srila Prabhupada** brought this most ancient, confidential and secret knowledge of the Vedas to the world and created an international society dedicated to the distribution of this knowledge for the spiritual upliftment of all souls called, The International Society for Krishna Consciousness, or ISKCON the short form of the society's name

# WHAT IS ISKCON

The International Society for Krishna CONsciousness (ISKCON), which is popularly known as the Hare Krishna Movement or Krishna Consciousness, was founded in New York City in 1966 by His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada with the help of disciples, friends, and well-wishers.

ISKCON was founded as a spiritual society that encompasses a worldwide association of Vaishnavas or devotees of The Supreme Personality Of Godhead, Lord Sri Krishna, for the express purpose of reviving the factual identity of all souls regardless of their current misidentification with the body based on race, sex, creed, country, language, or any other erroneous belief centered and focused on the bodily concept of life.

The principle process for reviving our original consciousness is through the medium of mantra meditation recommended by the ancient Vedic literatures as the means of freeing us from the mundane concept of reality towards a transcendental state of consciousness, in a more practical and action oriented method, by the chanting of the Maha (or great) mantra, which includes all other mantra potencies and potentialities within this one grand, all encompassing mantra which is displayed below for your edification and conscious upliftment...

The prime goal of ISKCON is to re-spiritualize the society at large towards a more God centered approach to life, which in turn, leads to peace and contentment due to the lack of a mundane approach to life and its concomitant problems.

### The Seven Fundamental Purposes Of ISKCON

When Srila Prabhupada first incorporated ISKCON in 1966, He gave His fledgling spiritual society seven fundamental purposes by which to guide the growth of the society:

- 1. To systematically propagate spiritual knowledge to society at large and to educate all people in the techniques of spiritual life in order to check the imbalance of values in life and to achieve real unity and peace in the world.
- 2. To propagate a consciousness of Krishna, as it is revealed in the Bhagavad-Gita and the Srimad-Bhagavatam.
- 3. To bring the members of the Society together with each other and nearer to Krishna, the prime entity, thus to develop the idea within the members, and humanity at large, that each soul is part and parcel of the quality of Godhead (Krishna).
- 4. To teach and encourage the sankirtana movement, congregational chanting of the holy names of God as revealed in the teachings of Lord Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu.
- 5. To erect for the members, and for society at large, a holy place of transcendental pastimes, dedicated to the personality of Krishna.
- 6. To bring the members closer together for the purpose of teaching a simpler and more natural way of life.
- 7. With a view towards achieving the aforementioned purposes, to publish and distribute periodicals, magazines, books and other writings.

## HARE KRISHNA



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May 18, 2016

#### MESSAGE

I am happy to know that ISKCON Baltimore, New Kulin Gram Temple, is celebrating the 14th Annual Rath Yatra and Festival of India in Baltimore on May 29, 2016. The festivity of chariot parade connects the devotees with the Rath Yatra organized every year in the premises of Lord Jagannath Temple in Puri, in the State of Odisha in India. Moreover, the Festival of India following the chariot parade provides a glimpse into Indian dance, music and food.

I convey my warm greetings to all celebrating the beautiful cultural event and wish the organizers of the event all success

(Arun K. Singh) Ambassador of India



# Message from our Temple President

Hare Krishna Everyone,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Sri Prabhupada.

As we are celebrating our 20th annual Rathyatra, I remember and marvel how much we have progressed. Rathyatra is always special because it allows Their Lordships - Jagannath Baladev Subhadra to give their mercy to all and sundry without any barrier. Our Lordships have been participating in the Rathyatra since 1970s from the first Rathyatra in New York City with His Divine Grace Srila Prabhupada to the current times in Baltimore. They travel from Washington DC to New York City to North Carolina for Rathyatra and giving Their Divine blessings.

I would like to thank our Rathyatra organizing chairman Shreyas Panchigar for tirelessly working over the years in making the Rathyatra a grand success. A special thank you to all the volunteers who have worked so diligently in organizing this Rathyatra.

In the end a warm welcome and thank you for coming and participating in the Rathyatra.

Happy Rath Yatra!

Hare Krishna

Your humble servant,

Nila Madhava Das (Dr. Neeraj Verma, M.D.) Temple President





# ISKCON BALTIMORE PREACHING SERVICES

### **BOOK DISTRIBUTION**

Srila Prabhupada describes distribution of his books on Krishna as one of the best welfare activities for mankind because it educates people about their eternal position and relation with God. ISKCON Baltimore puts great emphasis on distributing these literature to the masses through various means such as

Avenues used for book distribution:

- Local festivals such as DC Vegetarian Festival, Adams Morgan Street Festival etc.
- Door-to-door distribution
- placing books in Hotels/Motels, Shelters, Hospitals, Chapels etc.
- College events (7 local colleges covered)
- Festival of India at colleges
- Monthly Sankirtan Festivals
- Temple book store and table
- Home programs
- Srimad Bhagavatam Installations
- Corporate outreach and much more

#### **Accomplishments:**

In 2016 ISKCON Baltimore:

- Distributed over 50,000 books (worth over \$40,000) by Srila Prabhupada
- Over 70 volunteers participated in book distribution
- Achieved 8th position in North America amongst all ISKCON temple in book distribution
- Baltimore temple jumped to top ten temples in North America in book distribution.

**Contacts:** Sai Krishna (703.655.8927, saikrishna.rathnam@gmail.com) Loka & Vidarbha (240.481.8186, lagarwal@yahoo.com)

## COLLEGE OUTREACH

### **COLLEGE OUTREACH**

Srila Prabhupada put great emphasis on educating students about Krishna consciousness. ISKCON Baltimore prides itself in reaching out almost all the major colleges in the Baltimore/DC/VA metro area. Currently we offer various Bhakti Yoga programs in 7 major colleges through local student Bhakti Yoga clubs:

- 1) Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD
- 2) UMBC, Catonsville, MD
- 3) Towson University, Towson, MD
- 4) George Washington University, DC
- 5) American University, DC
- 6) George Mason University, Fairfax, VA
- 7) Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA



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#### Programs offered include:

- 1) Weekly Gita classes where we do kirtan, Japa meditation, discuss from the Bhagavad-Gita and offer free prasadam to students. Class sizes range up to 30 students. Many students have started regularly chanting Hare Krishna mantra and started reading Gita.
- 2) Festival of India: Twice a year, we put a mini-festival of India on the above campuses where we have many displays explaining Bhakti Yoga, kirtan, book distribution and Prasadam distribution. On the average, 500-1000 students take advantage of prasadam and books at each festival.
- 3) Tours to temple & Gita Nagari: Several times a year, students from these colleges are offered tours to our temple and Gita Nagari where they learn about and experience different aspects of Krishna consciousness first hand.

#### Accomplishments:

- 1) Distribute over 25,000 plates of prasadam every year at the above colleges
- 2) Distribute over 30,000 books about Krishna consciousness at the colleges
- 3) Thousands of students benefited every year
- Hundreds of students attend weekly Gita classes and get educated about Bhakti Yoga and start practicing chanting and learning

Contacts: Sankirtan Yagna (301.602.6547, sszili@aol.com)

### FOOD FOR LIFE (PRASADAM DISTRIBUTION)

ISKCON Baltimore is very active in distribution of prasadam to all sections of society. We distribute free prasadam to local shelters, colleges, general public.

#### Accomplishments:

• In 2016, we distributed over 25,000 plates of prasadam at local colleges and street events.

• Shelter Prasadam Program: We also started a unique program of distributing prasadam and books to residents of local shelters. We distributed prasadam to over 100 residents at the Baltimore Station, a veterans' shelter. We performed kirtan for the residents, served prasadam and spend time with the residents talking about their lives and Krishna.

Currently, we're supplying prasadam for 200 residents to a shelter in Rockville every week since February, 2015. All residents have also received books like the Journey of Self Discovery and Science of Self Realization. They greatly appreciate the prasadam and books and are eager for us to start teaching them meditation and Bhakti Yoga.



We're looking to expand this program to other local shelters.

**Contacts:** Saranagata (202.802.0426, ransonali@gmail.com) Sankirtan Yagna (301.602.6547, sszili@aol.com)

## HARINAAM

A regular weekly harinaam is taking place on Sundays from 11am-1pm at the McKeldin Square, next to the Inner Harbor in Baltimore. Books and prasadam cookies are distributed along with the holy name every week. You're welcome to join and experience the joy of sharing Krishna with others. Contact: Sankirtan Yagna (301.602.6547, sszili@aol.com)

### WEEKLY HOME SATSANGS

Many local devotees are hosting a weekly satsang program at their home where several families come together to chant, discuss from the Gita and other scriptures like Srimad Bhagavatam, Isopanishad etc. and associate. Children are also offered separate classes at some programs where they learn about Vedic culture. These programs provide a great way for families to gradually learn and experience Bhakti Yoga and Vedic culture. Families develop lifelong friendship and support each other in their journeys.

Currently a weekly home program is held in Germantown, MD and another in Ellicott city.

Contacts: Loka & Vidarbha (240.481.8186, lagarwal@yahoo.com)

### EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

One of the primary focus of our temple is to share knowledge about Krishna consciousness. We've started offering a weekly "Science of Self Realization" class at the temple on Sundays. This is a 12-week course where one can learn the essence of the Bhagavad-Gita.

We plan to start several other regular seminars and workshops on topics such as:

- Stress Management
- Life Management
- Relationship Management
- Dealing with Ups and Downs in life
- Ayurvedic / Vegetarian Cooking Classes
- Bhakti-Sastri (Systematic in-depth study of the four essential Bhakti literature such as Bhagavad-Gita, Nectar of Devotion, Nectar of Instruction and Sri Isopanishad. This course takes 2+ years)

Contacts: Loka & Vidarbha (240.481.8186, lagarwal@yahoo.com)

### BHAKTI LOUNGE

Bhakti Lounge is a special program offered at ISKCON Baltimore to introduce Bhakti Yoga to locals who have no knowledge or experience of Vedic culture. It gradually introduces them to Bhakti Yoga through chanting, kirtan, discussions and service activities. There is a weekly gathering that takes place on Sunday evenings at the temple in the lounge next to temple building. Since its inception in September 2014, over hundred local people, who had no or little prior knowledge of Vedic culture, have been introduced to Bhakti Yoga. There are plans to expand the lounge so we can start offering yoga classes, various seminars like kirtan seminar, cooking classes etc.



Contacts: Loka & Vidarbha (240.481.8186, lagarwal@yahoo.com)

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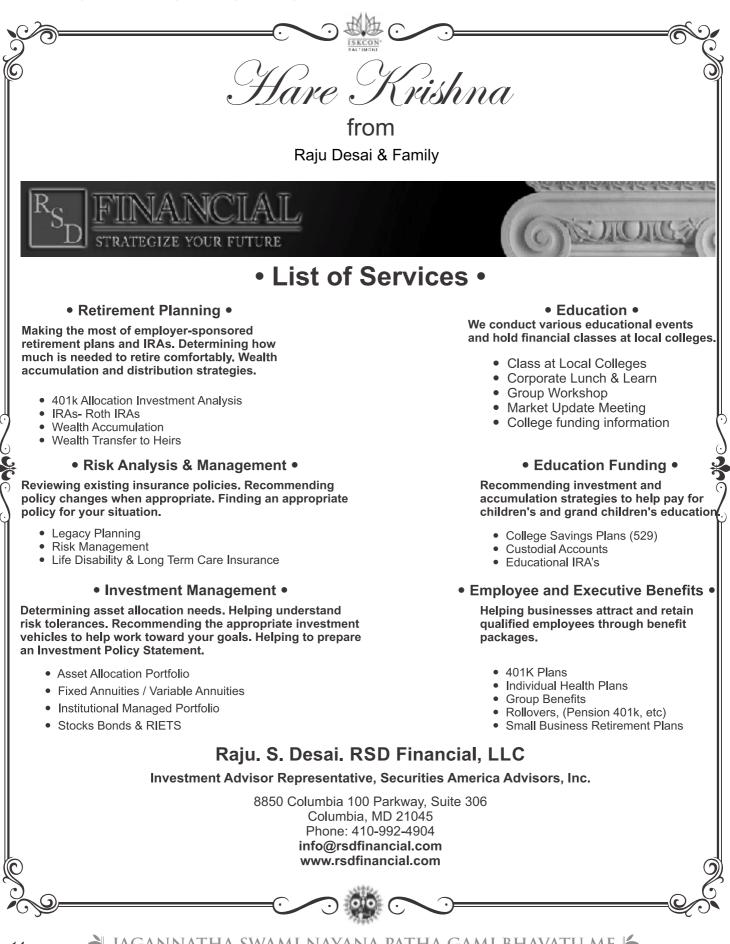


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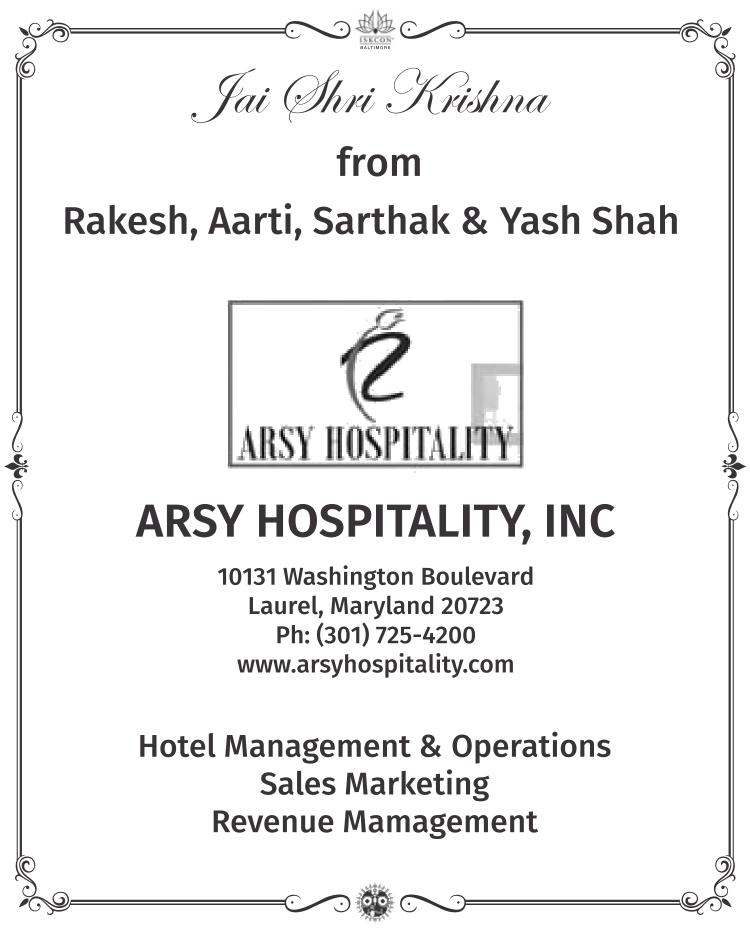
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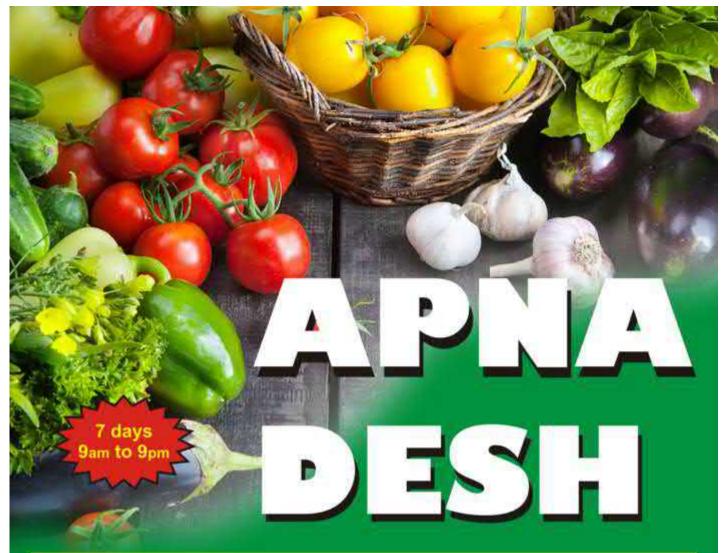
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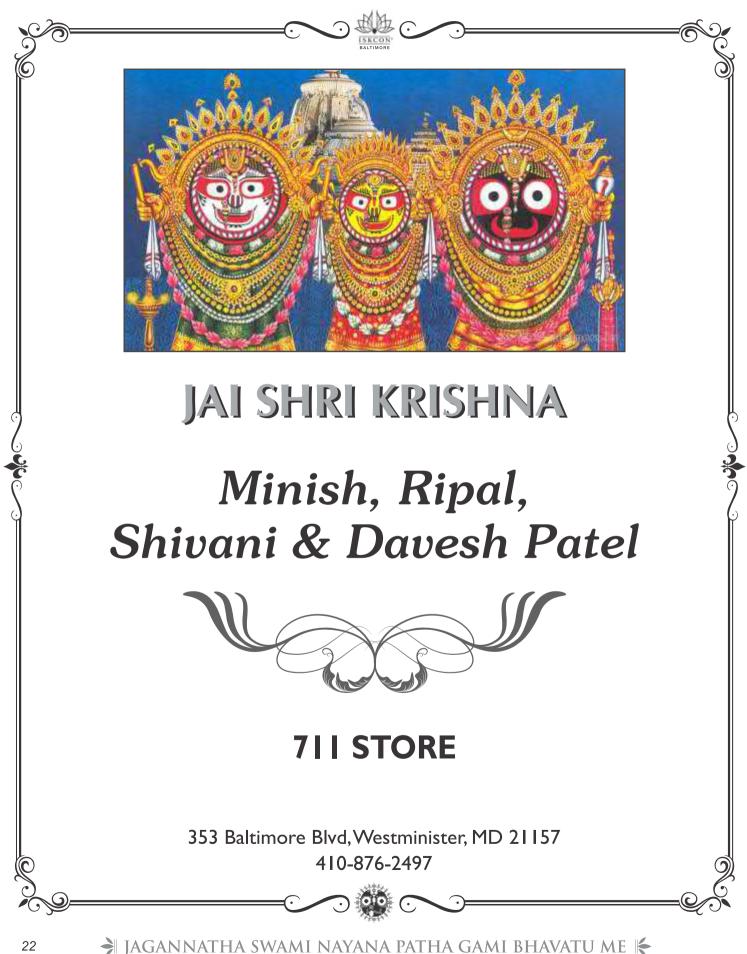


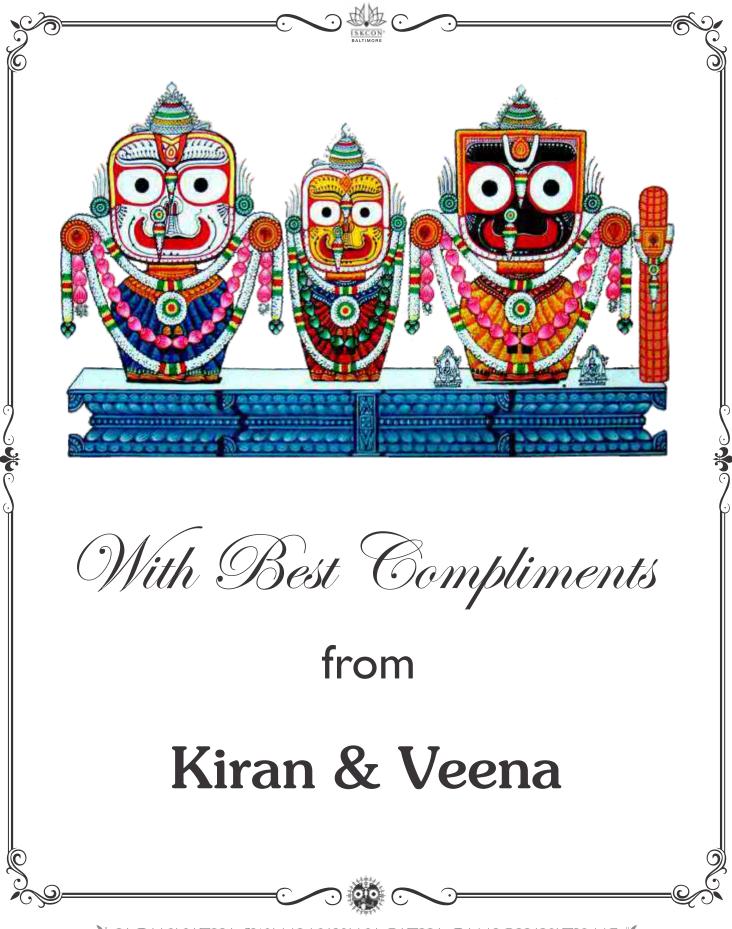
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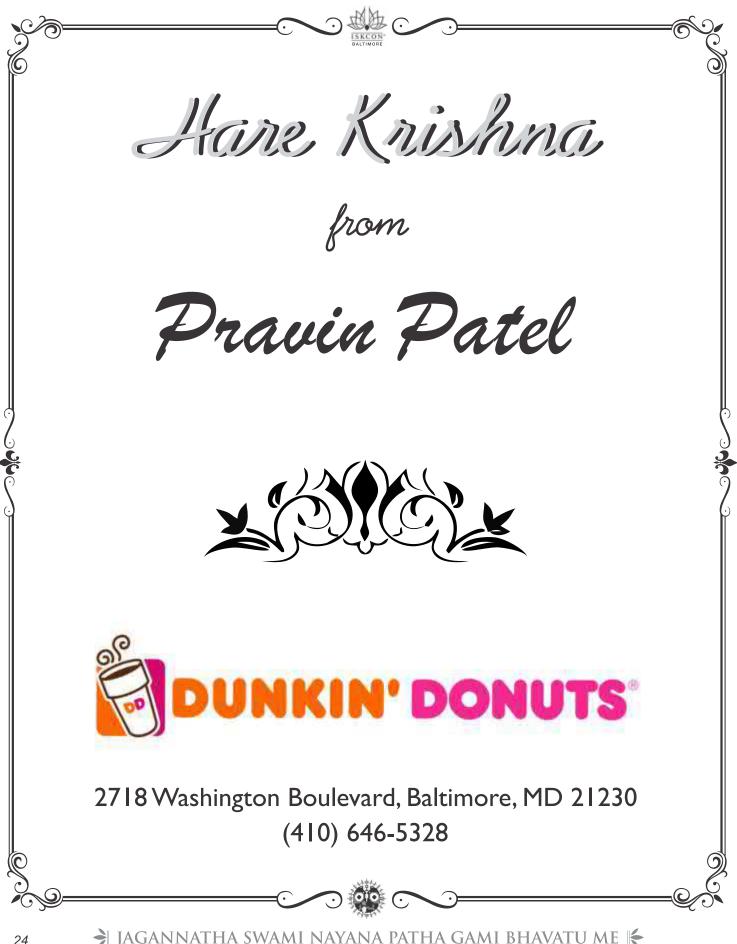


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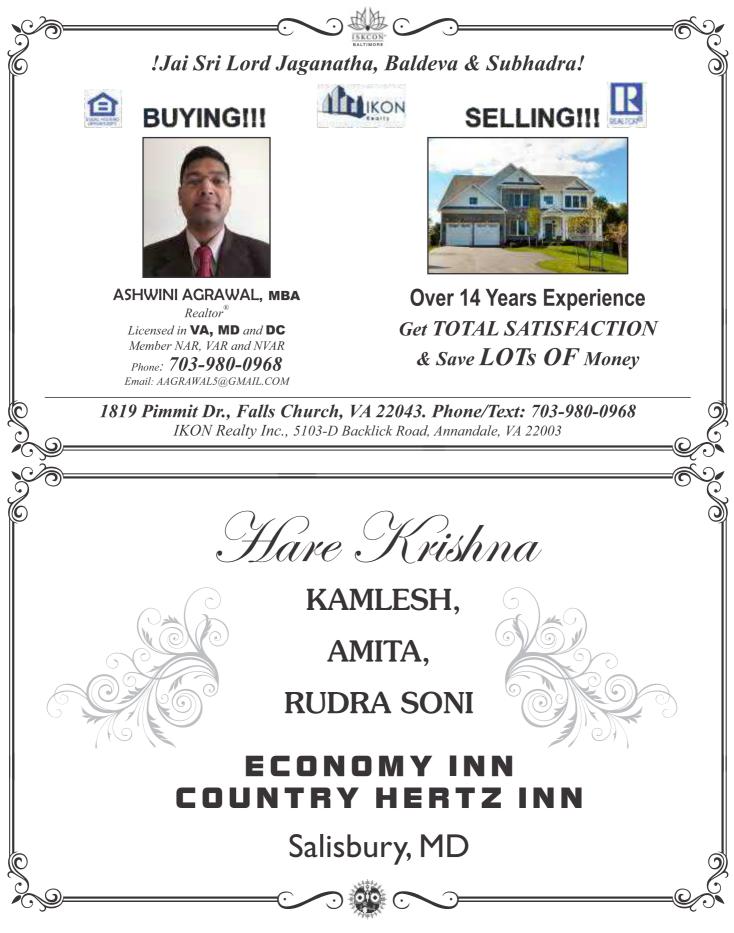


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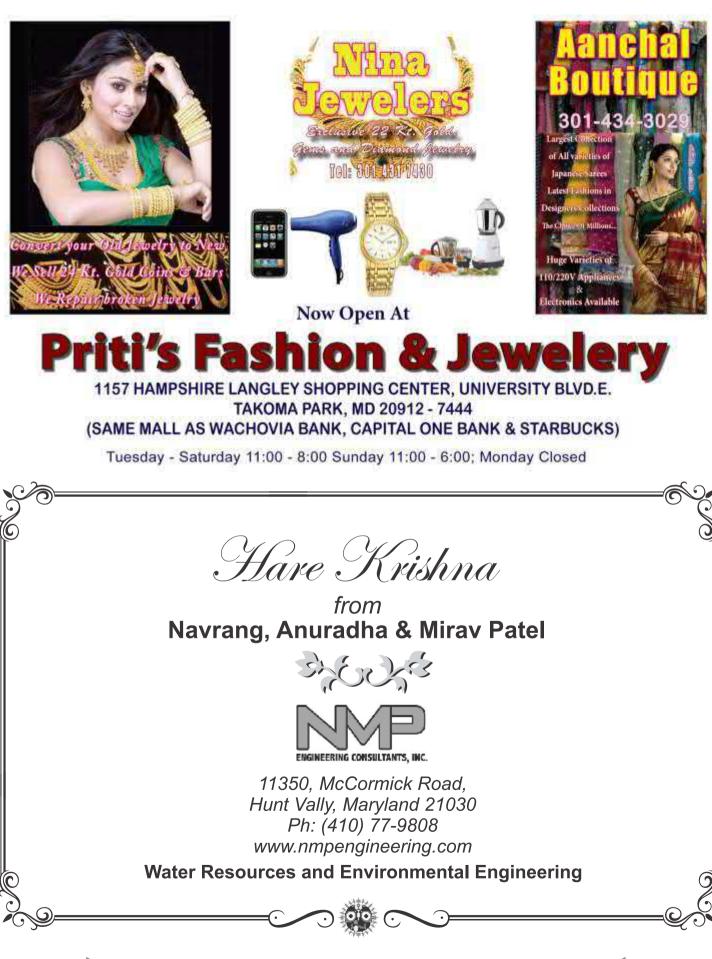
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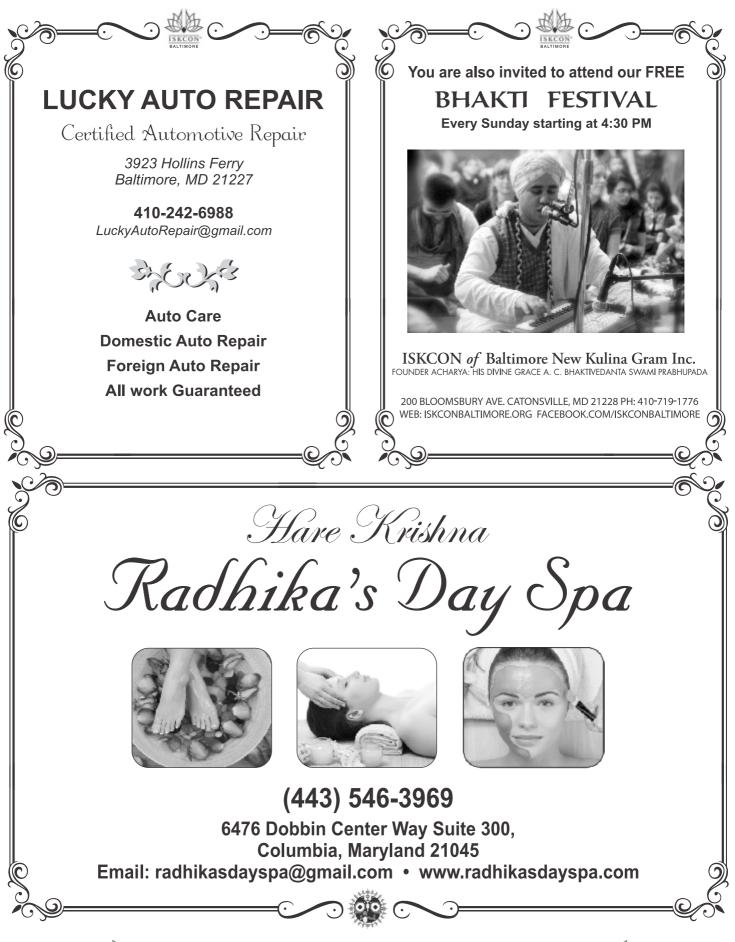












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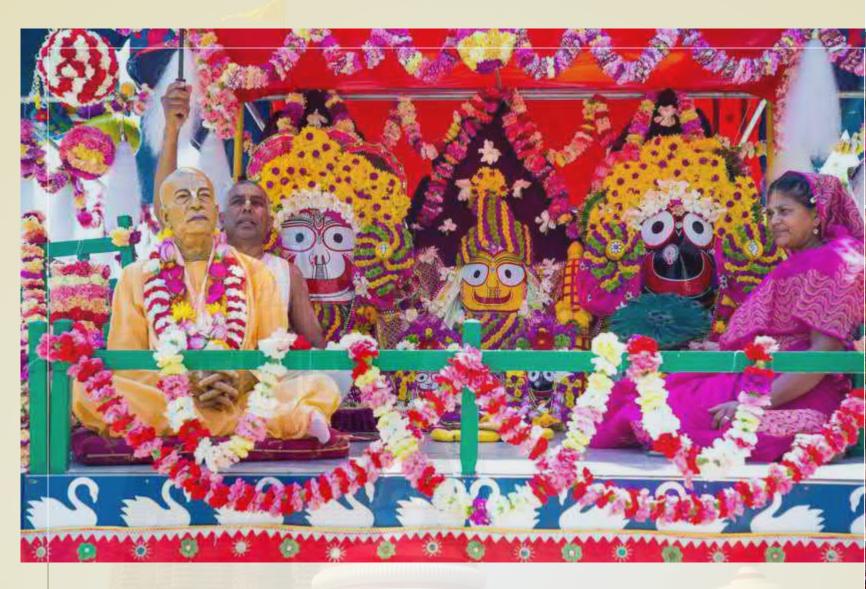
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# Their Lordship Sri Jagannatha, Baladeva & Subhadra

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