

WELCOME TO

Śrī-kṣetra Parikrama

29th November to 2nd
December 2023

A Four-day Spiritual Tour

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KRISHNA CONSCIOUSNESS

Founder Acharya His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada



Śrī-kṣetra Parikrama

Dear Maharajas, Prabhus and Matajis
Jaya Jagannatha!

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada. I would like to welcome you to our 19th anniversary celebration of Sri kṣetraparikrama which will be celebrated from the **29th November to 2nd December** Throughout the year various groups of devotees from different parts of the world visit Puri dham in the name of Puri parikrama or Yatra. During their visit they go to different temples while performing Harinama sankirtan and also engage in hearing the different pastimes of the Lord. Parikrama literally means circumambulation. Puri parikrama means circumambulating puri dham. Just like Govardhan parikrama and Vrindavan parikrama means circumambulating Govardhan and Vrindavan respectively. In this sense just visiting Puri to take darshan of the different temples cannot be called Puri parikrama. Puri parikrama means circumambulating Puri dham. The shastra encourages devotees to circumambulate Puri dham, Sanka kṣetra on this day as per the specific tithi.

Śrī-kṣetra Parikrama

According to scriptures one should do parikrama of Puri dham on this specific tithi to get the full result of Puri parikrama. Puri dham is also known as Sankha kṣetra as its form is in the shape of a conch shell. This puri parikrama is known therefore as Sankha kṣetra parikrama or Sri Kṣetra parikrama. The path is approximately twenty one kilometers, about the same distance as the circumambulation of Govardhan Hill. This Sri Kṣetraparikrama tithi falls on panchami tithi, four days after Kartik or rasa purnima. Devotees coming to Vrindavan for Kartik can also easily plan to attend this Puri parikrama after completing their Vrindavan parikrama without a schedule conflict.

Devotees gather two days before parikrama day. On First two days devotees will visit all the major places of pastimes of Lord Chaitanya Mahaprabhu. On the last day devotees will circumambulate the whole Puri kṣetra. Though this Puri parikrama is an age-old tradition it was not performed by people in general. Until nine years ago,

Śrī-kṣetra Parikrama

only some Sadhus of the different maths and a few family members were performing this Puri parikrama. For the past nine years ISKCON has been organizing this parikrama in a very grand way, where six to seven thousand devotees are now participating. Special arrangements are made for devotees coming from distant places like different parts of India and from foreign countries. We humbly encourage all devotees to take advantage of the spiritual mercy afforded by visiting and exploring the holy dham on this auspicious parikrama. Devotees will get the chance to hear from many sannyasis and senior devotees who are very expert in describing the glories of Puri dham and the pastimes of Lord Jagannatha and Sri Chaitanya mahaprabhu. Please go through this booklet for information about Puri parikrama and the glories of Puri dham.

Your humble servant
Bhakti Purusottama Swami



Śrī-kṣetra

Śrī means Śrī Devī, or Lakṣmī, the svarūpa-śakti of Lord Viṣṇu. That tract of land which is influenced by the śrī-śakti is thus known as Śrī-kṣetra. Śrī Devī is a partial expansion of Śrīmatī Rādhārāṇī. According to the devotees who worship the Lord in mādhyura-rasa, this place has manifested the influence of top class of sevā: mādhyura and audārya. In the Skanda Purāṇa (Utkala-khaṇḍa), it has been mentioned that this most beautiful Śrī-kṣetra is spread over ten yojanas (128km, or 80 miles) and surrounded by sands. Utkala is another name of Orissa. This place was also known as Udradeśa. Utkaladeśa has been described in scriptures as the most holy place on this planet. In the Brahmāṇḍa Purāṇa it is stated:

varṣāṇām bhārataḥ śreṣṭhaḥ
deśānām utkalaḥ smṛtaḥ
utkalasya sama-deśo
deśo nāsti mahitale

Among all varṣas, Bhāratavarṣa is great.
Among all countries, Utkala or Orissa is
the greatest. There is no place on this planet
equal to Utkaladeśa, Orissa.

Śrī-kṣetra Parikrama

Utkala is divided into four parts which represent the weapons of Lord Viṣṇu. These four kṣetras are known as Śaṅkha-kṣetra (Purī town), Padma-kṣetra (Koṅārk), Cakra-kṣetra (Bhuvaneśvara), and Gadākṣetra (Jājapura, where the Virajā Devī temple is). This kṣetra-maṇḍala covers an area of ten yojanas. Within that area of ten yojanas, Purī is known as Śaṅkha-kṣetra because its shape resembles a conch shell. This Purī-kṣetra covers an area of five krośa, three of which are immersed under the ocean, and two on land. This land is covered with golden sands and decorated with a blue mountain. Of the four kṣetras, this Śaṅkha-kṣetra is very special as the Lord Himself in His arcā-vigraha form is residing here on the bank of the ocean atop the blue mountain. The Lord has said this place is secret, even to Lord Brahmā.

Śrī-kṣetra Parikrama

In Skanda Purāṇa it is stated by Lakṣmī Devī:

pañca-krośam idam kṣetram
samudrānta-vyavasthitam
dvi-krośam tīrtha-rājasya
taṭa-bhūmau sunirmalam
suvarṇa-bālukākīrṇam
nīla-parvata-śobhitam
yo 'sau viśveśvaro devaḥ
sākṣān nārāyaṇātmakam

This kṣetra which is five krośa in size and situated on the bank of ocean is best among all kṣetras. In these five krośas, three krośas which are situated on the land portion are very sacred. This place surrounded by golden sands and beautified by a blue mountain. At this place Nārāyaṇa Himself is residing as Viveśvara.

Lord Hari never leaves this place. He says in Skanda Purāṇa,

satyaṁ satyaṁ punaḥ satyaṁ
satyam etad bravīmi te
prāsāda-bhaṅge tat sthānaṁ
na tyajāmi kadācana

Śrī-kṣetra Parikrama

I am telling you as real truths for there times that I never leave this place even if my temple is destroyed. Śaṅkha-kṣetra spreads from east to west. Its head is towards the west where Lokanātha Mahādeva resides. On the east side of Śaṅkha-kṣetra, Lord Nīlakaṅṭha Mahādeva is residing. The belly portion of Śaṅkha kṣetra is situated beneath the ocean. Towards the end of this conch-shaped kṣetra, Śrī Nīlakaṅṭheśvara Mahādeva resides. On the second āvarta (circle) of Śaṅkhakṣetra, Kapāla-mocana Mahādeva is residing. At the border of the third āvarta Ādyaśakti Jagamātā Vimalā is residing. On the navel portion of Śaṅkha-kṣetra there is Rohiṇī-kunḍa and Kalpa-vaṭa. On the bank of Rohiṇī-kunḍa, the Lord Himself is residing. Ardhāśinī Devī also resides in this kṣetra. Her name is Ardhāśinī, because she drank half the water during the time of annihilation.

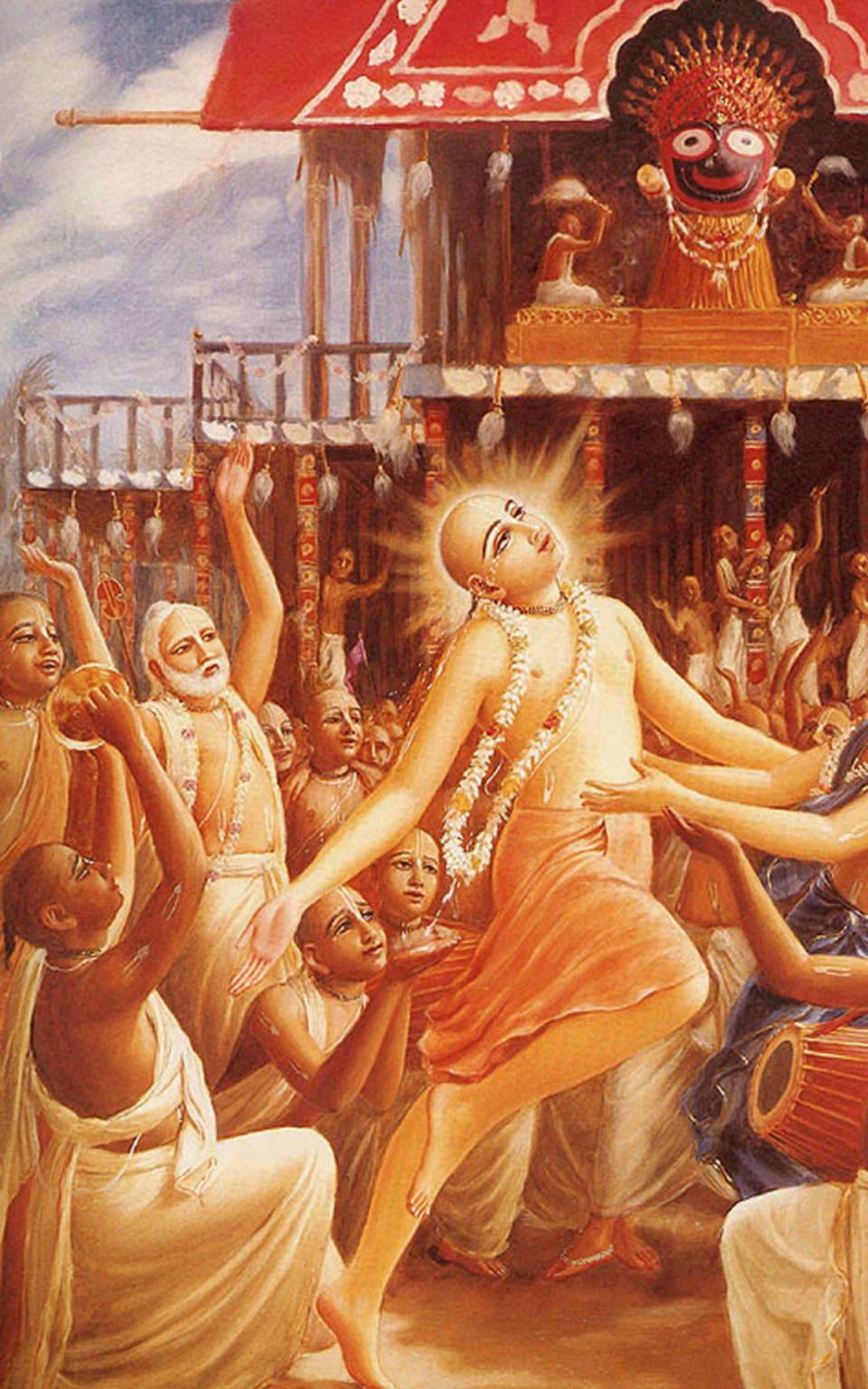
daśa-yojana-vistīrṇam
pañca-yojanam āyatam
nānāścarya-samāyuktam
kṣetram parama-durlabham
(Brahma Purāṇa)

This kṣetra is very beautiful and wonderful It is extended up to ten yojanas. This place is very rare.

Śrī-kṣetra Parikrama

The glories of Śrī-kṣetra, Puruṣottamakṣetra, have been mentioned in different Purāṇas like Skanda Purāṇa, Brahmā Purāṇa, Vāmadeva Saṁhitā, Kapila Saṁhitā, Padma Purāṇa, and Nīlādri Purāṇa.









Śrī-kṣetra parikramā

The holy dhāmas of Vṛndāvana, Navadvīpa, and Nīlācala-dhāma are nondifferent. Just as devotees perform Vrajamaṇḍala and Gaura-maṇḍala parikramā, in the same way devotees perform parikramā of Śrī-kṣetra, by which one is freed from sinful reactions from unlimited previous births. The Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam states:

barhāyite te nayane narāṇām
liṅgāni viṣṇor na nirīkṣato ye
pādaḥ nṛṇāṃ tau druma-jaṇma-bhājau
kṣetrāṇi nānuvrajato harer yau

The eyes which do not look at the symbolic representations of the Personality of Godhead Viṣṇu [His forms, name, quality, etc. are like those printed on the plumes of the peacock, and the legs which do not move to the holy places [where the Lord is remembered] are considered to be like tree trunks.

(2.3.22)

Śrī-kṣetra Parikrama

In the Skanda Purāṇa it has been mentioned that if, after achieving the human form of life, one does not engage in parikramā to Śrī Hari-kṣetra, then his life is useless.

samsāra-maru-kāntāra
nistāra-kāraṇa-kṣamau
ślāghyau tāv eva caraṇau
yau hares tīrtha-gāminau

The feet which move around the holy places connected with Śrī Hari are truly praiseworthy, because by this action one can cross over the difficult path of the desertlike samsāra, or material existence.

In the Skanda Purāṇa it is stated that Vidyāpati, after taking darśana of Nīla Mādhava and preparing to return to his home, said, “Very soon I will start my journey after completing parikramā of this mākṣetra. I have heard from my friends that those who circumambulate Śrī Puruṣottama-kṣetra, the destroyer of all sins, which is situated near the sea beach and decorated by the most beautiful blue mountain, will attain the result of circumambulating the earthly planet three times.”

Śrī-kṣetra Parikrama

Vāmadeva Saṁhitā states that one who performs parikramā of Śrī-kṣetra-maṇḍala attains the result of an Aśvamedha-yajña at every step. Śrī-kṣetra is shaped like a śaṅkha, or conch shell. Thus in the Skanda Purāṇa it is called Śaṅkha-kṣetra. This Śaṅkha-kṣetra is spread over five krośas (one krośa is two miles, or 3.2 kilometres): two krośas are submerged in the ocean, and three krośas of land are above the surface of the ocean. In Skanda Purāṇa it is written:

bhramanti tīrthāny anyāni
tyaktvaitat kṣetram uttamam
phalāśā-modakais tṛptvā
labhante śrama-jam phalam

Those who leave this place (Puruṣottamakṣetra),
which is the best among all places,
and travel to other tīrthas, being satisfied
by the modaka of hope for result, they simply
receive the hard labor.

The Glories of Śrī-kṣetra

In the middle of Śaṅkha-kṣetra there is very beautiful blue mountain. On top of that blue mountain the Lord resides. Śrī-kṣetra or Purī-dhāma is also known as Nīlācaladhāma. Nīla means blue, and ācala means an immovable mountain. The Vaiṣṇava Tantra glorifies Purī-dhāma as follows: mathurā-dvārakā-lilāḥ yāḥ karoti ca gokule nīlācala-sthitaḥ kṛṣṇas tā eva carati prabhuḥ Whatever pastimes Lord Kṛṣṇa performs in Goloka, Mathurā, and Dvārakā, all these pastimes He also manifests in Nīlācaladhāma The Caitanya-bhāgavata describes the glories of Purī-dhama as follows:

Śrī Kṛṣṇa smiled slightly and spoke kindly, “Listen, My dear Śiva, I am giving you a very beautiful place. Live here with all your associates and followers. This place is known as Ekāmra-kāvana. In this idyllic surrounding, you will appear and be worshipped. This place is in every way as captivating as Vārāṇasī. Besides, this place is also extremely elevated spiritually, but few know of this truth. Today, I will reveal to you the esoteric significance of Ekāmra-kāvana, which is so dear to Me.





Śrī-kṣetra Parikrama

the Guardian of Death. I am the judge here who determines the evil and pious deeds of an individual and their results.”

(Caitanya-bhāgavata 2)

In Bṛhad-Bhāgavatāmṛta (2.1.159-163)

Śrīla Sanātana Gosvāmī describes Purīdhāma:

In Puruṣottama-kṣetra Nīlācala, by the shore of the salt-water ocean, the Lord of the universes, Jagannātha, is splendidly manifest in a spiritual form of wood. On the northern shore of the ocean, the supremely blissful Personality of Godhead pretends to be made of wood. Opulent and powerful, He personally protects the kingdom of Orissa. He is glorious. He loves His servants. The goddess of fortune personally cooks for Him. When He has eaten, the merciful Lord gives His remnants, which even the demigods cannot obtain, to His devotees. These remnants, called mahāprasādam, should be eaten without considering who has touched them or from where they were brought. Oh, the glory of that place! Even an ass there becomes a fourarmed resident of Vaikuṅṭha. Anyone who goes there once is never born again. The Brahma Purāṇa glorifies Purīdhāma as follows:

Śrī-kṣetra Parikrama

yathā sarveśvaraḥ viṣṇuḥ sarvalokottamottamaḥ
tathā samasta-tīrthānām
variṣṭham puruṣottamam
varṇānām brāhmaṇo yathā
vainateyaś ca pakṣiṇām
tathā samasta-tīrthānām
variṣṭham puruṣottamam
munīnām ca yathā vyāsaḥ
kuvero yakṣa-rakṣasām
tathā samasta-tīrthānām
variṣṭham puruṣottamam
satyaṁ satyaṁ muni-śreṣṭho
bhavadbhiḥ samudāhṛtam
puruṣottama-samam kṣetraṁ
nāsty atra pṛthivī-tale

Just like Śrī Viṣṇu, the Lord of all, is the greatest of the greatest of all persons, Puruṣottama-kṣetra is the greatest of all tīrthas.

Just as the brāhmaṇa-varṇa is the greatest of all the varṇas and just as Garuḍa, the son of Vinatā, is the greatest of all birds, Puruṣottama Kṣetra is the greatest of all tīrthas.

Just as Vyāsadeva is the greatest of the sages and just as Kuvera is the greatest of the yakṣas and rākṣasas, Puruṣottama Kṣetra is the greatest of all tīrthas. Truly, truly as declared by you, there is no holy place equal to Puruṣottama Kṣetra on the surface of earth.

Śrī-kṣetra Parikrama
puruṣottamāt paraṁ kṣetraṁ
nāsty eva pṛthivī-tale
bhū-svargam iti vikhyātam
devānām api durlabham

Puruṣottama-kṣetra is para or a transcendental place. There is no other place like this on earth. It is known as Bhū-svarga or heaven on earth. It is rarely attained even by devas.

The Kapila Saṁhitā states,
sarveṣāṁ caiva devānām
rājā śrī-puruṣottamaḥ
sarveṣāṁ caiva kṣetrāṇām
rājā śrī-puruṣottamaḥ

Śrī Puruṣottama Jagannātha-deva is king of all devas and Śrī Puruṣottama-kṣetra is king of all kṣetras or dhāmas.

sākṣāt vaikuṅṭha-rūpaṁ tat
kṣetraṁ śrī-puruṣottamaḥ
kṣetrāṇām api kṣetraṁ ca
tīrthānām api yad varam

That track of land which is known as Śrī Puruṣottama-kṣetra is a direct manifestation of Vaikuṅṭha. It is the best among all kṣetras and all tīrthas.

Śrī-kṣetra Parikrama

Purī-dhāma Glorified in Skanda Purāṇa
In Skanda Purāṇa, Śrī Lakṣmī-devī told

Yamarāja, “O Yamarāja! You have no influence in this most holy place. This place is very rare to be attained. All those living entities who live in this kṣetra are not controlled by you. They are beyond your jurisdiction. People desiring liberation here are already liberated while living in this dhāma. Śrī Viṣṇu puts living entities in bondage at all other places. But in Śrī Kṣetra, He gives liberation to every one. This land does not get destroyed even at the time of annihilation.” In Viṣṇu Khaṇḍa (fourth chapter), Mahālakṣmī says to Yamarāja,

pr̥thivyām yāni tīrthāni
gagane ca tripiṣṭape
sārdha-kotī-saṅkhyāni
svarga-mokṣa-pradāni vai
teṣām ayaṁ tīrtha-rājaḥ
kīrtitaḥ puruṣottamaḥ
sarveṣāṁ mukti-kṣetrāṇāṁ
idaṁ sāyujya-dam matam

O Dharmarāja! Among all those thirty five millions of tirthas existing on earth, heaven and sky, this Puruṣottama-kṣetra is tīrtharāja and gives sayujā mukti.

Śrī-kṣetra Parikrama

The Brahmāṇḍa Purāṇa glorifies Purīdhāma:
varṣānām bhārataḥ śreṣṭho
deśānām utkalaḥ smrtaḥ
utkalasya samādeśadeśo
nāsti mahī-tale

Among all varṣas Bhāratavarṣa is great.
Among all countries Orissa is the greatest.
There is no place on this planet equal to
Orissa.



Highlights of the Sri Kṣetra Parikrama

- Hearing Jagannath and Goura Katha from ISKCON senior devotees, sannyasis and Srila Prabhupada disciples.
- Ocean Bathing
- Jagannath Prasad
- Visiting Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu's places of pastimes.
- Separate parikrama tour groups to accommodate English, Bengali and Oriya speaking devotees.
- Circumambulating Sri Kṣetra, twenty one km walk around Puri Dham.
- A great festival of chanting, hearing, dancing and taking Jagannatha prasadam

Parikrama Information

- Date- 29th November to 2nd December 2023

- Accommodation

You can book rooms through us and we will provide rooms at different hotels around our ISKCON Puri temple or Swargadwar.

- Registration

For advance Registration and room booking please contact respective group which you like to be.

for general information contact:

+91 8789719895

(please see p.g no.29 for registration details)

- Important Notice

All Devotees must register in advance so accommodation and other facilities can be arranged accordingly.

- Last Date for Registration 30th October

Parikrama schedule

29th November to 2nd December 2023

29th November

Arrival of devotees near ISKCON, Bhakti Kutir, Swargadwar, Puri

30th November

Visiting different pastime places of Lord Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu and hearing Jagannath katha.

01st December

Visiting more places of Lord Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu and hearing Jagannath katha.

02nd December

Parikrama of Sri Kṣetra Puri Dham. A transcendental twenty-one km walk around Sri Kshetra. We pass along beautiful ocean beaches, through forests and numerous holy sites such as Narendra sarovara and Indradumna sarovara, Chakra tirtha, Lokanath temple, etc.

COMMON QUESTION AND ANSWER

1. When does registration ends?

30th October 2023 (please see p.g no.29 for registration details)

2. When do the devotees arrive in puri?

29th November 2023

3. How to reach puri from Bhubaneswar airport / puri station?

You can come by train directly to Puri or by air to Bhubaneswar and then by car or bus to Puri. From Bhubaneswar to Puri it is about 50km.

For transport different vehicles are available from airport to puri

4. Do the devotees have to register?

Yes. Registration begins from 1st June 2023

5. What are the groups for Puri Parikrama?

Bengali, Odiya, Hindi, Tamil

6. How to contact the parikrama groups for registration?

Tamil Group

Mobile : 9232 253 602

Email- suddhasridharadas@gmail.com

Bengali Group

Mobile :9474 652 829 / 8371878928

Email- kanairam.jps@pamho.net

Oriya Group

Mobile :09437264454

Email- hemaharipada.jps@gmail.com

Hindi Group

Mobile :9593 648 074 / 9735212358

Email- lgd@pamho.net

7. What are the registration fees?

Bengali	(A) group - 1800	
Bengali	(B) group - 2400	
Hindi	group - 2400	
Odiya	group - 1800	
Tamil	Registration fee	Rs.1,650/-
	Non Ac Room with Registration	Rs.3,650/-
	AC room with Registration	Rs.5,050/-

8. What is included in registration fee?

It includes Prasadam, accommodation & registration. For four days per person.

9. Is there any free accommodation?

No. there will be separate charges for your accommodation according to type of hotel you choose.

10. I do not want to share my room with others, I want to have room for my self.

Yes you may have room for yourself or for your family but with extra charges.

11. Is prasadam free during the festival?

Yes. Registration includes breakfast and lunch

12. When does the Srikṣetra Parikrama start?

10th November evening at see beach

13. How will weather be in puri during Parikrama days?

The weather will be normal, not too hot and not too cold. You may bring mild winter clothes for night and very early in the morning.

14. Where to Register?

To secure your spot, please contact or email the specific groups you are interested in for advance registration. (please see p.g no.29 for registration details)

15. Can I register on arrival to puri?

Yes. with extra charges, but no guarantee for accommodation.

16. I can't walk, what are other options for me?

You can ask help from your group leader to manage rickshaw, auto or you may do so yourself and they can follow behind parikrama. (rickshaw, auto or any vehicles charges not included in registration)

17. Do we have medical help in parikrama?
Yes, please ask your group leader.

18. I would like to give donation, whom to contact?

Bhakti Purusottama Swami

Email : bps@pamho.net

Mobile : +91 9434506434

As we are taking very nominal donation as registration fee to enable as many as devotees to be able to participate this parikrama we need different sponsorship to cover over all expenses of parikrama. We humbly request all devotees to kindly come forward to help us financially to make this parikrama a grand success.

For any suggestion please write to:

bps@pamho.net

sridhamgovinda.jps@pamho.net

*Jagannatha Swami nayana patha gami
bhava tu me!*

See you soon!



