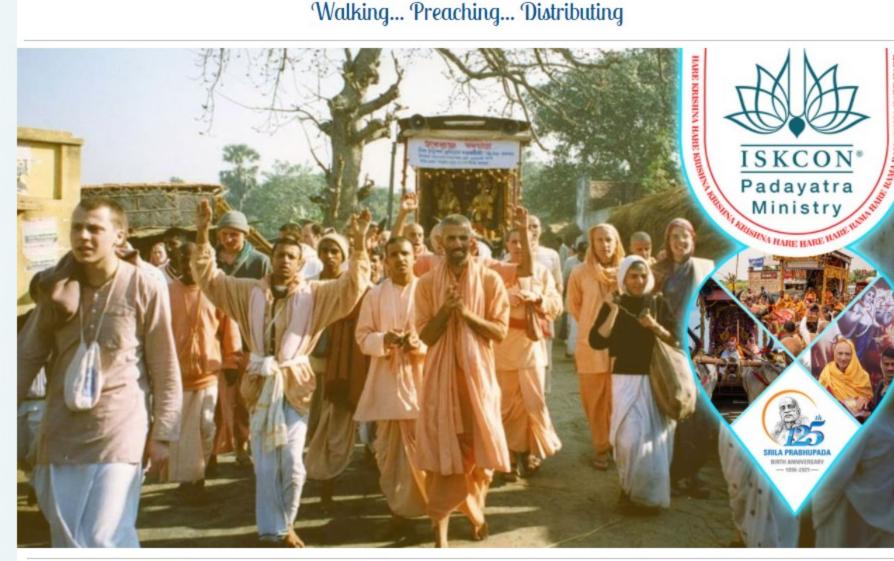
PADAYATRA WORLD



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Translation

On a morning walk on 21 November 1975 in Bombay, Mahamsa reported to Srila Prabhupada about the newly formed party of five

village preaching program. He indicated how austere the program really was and suggested that instead of the party spending two months at a time, the devotees returned after six days. Srila Prabhupada inquired why this was the case, and Mahamsa shared two challenges. The one was that nobody was qualified

defective. Otherwise the program was a great success. Prabhupada: Oh, that is success. People were coming. Mahamsa said to Srila Prabhupada that someone met him at a

temple in Hyderabad and told him that after a village program, farmers were congregating each evening and doing kirtana instead of doing nothing which was their usual habit. Prabhupada: Just see how quickly there will be response. Therefore I was insisting, "Go village to village, town to town."

Caitanya Mahaprabhu's prediction: prthivite ache yata nagaradi.

foiled. Let us now begin village to village." International Society For Krishna Conciousness Founder Acarya His Divine Grace A.C Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada



brahmanda bhramite kona bhagyavan jiva guru-Krishna-prasade paya bhakti-lata-bija

"According to their karma, all living entities are wandering throughout the entire universe. Some of them are being elevated to the upper planetary

systems, and some are going down into the lower planetary systems. Out of many millions of wandering living entities, one who is very fortunate gets an opportunity to associate with a bona fide spiritual master by the grace of Krishna. By the mercy of both

Krishna and the spiritual master, such a person receives the seed of the creeper of devotional service. (Madhya 19.151 Sri Caitanya-caritamrta) In his purport Srila Prabhupada says, "If the living entity by chance or fortune comes in contact with the Krishna consciousness movement and wishes to associate with that movement, Krishna, who is situated in everyone's heart, gives him the chance to meet a bona fide spiritual master.

devotees. The villagers have even started observing Ekadasi! Ordinarily people are not immediately inclined to take up Krishna consciousness so easily, but when this happens, it is indeed beyond our wildest

It is incredibly joyful to see an entire village becoming

imagination. It is in explicable how the consciousness of an entire village can be elevated within a month!

them - herein lies the power and mystery of Krishna consciousness.

We are witnessing how the Lord is showering His mercy on them. Acarya Prabhu and the All India Padayatra team have planted the seed of bhakti securely in their hearts. The villagers have become inspired by the service of these pure devotees. What is happening in this village can be referred to as a "revolution in consciousness." The Lord selected this village to shower His mercy in so many ways. A great Vaisnava Pancha Mukhi Mahadev is staying there, so the Lord selected Bharkawada as a place for the Padayatris to stay in the heart of the village for 45 days. Without the lockdown the Padayatris would have stayed for just 2 days! This is all about the mercy of the Lord and the villagers are now part of the fortunate group of people to be touched by associating with the Krishna consciousness movement, and then receiving the seed of the creeper of devotional service.

Initially you were not allowing to the Padayatris to stay in your village and now you can't leave them nor forget

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Maharashtra Padayatra: an incidental stay at Pandharpur Since the second lockdown, we have taken shelter of ISKCON Pandharpur. It has been more than two months that we have been here, celebrating Gaura Purnima in this beautiful village of Pandharpur.

a call from our spiritual master, HH Lokanath Swami, who inquired about our well-being. He also invited us for the Gaura Purnima celebration at Pandharpur because the pandemic figures were increasing daily and there was a strong possibility of a second lockdown being declared.

We all attended a grand Gaura Purnima celebration along with the sannayasa ceremony of our god brother, Ekalavya Dasa, now Sri Krishna Chaitanya Maharaja. It was a mesmerising location with the Chandrabhaga River as a spectacular backdrop to this esteemed ceremony.

Our oxen were put under the care of Pandharpur goshala. On Padayatra we miss the formal morning programs of

the temple and the association of senior devotees. So, it was a very remarkable arrangement by the Lord as we

Pandharpur on March 26 to a warm welcome with sankirtana at the entrance by the devotees of Pandharpur. We

were all fortunate to have darshan of our beloved spiritual master, and our Padayatra inspiration, HH Lokanath Swami. It was deemed a double blessing with both Lord Vitthala and our spiritual master in the same place. Being

in Pandharpur meant that we could have darshan of our Gurudev and his auspicious association.

As much as we were relishing our stay in the dhama, I constantly thought about a Padayatri's core responsibility: to walk and preach. It excited us to hear that on June 3 that there was a chance that lockdown would be eased, but unfortunately this did not happen. It troubled me not to move ahead, and I met with Guru Maharaja and asked for permission to start travelling again. But Maharajaji said, "It may be a problem for all of you and again

nearby villages of Pandharpur dhama." I was overjoyed with this plan and so were the other Padayatris. We were joined by the temple devotees in the sankirtana programme as suggested by Gurudev. On the first day we travelled on the main road of Pandharpur and to the nearby residential area. At 10 a.m. we were ready with Their Lordships on the chariot at the gate. After performing sankirtana we moved ahead. It was

a very unique experience in the dhama with the many more devotees who joined us. The villagers took darshan of

grand event. Schools were closed and it suited them perfectly to join the sankirtana without any restriction. The third and fourth days the Bullock Cart Sankirtana Party circumambulated the awe-inspiring Vitthala and Jagannatha Temples in Pandharpur. The final remaining two days were spent travelling to the colonies in Pandharpur and Gopalpur. Here we attended a program at the home of Raghavendra Dasa and also went for darshan of Lord Gopal and Visnupada, the foot prints of Lord Visnu. The plan for the next days would be to travel to the other nearby villages until the lockdown was lifted, after

Nepal Padayatra finally gets off the ground The Nepal Padayatra was launched on January 19, 2021. The inspiration behind this was our dearest Guru Maharaj, HH

Nepal?" After some discussion, Patri Dasa

was so inspired and took Maharaja's words to heart and discussed it with the local devotees on his return to Nepal. A friend of Patri Dasa, brahmacari Sahasranam Dasa from Ukraine who has been serving in Nepal for the past 12 years loves village preaching and community and farm services. By the sole

endeavour of Sahasranam Dasa,

Another devotee, Prem Harinama

participated in the Dindi yatra in Pune and also served in Padayatra

this Padayatra commenced.

Dasa from Pune, who has

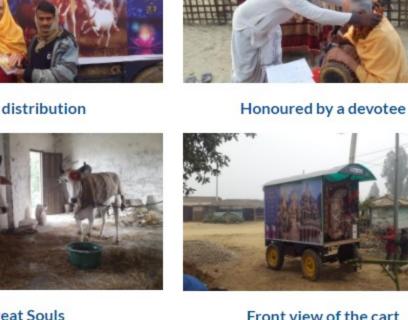
Lokanath Swami who met with Patri Dasa from Nepal at an ILS meeting

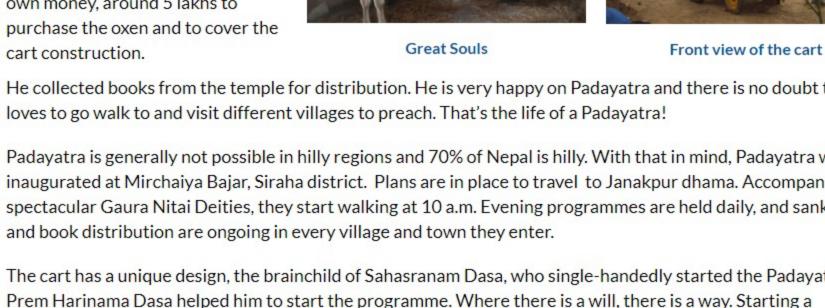
assisted Sahasranam Dasa. Sahasranam Dasa has invested his own money, around 5 lakhs to purchase the oxen and to cover the cart construction. and book distribution are ongoing in every village and town they enter. and Gauranga, one can accomplish this service single-handedly.

evening they have sankirtana.

Book distribution







They move from one place to another and cook for themselves on wood stove and sleep where ever they get shelter, even on paddy grass. Their purity in service entices people to walk and sing the holy name with them. On the back of the wagon the words "Purna jivan ko lagi" are scripted in Nepalese which means that Padayatra will go on to the end of life. The bullock cart also sends out a message about cow protection, and save Nepal. To this

Nepal is a case where just two devotees are successfully spreading the holy name in remote areas. These committed two are surcharged with enthusiasm and are immersed in the devotional mood to please Srila

Uttar Pradesh Padayatra on the roads after lockdown On April 29 while we were in Aligarh, the advance party went out in search of a "new home" amid lockdown discussions. As we moved ahead in search of shelter, we saw a board with the name "Hare Krishna college"

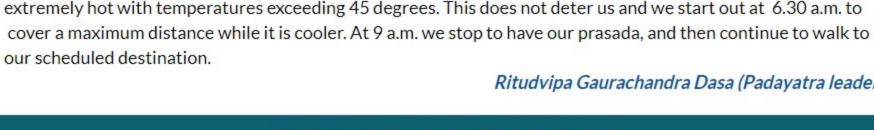
emblazoned across it. It was amazing to see a college with such a name. The college is in Bhartrim, a village in

college. We stayed there for about a month, with the Chavan family helping us with whatever we needed.

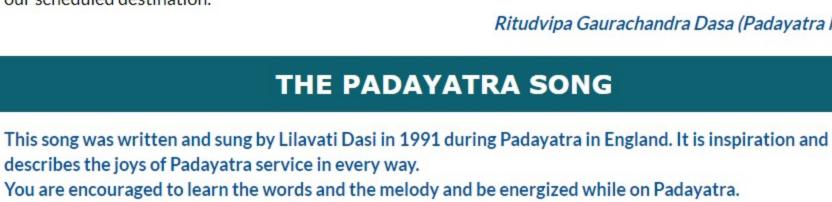
Lodha Tehsil in the Aligarh District in Uttar Pradesh. We met Mr K. S. Chavan, a retired police officer owner of the

again. I could sense that they were also sad and restless from sitting in one place. They also wanted to resume their services to Their Lordships.

House Program



Books are the basis





Katha going on



Going for sankirtana

It's back the other way. Chorus: Haribol! Haribol! We're going on Padayatra Fulfilling Srila Prabhupada's dream In every town and village You'll hear the holy name From Lord Caitanya's Padayatra team.

> Travelling on the cart Everyone is chanting Singing from the heart The sun goes down And evening falls But where's Parasurama? Shh...you might wake him

He's underneath the cart. Chorus: Haribol! Haribol! Some say when you're on the road Life is quite austere But oh we're eating sweet rice It's coming out our ears Chanting by the campfire in perfect harmony

Jaya Vijaya Dasa, (born John Badini) was born on 11 August 1953 in San Francisco. Having spent fourteen years in the movie and theatre business, John became attracted to Kṛṣṇa consciousness in Durban, South Africa. For years he read Srila Prabhupada's books and visited ISKCON centers,

throughout South India. But it was closed. As we walked back to camp we saw a political poster advertising the meeting the Dravidar Kazhagam Party (DKP) had held the night before at its Tanjore headquarters. Depicted on it was the party's founder with his big beard. He looked a lot like Karl Marx. Other party leaders were also depicted. The poster stated offensively, "God is nothing." This popular party's atheistic ideology is based on staunch anti-brahmanism, anti-Sanskrit, and anti-North-India. The Party's work centres largely on annihilating caste and denouncing the Hindu gods and goddesses. The party's faithful had been holding demonstrations and

putting garlands of old shoes on deities. We could just imagine the class of people - the most offensive rascals

When one visiting American devotee talked about ripping the poster from the wall, I pointed to a stone he could use to scratch out the man's face, which he did. Right away two gentlemen ran across the street in shock at our

audacity, and told us to stop immediately. They also told us to expect trouble. But the American devotee

continued to deface the poster. Then we continued along the road to where a group of about 150 people had

congregated. They were angered by what we had done. There was a lot of political upheaval in India at that time

During the few days we spent in Thanjavur (then called Tanjore), in Tamil Nadu in the mid-1990s, we visited a

mangala-arati, we took a japa walk to the museum of the Chola kings, who had built many Vaiṣṇava temples

wonderful temple of Lord Siva. The Siva-linga there is massive – about the size of a lamppost. One morning after

agitated, got very close to him, and shouted in his face. He became quite frightened and stopped. All the time Jaya Vijya was simply chanting, standing peacefully. It was Ekadasi, and he was doing nirjala. One of the party leaders then arrived, and the others told him what had happened. The man shouted abuses at Jaya Vijaya, then took off his shoes and gestured that he would hit Jaya Vijaya across the face with them. In India, this is a very insulting gesture, but Jaya Vijaya remained perfectly calm and kept chanting softly on his beads. Then a policeman came from around the corner on his way to work. He asked what was going on between the large crowd of Indians and the small group of Western sadhus. The DKP men insisted the police take us to the police station. By this time, a few devotees had intelligently sneaked back to where we were staying. The remaining five of us, along with the policeman and the politicos, then marched to the police station, where we

Then some devotee members of the BJP, the Hindu nationalist party that had recently been in power, came to see us. They offered their assistance – maybe they could turn the thing into a political issue. In the afternoon the police came to the cell with an A4 sheet of paper folded vertically and asked all of us to sign it. The paper was in Tamil. They said it meant we had consented to be transported to the courthouse, but I thought it might be a confession. Reluctantly, we each signed it just to get on with whatever was coming. At dusk they came for us with a police jeep for what felt like an ominous drive to the courthouse. There were many representatives of the DKP on the steps, all dressed in black, like Nazis. They were happy to see us there, thinking they had scored a couple of points. We waited on the steps until somebody introduced us to our lawyer,

When the judge asked who was in charge of our party, Jaya Vijaya stepped forward. The court hushed as he made a brief statement expressing remorse for what we'd done and asked that we be allowed to continue our padayatra. His sincerity and sobriety was clear, and the judge immediately banged his gavel and said, "Let me think about this." He deliberated quickly and then handed the devotees a fine of 4500 rupees, which was quite high at the time. After the decision, I glanced toward the DKP men, who had been standing to one side during the

behaviour and asked to be excused for what he had done.

PADAYATI

WORLDWIDE

WALKING THE ROAD WITH LORD CAITANYA

-LOKANATH SWAMI

leadership, and showing us that a sadhu should remain sober and unagitated. Throughout the ordeal he simply chanted Hare Kṛṣṇa. Jaya Vijaya gained our respect that day. Early the next morning, right after mangala-arati, he told us to pack up. He wanted to leave town to avoid any further confrontation or attack from the DKP. And, of course, he told us not to do this kind of thing again. However, we had a pleasant surprise a few days later. In The Hindustan Times we saw a brief article about what had happened, and a tiny glorification of what we'd done! Anuraga Dasa

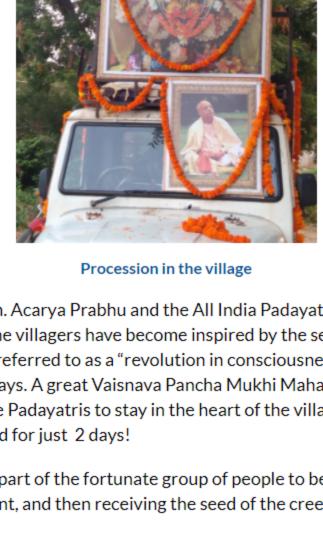
enough to ride the bulls. Prabhupada: Then there is no professional driver? Mahamsa suggested that they had worked a plan around this by planning to hire one driver to take care of the bulls. He noted that the second problem was the defective axle of the cart was a little

Mahamsa agreed and Srila Prabhupada said: "So it will never be **PREACHING REPORTS**

Sankirtana

Hare Krishna Festival





Lokanath Swami

Initially we had no plans to visit Pandharpur and had planned a different route. While in Sawantwadi, we received We immediately accepted Maharaja's invite, rerouted and marched towards Pandharpur. We reached

engaged in different services in the temple and attended all the programs arranged by the temple. you will be stopped at some place with no resources. So, one thing can be done, you can go on sankirtana in the

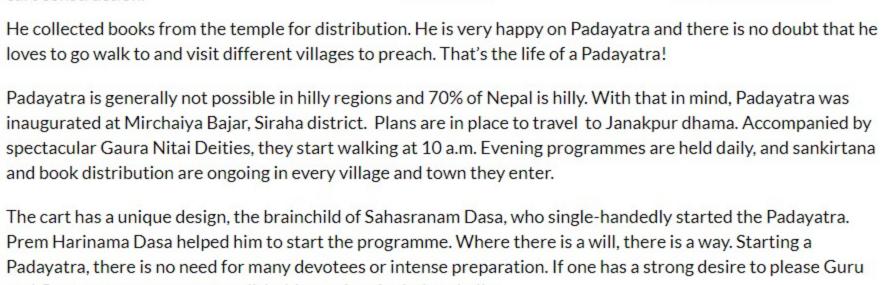
Their Lordships and Srila Prabhupada. As we would usually do, we distributed books and prasada. The people welcomed us and joined the sankirtana. Our oxen were clearly satisfied to resume their services for the Lord. On the second day at Shegaon Dhumala, the ladies came out and offered arati to Their Lordships and washed the hooves of our oxen. Many of them sang and danced with us. For the children of the village, this turned out to be a

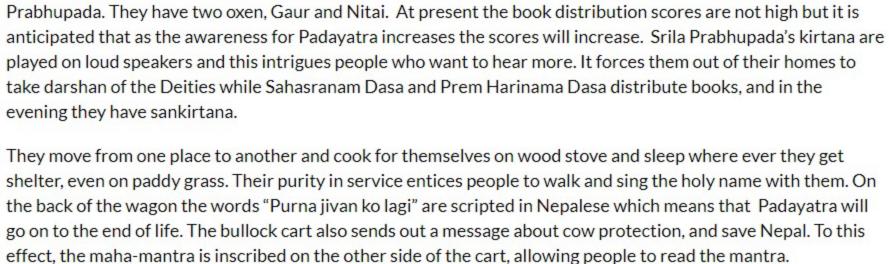
which we planned to move ahead. Damodara Lila Dasa (Padayatra leader) +<>>®<>+

in Mayapur. In this meeting, Lokanath Maharaja asked Patri Dasa from Nepal Padayatra Chariot Addressing the public [Regional secretary for Nepal]: "Why not have a Padayatra in

> Humble dwelling Padayatra oxen







Dayal Gopal Dasa [Sankirtana preacher Nepal]

Padayatra means to walk and preach. For an entire month we were locked down in one place without sankirtana or book distribution. Although we were attending morning programs and reading books, we constantly felt incomplete within. Even our oxen had started to become restless. Ordinarily they would walk for about 12 kms. daily when we are on the road. The lockdown confined them to sit in one place. In order to exercise them, we would walk them to an open field. If they are not exercised then it is extremely difficult for them to get started

Nagar Sankirtana Utsava deities Sankirtana **Evening Sankirtana** Sri Sri Nitai Gaura Finally after one month, we moved ahead on June 1, in spite of the lockdown not being totally lifted. We moved ahead nonetheless. By that evening the lockdown was introduced again by 7 p.m. and fully closed on Saturday and Sunday. When we reached the first place, Gabhana, which is a town and a Nagar panchayat in Aligarh district, people were reluctant to join us in sankirtana. Nevertheless we kept on with our sankirtana. Book distribution was also impacted. We started to worry that there would be yet another lockdown and Padayatra would be brought to a halt again. By the Lord's mercy, all went well while we stayed in a school and performed sankirtana in different parts of Gabhana.

Next we went to Khurja, which is a city in the Bulandshahr district. Then we entered Bulandshar, after which we

Bring your wellies too What do you mean, you haven't heard It's the latest news We're going on Padayatra To spread the holy name What! You can't make it It's really quite a shame.

Chorus: Haribol! Haribol!

Walking down the country lanes The sun is beating down Dancing in the kirtan Transcendental sounds We haven't seen a sign post yet Although we've walked all day Oh Krsna, we're not surprised

arrived in Meerut. The highlight of the travel was that seven new devotees have joined us now we have grown totalling nineteen devotes in all! This is what makes the sankirtana so powerful because things start becoming favourable and slowly but surely people are beginning to join sankirtana and inviting us for house programs. It is

Chorus: Haribol! Haribol! Prabhupada came with us

Lord Caitanya's with us It's bliss, serenity. Chorus: Haribol! Haribol! We're going on Padayatra (bis) Fulfilling Srila Prabhupada's dream In every town and village

You'll hear the holy name From Lord Caitanya's Padayatra team. From Lord Caitanya's Padayatra team.

DOWNLOAD HERE - MP3

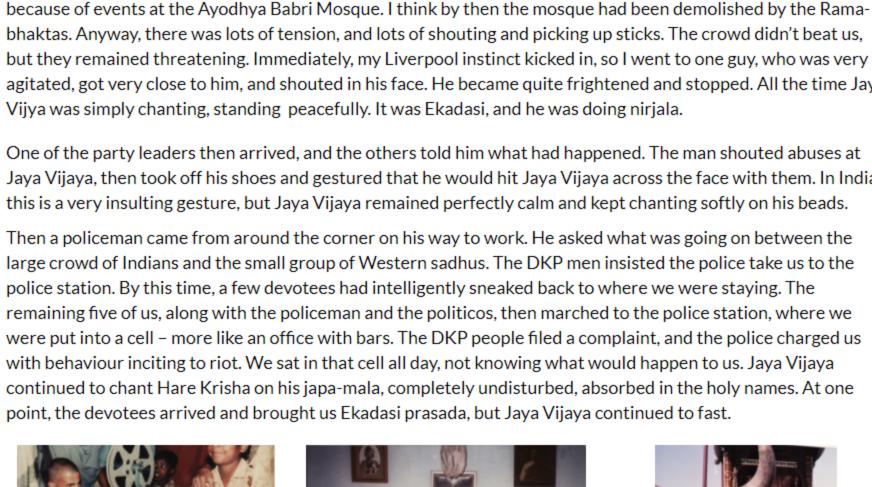
Padayatra Profile

but he hesitated to join. He first read of the padayatra at the temple in Kuala Lumpur in 1984, when the padayatra was scheduled to walk from Dwaraka. John knew immediately that padayatra was for him. His first service was a \$1000 donation to be spent on Padayatra welfare and to purchase books which could be distributed on Padayatra. John's first holy walk would take him from Manamadurai to Madurai and Srirangam, about 220 km, and then to Mayapur. Eventually he would become the padayatra's leader and lead it for ten years. In 1985 in Kalyani, on Lord Nityananda's appearance day, while on

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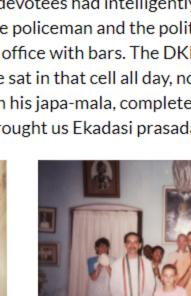
Padayatra leader an example of a real sadhu

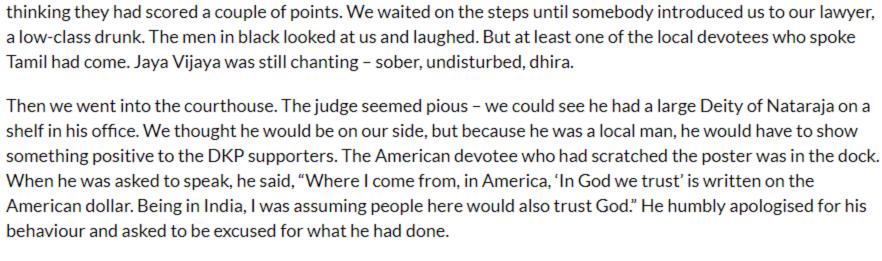
Padayatra he became one of first disciples of Lokanath Swami Maharaja.



you could ever meet.

Jaya Vijaya Dasa





hearing, but they were already walking out, the courtroom doors still swinging behind them. What impressed me is that throughout this whole trying situation, Jaya Vijaya stayed cool, displaying exemplary

Padayatra Worldwide - On the road with Lord Caitanya

(7) (8) (9) (9) padayatra.com padayatraiskcon@gmail.com Padayatra Ministry Co-ordinator: Istadev Dasa +917001673183 Padayatra Ministry Communicators: Meghashyam Dasa +917769006060 Jayabhadra Devi Dasi +918007630593 Donate

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Maharashtra Padayatra: an incidental stay at Pandharpur Nepal Padayatra finally gets off the ground Uttar Pradesh Padayatra on the roads after lockdown

Srila Prabhupada on Padayatra Preaching in Bharkawada: Sowing the seeds of bhakti devotees who had embarked on bullock cart sankirtana, village to