



IYF News Letter 2024

GAUR PURNIMA YEARLY EDITION

ISKCON YOUTH FORUM
*An association of 250
devotees in 5 Youth Centers
& 8 outreach groups
connected to the Temple*

Srila Prabhupada Speaks Out

“He [Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakur] is seeing. He had a great desire to preach Lord Caitanya's message in the Western world. And I am sure he will be pleased to see so many young boys and girls are seriously engaged in preaching the gospel of Lord Caitanya Mahāprabhu.

That is my success.”

-Initiation Lecture in Montreal, August 11th 1968



Our Beloved Lordships..
Sri Sri Radha Govinda Gaur Nataraj
Sri Sri Jagannath Baladeva
Subhadra Maharani

New Developments in Youth Outreach



Gaur Bhakta Vrinda Sanga

Srila Prabhupada said preaching is the essence of this Krishna Consciousness movement. He established ISKCON to preach the message of Lord Chaitanya in every nook and corner of the world. As he travelled around the world to spread the sublime message of Krishna consciousness, he wanted the followers of this movement to imbibe a similar mood. Taking the words of Srila Prabhupada as divine orders, his disciples have invested their whole lives in spreading this transcendental knowledge for the whole world's benefit. Following the Parampara system, ISKCON's current leaders are also doing the same. But actual leaders are those, who create the next generation of leaders. Considering this ideology, the leaders of ISKCON Kolkata started a program called - Gour Bhakta Vrinda Sanga, which has been going on very nicely since September 2023. Till now we have completed four such sangas.

The speaker for the very first program was HG Vallabh Chaitanya Prabhu, a member of the Vice presidential board of ISKCON Kolkata and chairman of the temple council, ISKCON Dumdum. At this very first program, more than 80 boys appeared. Along with Katha, we have had beautiful kirtan followed by the distribution of sumptuous Prasadam. The second one was in November. In this second session, we invited HG Radharaman Prabhu, social activist, vice president of ISKCON Kolkata and member of ISKCON Mayapur masterplan committee. The third one was in December. This one was uniquely special because it was on the day of Gita Jayanti. On this day all of us got the opportunity to engage ourselves in Mega Book Distribution in various places of Kolkata. The fourth one in January was even more special because this session was graced by HG Chaitanya Charan Prabhu, Associate Editor of Back to Godhead, and Member of the GBC Shastri Advisory Council. It feels great observing that in every one of these sessions, the population of youths is increasing considerably.

Anyhow, this is only a start. IYF Kolkata has planned to arrange these programs at regular intervals to encourage and empower the youths to build future leaders to take this Krishna Consciousness movement forward.

-Pijush Majhi





Gauranga Bhavan

Right at the lotus feet of Radha-Govinda



*Kolkata as we all know is famous as the city of joy. But is it really a city of joy? Of course not. In reality, it is a city of materialists who falsely think that they are experiencing joy but as followers of Srila Prabhupada, we all are aware of it that it is nothing but suffering. For devotees' association is the key thing, to make their way to Krishna. But in a city full of materialistic exploiting people getting association with saintly persons is like getting an Oasis in the desert. In the city full of people totally engrossed in the mode of passion and ignorance I found a place of swans **THE GAURANGA BHAWAN**.*

I am very grateful to ISKCON Kolkata for such an amazing opportunity. Gauranga Bhawan really transformed my life. I learned interpersonal and managerial skills, discipline, and cooperation and at the top I got the association of swans in the city full of crows. While staying in Gauranga Bhawan I practically learned how to apply the Vedic injunction in our day-to-day life. How to live by our values and culture and how to be proud of the rich legacy we inherit. That's why I say Gauranga Bhawan is really an oasis in the midst of a desert.

- Hariom Verma





IYF

Central Picnic 2024

**Brahmāṇḍa bhramite kona bhāgyavān jīva
guru-kṛṣṇa-prasāde pāya bhakti-latā-bija**

In Nectar of devotion Srila Rupa Goswami writes that Krishna is all attractive but "bhakti" is even greater than Krishna because it attracts the all attractive. By the mercy of Guru and Krishna one who is very fortunate gets the seed of devotional service. IYF takes the responsibility to nourish that seed till it gets fructified to reach its ultimate destination. Such a nice initiative was taken by IYF Management to give 100 devotees the taste of lord Nityanada's mercy in the form of a picnic to Adi-Saptagram.

Our engagement started by doing Guru Puja on the bus followed by an ecstatic Kirtan. The first destination was Uddharan Dutta Thakur's house. The path was travelled by all the Devotees performing Hari Naam sankirtan which was led by senior devotees and Brahmacharis was followed by taking Darshan of his personal Deities and Kirtan, class by our VP HG Ananga Mohan Prabhu on the past times of Lord Nityananda there. From there we went to Jharu Thakur's place.



Hundreds of Devotees were walking on the half-cooked dusty village roads performing Nagar sankirtan. All the villagers came outside their houses to benefit from the transcendental sound. Upon reaching that place devotees smeared their bodies with the dust of that place and took Darshan of Sri Sri Radha Madan Gopal, his personal deities. Many devotees also circumambulated his Samadhi Tomb situated behind the Temple.

Finally, devotees reached the birthplace of Sripad Raghunath Das Goswami feeling intense separation from prasadam which contained Chola Batura, jack fruit Biriyani, fried eggplant and many more items. After relishing prasadam Devotees performed 3 Dramas on pastimes of Lord Nityananda and his associates. Finally, the deities decided to give us Darshan. Being fully charged with Krishna Prasad everyone concluded the picnic by ecstatic dance on Kirtan sung by HG Ananga Mohan Prabhu.

Last but not least, our return to Temple was accompanied by a small token of love in the form of "peanut chikki" a kind of biscuit.

At last, we must thank HG Ananga Mohan Prabhu once again because Prabhu had sponsored one portion of the cost of the bus. The other portion was sponsored by our well-wisher Rajarshi Sen Prabhu. Our heartfelt gratitude to him also. The camp was a great success as all the Vaishnavas became satisfied by our small effort.

-Sayan Guha



New Voice Opening @New Town

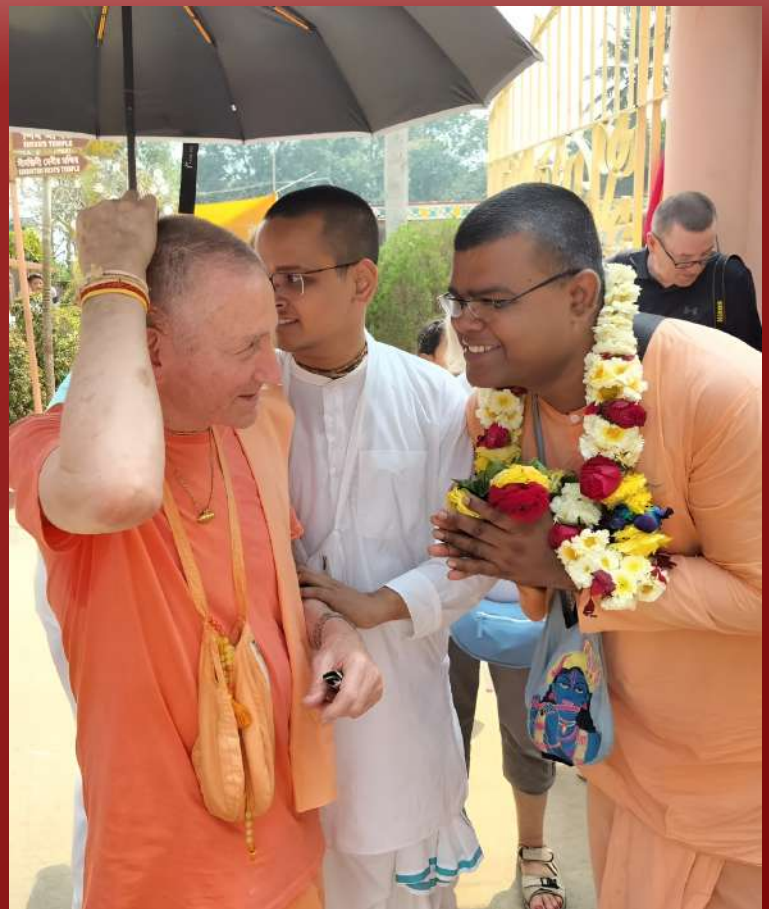
Hare Krishna!!

Good News. By the mercy of Sri Sri Radha Govind Dev and Srila Prabhupada, a new voice has been inaugurated at Saltlake sector-v are this year.

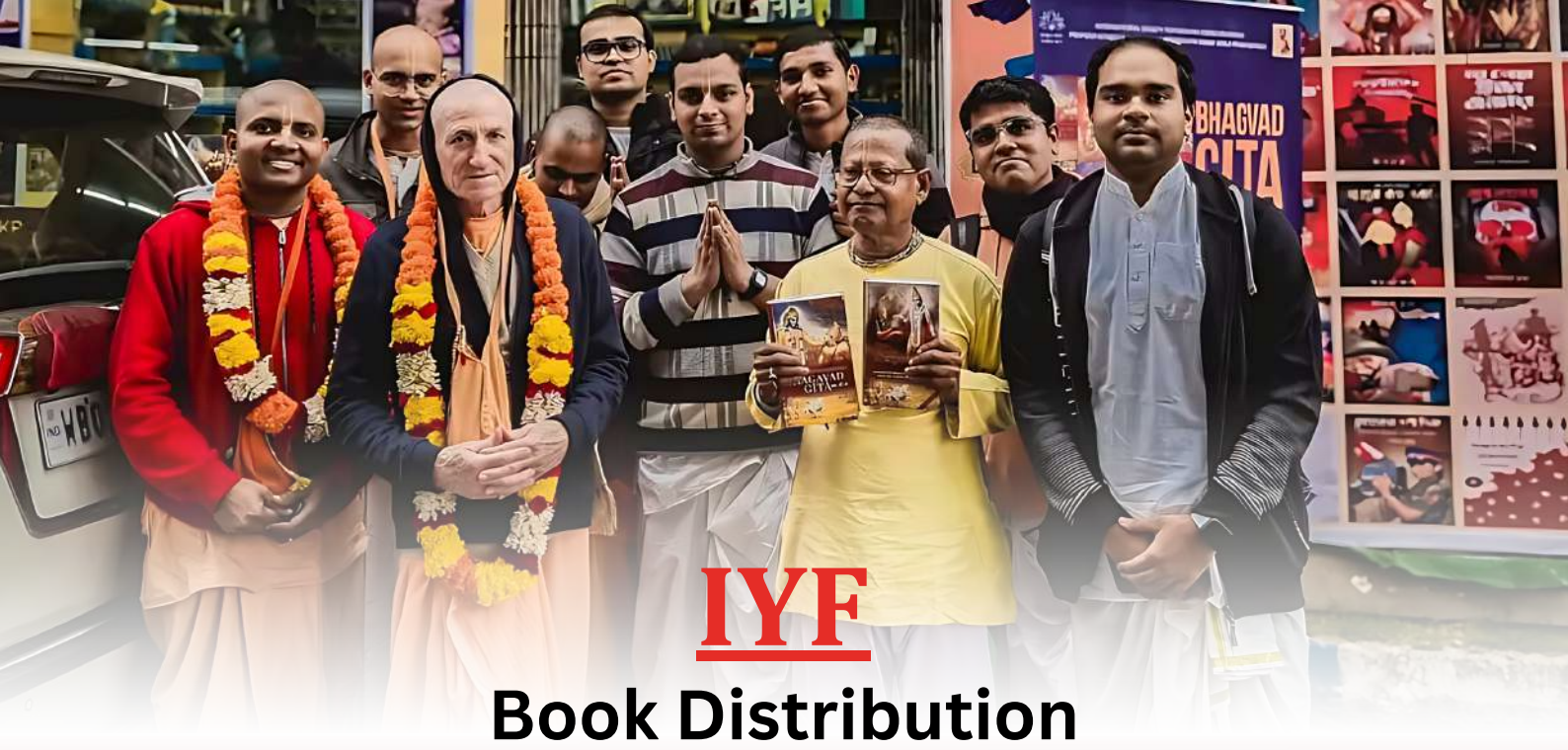
The voice has been opened so that youth preaching in colleges like Techno India & IEM could take place.

Currently, there are 4 to 5 students from the above college who are staying full time along with a cook devotee. We have a full flagged morning program from 4.30 to 8 AM going on every day. Student devotees are happily practising spiritual life along with good study standards and prasadam facility.

Initially, the Flat owner was creating problems in the continuation of voice even after 1-year agreement. Practically we had to leave the place all of a sudden without having a New place. Then we prayed very helplessly to Lord Narshimha Dev for a good favourable Flat owner. Believe it or not after 1 week, Lord Narshimha Dev gave us a very favourable Owner, who is attending our weekly class with his whole family and giving many furniture for devotees to use. He is also the owner of many flats where already students are staying. So the situation becomes very favourable for Preaching and regular programs. Currently, we have 2 weekly classes going on. One is for College students on Sunday evening and another is for the neighbours every Tuesday. We thank HG Mahadham Vrindavana Prabhu and Garia voice devotees for their hard work and dedicated service in the mission of Srila Prabhupada and Lord Chaitanya.



-Nitish



IYF

Book Distribution

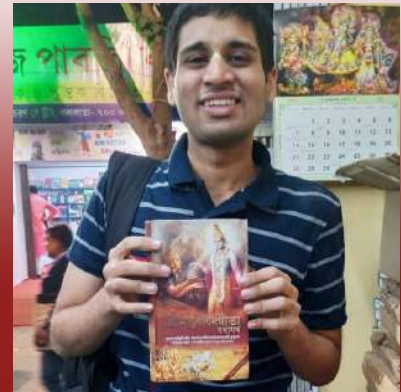


Book Distribution - The Greatest Welfare Activity For All The People Of This World.

Srila Prabhupada always put forward the need to distribute as many books as possible because the distribution of books is a great service to mankind and Krishna, the Supreme Personality of Godhead. HDG Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Thakur, the spiritual master of Srila Prabhupada, also instructed Prabhupada to print books and distribute them to the masses. Prabhupada gave His heart and soul to obey this instruction. He wrote and published over 80 volumes of spiritual literature and now all these literatures are distributed all over the world. So, it is our moral duty, being a member of ISKCON, to distribute these books to every soul going door to door for the welfare of mankind.

Keeping this motivation in their hearts, the members of ISKCON Youth Forum (IYF) of Kolkata distributed 2400+ books during the last year 2023-24. All the members of IYF Kolkata are youths who are students from different colleges in Kolkata. For the pleasure of Krishna and Srila Prabhupada, all the youths have distributed books all over Kolkata despite various problems. In this span of one year, the members participated in different occasions like Ratha Yatra, Gita Marathon, International Kolkata Book Fair (Boi Mela), etc. with full dedication and enthusiasm. The report of major book distribution groups from IYF is given below

- Swamynath Chourasia



Total number of Books

Distributed by :

- **Garia VOICE** 1508
- **Tribute to Prabhupada** 503
- **Gauranga Bhavan** 298
- **IYF Harinaam Sankirtan** 106

Total Books Distributed: 2415





Harinaam Sankirtan

Every Sunday

The Yuga Dharma of Kali Yuga is Harinam Sankirtan. From Ramayan to Mahabharat, from Purnanas to Upanishads, from Gita to Bhagavatam, everywhere, one thing is very very clear deliverance in Kali Yuga is through Harinam Sankirtan. We feel very fortunate to be part of the ISKCON movement, which is specifically meant for the propagation of Harinam Sankirtan.



For a long time, we did not have regular Hari Nama Sankirtan in our temple, but by the enthusiasm and initiative of HG Radhavallabh pr nearly one year ago we started Harinam Sankirtan every Sunday from 5 pm. It goes on for 1 hour and we cover surrounding areas like Park Street, Camac Street, Laudon Street, Shakespeare Sarani, AJC Bose Road etc, Hunger Ford Street etc. Sankirtan is always accompanied by book distribution. On 5th November 2023, we had the 50th Harinam Sankirtan with great pomp and Grandeur. Recently, it was decided in an ICC meeting that all the temples should have Harinam Sankirtan once a week. By Krishna's grace, we have already had it since the last year. May we continue this with all enthusiasm. May the number of devotees increase day by day, year by year, generation after generation.

-Anirban Patra



Time Management Event

@ Garia VOICE

At Netaji Subhash Engineering College, an event on Time Management was organized by HG Mahadham Vrindavan Prabhu, drawing 150 students from various departments including CS, IT, ECE, AIML, and CSBS, all from the 1st year. The event featured a comprehensive Time Management matrix presentation by Acyutananda Akshaya Prabhu, offering valuable insights into effective utilization of time. In addition to the educational segment, a Quiz competition was held, engaging the students in an intellectually stimulating activity. Following the academic sessions, all attendees participated in a ceremonial offering of lamps to Sita Ram, fostering a sense of reverence and spiritual connection.



The atmosphere was further enlivened by a special Dancing Kirtan session, where everyone joyously danced to the melodious chanting of the Hare Krishna Mahamantra, experiencing both spiritual elevation and communal harmony.

The event concluded on a delightful note with a lavish Dinner feast Prasadam, meticulously prepared and served to cater to the tastes of all participants. The sumptuous meal not only satisfied their hunger but also left them feeling content and blissful, fostering a sense of camaraderie and gratitude among all attendees. Overall, the event proved to be a holistic experience, blending academic enrichment with spiritual nourishment and fostering a sense of unity and well-being among the students.

-Rohan Kumar



REBECA 23'

Harinaam Sankirtan @ IEST Shibpur

On April 20th, 2023, REBECA, our college's cultural fest, commenced with an auspicious event - the inaugural Hare Krishna Kirtan. Ten kirtanias, adorned in dazzling yellow kurta pyjamas, including four fourth-year, four second-year, one third-year, and one first-year student, gathered to chant the Hare Krishna Mahamantra, a transcendental sound vibration that filled the atmosphere with auspiciousness.

The campus buzzed with unity and devotion as students joined in the chant, fostering a deep sense of community. The presence of the college director and other esteemed members highlighted the significance of the event.

This historic kirtan exemplified the power of collective prayer, reminding us of the strength found in harmony. It reinforced the spiritual significance of the Hare Krishna Mahamantra, known for its transformative effects. As we reflect on this memorable occasion, we carry forward the spirit of unity and devotion, eagerly anticipating more enriching experiences in the future.

- Nitin Kumar Bias

Bhakti Sastri Course

for

Youths

Srila Prabhupada, as the pre-eminent siksha guru for all ISKCON Disciples for all time to come, wanted everyone to systemically study the sastric books and not just "read". Srila Prabhupada often said, "Books are the basis". Under the leadership of ISKCON Education Ministry and GBCs, the Bhakti Sastri courses have been designed with organised study courses for 4 sastras - The Bhagavad Gita, The Nectar of Devotion (Sri Bhakti Rasamrita Sindhu), The Nectar of Instruction (Sri Upadeshamrita) and Isopanishad. To encourage everyone to take up these courses, even leaders, ones who already have all qualities in sastras, are undergoing these assessments to get these degrees like HH Jayapataka Swami Maharaja, recently got his Bhaktivedanta degree, HH Bhakti Prema Swami Maharaja is undergoing Bhakti Vaibhav Assessment and other leaders too just to encourage everyone by personal example.



In ISKCON Kolkata Youth Forum too, a group of 10 devotees started their Bhakti Sastri Course from Gaur Purnima 2023 from Paratatva Catuspathi, Mayapur and many more are encouraged yet to start very soon. We seek blessings of all Vaishnavas for all of them so that they can please Srila Prabhupada in their endeavour.

- Arnab Banerjee



Outreach Opening Program

by

HG Ajita Prabhu (Avelo roy)

@ I-Hall, IEST Shibpur

An entrepreneurship seminar flowed in parallel with the teachings of the Bhagavad Gita.

On 11th January 24, Mr Avelo Roy (HG Ajita Prabhu), a leading entrepreneur and CEO of KOLKATA VENTURES came to IEST, Shibpur to enlighten the 1st year UG students on "Entrepreneurship skills, attitude and behavioural development". And in his natural way, we presented the topic with a blend of natural spirituality, that is innate within him.

Almost, 150 students gather at the biggest seminar hall of IEST to hear the secret of success in start-ups by following the path of spirituality. In proper formal attire, the devotees of Vrindavan VOICE handled the managerial duties perfectly. The innovative way the audience was allowed to enter the seminar hall by giving attendance through QR scanning and pass collection developed an intense excitement.

The event commenced with a warm and dignified welcoming ceremony, graced by esteemed representatives from the Institute Innovation Council (IIC) and the Entrepreneurship Development Cell (EDC). Mr Avelo Roy then took centre stage, weaving together insights from the Bhagavad Gita As It Is with practical wisdom on entrepreneurship, character, and mindset.

His engaging demeanour and humility invited an interactive exchange with the audience, sparking thought-provoking questions and discussions. As the seminar drew to a close, HG Nava Kishore Prabhu (IEST Alumni) shared a concluding session, illuminating the transcendental path of spirituality. Sweet refreshments were arranged by the team for the audience and that event left a deep impression within the hearts of the listeners with a positive note of accepting spirituality. Thus, that evening was a great success by Krishna's grace.

-Aritra Roy



More Devotees. Happier Devotees. Contributing Devotees

This was the vision of ILYC (ISKCON India Youth Convention) -2023, which happened in Govardhan dham. Obviously, in ISKCON, preaching or outreaching is the essence. By reaching out to the people, we inspire them to become devotees. But, it has been seen that to keep the devotees happy and inspired for years is even more difficult than just bringing them. And the most difficult thing is to generate the same missionary spirit within them, which is coming down in Parampara. When that same feeling of urgency awakens in a happy devotee's heart, he turns into a contributing devotee.

In the youth outreach program of our temple, we tried to focus on all three aspects, within our capacity. We are calling this approach generic growth, or creating an atmosphere where the devotees' natural desire to service sprouts and get nourished without giving them any pressure. Thus, they naturally become happy and contributing devotees.

Starting from a very difficult phase of having almost no devotees in temple-IYF, in 2022, we focused on recruiting devotees. Last year, our focus shifted to training and engaging the new devotees. Though, no IYF devotee has joined as a trainee brahmachari, many of them have joined different departments of the temple as sevaks, many of them have taken preaching batches and, many of them have taken voluntary sevas regularly, and in the festivals.



Two IYF devotees joined the Internet Outreach department last year. Along with that, the Deity department, Temple hall set-up department, Life-patron membership department, Nitya Seva department and Accounts department each have one devotee of IYF, as their Sevaks, last year only. Other than that, the Accounts Department and Book Distribution Department each have one intern from IYF. Almost ten devotees have taken regular backup services. Srila Prabhupada dressing every day and 7:30 am backup is completely managed by the Gauranga Bhavan resident devotees. Last year, eight IYF devotees started to lead DYS batches as preachers and many more have started to assist them. Now, all the festivals are supported by IYF volunteers only. However, in our biggest festival Ratha Yatra, we are yet to be self-sufficient but soon we are expecting to become. Boys are also taking voluntary sevas in book distribution, prasadam distribution etc. This year ICC has resolved that each of the temples is supposed to organise at least one Harinam Sankirtan a week. For the last year, IYF boys have been regularly doing this every Sunday evening. Lastly, the morning events like Mangal Arati and Gurupuja are always crowded by enthusiastically chanting and dancing IYF devotees. Thus,



"The happy devotees are becoming contributing devotees and getting trained for far bigger contributions"

- HG Radhavallabh Das



Yatras

Shri Mayapur Dham Sankalpa Camp

Regular spiritual excursions are held to inspire, encourage and engage the devotees in various devotional activities. Dham Yatra is said to be one of the five most prominent limbs of devotional service. We at IYF Kolkata arrange for regular yatras to different holy Dhams. HG Puridas Prabhu planned a similar one in the month of September 2023. The camp was named as - Sankalpa. This camp was in Sridham Mayapur. Almost 45 boys from Local Group and IEST Shibpur Voice registered for the camp. Along with some senior group boys, many newcomers also joined the camp. As part of various engagements in the camp, we did Harinam Sankirtan along the street of Mayapur, we went to visit Rajapur Jagannath Temple, Yogapith, Chaitanya Math, Goshala etc. Yet the most significant part of this yatra was that we got priceless association with HH Radhanath Swami Guru Maharaj, HG Kamalapati Prabhu, HG Padmamukha Nimai Prabhu, HG Rasamaya Nityananda Prabhu. Hearing from these great personalities the boys got inspired immensely. As a result, a lot of our youths had increased their commitments to Chanting, Book Reading etc. Therefore this camp became successful beyond imagination.

- Pijush Majhi





Shri Ayodhya Dham

Shri Ram Janmabhoomi

भए प्रगट कृपाला दीनदयाला,
कौसल्या हितकारी ।
हरषित महतारी, मुनि मन हारी,
अद्भुत रूप बिचारी ॥

On February 2nd, 2024, devotees led by HG Gopikanta Krishna Prabhu landed in the birth city of Ram Lala, The Ayodhya Dham. The city was filled with spiritual vibrations and ecstasy, with streets filled with Lord Ram's glories and paintings of his past times. As we approached the newly inaugurated temple, we felt blessed and filled with pride. The Maha Prasad of Ram Lala was a special nectar that made them dance in joy. After enjoying the Mahaprasad, we visited the Hanuman Garhi, the Dasharatha Mahal, and the Kanak Mahal. In Hanuman Garhi, we had the divine darshan of Hanuman Ji, the chief servant of Ramchandra, and the deity of Lord Narasimha Dev, the protector of devotees. we sang Narshimha Arti for the glorification of Lord Narshimhadev. In Dasharath Mahal, We saw many deities of Lord Ramachandra and his brothers and their respective wives, including Radha Krishna. Kanak Mahal attracted them with its golden palace, which was rebuilt by his son Kush. In the Kanak Bhawan, We had the darshan of three pairs of deities of Ram Sita, one of which was personally installed by Lord Krishna. We also visited the famous Sarayu River, where Lord Ramchandra ended his earthly pastimes along with his associates. The view of Mother Sarayu's water current was eye-catching, and Surya Dev took holy deep in Mother Sarayu and Chandra Dev glanced at the holy land of Ayodhya. At Mani Parvata, We chanted rounds on the mountain asking for the blessing of Mother Sita. However, the new day came with the message of return, filling all of their hearts with pain. We decided to do Hari Nam Sankirtan at Ayodhya station, where people joined in ecstasy as We started the holy name of Lord Ram. This proved that only Hari Nam Sankirtan could unite people, and people of all ages, genders, castes, and creeds joined the sankirtan. In summary, the journey to Ram Lala Dham was an unforgettable experience filled with spiritual vibrations, devotional slogans, and a sense of unity among devotees. The journey to Ayodhya station was a testament to the power of Hari Nam Sankirtan, which united people of all ages, genders, castes, and creeds.

Thus we boarded the train and came back to Kolkata, the birth City of Srila Prabhupada.

-HariOm Verma





Jaipur & Kurukshetra Yatra

Hare Krishna dear devotees,

Last year, during the puja vacation, we had a yatra to Jaipur and Kurukshetra dham. HG Balaram Acharya Prabhu lead our team. We visited the Dham through their words. Jaipur is a very special Dham for the Gaudiya Vaishnavas as the famous deities worshipped by our Acharyas are served there. We visited Radha Madanmohan temple, Radha Vinod temple, Radha Madhava temple etc. The second part of the yatra was in Kurukshetra. It was an amazing experience to visit those places about which I have heard in the epic of Mahabharata - Abhimanyupur, the place where Bhismadev was on the bed of arrows etc. Visiting Jyotisar - where Gita was spoken, was like the cherry on the top. I'm eager to have this type of Vaishnav association again.

-Rahul Santara





New Year Get Together

A heartwarming get-together unfolded at Shantipur - Phuliya and Habibpur, bringing together 40 IYF devotees led by HG Mahadham Vrindavan Prabhu, including students and their parents, for an immersive three-day event from December 30th, 2023, to January 1st, 2024. This gathering marked a unique celebration of the New Year, unlike any other, as attendees joyously immersed themselves in the holy name of Krishna, experiencing a profound sense of spiritual intoxication.

The event was a vibrant tapestry of enlightening sessions, captivating dramas, spirited dance performances, soul-stirring kirtans, sumptuous feast Prasadam, leisurely boat rides, and enriching darshanas of holy sites. Organized entirely by the dedicated students of Garia VOICE, studying at Netaji Subhash Engineering College, the event left an indelible mark on all participants, inspiring both youths and parents to deepen their devotion to Bhakti.

Active participation from devoted members of VOICE, such as Rohan Kumar (3rd year), Nitish Saha, Suraj Modi (4th year), Acyutananda Akshaya Das, and Ashutosh Jha, added to the vibrancy and success of the gathering. Their commitment and enthusiasm served as a beacon of inspiration for others, further fueling the spirit of devotion and unity that permeated the entire event. Overall, the gathering served as a transformative experience, nurturing spiritual growth, fostering communal bonds, and igniting a collective passion for Bhakti among all attendees.

-Vivek Kumar

Dwarka - Somnath - Ujjain Yatra Durga puja

HG Mahadham Vrindavan Prabhu, Kolkata, orchestrated a spiritually enriching Yatra to Ujjain, Somnath, Dwarka, and Ahmedabad, drawing participants from diverse backgrounds. Among the attendees were 20 enthusiastic youths hailing from engineering and medical disciplines, accompanied by 7 supportive parents.

Throughout the journey, the focus remained on fostering devotion and spiritual growth, intertwining moments of profound introspection with lighthearted enjoyment. The students, driven by their newfound understanding of Krishna consciousness, took it upon themselves to introduce their parents to the principles and practices, facilitating meaningful interactions and deepening familial bonds through shared spiritual experiences.

The Yatra unfolded as a harmonious blend of devotion and fun, where participants immersed themselves in the sacred atmospheres of revered pilgrimage sites, while also cherishing moments of camaraderie and joyous camaraderie. Together, they navigated the spiritual landscapes, forging connections with each other and with their inner selves, guided by the teachings and wisdom imparted by HG Mahadham Vrindavan Prabhu.

Ultimately, the Yatra served as a transformative journey, leaving indelible imprints of devotion and camaraderie on the hearts of all participants, and fostering a sense of unity and spiritual fulfilment among the group.

-Rahul Adhakari



5 Yatras in a year.



Under the guidance of HG RadhaVallabh Prabhu, our team embarked on a transformative journey visiting five sacred locations - Ekachakra, Gaya, Jhargram, Mayapur, and Remuna - each offering a unique tapestry of spiritual elevation and positive ambience. As we traversed through these hallowed sites, we felt a profound connection with the divine vibrations permeating the atmosphere, resonating with the sacred frequencies of the holy name.

In Ekachakra, the birthplace of Lord Nityananda Prabhu, we immersed ourselves in devotional practices, feeling uplifted by the presence of the Lord. Gaya, renowned for its Vishnupad Temple, provided us with an opportunity to pay homage to our ancestors and perform sacred rituals by the Phalgu River.

Jhargram, where Srila Prabhupada once resided, filled us with inspiration and reverence as we reflected on his exemplary life of devotion. Mayapur, the birthplace of Lord Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, enveloped us in a divine aura, igniting our hearts with love for the Supreme.

Finally, our pilgrimage culminated in Remuna, home to the enchanting Khirachora Gopinath Temple, where we experienced the bliss of serving the Lord and relishing His divine pastimes.

Throughout our journey, guided by HG RadhaVallabh Prabhu, we found ourselves enveloped in an atmosphere of spiritual upliftment and propagation of the holy name, fostering unity, harmony, and a deepening of our devotional practices.

-Anirban Patra



Spurti Camp @ ISKCON Habibpur

In the tranquil embrace of Habibpur's sacred Lila sthali, 20 devotees from IYF Kolkata and Vrindavan Voice were graced with an unforgettable journey under the benevolent guidance of HG Puridas Prabhujī. Such congregational gatherings, reminiscent of the sankirtana movement envisioned by our beloved Srila Prabhupada, are verily the lifeblood of spiritual progress.

Our pilgrimage commenced at the hallowed grounds of ISKCON Habibpur, where the divine forms of Sri Sri Radha Madhav, Sri Sri Jagannath Baladev Subhadra Maharani, and Sri Sri Gaura Nitai enthralled our hearts, transporting us to the sanctified realms of Vaikuntha.

Venturing onward to Shantipur, the sacred abode of Advaita Acharya Prabhu, we retraced the footsteps of the preeminent Siksha Guru of all the ISKCON devotees, Srila Prabhupada, who sought divine benedictions here before embarking on his mission to spread Krishna consciousness across the globe. In a touching testament to the universality of spiritual yearning, even a humble dog joined our gathering, reminding us that all beings are potential recipients of Lord Chaitanya's mercy.

Our journey culminated in Birnagar, the divine birthplace of Srila Bhakti Vinoda Thakur, where beneath the serene canopy of a time-honoured tree, we immersed ourselves in the nectar of his teachings. Through his sublime example, we gleaned insights into the essence of devotion and the art of surrender.

As our hearts swelled with transcendental bliss, we marvelled at the profound wisdom shared during our spiritual odyssey, illuminating the path of bhakti. For in the shelter of the association of devotees and the sublime teachings of our acharyas, doubts dissolve like morning mist, revealing the eternal truths of our spiritual heritage.

Indeed, to realize our true identity as eternal servants of Lord Krishna and Srimati Radharani is the pinnacle of human existence, a realization made tangible through the loving embrace of the Vaishnava community. With heartfelt gratitude, we offer obeisances at the lotus feet of our beloved Srila Prabhupada, whose timeless teachings continue to inspire and uplift souls across the universe.

-Vicky Kumar Shaw



Shri Ekchakra Dham Sinchan Camp

The First Sinchan camp for the 16-rounder devotees !!

Each & Every soul receives bhakti lata within their heart by the immense mercy of Sri Guru and Krishna but to nourish that creeper of Devotional service we need to do devotee association which will help to strengthen our sadhana. Therefore the Annual Sinchan camp for the 16 rounder serious devotees was organised by HG Puridas Prabhu from 28th-30th December 2023, where Sri Ekachakra Dham, the divine Birthplace of Sriman Nityananda Prabhu, was the destination.



The yatra started with 25 devotees at very early in the morning on 28th December, from Howrah station to catch the train for Rampurhat junction and within a few hours of the journey all the devotees reached ISKCON Ekachakra temple safely. There all the devotees were warmly greeted by the temple authority and then all of us had an enchanting darshan of the presiding Deities Sri Radha Vrindavan Mohan, and Sri Nityananda Chandra Gauranga Raya followed by an ecstatic kirtan by our devotees at temple hall. After that, all of us checked into our rooms at ISKCON guest house which was then followed by prasadam, a little rest and reading the pastimes of Sri Nityananda Prabhu from Sri Chaitanya Bhagava in the evening.

The next day all the devotees attended the morning program followed by enchanting darshan arati of the Deities, Srila Prabhupada Guru puja and Srimad Bhagavatam class at the temple hall by HG Puridas Prabhu. Post Bhagavatam class all the devotees led by the seniors did Nagara Sankirtan on the streets of Sri Ekachakra Dham which was followed by dham darshan. We visited holy places like Nitai Badi,

the birthplace of Sriman Nityananda Prabhu, Hantu Gada, Pandava tala, Bankima Raya temple, an ancient Jagannath temple during Nityananda Prabhu's time and many other places. In the evening we are blessed by the merciful association of HG Nitai Padakamala Prabhu, the temple president of ISKCON Ekachakra who very nicely explained to us the significance of Sri Ekachakra Dham and ecstatic pastimes of Sriman Nityananda Prabhu which was finally followed by a sumptuous Mahaprasadam feast and realisation shared by every participants of the camp at night. On the final day of the camp, all the devotees finally departed for Kolkata at noon keeping the Dear Lordships Sri Radha Vrindavan Mohan and Sri Nityananda Chandra Gauranga Raya in our hearts. Surely this would be a memorable camp for all of us as it was filled with the mercy of the Lord and especially we were overwhelmed with all the love and hospitality of the ISKCON Ekachakra devotees. No doubt the Sinchan camp charged up the batteries of our devotional life and now everybody was ready to preach Krishna consciousness throughout the year, as Srila Prabhupada once commented,

With the mercy of Sriman Nityananda Prabhu a devotee can preach more than Sriman Nityananda Prabhu.

-Deepnil Biswas



EDITORIAL

Srila Prabhupada very clearly stated the purposes of ISKCON, at the time of founding ISKCON in 1966. Actually, Srila Prabhupada wrote the purposes, way back, during his effort to establish the "League of Devotees" at Jhansi. Almost all the purposes are directed towards the mass scale distribution of spiritual knowledge as revealed in the Srimad Bhagavad Gita and Srimad Bhagavatam and to establish a culture of this knowledge in the society. After establishing ISKCON, within 12 years, Srila Prabhupada himself, with the assistance of his young and dedicated followers, propagated this knowledge vigorously and almost incredibly, established 108 temples worldwide.

Therefore, we can see that Srila Prabhupada is the first "youth preacher" of our movement. He first tried to appeal to the educated Americans. Though they had appreciated him, they never committed to him. Finally, with utter desperation, Srila Prabhupada started appealing to the aimless, drug-addicted, music-lover hippies of America, who were the product of the 70's 'counter-culture.' In reciprocation, they not only hugely responded, but also many of them committed fully to Srila Prabhupada. And that's what becomes the reason for ISKCON's rapid growth. Though they were youth and inexperienced, they started to lead the movement in different countries, on behalf of Srila Prabhupada. Many others joined to assist these young leaders, just to please Srila Prabhupada and to be inspired by his writing and personal example.

One of the major things that differentiates ISKCON, from other spiritual organisations is the involvement of enthusiastic youths from 4:30 am to 8:30 pm, in all the activities of our movement. Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Thakur has said, "One who has life can preach." And the youths have the life. Another consideration in this regard is that, in the spiritual world, everyone is eternally youth. Therefore, youths are the ones who can greatly relate to the activities in the pure spiritual domain.

In the present context of India, we are seeing that many youths are inquisitive about spiritual life. They are coming to the temple. They are asking questions. But, they will only commit to the movement when they see character and commitment in our own practice. Therefore, it is very important for us to guide the youth through the progressive path of spiritual life with love and affection and to develop a sense of responsibility for Srila Prabhupada's mission within them. The success of youth outreach is firstly, in its owning responsibility of all the programs of the temple and secondly, in creating an impact in the society at large.

In conclusion, the effort of the present IYF, Kolkata is to strengthen, structurize and grow the youth outreach throughout Kolkata on a far greater scale. We want to have our organisation to be active at least in every college and University in this city. That will automatically lead to the growth of the temple and a positive change in society in general. This newsletter is a small effort to reach all the stakeholders of IYF the updates on our efforts and to seek blessings. May our efforts be pleasing to you.

on behalf of IYF body, ISKCON Kolkata

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