2 Billion Meals

in the presence of

Shri Pranab Mukherjee
Honourable President of India

Akshaya Patra Commemorates 2 Billion Meals
Present
Rukmini Devi Arundale's
RAMAYANA
in six episodes
September 25 to 30, 2016
at Open Air Theatre, ISKCON Bangalore
Time: 6:30 pm

Admission free. All are welcome
His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, Founder-Acharya of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness, came to America in 1965, at age 69, to fulfill his spiritual master’s request that he teach the science of Krishna consciousness throughout the English-speaking world. In a dozen years he published some seventy volumes of translation and commentary on India’s Vedic literature, and these are now standard in universities worldwide. Meanwhile, travelling almost nonstop, Srila Prabhupada moulded his international society into a world wide confederation of ashramas, schools, temples and farm communities. He passed away in 1977, in Vrindavana, the place most sacred to Lord Krishna. His disciples and followers are carrying forward the movement he started.

To know more about Srila Prabhupada visit www.iskconbangalore.org/srila-prabhupada

Cover pages-4  Text pages-32

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CONTENTs
Caring for the Immortal Soul 4
Srila Prabhupada Speaks Out 9
"It is said that the soul is invisible, inconceivable and immutable. Knowing this, you should not grieve for the body."  
(Bhagavad-gīta 2.25)

Lord Krishna began His teachings to Arjuna in the Bhagavad-gīta by saying asocyan anvasocas tvam prajna- 
vadams ca bhasase: "You are talking like a learned scholar, but you are lamenting for the body, which is not at 
all important" [Bg. 2.11]. Here He says the same thing: nanusocitum arhasi. "Do not take this body very seriously. 
The soul is the real subject matter to be considered."

The modern civilization is concerned only with the body—just the opposite of what Krishna says. We should 
understand the principle that the soul is immortal and the body is temporary. The real factor is the soul. We have 
to take care of the soul, not the body. So far as the body is concerned, there are pains and pleasures, which come 
and go like climatic changes. They are not permanent. So you have to learn how to tolerate these bodily pains 
and pleasures (tams titikṣasva) and take care of the soul. But in the modern civilization people have no knowledge 
of the soul, what to speak of how to take care of it. Like animals, they are absorbed in the bodily concept of life, 
taking much care of the body but forgetting the soul. This is the lamentable condition of the modern civilization. 
Simply an animal civilization. The animals simply take care of the body but have no information of the soul. So 
this civilization is an animal civilization, full of mudhas. Mudha means "ass."

Now, if we say this to the people in general, they'll be angry at us. But this is the actual situation. The Bhagavatam 
says, yasyatma-buddhih kunape tri-dhatuke ... sa eva go-kharah: "One who takes his body to be his self is no 
better than a cow or an ass." What is this body? Nothing but a bag of kapha, pitta, and vayu—mucus, bile, and 
air—and their by-products.

Everything in this material world is like that—a combination of material elements. Take this house, for example. 
What is this house? Tejo-vari-mrdam: a combination of fire, water, and earth. You take some earth, you add water, 
and you mix them. Then you take the mixture and put it into a fire, and it becomes brick. If you powder it, it becomes 
cement. Then you combine the bricks and cement and it becomes a skyscraper building.

So, everything in this material world is simply a combination of five ingredients: fire, water, and earth, plus air and 
sky for drying. Similarly, the body is also a combination of five elements. There is no essential difference. Because 
in the big skyscraper building there is no soul, it stands in one place. But the body has a soul, and therefore it 
moves. That is the difference. So the soul is the important thing.

In an airplane there is no soul but the pilot becomes the "soul." He operates the controls, and therefore it moves. 
Without the pilot the plane would not move. Similarly, without the presence of the soul, nothing can move. Either 
the thing must have a soul, or some other soul must control it. Then it will move.

Therefore, the important thing is the soul, not this material body. So anyone who's accepting this material body 
as very important is fool number one. For example, the other day some rascals came here demanding food. They 
were very eager to feed the body. The said they were "starving." They didn't know that there is spiritual starvation. 
Physical starvation may be there, but actually that is not a problem, because there is sufficient arrangement for 
maintaining this material body. Real starvation is starvation of the soul. The soul is not getting spiritual food.

This meeting is meant for giving food to the starving spirit soul. And as soon as we get some spiritual food, we 
become happy (yayatma suprasidati). Unless we get spiritual food, we cannot be really satisfied. Suppose you 
have a bird within a cage, and you simply clean the cage very nicely and cover it and paint it, while the bird within 
the cage is crying out of starvation. Is that very intelligent? Similarly, as spirit souls we are encaged within this 
body, and although we are taking great care of the bodily cage, we are starving for lack of spiritual food. We are 
not happy being encaged in this body, and so our natural aspiration is to get free from this encagement, as much 
as the bird struggles to get free from its cage.

Yesterday we learned from Bhagavad-gīta that the soul sarva-gatah, "able to go anywhere." It has that freedom. 
Those who are advanced in yogic power can also move anywhere they like. There are still yogis in India who early 
in the morning take a bath in four holy places—Hardwar, Jagannatha Puri, Rameshvaram, and Dwaraka. Within
one hour they bathe in these four places. They dip into the water in one place, and by a yogic process they come out a few minutes later a thousand miles away in another holy body of water. It's as if you were to take a dip in the Thames River here in London, and when you came out you were in the Ganges at Calcutta. This is sarvagatah, "going everywhere." The soul has so much freedom that he can go anywhere he likes. It is only our body that is an impediment checking our freedom. But if you get rid of this material body and are situated in your spiritual body, you can go anywhere you like. For example, Narada Muni can move anywhere. Sometimes he goes to Vaikunthaloka, the spiritual world, and sometimes he comes to this material world. Because he has a spiritual body, he's free to move anywhere.

Now the scientists are trying to travel into outer space by machine. But there is no need of a machine. As a spirit soul you have your own power. You can move anywhere very fast. Unfortunately, now this power is being checked by the material body.

Therefore, one should be very much concerned about getting the soul out of this encagement of the material body. That should be our first concern. Those who are simply concerned with this body are no better than animals. So this so-called modern civilization, having no information of the soul, is simply a pack of animals. That's all.

Modern people do not care about the results of their activities; they do not care whether they perform pious or vicious activities. That is demonic civilization. As Krishna says in the Bhagavad-gita (16.7), pravrttima ca nivrttim ca jana na vidur asurah. The asuras are atheists, fools and rascals who do not know what is pravrtti and what is nivrtti. Pravrtti means "subject matter we should take interest in." and nivrtti means "subject matter we should not take interest in." The asuras do not know the difference.

Every living entity has two natures, spiritual and material. Materially, the inclination is toward sex enjoyment, meat-eating, and intoxication (loke vyayayamisa-madya-seva;). And the Bhagavatam says, nitya hi jantoh: These are always the tendencies for the living entity in the material world. When one is in the material world he is called jantu, "animal." Although one is constitutionally a living entity, or jiva soul, he's not called "jiva soul" when he's in the material concept of life. He's called jantu, Anyone devoid of spiritual knowledge, jantu, or "animal." This is the scriptural injunction.

So as long as we continue to change from one material body to another, we remain animals. And like any animal, we are forced to tolerate so much suffering. For example, a bullock yoked to a cart must undergo so much whipping. He has to tolerate it: he cannot get out of it. Similarly, when the cows are taken to the slaughterhouse to be killed, they have to tolerate it. There is no way out. This is the position of the jantu.

Anyone who has surrendered to the material nature has to suffer. There is no way out. As soon as you accept a material body, you must suffer (klesada asa dehah). This material body means suffering. But people do not know this. They make so many arrangements and plans to become happy, to become peaceful without any miserable condition, but the rascals do not know that so long as you have a material body—whether a king's body or an ant's body—you must suffer.

Therefore Krishna says here. "Take care of the soul. Just try to understand how important the soul is. Don't lament for the body. In this body you will get so much suffering, so much comfort; it is already settled up."

Now, one may ask. "Why does one living entity get a king's body and another get a pig's body? There are so many different types of bodies. Why this variety?" Krishna explains this variety in the Bhagavad-gita [13.22]: karanam guna-sango 'sya sad-asad-yoni-janmasu. "Because the living entity associates with different kinds of material qualities, he gets different types of bodies."

Therefore our business should be not to associate with the material qualities, even the quality of goodness, sattvaguna. One who is conducted by sattva-guna has brahminical qualities—self-control, tolerance, and so on—but devotional service to Krishna makes one transcendental even to these good qualities. Even if somehow or other a person takes birth in a brahmana family and strictly executes his brahminical duties, he's still conditioned under the laws of material nature. And what to speak of others, those in the modes of passion and ignorance. Their position is most abominable. As Krishna says, jaghanya-guna-vrtti-stha adho gacchanti tamasah: "Those in the mode of ignorance sink down to a very abominable condition."

In this age of Kali almost everyone is in the mode of ignorance. In other words, almost everyone is a shudra (kalau shudra-sambhavah). This means they have no spiritual knowledge. One who knows, "I am a spirit soul: I am not this body" is a brahmana, and one who does not know this is a shudra.

Here in our Krishna consciousness movement the students are trying to understand what spiritual life is, and if somehow or other one of them understands at least that he's a spirit soul, then he becomes a brahmana. But one who does not understand this is a krpana. Krpana means "miser." Why is he a miser? Because he is wasting his valuable human form of life. These are the shastric injunctions.
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So, first of all we have to become brahmanas. A brahmana knows, aham brahmasmi. "I am a spirit soul" And by such knowledge one is relieved of all anxiety (brahma-bhutah prasannatma). If there is a burden on your head and it is taken away, you feel relieved. Similarly, the ignorance of thinking that "I am this body" is a great burden, and when we get rid of this burden, we feel relieved.

When one understands that he is not this body but rather a spirit soul, he naturally asks, "Why am I working so hard to maintain this lump of matter? Let me try for my real necessity, spiritual life." That is a great relief. Then there is no more lamenting or hankering (na socati na kanksati). This is the brahma-bhuta platform.

So, our actual business is to come to the brahma-bhuta platform. Then we will not be disturbed by bodily pains and pleasures. Actually, there is no pleasure. Simply pain. On the bodily platform pleasure means a little absence of pain. For example, suppose you have a boil. So, it is painful. But if by some medical application the pain is a little relieved, you think, "Now I am feeling happiness." But the boil is still there, so how can you be happy? We think we have discovered so many counteractions to disease—medical science, pharmaceuticals—but none of these can let you live perpetually. No, you’ll have to die, sir. The "boil" is there: death.

So there is really no happiness at all in the material world. As Krishna says in Bhagavad-gita [13.9], janma-mrtuyajara-vyadhiduhkahadosanudarsanam: "Why are you feeling happy? You have to die, after all, and you also have to accept birth, old age, and disease. As a spirit soul you are eternal, but in the material world you have to accept these sufferings."

Therefore our real problem is to get free from birth, old age, disease, and death. But these rascal modern philosophers do not know this. They think, "Death is natural, and after death everything is finished. Now, so long as I am not dying, let me enjoy." As an Indian philosopher named Charvaka Muni wrote, mam krtva ghrtam piket yavaj jivet sukham jivet: "As long as one lives, be happy by eating lots of ghee." According to our Indian system, enjoyment comes not from eating meat, as in the Western countries, but from eating foods cooked in ghee [clarified butter]. So Charvaka Muni recommended. "Eat foods cooked in ghee, like kachauris and samosas, and enjoy life." One may say, "I have no money, sir. Where shall I get ghee?" Charvaka answers, rnam krtva, "Beg, borrow, or steal, but get ghee somehow or other. Black market, white market, any way—get money and buy ghee, that's all. Eat as much ghee as possible. And in this way, as long as you live, live merrily."

That is also the theory of many European philosophers: "Live merrily." But at the end of his life the philosopher becomes paralyzed. Then his merriness is finished. These philosophers do not understand that there is a supreme controller. You may theorize in so many ways about how to make life happy, but you cannot be happy, sir, so long as you have a material body. Why? Because you must suffer birth, old age, disease, and death.

Therefore intelligent persons should realize that our problem is not how to achieve material happiness but how to be reestablished on our eternal, spiritual platform. As spirit souls we are eternal, but somehow or other we have fallen into this material world. Therefore we have to accept birth and death. So our problem is how to again become eternal.

But the rascal atheists do not know that there is a possibility of becoming eternal, that simply by trying to understand Krishna one can become immortal. As Krishna says in the Bhagavad-gita [4.9] janma karma ca me divyam evam yo vetti-tattvatah / tyaktva deham punar janma naiti mam eti so 'rjuna. Even if you don't serve Krishna, if you simply understand the transcendental nature of Krishna's birth and activities, you become liberated. In other words, you become immortal.

But no, the rascals will not try to philosophically understand Krishna's position. They'll say, "We accept Krishna as a great man, but we don't accept Him as God." All right, if you accept Krishna as a great personality, why don't you accept His teachings? If you actually accept Krishna as a great personality, at least you must try to follow His instructions. But no, that they'll not do.

In Bhagavad-gita Krishna says, "You are eternal. Your business is how to achieve that eternal position. So far as the body is concerned, it is destructive. So you should not take the body very seriously." This understanding is the distinction between Vedic and modern civilization. The modern civilization is based on the bodily concept of life, and Vedic civilization is based on the spiritual concept of life—how to make spiritual advancement, that is real civilization. 😊

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Srila Prabhupada, the founder-acharya of ISKCON, has delivered more than 1500 lectures on Vedic scriptures like Bhagavad-gita, Srimad-Bhagavatam and Sri Chaitanya-charitamrita. The audio recording of his lectures are available in ISKCON centers. You can also hear some of these lectures in www.iskconbangalore.org/srila-prabhupada-lectures
Disciple: Srila Prabhupada, the Gita verse we’ve just read is very striking. Lord Krishna says that with their materialistic views, “the demoniac, who are lost to themselves and have no intelligence, engage in unbeneficial, horrible works meant to destroy the world.”

Srila Prabhupada: Yes. Krishna says ugra-karmanah: these people are performing horrible works. The factory—this is ugra-karma, a horrible work.

In reality, only a little karma, a little work, is required. You simply see to it, for instance, that some wheat is growing. A little tilling—that is sufficient.

What is the use of opening a big, big factory? That is ugra-karma. How has it helped? How has it helped that people are kept in some factory, simply for earning their livelihood.

Just a little work will provide people’s needs. Nature has given so much facility. You can grow a little food anywhere. The cows are there in the pasturing ground. Take their milk and live peacefully. Why do you open factories? What is the use? You are simply keeping yourselves in a hellish condition.

So this is the description given by Krishna in Bhagavad-gita. Now discuss these points.
A human being must have intelligence. But that doesn't mean you can destroy a tree. You use your intelligence to construct a house. So you have intelligence. There is no doubt.

Srila Prabhupada: Bigger deaths. The ultimate result of these rascals' work is bigger deaths. Everything must be big. Formerly, during some conflict, only a few men were dying: now, many hundreds of thousands will die. Bigger deaths. During your college days, you did not consider that these big leaders were bringing bigger deaths?

Disciple: In a way, Srila Prabhupada. It was very frustrating, because from every so-called good thing these people were trying to do, so many more bad things were coming forth.

Srila Prabhupada: Karma jagat. The law of karma, which governs this material world, is that if you want to make a house, then somewhere you have to cut trees down. Somewhere you have to destroy—only then can you make your house. You have to “adjust” things like that. So in reality, you cannot create. You create your house by destroying somewhere else. Is it not? So where is your creation? Real creation is God’s creation. Without destroying anything. He has created everything. But if you want to create, then somewhere you have to destroy. That is the law of karma.

Disciple: Srila Prabhupada, as you know, in Chapter Seven of the Gita, Krishna describes rascals with the word duskrtina. And as you explain in the Purport, duskrtina indicates merit and intelligence. Misused, of course, yet very real merit and intelligence.

Srila Prabhupada: Yes, intelligence. For example, after destroying a tree, you use your intelligence to construct a house. So you have intelligence. There is no doubt. A human being must have intelligence. But that intelligence is given to him for getting out of the clutches of birth, death, old age, and disease. Unfortunately, the so-called modern man is not using his intelligence for that purpose. Therefore, he is a duskrtina, a rascal.

Intelligence he has got. We don't say that modern man is unintelligent, that he is a complete fool. No. He has got intelligence. But he is utilizing that intelligence for duskarya, work which he should not have done.

There are karma and duskarya, proper work and bad work. Man's intelligence was given so that he could get relief from these clutches of birth, death, old age and disease. But that intelligence he's not utilizing. He's opening a factory and creating a completely different atmosphere, a bad atmosphere. Therefore, he is a rascal. To open a factory requires intelligence. All sorts of complicated machines have to be coordinated. So intelligence is there. But how is this intelligence being used? To keep people in a hellish condition of life. Therefore, modern man is a duskrtina, an intelligent rascal.

Disciple: Srila Prabhupada, it's amazing. People have become so shortsighted. For instance, they open a factory for some kind of economic development but they're not thinking of the factory's ill effects. Water pollution, air pollution, noise pollution, stress, broken families, delinquency, drugs, crime—so many things.

Srila Prabhupada: Therefore Krishna calls them duskrtinas, and then He calls them mudhas, asses.

Disciple: At the same time, Srila Prabhupada. Krishna also says, mattah smritir jnana—“Everyone’s intelligence comes from Me alone.” So some might criticize that Krishna Himself is misleading people, giving people faulty intelligence.

Srila Prabhupada: You wanted to do something, so Krishna gives you the intelligence to do what you wanted. If you want to manufacture a very complicated machine. Krishna will give you that intelligence: “All right do like this. Here is how to manufacture.”

But you'll not hear Krishna when He says, sarva-dharmat parityajya: “You rascal, give up all this and surrender to Me.” That is real intelligence. But you'll not do it. (To be continued.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fasting</th>
<th>Festivals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sep 13 Ekadashi</td>
<td>Sep 14 Vamana Jayanti: Appearance of Lord Vamanadeva fasting observed the previous day till noon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 14 break fast</td>
<td>Sep 15 Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura - Appearance fasting till noon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 26 Ekadashi</td>
<td>Sep 16 Acceptance of sannyasa by Srila Prabhupada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 27 break fast</td>
<td>Third month of Chaturmasya begins Fasting from milk for one month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 12 Ekadashi</td>
<td>Sep 19 Jaladuta’s Voyage of Compassion ends</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 13 break fast</td>
<td>Oct 11 Dasara Festival (in Mysore)</td>
</tr>
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Crowds of devotees take darshana at the temple

108 food items were offered to Their Lordships on the occasion
Jhulan seva after mid-night abhisheka

Pushpanjali Seva
Devotees kirtana at midnight during abhisheka

Krishna costume contest
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Abhisheka of Sri Sri Krishna Balarama at ISKCON - Hubli
Sri Krishna Janmashtami

Arati to Deity of Sri Gopal at HKM - Hyderabad

Arati to Deities at HKM - Puri
Abhisheka to deities of Srila Prabhupada on this auspicious occasion

Food offerings to Srila Prabhupada, including a large book-shaped cake to appreciate his contribution to the world through his translation of Vedic literature
Sri Madhu Pandit Dasa offers Srila Prabhupada this year’s Vyasa Puja book with homage offerings from thousands of devotees.

The Kannada edition of Srila Prabhupada’s book Sri Bhaktirasamrita Sindhu (The Nectar of Devotion) is released by Sri Madhu Pandit Dasa.

Sri Madhu Pandit Dasa unveils a plaque to release the new phone app of Srila Prabhupada Lila, the easiest access to Srila Prabhupada’s recorded pastimes.
Lord Sri Krishna on Stamps

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By: Pradip Jain, FRPSL
Philatelic Expert
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Jayadeva and Geetagovinda

Geetagovinda by saint poet Jayadeva is a unique work in Indian literature and has been a great source of literary and artistic inspiration for the last nine centuries. Composed in Sanskrit in the 12th Century AD, it has been translated into most of the modern Indian languages and many foreign languages as well. People have enjoyed singing its melodious lyrics and have danced to the tune of the Geetagovinda in all classical dances of India and in palas and kirtans. The Geetagovinda surpasses almost all preceding works of Sanskrit literature in the composite appeal of its music, poetry and mystical content. It has charmed, enraptured, feasted and charged the mind and the soul of the people of India in abundance since the 12th Century AD. The Geetagovinda has been sung, danced and enacted at Puri Jagannath Temple and in several other temples throughout India.

Gitinatya or dance drama is the earliest type of traditional Sanskrit drama in India. Geetagovinda marked the transition stage between pure lyric and pure drama. It has the unique advantage of a poem, which could be enjoyed simply by hearing it recited or sung and could also be adapted in dance form to dramatic presentation. It has influenced the art, music, dance and literature of India to such an extent that it is almost impossible to find a school of thought in India in the fields of literature, philosophy, visual and performing arts without the magic touch of Geetagovinda. The Geetagovinda papar, patta and textile paintings are available in abundance in many parts of India. The pictorial traditions of the Geetagovinda extend from east to west, touching Orissa, Bihar, Bengal, Himachal Pradesh, Kashmir, Rajasthan, Gujarat and even Nepal. Geetagovinda singing has a very long tradition in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Manipur.

Jayadeva, the author was not only a great singer and a poet but above all a great saint whose devotion for Radha and Krishna and Jagannath left an indelible luster on the canvas of time. His influence on the Vaishnav Bhakti cult has been one of the most profound. Vaishnavism, which spread the message of social harmony and united people all over India cutting across narrow class, language and caste boundaries, had Geetagovinda as one of its inspirations and instruments. The Bhakti cults of Radha, Madhav and Dasavatar got firmly implanted and entrenched in the Indian soil. Jayadeva was born on Akshaya Tritiya day at village Kenduvilwa situated on the bank of river ‘Prachi’. This area in Toshali was part of Utkal, famous from ancient times.

Jayadeva’s father was Bhojadev and mother was Smt. Bamadevi. Bhojadev was a reputed scholar in Sanskrit. With his father’s guidance, Jayadeva acquired a vast learning in Sanskrit literature and theology in very short time. It was from Jagannath Temple, Puri that the melodious music of Geetagovinda reverberated to the distant corners of India and then fascinated people all over the world. Jayadeva’s devotional songs, including the famous one describing the Dasavatar, have inspired choreographers. Padmavati, his wife, performed those dances in the Puri Jagannath Temple. The talas and ragas are such that they were meant for dance performance. The Dasavatar shlokas are chanted as mantras in honor of Vishnu in temple’s all over India.

The stamps and the first day cover are a depiction and celebration of Jayadeva’s composition on Dasavatar.

The Department of Posts is happy to release a set of commemorative postage stamps on Jayadeva and Geetagovinda.

Credits
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Stamp & FDC : Sankha Samanta
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Department of Posts
India

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Krishna Voice, September 2016
President of India commemorates 2 Billion Meals

The Honourable President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, visited ISKCON Bangalore to commemorate the milestone of serving 2 billion meals. The event was hosted at ISKCON Bangalore on 27 August, 2016. The dignitaries in attendance were Shri Vajubhai Rudabhai Vala - Honourable Governor of Karnataka; Shri Siddaramaiah - Honourable Chief Minister of Karnataka; Shri Prakash Javadekar - Honourable Union Minister of Human Resource Development; Shri D. V. Sadananda Gowda - Honourable Union Minister of Statistics and Programme Implementation; Dr Murli Manohar Joshi - Member of Parliament, Former Minister of HRD, and Science & Technology; Shri Tanveer Sait - Honourable Minister for Primary and Secondary Education and Wakf Minister - Government of Karnataka; Shri K Gopalaiah – MLA, Mahalakshmi Layout Constituency; Shri B Badre Gowda – BBMP Corporator, Nagapura Ward and Smt. Sudha Murty, Chairperson, Infosys Foundation. The attendees also included Akshaya Patra’s Independent Trustees, Shri Mohandas Pai and Shri Abhay Jain.

Addressing the occasion, Honourable President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, stated that the occasion gives everyone an opportunity to appreciate the significance and strength of a fresh and nutritious mid-day meal. He lauded Akshaya Patra for ably supporting the Government of India, Government of Karnataka and all the other State Governments, in the successful implementation of the Mid-Day Meal Programme.

The Honourable President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee and all the dignitaries lauded Shri Madhu Pandit Dasa – Chairman, The Akshaya Patra Foundation, for his towering efforts and able leadership that has steered Akshaya Patra to become a shining example of social innovation in the service of humanity.

Earlier, Honourable Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi extended his best wishes to The Akshaya Patra Foundation, for completing sixteen years of serving mid-day meals to the school children. He also congratulated The Foundation for serving 2 billion meals and remarked that these milestones and efforts inspire many to serve our children.
Sri Madhu Pandit Dasa - Chairman, The Akshaya Patra Foundation, welcomes Honourable President of India

The Honourable President of India serves the Akshaya Patra meal to school children who are beneficiaries of the mid-day meal programme

The Honourable President of India and Honourable Chief Minister of Karnataka interact with the school children
Sri Balarama Jayanti

Special alankara (above) and abhisheka (below)
Akshaya Patra News

FANUC India donated a vehicle to The Akshaya Patra Foundation.
ISKCON Bangalore in association with Karnataka Samskrit University, Bengaluru organized a national seminar – Bhakti Parampara at the Multi-Vision Theatre on Hare Krishna Hill on 5th and 6th August 2016. The seminar brought to light the many facets of Bhakti (devotion) across different schools of philosophy.

Read more: https://goo.gl/1w7jwD

ISKCON Bangalore celebrated Jhulan Utsava popularly known as the swing festival from August 14 to 18, 2016. Every year this festival is observed in the month of Shravana for five days in commemoration of Lord Krishna’s childhood pastimes of swinging beneath the trees with His friends in the forests of Vrindavana.

Read More: https://goo.gl/Yjov0T

Located in the heart of the temple town Madurai is the wonderful temple of the Supreme Lord known as Thiru Koodal Sundararaja Perumal. The Alwars (meaning ‘those immersed in God’) were Tamil poet-saints of South India who espoused bhakti to Lord Vishnu in their songs of longing, ecstasy and service.

Read More: https://goo.gl/hdPXdL

Akshaya Patra’s first centralized kitchen in Maharashtra was inaugurated by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and other dignitaries in Nagpur on August 20, 2016. The kitchen will provide midday meals to 5,000 school children of Nagpur Municipal Corporation and Zilla Parishad in the CM’s South-West Constituency.

Read More: http://goo.gl/6TzbV

Reviews from TripAdvisor

Whenever I wish to unwind myself from the busy city life, I visit this place. When at ISKCON do not miss the evening Aarti and Pallaki Pooja which starts at around 8 PM. The food served in the cafeteria is an added advantage when you visit this place. Do try the Dhokla and Dahi Vada in the cafeteria. Rachit K

A place to visit: As a matter of fact the place stands out for its pleasant atmosphere. A variety of sweets are available over there. I would recommend to visit and experience it at least once. Dhanu S

Mesmerizing temple: ISKCON Bangalore is one of the most famous and mesmerizing temples in Bangalore. It has great architecture and is a very peaceful place. Tejasbraval

Good place to be amazed: If in Bangalore make sure for once to be here in the evening for Shayanara Arati (around 8:00 pm). Singing and dancing is nice. Good place to be with family. Bharathponna

Must visit: Very beautiful temple. Evening Aarti and pallaki is beautiful. Must visit once. Prasadram is also delicious. Gyanesh G

A trip to heaven: ISKCON Temple in Bangalore is a must for all devotees of Lord Krishna, for its ambience and religious experience. It has shrines to Lord Anjaneya, Garuda, Narasimha and Balaji before you ascend to the sanctum sanctorum of Lord Krishna, featuring 3 individual shrines to different incarnations of Krishna in a large hall. Don’t miss the handicrafts shop or the restaurants on your way out! Anita Ravindran

Very good: Temple has all sorts of facility for stay, food, all proper queue maintained, they serve free lunch also. Temple architecture is very good. diptiranjan012

Top YouTube Picks

www.youtube.com/watch?v=b0SCtRoaAVQ
Sri Sri Vishveshthateertha Sripadhangali Swamiji speaks about Srila Prabhupada

www.youtube.com/islkconworld
Advent of a Miracle on Hare Krishna Hill

For more videos visit
youtube.com/iskconworld
Drum roll… Yes, it’s that time of the year again. The team at ISKCON Bangalore has completed yet another successful flash mob performance. The second flash mob was performed on the 14th of August, 2016 at three different locations in Bengaluru - Elements Mall, Sankey Lake and Mantri Square Mall. The devotees danced to the tune of Krishna Keshava song, Lord Chaitanya Mahaprabhu who spearheaded the sankirtana movement used to sing this song.

The flash mob was held with a view to creating awareness and interest among the general public about the Hare Krishna movement. With over 50 dancers, director, and volunteers, the flash mob created a sensation. The dance performance had a combination of adults, teenagers and children who were dressed as Radha or Krishna. And, at the end of every performance, kirtana was performed for 15 minutes.

People at the mall were surprised and engrossed in watching the performance. They also insisted on taking selfies with the dance performers.

Sri Madhu Pandit Dasa, President, ISKCON Bangalore said, “Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu introduced the sankirtana movement over 500 years ago. Sankirtana means a large number of people come together and chant the holy names of the Lord. When Srila Prabhupada went to the West, he introduced nama-sankirtana on the streets of New York and other cities. It was a common sight and the Hare Krishna people were chanting the names of God.”

A flash mob is an innovative way to make it possible for people to witness sankirtana in such places. And the fusion of flash mob and sankirtana is a unique concept.

It is really historic that a new form of sankirtana has emerged wherein people would be very happy to actually watch and participate in chanting the holy names of the Lord. This is going to set the trend for future sankirtana movement.

visit: www.youtube.com/iskconworld to watch the video of flash mob performance.
ISKCON Dasara Camp

a refreshing camp for children during dasara vacation

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Sri Radha Krishna Temple
(Founder-Acharya: His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada)
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