



MAYAPUR TIMES

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM THE ŚRĪ MĀYĀPUR CANDRODAYA MANDIR
INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KRṢṆA CONSCIOUSNESS
FOUNDER-ĀCĀRYA HIS DIVINE GRACE A. C. BHAKTIVEDANTA SWAMI PRABHUPĀDA

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DEVELOPING
MAYAPUR



GAURA
PURNIMA



VASANTA
PANCHAMI



SRI SRI PANCA-TATTVA MAHA ABHISEKA 2019

Entering into Mahaprabhu's Lila



The characteristics of Krishna are understood to be a storehouse of transcendental love. Although that storehouse of love certainly came with Krishna when He was present, it was sealed. But when Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu came with His associates of the Panca-tattva, they broke the seal and plundered the storehouse to taste transcendental love of Krishna. The more they tasted it, the more

their thirst for it grew.

Sri Panca-tattva themselves danced again and again and thus made it easier to drink nectarean love of Godhead. They danced, cried, laughed and chanted like madmen, and in this way they distributed love of Godhead.

– Sri Caitanya-caritamrita, Adi-lila 7.20-22, Translation

Since Sri Sri Panca-tattva were installed in the Sri Mayapur Candrodaya Mandir in 2004, every 5 years They have been worshipped by an elaborate and ecstatic MahaAbhiseka. This year, 2019, was the 15th installation anniversary of Sri Sri Panca-tattva and the largest Maha Abhiseka yet.

Devotees from around the globe began pouring into Sri dhama Mayapur in the days leading up to Panca-tattva's Maha Abhiseka on the 1st of March. Taxis, buses, trains, boats, and even helicopters delivered devotees to Mayapur as thousands flooded the holy dhama of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu, eager to see His most auspicious Maha Abhiseka.

Preparations for this Maha Abhiseka were extensive, and all devotees received the opportunity to participate. 8000 liters of Ganges water were needed for the abhiseka, and the water was transported day by day, devotee by devotee, pot by pot, by approximately 2,500 devotees over the course of one week. Devotees were so eager to bring Ganges water for the Lord's bath that even after the large water drums where the water was stored were filled and overflowing, devotees continued to bring water.

The organizers of the festival spent weeks, if not months, planning and preparing for the event. Their task was not only to arrange for the Lord's abhiseka, but to facilitate thousands of devotees and pilgrims to witness the abhiseka. One step the organizers took to allow a greater number of devotees to view the abhiseka was the removal of a portion of the back wall of the Panca-tattva temple hall. This allowed devotees to directly view the abhiseka from the courtyard outside the temple.

The morning of abhiseka saw devotees crowding eagerly to the temple even before mangal-arati began, eager to see the Lord and to wait for Maha Abhiseka. Devotees waited outside the Panca-tattva temple hall for hours, eagerly awaiting the start of Maha Abhiseka at 8:00 a.m. When the auspicious

time arrived, the altar curtains finally parted, and the devotees saw the forms of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu, Sri Nityananda Prabhu, Sri Advaita Acarya, Sri Gadadhara Pandit, and Sri Srivas Thakura shining golden in Their



simple white abhiseka attire, there was a roar that seemed to shake the foundations of the building.

Approximately 12,000 liters of liquid were used to bathe Sri Sri Panca-tattva. Devotees watched in rapture as the Lords were bathed in approximately 8,000 liters of water, 800 liters of milk, 300 liters of yogurt, 500 liters of sugar syrup, 250 liters of honey, 300 liters of ghee, 600 liters of various fresh fruit juices, 350 liters of flower

water, 100 liters of coconut water, and 250 liters of water scented with flower essences. The colorful liquids colored the Lords' forms with various hues as they streamed down Their forms and onto the altar, where a group of young gurukula students continually guided the caranamrita off of the altar and into pipes constructed for its collection.

Each of the Deities was served by four pujaris and four assistants, with the additional help of many of the senior devotees who were present. In addition to bathing the Deities with the many different liquid substances, the pujaris covered the Lords' forms with approximately ten kilos of sandalwood paste, 20-30 kilos of sesame paste, and 15 kilos of various auspicious and herbal powders which beautifully filled the air and settled onto the Lords' forms. For the grand finale of the abhiseka, the Lords were showered in what seemed a never-ending amount of fragrant flower petals. The pujaris blissfully showered the Deities with colorful petals from approximately 30,000 roses, 15,000 marigolds, 5,000 dahlias, and 50,000 rajani (tuberoses). A veritable mountain of flower petals rose around the Deities feet, reaching towards Their thighs.

Throughout the three and a half hour event, devotees were led in ecstatic kirtan by devotees such as His Holiness Bhakti Charu Swami, His Holiness Lokanath Swami, and His Holiness Bhakti Vaibhava Swami.

More than one devotee commented that the experience of Maha Abhiseka led them to reflect on the fact that Lord Caitanya's pastimes are indeed ongoing, and devotees serving in His sankirtana

movement are directly involved in His lila. Maha Abhiseka was not something of this world, but a transcendental lila of the Lord's that allowed His devotees to witness and in some way experience the profound ecstasy of Mahaprabhu's lila.

In distributing love of Godhead, Caitanya Mahaprabhu and His associates did not consider who was a fit candidate and who was not, nor where such distribution should or should not take place. They made no conditions. Wherever they got the opportunity, the members of the Panca-tattva distributed love of Godhead.

Although the members of the Panca-tattva plundered the storehouse of love of Godhead and ate and distributed its contents, there was no scarcity, for this wonderful storehouse is so complete that as the love is distributed, the supply increases hundreds of times.

– Sri Caitanya-caritamrita, Adi-lila 7.23-24, Translation



DEVELOPING MAYAPUR

Excerpt from Śrīla Prabhupāda-līlāmṛta by Satsvarūpa dāsa Goswāmī, Vol. 5: Let There be a Temple: India /Around the World 1971-1975, Chapter 42

Mayapur
June 1, 1973

Although the Mayapur building was not yet completed, Prabhupada had come there to reside. He took two adjoining rooms, one as his study and one as his bedroom, on the second floor. Meanwhile, construction work continued in the temple room and in other parts of the building. On Prabhupada's first day there, a storm struck, with massive black clouds and high winds. The storm was brief, however, and damage was minimal.

“I have just now come to Mayapur and am very hopeful to regain my strength and health on account of being in this transcendental atmosphere. Every moment we are passing here in great delight.”

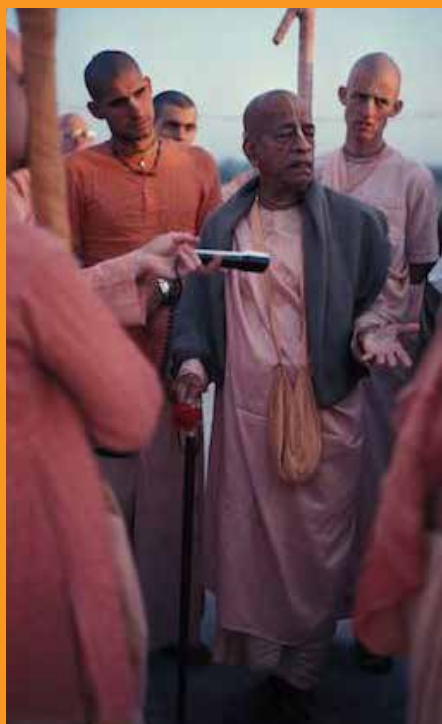
In the evening the temple pujari, Jananivasa, would come to Prabhupada's room with a clay pot of red coals and frankincense and fan the frankincense until the room was filled with smoke. This was to drive out insects, but Prabhupada also considered it purifying.

Although he was sometimes disturbed by the workers' hammering, he found the atmosphere otherwise peaceful. Only a few devotees were staying there, and Prabhupada gave his attention to translating or to speaking with guests and to the devotees in charge of developing his Mayapur center. He would express his desires especially to Bhavananda Maharaja and

Jayapataka Maharaja and worked his will through them.

The devotees living in the building with Prabhupada considered themselves menial servants in Prabhupada's personal house. Of course, all the buildings in ISKCON belonged to Prabhupada, yet in Mayapur that sense was intensified. Generally the

devotees in each particular center would raise money to support their center, but Prabhupada personally took charge of getting funds for Mayapur. He had begun a Mayapur-Vrindavana Trust Fund of donations from his disciples and interest from bonds and security deposits. If money was misspent, energy misused, or the building damaged in any way, Prabhupada would



become very concerned. Now that he was personally on the scene, he often walked about, giving detailed instructions and demanding that discrepancies be corrected. The pink and reddish building was like a huge transcendental ship, and Srila Prabhupada, as captain, would walk the wide verandas, giving strict orders to all mates for keeping everything shipshape.

One day Prabhupada was walking on the veranda near his room. The other rooms were locked, and as Prabhupada walked alone, he would open the window shutters and look in. Suddenly he turned to Satadhanya, who waited on call

nearby. “The fan is going on inside, and this room is empty and locked,” Prabhupada said. “Who has done this?” Satadhanya didn’t know. “Whoever has done this,” Prabhupada said, “is a rascal! He should know he is a rascal!” For two days after, Prabhupada continued to refer to the incident with disgust.

One day, after a huge wind and rain storm, water covered the twelve-foot-wide marble veranda outside Prabhupada’s room. Bhavananda Goswami, taking a large squeegee a devotee had made, began cleaning the marble floor, and SrilaPrabhupada came to his door to watch. “This is the way to clean marble,” Prabhupada said. “Don’t polish it with wax, but just keep plenty of fresh water and every day in the morning wipe it off. In this way the marble will become naturally polished and will shine like glass.”

Prabhupada felt affection and deep gratitude for those devotees dedicating their lives to the Mayapur project. One night he called Bhavananda to his room and began asking him about the devotees. Suddenly Prabhupada began crying. “I know it is difficult for all you Western boys and girls,” he said. “You are so dedicated, serving here in my mission. I know you cannot even get prasadam. When I think that you cannot even get milk and that you have given up your opulent life to come here and you do not complain, I am very much indebted to all of you.”



“When I think that you cannot even get milk and that you have given up your opulent life to come here and you do not complain, I am very much indebted to all of you.”

DEVOTEES FROM 60+ COUNTRIES CHANT TOGETHER IN THE BIRTHPLACE OF SANKIRTANA

In 2019, kirtan is readily available anywhere in the world. Kirtan is daily performed in temples and on the streets across the globe. Every year, more kirtan events are held, some drawing hundreds of thousands. Kirtan recordings and albums are available online at any time. Even so-called mainstream culture in the Western world is embracing kirtan as a form of meditation in the music and yoga scene.

Kirtan is now available for all. But it wasn't always like this. Before the 15th century, the chanting of God's own holy names was a sacred activity reserved for the highest of ecclesiastic society in the inner sanctums of temples.

Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu, who appeared in West Bengal, India, in 1486, inaugurated a revolution when He took the chanting of Krishna's holy names to the streets.

Lord Caitanya predicted:
prthivite ache yatanagaradigrama
sarvatrapracarahaibe mora nama

"In every town and village, the chanting of My name will be heard." (Caitanya-bhagavata, Antya 4.126)

Not only would kirtan be chanted by those other than caste brahmanas, but it would be chanted in every town and village of the world. And this is so: the public chanting of the holy names is now practiced all over the world.

Sridhama Mayapur is the place where the sankirtana movement,

the movement of public and congregational chanting of the Lord's names, began. It is considered to be the spiritual capital of the world.

Not long ago, Mayapur was little other than a collection of rice fields in a remote area of West Bengal. At that time, the great saint Bhaktivinoda Thakura expressed the following desire: "When will that day come when the fair-skinned foreigners will come to Sri Mayapur-dhama and join with the Bengali Vaisnavas to chant Jaya Sacinandana, Jaya Sacinandana? When will that day come?"

That day has arrived. In Sridhama Mayapur, the birthplace of the worldwide sankirtana movement, the Lord's holy names are now chanted daily by people from over 60 countries of the world.

It is only appropriate that one of the world's largest kirtan events takes place every year in Sridhama Mayapur. ISKCON Mayapur's annual Gaura-purnima festival has been celebrated every year since 1972, drawing thousands of visitors from around the globe. In 2012, an annual Kirtan Mela was added to the Gaura-purnima festivities. For four days, for ten hours a day, followers of Lord Caitanya from around the world join together to chant the holy names of the Lord congregationally.

This year was the eighth annual Mayapur Kirtan Mela. Thousands of devotees crowded the Sri Mayapur Candrodaya Mandir and raised their arms and their voices in front of the most merciful

Deities of Sri SriPanca-tattva. Kirtan leaders included HH Lokanath Swami, HH Radhanath Swami, HH BB Govinda Swami, HH Niranjana Swami, and many others.

"The Krishna consciousness movement has established its center in Mayapur, the birth site of Lord Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu, to give men the great opportunity to go there and perform a constant festival of sankirtan-yajna."

(Sri Prabhupada, Srimad-Bhagavatam 5.19.24 Purport)





SRI GAURA PURNIMA

After nearly a month of festivities leading up to it, Gaura Purnima day itself finally arrived on March 21st, 2019. Thousands of pilgrims visited the Sri Mayapur Candrodaya Mandir on this day to take darshan of the Lord.

The Deities were offered a new outfit and Their altars elaborately decorated with flowers. Kirtan went on throughout the entire day.

In the afternoon, Lord Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu was taken on procession from the temple to a festival pandal set up in a large field beside the temple. Here, there was ample space for the thousands of devotees to view Mahaprabhu's abhishek.

The abhishek of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu went on for hours. While the abhishek went on, the assembled devotees were led in ecstatic kirtan by His Holiness

Indradyumna Swami, His Holiness Niranjana Swami, His Holiness Sivarama Swami, and His Holiness Bhakti Bhringa Govinda Swami.

The day's festivities concluded with a feast and more kirtan!

Srila Prabhupada said in a letter to Tamal Krishna Goswami in 1973, "The best time and place is Mayapur on Lord Caitanya's Appearance Day. That is not only the best for me but for everyone. Mayapur is meant for that. If possible all devotees from all our centers should go... at that time."





REMEMBERING KRISHNA AS SPRING BEGINS SRI VASANTA PANCHAMI

The spring season is considered to be the best of all seasons, for its attractive qualities are especially pleasing to Lord Krishna. Krishna Himself states in the Bhagavad-gita: “Of seasons I am flower-bearing spring.” (10.35). Srila Prabhupada comments in his purport to this verse, “Of course spring is a season universally liked because it is neither too hot nor too cold, and the flowers and trees blossom and flourish. In spring there are also many ceremonies commemorating Kṛṣṇa’s pastimes; therefore this is considered to be the most joyful of all seasons, and it is the representative of the Supreme Lord Kṛṣṇa.” (Srila Prabhupada, Purport to Bhagavad-gita 10.35)

The arrival of the spring season is celebrated in Vrindavana and in Mayapur as Vasanta Panchami. This day, which falls on the fifth day of the waxing moon, is considered to be the first day of



spring and this festival is one of the most extraordinary in the spring season. On this day, the freshness and brightness of the spring season are emphasized by the prominence of the color yellow. In many temples, the Deities are dressed in yellow clothing and offered an abundant variety of yellow flowers and fresh green leaves, and many of Their devotees also dress in festive yellow garments.

In ISKCON Mayapur, the Vasanta Panchami darshanof Radha Madhava and Their Asta-sakhis is one of the most beautiful in the entire year. Each year the Deities are dressed in new garments created especially for this day. The opulence of Their new clothing comes not from elaborate embroidery and shining stones but from the delicate beauty of fresh flowers. A variety of yellow flowers decorate Their clothing and are fashioned into fragrant jewellery. Their altar, completely covered with arrangements of flowers and creepers, appears as if it is the personification of the spring season. Even the gopistake on the hue of this season: Their white forms are colored with saffron until They glow golden. Amidst this array of vibrant yellow, Madhava's dark form stands out like a jewel in a golden necklace.

The arrival of the spring season is especially celebrated because of the rasa-lilapastimes enjoyed by Krishna and the gopis during this season. It is described by Rupa Goswami in Sri Vidagdha-Madhava, "Springtime had arrived, and the full moon of that season inspired the Supreme Personality of Godhead, who is complete in everything, with new attraction to meet the beautiful Srimati Radharani at night to increase the beauty of Their pastimes."



***HOW WONDERFUL IT IS THAT IN
KRISHNA CONSCIOUSNESS, EVEN
THE ARRIVAL OF A NEW SEASON
OFFERS THE OPPORTUNITY TO
MEDITATE ON THE SWEETNESS OF
KRISHNA'S PASTIMES.***

FACTS & FIGURES



NUMBER OF VISITING PILGRIMS
3,660,930



BOWLS OF KITCHARI DISTRIBUTED
99,000



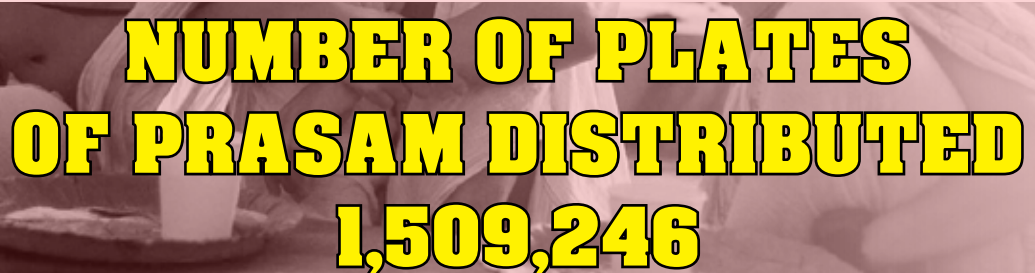
**NUMBER OF VISITORS STAYING IN
MAYAPUR GUESTHOUSES**
219,000



SANKIRTAN BOOK POINTS
175,988



NUMBER OF NEW BHAKTAS JOINED
0



**NUMBER OF PLATES
OF PRASAM DISTRIBUTED**
1,509,246

Management Notification

As Reported by Mayapur
Communication Office

ZERO WASTE SECURITY

WEBSITE

• THE MAYAPUR ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL APPRECIATES AND THANKS THE ZERO WASTE MAYAPUR TEAM FOR THEIR ONGOING EFFORTS IN KEEPING THE DHAM CLEAN AND GIVE'S ITS SUPPORT FOR THE NEW WEBSITE

WWW.ZEROWASTEMAYAPUR.COM

4G TOWER INSTALLATION

• RELIANCE JIO COMPANY REQUESTED TO INSTALL A FEW 4G TOWERS ON THE CAMPUS.

RESOLVED: THE REQUEST WILL BE POLITELY DECLINED AND FURTHERMORE THE MAYAPUR COMMUNITY SEVAKS IS ADVISED TO CREATE AWARENESS ABOUT THE HEALTH HAZARDS AMONGST THE COMMUNITY MEMBERS IN REGARD TO GIVING PERMISSIONS FOR THE INSTALLATION OF 4G TOWERS ON THEIR PRIVATE PROPERTIES.

SECURITY

• THE MAYAPUR ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL GIVES ITS FULL SUPPORT TO HEAD OF THE SECURITY DEPARTMENT, HG ALOY GOVINDA PRABHU, IN IMPLEMENTING RULES PASSED BY THE MANAGEMENT AND THANKS HIM FOR THE STEADY SERVICE IN MAINTAINING AND IMPROVING SECURITY ON THE CAMPUS.

• ALL MAC MEMBERS ARE REQUESTED TO TALK TO THEIR DIVISION HEADS TO ENSURE THAT PROPER CHANNELS FOR RECRUITMENT OF NEW DEVOTEES/STAFF ARE FOLLOWED AS WELL AS FOR THE ENGAGEMENT OF SECURITY FOR THE DIVISIONAL NEEDS.

• AN ISTHAGOSTHI WILL BE ORGANIZED TO EXPLAIN TO THE COMMUNITY THE ROLE OF SECURITY DIVISION.

• SECURITY DIVISION REPRESENTATIVE IS REQUESTED TO COME FOR THE MCS MEETINGS.

• PRESENTATION TO MDC ABOUT THE ROLE OF

SECURITY WILL BE DONE BY SECURITY DIVISION.

VOTE OF THANKS

• THE MAYAPUR ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL THANKS HG DEVAKINANDAN PRABHU FOR BRINGING AN IMPORTANT TEAM OF INDUSTRIALISTS THAT WILL PLAY A ROLE IN DEVELOPMENT OF ISKCON MAYAPUR.

GAS GODOWN/ WORKSHOP SHIFTING

• GAS GODOWN/WORKSHOP WILL BE SHIFTED TO THE BRICK FACTORY ON THE GAMMON ROAD. THE SHIFTING WILL BE ANNOUNCED TO THE COMMUNITY TIMELY.

MDC CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

• RESOLVED: THE

GRIHASTA ROAD FIXING

TO FACILITATE THE DAILY COMMUNITY MEMBERS COMMUTING THROUGH THE ROAD FROM GRIHASTA PARA TO GOSHALA, THE ROAD WILL BE RECONSTRUCTED WITH TAR AND MADE INTO AN ASPHALT ROAD.

Helicopter service

A Private company is in discussion with ISKCON Mayapur for helicopter service between Kolkata and Mayapur. The Mayapur Administrative Council is working with the company on the possibilities of this service.

CCTV CAMERAS IN SRILA PRABHUPADA SAMADHI

TO INCREASE SECURITY MEASURES, THE MAYAPUR ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL APPROVES THE INSTALLATION OF CCTV CAMERAS IN SRILA PRABHUPADA'S SAMADHI TEMPLE.

MDC CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

MAYAPUR ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL APPROVES THE SELECTION OF H.G NARESVARA PRABHU (ACBSP) AS THE NEW MAYAPUR DIVISIONAL COUNCIL CHAIRMAN AND JAGATGURU-JAYADEV PRABHU AS THE NEW VICE-CHAIRMAN.

SRILA PRABHUPADA'S DAUGHTER-IN-LAW

SRILA PRABHUPADA'S DAUGHTER IN LAW (WIFE OF HG VRINDAVAN CHANDRA PRABHU) WILL BE PROVIDED WITH A FREE ACCOMMODATION WHILE HERSTAY IN MAYAPUR.

SRI RADHA MADHAVA STAGE

NO CHILDREN WILL BE ALLOWED ON SRI RADHA MADHAVA STAGE AFTER NRISIMHA CATURDASI.

GOSHALA ROAD REPAIR

TO ACCOMMODATE THE INCREASING NUMBER OF VISITORS TO THE ISKCON MAYAPUR GOSHALA, THE ROAD WILL BE WIDENED.



“He Built a House in Which the Whole World Can Live”

“We must have a temple at Mayapur. If every one of us possess a temple there, the importance of Sridhama Mayapur will automatically increase and we must have this ideal in view always”

- 1947 to 1965 Correspondence Letter to Gosvami Maharaja written from Delhi

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