



August 2015



THE CONCH

www.conch.org.au

“Lord Sri Krishna and Arjuna blew their celestial conches to rally and enthuse the devotees.”

NEWSLETTER

New Govardhana Community



krishnafarm.com

Dedicated to His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, Founder-Acharya of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness



JHULAN YATRA

Get into the Swing of Things

THE RED SUITCASE

Don't Leave Home Without One

GARUDAJI

Flies In

SRILA PRABHUPADA UVACA + GOSHALLA GOSS + SNAPSHOTS + UPCOMING EVENTS

JHULAN YATRA

By Ambika devi dasi

During the monsoon season in beautiful Vrindavana, Krishna and His loving *gopis* performed the swing festival pastimes, which we celebrate annually.

The decorated swing hung from four *haricandana* trees, whose upper branches formed a natural, pleasing green overhead canopy.

Dressed gorgeously for Krishna's pleasure, many *gopis* approached the central arena, each one carrying various festival ingredients in her hands. They brought flasks filled with fragrant ointments such as aguru, musk, camphor and sandalwood. They had flower pollen sachets in their waist-belts. They carried syringes filled with flower essences.

Radha and Krishna entered the bower of jewelled trees, looking splendid. The trees, creepers, peacocks, deer, *gopis* and residents of heaven who were watching, experienced great rapture.

Krishna, shining attractively with a reddish turban and peacock feathers, fine clothes, flute and elegant earrings, mounted the attractive seat of the swing which was illuminated by jewelled lamps. His pearl necklaces

were tinged red from the rays of His *kaustubha* jewel. He was followed by Srimati Radharani. They took Their seat. All eyes sparkled with blissful love.

The *manjaris* gracefully pushed the swing.

Joy-filled *gopis* sang melodious songs and played *vinas* with the finest artistic skill. While the *gopis* threw fistfuls of coloured powder in the air, the *devatas*, anguished at obstruction of their vision of Krishna, showered flowers to remove the powder.

The *gopis* offered their various offerings, while the peacocks madly cried out and the birds called happily.

Krishna smiled brilliantly at all His devotees, attracting the hearts of them all.

The founder/*acharya* of our ISKCON movement requested the devotees to celebrate this swing festival, which is filled with sweetness. It gives an opportunity for one and all to come and take part in an ecstatic pastime of Radha and Krishna. This year, Jhulan Yatra begins on Wednesday 26 August and ends on Sunday 30 August. Please watch for notices for times and come and take part.

Taken from *Ananda Vrindavan Campu* translated by Bhanu Swami and Subhag Swami. 🙏

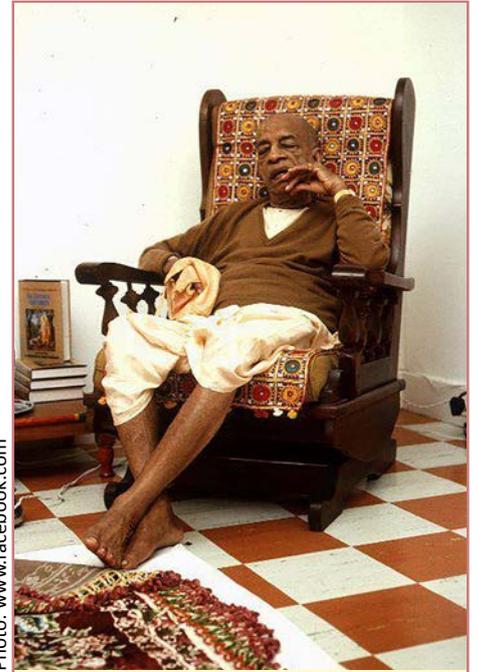


Photo: www.facebook.com

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

Srila Prabhupada Uvaca

“So we have to practice this Krishna consciousness. Here, in this material world, we have to work. Without work, you cannot maintain even your family, your body. That is not possible. *Sarira-yatrapa te na prasidhyed akarmana*. Krishna says (to) Arjuna that without karma you cannot maintain even your body. So you have to work. *Sarira-yatrapa te na prasidhyed akarmana*. And this material world means you have to maintain by working. And spiritual world means *na tasya karyam karanam ca vidyate*. There is nothing to work, as Krishna has nothing to work. He is simply enjoying What is called? Swing. So Krishna is enjoying, and Krishna's associates are enjoying. They have nothing to work. That is spiritual world. *Cintamani prakara sadmasu kalpa vrksa*: that is a different world. There is no material body. Therefore there is no need of the material body. That is a different world. But in this material world we have to work. *Trt'ya-karma-samj*.

“Radha and Krishna may be swung in this way, but you may avoid swinging Lord Jagannatha like that.”

(A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami
Prabhupada, 5 January 1973.
Letter to Jagdish dasa)



Image: www.bingimages.com

Sri Sri Radha Krishna with the gopis during the swing festival.

ISKCON 50TH ANNIVERSARY: UK LEADS THE WAY

By **Mukunda Goswami**

It looks like the UK devotees are way ahead – in the West anyway – of celebrating the 50th Anniversary of ISKCON.

A celebration to mark the launch of a year of events and festivities to commemorate 50 years of the Hare Krishna movement worldwide was hosted on Saturday 20 June at Bhaktivedanta Manor in the UK.

The celebrations featured presentations by Sivarama Swami, Praghosa dasa, Kripamoya dasa and Devaki devi, *kirtana* by Chakrini devi dasi and shared memories and offerings by Srila Prabhupada's disciples and senior devotees.



Sivarama Swami recounts the beginnings of ISKCON.

Sivarama Swami spoke about the series of events leading up to Prabhupada's departure, and Kripamoya dasa correlated the events with the history of this in India at the time.

In addition, there was an update on the Temple of the Vedic Planetarium (TOVP) project from Praghosa dasa. Devaki dasi, the UK's National Coordinator for the 50th anniversary celebrations, spoke about the plans for next year.

Speaking at the event, Sivarama Swami said: "Talking about Prabhupada and hearing about Prabhupada is ecstatic and it's blissful. It is something we should do all the time.

"You cannot over-emphasize the importance of people understanding Prabhupada. It is going to take



Kirtana for ISKCON 50th Anniversary at Bhaktivedanta Manor.

programs like this to help pass on who Prabhupada was and the sacrifices he made from generation to generation."

Praghosa dasa, ISKCON Governing Body Commissioner for the UK, said: "It is a great privilege to be launching ISKCON 50 in the UK. With this early event we want to inspire everyone's hearts and prepare their minds for the great year of celebrations ahead."

The event concluded with Chakrini devi dasi singing an impressive rendition of the poem that Srila Prabhupada wrote on the ship Jaladuta. 🙏

BHAKTIVEDANTA RESEARCH CENTRE (CONTINUED)

By **Mandakini devi dasi**

The Bhaktivedanta Research Centre (BRC) is dedicated to gathering, preserving, digitising and disseminating information sources on Gaudiya Vaishnava culture and philosophy, as well as Vedic Cosmology.

The BRC specifically focuses on rare and obscure works from 1486 AD to the present time.

The aim is to locate old manuscripts in libraries and *maths* in Bengal, Bangladesh, Vrindavana, Orissa and Jaipur. These will be translated to English and other languages.

Besides preserving hard copies in the library, they will be digitised and made available to scholars and students worldwide through the internet.

Seminars, courses and lectures will be held on the content of the library, thus publicising the value of the knowledge collected.

The library contains all of Srila Prabhupada's books as well as the works of many of his disciples. There are copies of all the Puranas and Upanisads; the works of Ramanuja and other Vaishnava acharyas.

The most significant acquisition to date is the personal collection of Sri Sundarananda Vidyavinoda, one of Srila Bhaktisiddhanta's leading literary disciples. The collection comprises more than 2,000 works in Sanskrit, Bengali and English. It includes hand-written works of Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakur and Srila Bhaktisiddhanta.

The BRC building which is situated in a prime locality in Kolkata boasts a climate controlled library, dedicated servers with automatic backup, digitised and hard copy library contents, meeting hall, broadband internet and website for downloading library contents and special rare books section.

Housed in the same building, the Gita Bhavan Guest House has seven air-conditioned rooms for library members, scholars and students. All rooms have wired broadband and WIFI. Future plans will include a restaurant.

Says, Hari Sauri prabhu, "In the future, we hope to build the BRC into the most comprehensive source for Gaudiya Vaishnava literature on the planet."

In a letter to Acutynanda dasa in 1972, Srila Prabhupada had this to say about preserving Gaudiya literature, "Treat this matter very seriously and thoroughly, and take all precautions to protect this wonderful boon of literature forever.

These items are very, very priceless and are a great treasure house of Vaishnava lore, so be very careful in the matter and take all precautions to guard them." 🙏

CORRECTION

On page 2 of the July 2015 issue of the Conch, it was written that Brahmananda Prabhu was the second initiated devotee in the West. It is a fact he was one of the earliest initiated disciples in the West, but he was not the second initiated devotee.

THE RED SUITCASE

By Jyestha devi dasi



Early last year, in the Melbourne Temple ashram, one of the girls borrowed a red suitcase, belonging to Chaitanya Lila devi dasi, to go to New Zealand on a retreat. She liked New Zealand so much that she decided to stay there.

Chaitanya Lila's red suitcase was brought back six months later when another devotee came to visit.

Around this time I decided to go to the Holy Name Retreat at New Govardhana conducted by His Holiness Sacinandana Swami in September 2014. I borrowed the red suitcase from my friend Chaitanya Lila.

A few days into my two week visit, I had fallen in love with Radha Govardhanadhari and Their home, New Govardhana, and decided to stay. I called Chaitanya Lila to tell her of my decision and she said "Oh! That suitcase is cursed! Anyone who borrows it does not come back!"

After I had been at New Govardhana for about six months, another friend, Doyadhara devi dasi, arrived from Adelaide for a visit. After a while she said she would like to move here and serve Radha Govardhanadhari. She had first seen the Deities when she was 7 years old and asked her mother, Shyamasakhi devi dasi, if she could take them home. The desire to serve them had remained since childhood.

Soon after circumstances changed, the house they were renting in Adelaide was sold, so Doyadhara and her mother decided to move to New Govardhana. Before she returned to Adelaide to pack, I said to Doyadhara, "You see, if Radha Govardhanadhari wants you to be here, it will happen." Then I jokingly asked if she had brought a red suitcase, and to my surprise she said that she had.

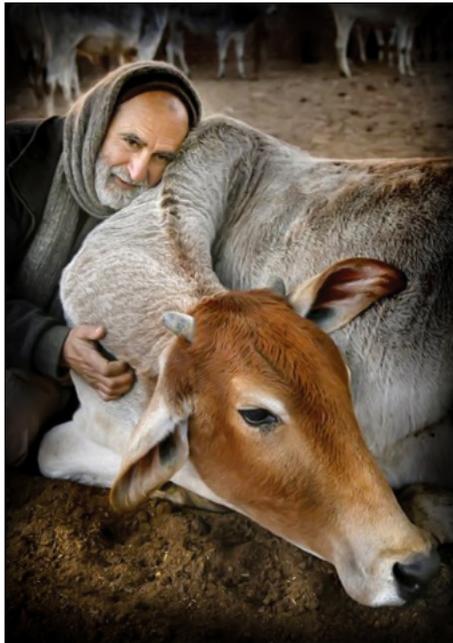
So take note, if you plan on coming to visit New Govardhana, but still want to remain attached to the place you came from - **don't bring a red suitcase!** 🐟

NEW GOVARDHANA HONOURS KURMA RUPA PRABHU

By Mandakini devi dasi

A memorial was held for His Grace Kurma Rupa dasa at New Govardhana on Saturday, 4 July 2015.

The event was well attended with devotees enthusiastic to share their



Kurma Rupa with one of the 600 rescued cows he cared for.

remembrances and glorify such a saintly soul.

Kurma visited the farm two years ago and was much appreciated for his inspirational classes. Everyone felt encouraged by his association and in particular the cow herders, with whom he shared his valuable insight and experiences in the cow protection program.



Photos: www.careforcows.org

Kurma Rupa worked tirelessly for Care for Cows in Vrindavana.

For many years Kurma has adopted and cared for Vrindavana's neglected cows, and has become a legend world-wide for his service in this area.

He was also esteemed as a kind and giving personality who manifested genuine compassion towards everyone.

We are blessed to have had his association and pray that we may remember him and take inspiration from his selfless service. 🐟



Bhisma, Ishaya and Anukula Durr welcome their baby girl Adi Lila, who was born at the Gold Coast University Hospital on Friday, 3 July during the auspicious Purushottama month. Adi Lila has a rare condition and was not expected to make it to full term. The family feel very privileged to have this special time with this little soul and would like to express their gratitude for the ongoing prayers and blessings from all the Vaishnavas for Adi Lila.

Photo supplied by Malini devi dasi

WANTED

Part-time Receptionists
(Male or Female)

This service would be greatly appreciated by the devotees of New Govardhana

WHEN

Three four-hour shifts daily commencing 7.00 am

TASKS

Manning the gift shop
Answering the phone
Greeting farm visitors

If you are interested please contact Vasusrestha dasa
0411 467 336

CAREER WITH COWS?

By Kalindi Cozzi

Working with cows is like working with a second family. It doesn't really matter that you get up at 5.00 am and go outside into the cold weather; because you are doing something that you really love doing.

Being at the Goshalla with Venu Prabhu and doing a service for the cows, even if it is just giving them a pat, or feeding them their breakfast. I am so grateful that I can be in the service of the cows on New Govardhana Farm.



Photo with icon Supplied by Dhriti Gopi devi dasi

This is how Kalindi Cozzi has been spending her school holidays.

"There is no loss in serving the cows and calves, but modern human society has become so degraded that instead of giving protection to the cows and serving them, people are killing them. How can they expect peace and prosperity in human society while committing such sinful activities? It is impossible."

(Excerpt from CC Adi 17.111)

*krsi-vanijya-go-raksa
kusidam turyam ucyate
varta catur-vidha tatra
vayam go-vrttayo 'nisam*

TRANSLATION: "The occupational duties of the *vaishya* are conceived in four divisions: farming, commerce, cow protection and money lending. Out of these, we as a community are always engaged in cow protection."

(SB 10.24.21) 🐄



ISKCON NEW GOVARDHANA AUSTRALIA

50/50 Go Seva Sponsorships

COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ISKCON



We may look at a cow and think that it is just an ordinary animal, like all others, such as dogs, cats and donkeys. But, if we see through the eyes of *shastra* (scripture), we will understand a truth that is far beyond the perception of our senses.

Srila Vyasadeva divided the Vedas, and also compiled many scriptures like Mahabharata, the Puranas, Vedanta sutras and Yoga darshana.

In all his literature, he gave a special place to the cow. Major portions of the Puranas deal with the glories of the cow.

The religious principle, or *dharma*, has been compared with the bull. He wrote that Vedic sacrifice is the means to protect this world, and that for sacrifice the five products of the cow are required (milk, ghee, yoghurt, *mutra* and *gober*).

The cow is considered to be the gateway to heaven. She is all-auspicious, and the supplier of food to both the demigods and human beings. In the Mahabharata, there is an entire chapter dedicated to the worship of the cow.

Complete and return this form to the Temple Shop so that we may assist you in your family's worship of Mother Cow. Your support will help us build a brand new facility for the care and worship of Lord Krishna's cows at New Govardhana.

Expression of Interest

WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE A UNIQUE AND FULFILLING WAY FOR YOU TO PERSONALLY BE INVOLVED IN THE MOMENTOUS OCCASION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ISKCON

Name: _____

Contact Details: _____

There are two options for payment:

- a) \$ 50 x 12 monthly payments
- b) \$600 one time payment

As our way to say thank you, the first 50 sponsors will be given a complimentary two-year Adopt-a-Cow membership, and will have their names engraved on a commemorative plaque that will be installed in the new *goshalla*.

"The cow is the past and future. She nourishes the health of all living entities, and she is the root of prosperity. The piety one achieves by feeding a cow is never destroyed."

"The cow is the support by which one can directly transfer himself to heaven. She is also the perpetual cause of one's wealth and prosperity. I offer my obeisances to the cow, in whose body Lakshmi resides." (Vedas) 🐄

GARUDAJI FLIES IN

By Mandakini devi dasi

Friday, 12 June saw the auspicious appearance of our latest resident at New Govardhana.

A white Silky Cockerel (young domestic cock) perched on a motorbike in the bottom car park drew the attention of Bhakta Ariel and Bhakta Heath.

The bird was coaxed with Jhulan dasi's special cake up to the temple, where it immediately let down its guard. Good relationships were soon forged with the Bhaktas, and upon meeting Bhaktine Diana, allowed himself to be cradled by her.

Heath named the newcomer Garudaji.

Taking darshan of Their Lordships, Garudaji very quickly found his voice, drawing attention to himself with his puffed up plumage and loud, and persistent crowing.

Despite all of his 'cock-a-doodle-doo-ing' Garudaji has now taken up residence with Ajita dasa and his family.

A new alarm clock for the Temple Director ! 🐔



Photo: Jyestha devi dasi

Garudaji was a hit with the devotees. (Above L. to R.) Bhakta Ariel holds Garudaji as Bhaktine Monique Ross looks on.

MEET THE PUJARI: GOKULANANDA CAITANYA DASA

By Mandakini devi dasi

Gokulananda Caitanya dasa began his service relationship with New Govardhana Deities in 1989.

As *Head Pujari*, every day began with waking Their Lordships and performing *mangala arati*.

He would also greet and offer breakfast and the morning *dhoop arati*. Lunchtime would see him once more on the altar for the midday services. His evenings culminated with the night offerings, before putting Their Lordships to rest.

In 1993 Gokula transferred to Melbourne where he also took up the duties of *Head Pujari* for a few years.

Returning to New Govardhana with his family in 2012, Gokula helped with cow seva by milking 3 times a week, while another 3 days were spent worshipping the Deities.

Gokula always had a desire to visit Nava Nrsimha Simhachalam

in Jandelsbrunn, Germany, the residence of a powerful Deity of Lord Nrsimhadeva. May 14 this year saw that desire bear fruit when he elected to spend his month-long vacation there in full-time service to Lord Nrsimha.

Without car, computer, phone or any other distractions, Gokula surrendered to the highly intricate and complex service. He describes anxious moments as he 'learned the ropes'.

Comments Gokula, "I felt like I wanted to give it everything I had. As a result, I got a lot of encouragement from the experience. I really believe that to that degree we surrender, then to that degree Krishna reciprocates with us. Once I even dreamed that Lord Nrsimha was walking towards me."

Gokula is now filling many spots on the Deity roster at New Govardhana and is happy that Krishna has facilitated his material requirements so that he can be fully engaged in His service. 🐟



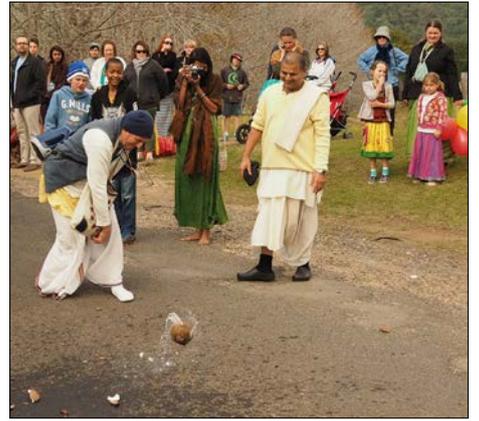
Photo: Urvashi devi dasi

Gokulananda Chaitanya dasa carries Giriraja to Govardhana Hill at New Govardhana.

SNAPSHOTS



Photos: Trevor Gore



The recent Rathayatra Festival held at New Govardhana was a huge success. More than 753 people attended this family-friendly festival. The parade started earlier this year with excellent weather throughout the day. There were market stalls, cultural activities, vegetarian food, kirtanas and lots more.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

The Conch is your community newsletter, and we invite you to submit articles for publication. Articles should be 300 words or less and supplied in MS Word via email to newgovconch@gmail.com. Photographs must be in JPG format. Please provide the name of the author and

the photographer. Anonymous submissions will not be published. Deadline is the 12th of each month. Occasionally a submission could be held over to a later edition. All submissions may be edited, proofread or rejected without notice.



EDITORIAL BOARD:
 Damodara Pandit dasa, Govardhana Seva dasa,
 Krishnarupa devi dasi (ACBSP),
 Mandakini devi dasi, Urvashi devi dasi (layout
 and graphic design).
 For enquiries, comments or suggestions,
 contact: newgovconch@gmail.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sri Sri Radha Govardhanadhari 36th Installation Anniversary

Saturday, 8 August – Adhivasa

- 6.30 pm Sandhya arati
- 7.00 pm Adhivasa & kautuka bandhanam
- 7.30 pm Light prasada

Sunday, 9 August

- 12.00 pm Bhajanas
- 12.30 pm New Govardhana katha
- 1.15 pm Swing festival of Sri Sri Radha Govardhanadhari under the kadamba tree (weather permitting)
- 2.15 pm Sri Sri Radha Govardhanadhari return to temple
- 2.30pm Abhiseka with bhajanas
- 3.30pm Maha puspanjali flower offering to Sri Sri Radha Govardhanadhari

Everyone can participate, please bring flower petals

- 4.00pm Feast
- 6.30pm Sandhya arati

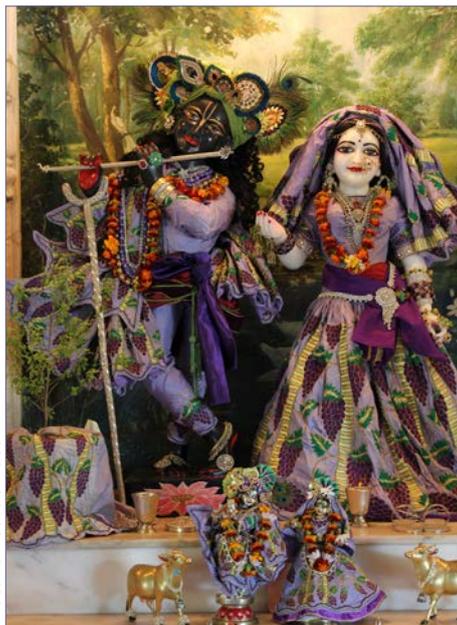


Photo: Urvasi devi dasi

All devotees will have the opportunity to offer a shower of flower petals of love and submission to the Deities.

Please bring as many flowers as possible for offering to Their Lordships.



Image: www.bingimages.com

Jhulan Yatra

Wednesday, 26 - Sunday, 30 August

– Daily during the morning program

- 7.00 am Darshana
- 7.05 am Guru puja
- 7.15 am Swing Festival
- 7.45 am Srimad Bhagavatam Class

– Sunday feast program

- 3.30 pm Bhajanas
- 4.00 pm Class and arati
- 5.00 pm Kirtana and Swing Festival
- 6.00 pm Feast

60th Banana Festival Murwillumbah

Saturday, 29 August



Lord Jagannatha, Lord Balarama and Lady Subhadra will be riding Their chariot in this year's Banana Festival Parade.

This is one of the Tweed Valley's most popular events and a great day for the whole family to participate in.

Check the New Govardhana website www.krishnafarm.com for more details as they become available

Photo: Urvasi devi dasi



HARINAMA SANKIRTANA KI JAYA



Photo: Trevor Gore

Wednesdays 10.30 am

Byron Bay *harinama* at the park opposite the Post Office. For further details and transport information, contact

Parama Karuna dasa
0439 280 362

Friday Evenings 6.30 pm

Bhakti Centre Surfers Paradise
bhakticentregoldcoast.com.au

Sunday Mornings

Northern NSW & Gold Coast
Visnujana dasa 0498 141 021

AUGUST CALENDAR

(from Vaishnava calendar www.vaishnavacalendar.com)

- 5 Wed Srila Gopala Bhatta Goswami – Disappearance
- 7 Fri Srila Lokanath Goswami – Disappearance
- 10 Mon Ekadasi (fasting for Kamika)
- 11 Tue Dvadasi (Break fast 06.22 – 10.01 am)
- 19 Wed Sri Raghunandana – Disappearance
- Sri Vamsidas Babaji – Disappearance
- 26 Wed Ekadasi (Fasting for Pavitropana)
- Radha Govinda Jhulana Yatra begins
- 27 Thu Dvadasi (Break fast after 06.06 – 09.54 am)
- Srila Rupa Goswami – Disappearance
- Sri Gauridasa Pandita – Disappearance
- 30 Sun Radha Govinda Jhulana Yatra ends
- Lord Balarama – Appearance (Fast till noon)
- Srila Prabhupada's departure for the USA

