



Spiritual Perspectives

Seeing the World through Spiritual Eyes
For Friends and Followers of Mukunda Goswami

September 2021

Climate Change Requires a Change of Consciousness

By Radha devi dasi

Nations have delayed curbing their fossil-fuel emissions for so long that they can no longer stop global warming from intensifying over the next 30 years, a major new United Nations scientific report concluded last month. There is still a short window to prevent the most harrowing future but certain climate effects are already irreversible. This summer alone, blistering heat waves have killed hundreds of people in the United States and Canada. Floods have devastated Germany and China, and wildfires have raged out of control in Siberia, Turkey and Greece. Sea levels have already risen an average of 8 inches and these changes appear irreversible.

The report, issued last month by the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, concludes that total global warming will rise around 1.5 degrees Celsius within the next two decades. Even if we implement sweeping changes in energy use and lifestyles, a hotter future is inevitable. And humans are responsible for global warming. Essentially all of the rise in global average temperatures since the 19th century has been driven by nations burning fossil fuels, clearing forests and loading the atmosphere with greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide and methane that trap heat.

Although the relationship between human activity and climate change has been documented for decades, neither government nor industry leaders have made the systemic changes needed to end our use of fossil fuels and the production of greenhouse gases. Why is it so hard



Wildfires burn longer and hotter due to climate change

for the world to respond to the life-threatening crisis unfolding before our eyes?

The fundamental problem that drives global warming is increased consumption. We have evolved a global culture that equates success with greater access to material goods, global travel and an endless parade of vehicles, appliances and other lifestyle enhancements that depend on fossil fuels to keep prices low and access easy. Unless we change our culture, our desire for immediate gratification in the form of bigger cars, larger houses, and more of everything will always overrule our desire to respond to the existential threat of climate change.

But changing our perception of what constitutes a successful life requires more than just understanding that our current "pursuit of happiness" is literally killing us. Our response to climate change depends on understanding that happiness is not dependent on sense gratification and that what affects one part of the world affects us all. This knowledge of global connectedness and the futility of material sense gratification is part of the legacy Srila Prabhupada has given us. It is crucial that we share this knowledge with the world.



Climate change causes melting polar ice caps

<https://bit.ly/3ty2uN>

<https://bit.ly/3E0F2bb>

Breaking News: Temples Gear Up for Covid-19 Delta Safety

By: ISKCON NEWS Staff, August 14, 2021
<https://bit.ly/3z7NoeY>

<https://bit.ly/3z7NoeY>



Temples in many parts of the world are gearing up their safety and visiting policies in response to the widespread growth and upsurge of Covid-19 variants.

On Wednesday, August 18th, New Vrindavana, ISKCON's Temple and pilgrimage site in West Virginia, USA, reopened after shutting its doors out of concern to maintain Covid-safety.

Their current policy is: A campus-wide mask mandate is in effect immediately. What does this mean? In all enclosed spaces, you will have to wear a mask that properly covers your mouth and nose at all times. The kirtan singer, *Bhagavatam* speaker and *pujaris* (priests) will all have to wear masks as well!

We will be purchasing a large pandal or outdoor tent that will be erected on the island—space between the car parks which will host any large programs, festivals and prasadam—when the weather does not allow for outdoor eating. This will ensure that the temple room does not get overcrowded.

Guests at the Palace Lodge are expected to show their vaccination certificate upon picking up their keys or showing a negative Covid test result within the last 72 hours—otherwise they will be asked to book a hotel in town and visit the temple during the day.

All unvaccinated staff members and residents are expected to Covid test every two weeks and present their results to the

INV Human Resources Dept. Failure to do so will result in the person being asked to not visit the temple until such measures are followed.

At Radhadesh, Belgium, the guided tour program, retreat center, restaurant, and gift shop have been closed until further



Health officials outside of Radhadesh Temple, Belgium

notice. For more information on Radhadesh's visiting policies, they urge you to follow them on social media for the latest updates.

Nila Madhava Das (Dr. Neeraj Verma), who was in charge of a hospital Covid wing during the first wave of the pandemic in the US said, "The Delta variant of Covid-19 is twice as contagious as the previous virus. It is the predominant strain now in the USA. Until it is controlled it is recommended that we protect our communities all over the world by wearing masks indoors at all times during public events. The unvaccinated are even more susceptible to severe illness and even higher risk of hospitalizations from this variant."

ISKCON News will keep you updated with the latest temple information as it becomes available to us.

Please Send Your Feedback To:
feedback@mukundagoswami.org

Federal Minister Julia Kloeckner visits Goloka Dhama, Germany

By: Kalyana Giriraja Das, European Correspondent, ISKCON NEWS, August 14, 2021
<https://bit.ly/3E0Lbpf>

On August 10th, Federal Minister of Food and Agriculture, Julia Kloeckner, chose the ISKCON Bhakti Retreat Center, Goloka Dhama in southern Germany, as the start of a tour with e-bikes in her ongoing election campaign. The minister is running for the federal elections on September 26, 2021, and Goloka Dhama in the small village of Abentheuer is part of her election district.

The politician heard about the plans to build a meeting place on the site of the Bhakti Retreat Center as a center for body and mind with a new hotel and a building for yoga and meditation. The start of the



Federal Minister Julia Kloeckner in front of the previous Hujets Mill - today the ISKCON Bhakti Retreat Center Goloka Dhama



Minister Kloeckner in front of the altar in Goloka Dhama where Sri Sri Radha-Madana Mohan is worshipped. This is the only Radha-Krishna temple in Germany.

project is planned for 2022, with an investment of around eight million euros (equivalent to 9.5 million US dollars).

Julia Kloeckner has been a federal minister in Angela Merkel's government since 2018.

Goloka Dhama was founded in 1996 on the edge of the Hunsrück National Park. The former wooden mill has been transformed into a spiritual oasis of reflection, healing, and development, amidst ancient trees, crystal clear streams, and enchanting forest glades. The devotees maintain good contact with neighbors and local authorities.

Srila Prabhupada's Birthplace Land Acquired by ISKCON: New Temple Being Built

By: Sakhi Rangadevi Devi Dasi, *ISKCON News* Contributing Writer, August 14, 2021

<https://bit.ly/3E7zxj5>



New temple construction work begins at Srila Prabhupada's birthplace in Tollygunge, Kolkata, as the land was recently acquired by ISKCON

The birthplace of Srila Prabhupada at Tollygunge, Kolkata, is now under the ownership of ISKCON. After toiling for several decades, the devotees of ISKCON Kolkata have achieved something commendable to make as an offering to His Divine Grace Srila Prabhupada on his 125th birth anniversary: August 31, 2021. A live-streamed festival will take place on that day and all are encouraged to watch and participate.

On the 11th of August, Vice President of ISKCON Kolkata, Radharaman Das, declared that Srila Prabhupada's birthplace is now acquired.

There had been 17 tenants occupying the land. After several years of effort, they have been able to get a loan of one crore Rupees (135,000 USD) to pay the previous tenants to relocate. With the help of devotees and different ISKCON centers in India, who collected about Rs 43.5 lacs Rupees (59,000 USD), alongside the ISKCON Governing Body Commissioner's (GBC) contribution of 60,000 USD to the project, and a bank loan, ISKCON Kolkata was able to facilitate ISKCON ownership along with the relocation of the tenants.

In 2011 ISKCON had acquired four very small rooms that were built under the jackfruit tree, due to the contributions of Radhanath Swami. However, the entire 4-acre property has been under "Thika Tenancy" making it complicated to gain ownership. Thika Tenancy is a legal provision in West Bengal in which the government is the owner of the land and all the Thika Tenants pay rent to the Government, and all the "Bharatiyas" or sub-tenants pay rent to the Thika tenant.

The Honorable Chief Minister of West Bengal, Srimati Mamata Bandyopadhyay had requested to transfer the land to ISKCON's name and requested ISKCON to pay all the sub-tenants and the main tenant and then the Government would hand over the land to ISKCON. That has now been done.

As of now, the construction of a 260 feet boundary wall around the property has begun. The plan is to complete the front areas around the jackfruit tree, where Srila Prabhupada took birth, first. On August 31st, four cornerstones will be installed. Currently, in Jaipur, Prabhupada's lotus feet are being built with marble. This temple is planned on being around 1,800 square feet in size and completed before the 31st of August. The workers are currently working around the clock to meet that deadline.

Further construction would ensue, later on, to build a magnificent replica of Srila Prabhupada's *samadhi* temple in Vrindavan with his life-seized *murti*. In this phase of work, they also wish to acquire the nearby land to secure a total land area of about 2 acres. On the 10th of the August, the Chief Minister of West Bengal officially declared that the land would belong to ISKCON, provided they get the legal documents ready before the 31st.

The birthplace happens to be 100 meters away from Srila Prabhupada's favorite Deities, Sri Sri Radha Madanmohanji and Sri Sri Radha Govindaji. The Ganges flows nearby the birthplace. They are planning to acquire and restore a nearby pond as well. While digging the ground, they discovered the presence of soil similar to that found in Vrajabhumi, yellowish

Continued on page 5

and powdery, which is found nowhere in Bengal. This soil has touched the lotus feet of Srila Prabhupada. They would raise the soil by mixing it with that from the Yamuna, Ganga to bring it up to three feet height.

This extraordinary accomplishment would never be possible without the sleepless nights and unimaginable efforts from various devotees. They extend their gratitude to the GBC, His Holiness Jayapataka Swami, His Holiness Sivaram Swami, His Holiness Niranjana Swami, His Grace Gauranga Prabhu, His Grace Braj Hari Prabhu, and the family of late Srinathji Prabhu for their generous donations to make it up to a sum of 106.25 lacs. ISKCON Pune has promised to donate Rs. 7.5 lacs.

The program on the 125th birth anniversary will be broadcast directly from his birthplace from 3 PM IST on the 31st of August at the official YouTube channel of ISKCON Kolkata. At 4 PM, the installation ceremony will begin followed by various ISKCON leader's addresses. Devotees are requested to donate for the future temple to ISKCON Kolkata.

Watch online here:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/ISKCONkolkataofficial>

For more information:

<https://www.facebook.com/ISKCONkolkatatemple/>

and

<https://www.ISKCONkolkata.com/>

How to donate for the new temple construction:

Indian citizens can donate here:

International Society For Krishna Consciousness Kolkata

Bank : RBL Bank

Account No: 309002157355

IFSC code: RATN0000167

Branch : JL Nehru Road Kolkata

WhatsApp number : +91 -9811237146

Everyone else can email ISKCON Kolkata:

ISKCONmail@gmail.com for FCRA account details

for donations or WhatsApp: +91 -9811237146

An Offering of Love
from the disciples & wellwishers
(31st August-1st September 2021)

On the auspicious occasion of the 125th Birth Anniversary of His Divine Grace Srila A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, ISKCON Kolkata is pleased to offer the site of His birthplace at His Divine Grace's Lotus Feet.

This land is a holy pilgrimage for all Gaudiya Vaishnavas, especially ISKCON devotees and followers all over the world. The holy jackfruit tree under which His Divine Grace was born stands in this place. As an offering of love on His 125th Vyasa-puja, International Society for Krishna Consciousness dedicates this land to Srila Prabhupada's service.

His Divine Grace
A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada
Founder-Adherents of
International Society for Krishna Consciousness

3, Albert Road, Kolkata - 700 017
Email - iskconkolkata@gmail.com

YouTube Live
ISKCON Kolkata Official

An Offering of Love
from the disciples & wellwishers
of Srila Prabhupada

Programme Schedule
(31st August-1st September 2021)

31 st August	1 st September
3:00 pm Announcement of the Festival	8:30 to 8:45 am Srila Prabhupada Lecture
3:10 pm Welcome Address by H.Q. Dayaram Pr	9:20 to 11 am Offerings by Cabi-Gani, Sankar, Srinivasa & Prabhupada disciples
3:15 pm Omraas Kirtan	11:00 am: Prabhupada Shapana, Acharya, Arad
3:50 pm Address by HH Girish Swami	12:00 pm: Thanks Giving to all at ISKCON
3:57 - 4:30 pm Padma Puj (Srila Prabhupada birth time is 4 pm)	12:30 pm Lunch Prasadam
4:30 - 5:30 pm Maha Vaisnu Nyaya	3:30 to 4:30 pm Different BV groups kirtan
5:30 - 7:30 pm Different senior Mahatma speakers (HH Gopal Krishna Goswami, HH Jayapataka Swami, HH Lokanath Swami, HH Radhanath Swami)	4:30 to 7:30 pm: Clones of SP by all invited guests. Sachinjee
7:30 pm Maha Arad & Kirtan	7:30 pm Maha Arad & Kirtan
8:00 pm Prasadam Distribution	8:00 pm Dinner Prasadam

His Divine Grace
A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada
Founder-Adherents of
International Society for Krishna Consciousness

3, Albert Road, Kolkata - 700 017
Email - iskconkolkata@gmail.com

YouTube Live
ISKCON Kolkata Official

On the auspicious occasion of the 125th Birth Anniversary of His Divine Grace Srila A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, ISKCON Kolkata is pleased to offer the site of His birthplace at His Divine Grace's Lotus Feet

The land is a holy pilgrimage for all Gaudiya Vaishnavas, especially ISKCON devotees and followers all over the world. The holy jackfruit tree under which His Divine Grace was born stands in this place. As an offering of love on His 125th Vyasa-puja, International Society for Krishna Consciousness dedicates this land to Srila Prabhupada's service.

A visit to Srila Prabhupada's Birthplace (23 min. video)

By: Administrator, www.dandavats.com, August 11, 2021
<https://bit.ly/3C0Xct0>

Sri Gour Mohan De and Srimati Rajani devi became the proud parents of Sri Abhaya Caranaravinda Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada on the 1st of September, 1896. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada or Abhaya Carana, as he was previously called, was born on the occasion of Nandotsava, at the home of his maternal grandparents, in the suburbs of Tollygunge. The fortunate jackfruit tree under which he was born is still standing tall till this day.



SPIRITUAL PERSPECTIVES

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Mukunda Goswami

PRODUCTION
MANAGER
Hari-kirtan das

EDITORS
Mukunda Goswami
Radha devi dasi

PROOFREADING & EDIT-
ING
Haridasa das
Padma malini devi dasi

GENERAL CONSULTANT
Devaprastha das

DESIGN AND LAYOUT
Raj Dutia

Articles published in this newsletter are not necessarily the opinion of *Spiritual Perspectives* or ISKCON.



Click here to watch on YouTube <https://youtu.be/mJrFqxYrceg>

Personal Message



Dear Friends,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada.

A well-known passage from a Shakespeare play called “As You Like It” sort of describes this sculpture. The passage could almost be used as a caption or description of this devotee-made diorama. It reads as follows:

All the world's a stage,
And all the men and women merely players.
They have their exits and their entrances,
And one man in his time plays many parts,
His acts being seven ages. At first the infant, Mewling
and puking in the nurse's arms.
Then, the whining school-boy with his satchel And
shining morning face, creeping like a snail Unwillingly
to school. And then the lover,
Sighing like furnace, with a woeful ballad
Made to his mistress' eyebrow. Then, a soldier, Full
of strange oaths, and bearded like the pard, Jealous in honour, sudden, and quick in quarrel, Seeking the bubble
reputation
Even in the cannon's mouth. And then, the justice, In fair round belly, with a good capon lin'd,
With eyes severe, and beard of formal cut,
Full of wise saws, and modern instances,
And so he plays his part. The sixth age shifts
Into the lean and slipper'd pantaloon,
With spectacles on nose and pouch on side,
His youthful hose, well sav'd, a world too wide For his shrunk shank, and his big manly voice, Turning again
toward childish treble, pipes
And whistles in his sound. Last scene of all,
That ends this strange eventful history,
Is second childishness and mere oblivion,
Sans teeth, sans eyes, sans taste, sans everything.



When a UK government official visited the Bury Place temple in 1970, he noticed a painting on the wall that illustrated the child Krishna playing on the upper portion of the dead body of Putana. He was mystified and asked me, “What is that?” I had to think quickly, and referred to the David and Goliath parable in Christian literature.

The government agent was seemingly satisfied with my rather roundabout answer.

Your servant,

Mukunda Goswami