



Hare Krishna Movement: ISKCON

Why in News

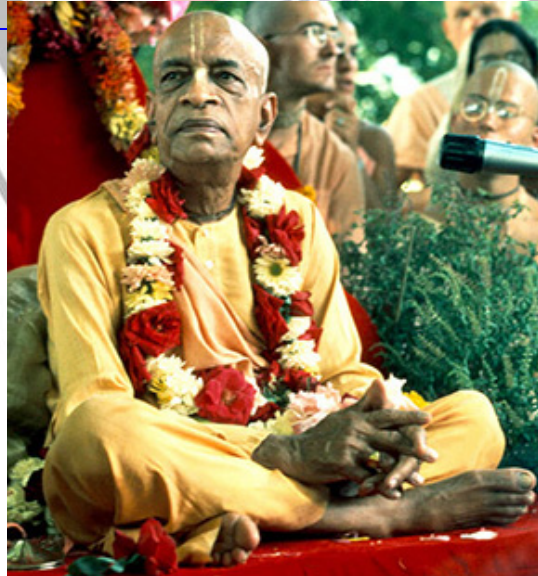
Recently, the Prime Minister has released a **special commemorative coin of Rs 125** to mark the 125th birth anniversary of **ISKCON (International Society for Krishna Consciousness) founder Srila Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada**.

Key Points

▪ About:

- The ISKCON, **founded in 1966**, is commonly **known as the “Hare Krishna movement”**.
- ISKCON has translated the Shrimad Bhagavad Geeta and other Vedic literature in 89 languages, playing a stellar role in the dissemination of Vedic literature across the world.
- Members of the ISKCON movement view Bhaktivedanta Swami as a representative and messenger of Krishna Chaitanya.

▪ Srila Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada: [//](#)



- Born Abhay Charan De (1st September 1896 in Calcutta), was an Indian spiritual teacher and the founder of the ISKCON.
- He is especially respected as the world’s most prominent contemporary authority **on bhakti-yoga, devotional service to the Supreme Person, Krishna**, as taught by the ancient Vedic writings of India.
- Swami ji also **established over a hundred temples** and wrote several books, teaching the path of **Bhakti Yoga to the world**.
- In his later years, as a travelling Vaishnava monk, he became an influential **communicator of Gaudiya Vaishnava** sampradaya’s theology to India and specifically to the West through his leadership of ISKCON.

▪ Gaudiya Vaishnavism:

- It is a Vaishnava **Hindu religious movement** inspired by Chaitanya Mahaprabhu.
 - Here, “Gaudiya” refers to the Gaura or Gauḍa region of Bengal with Vaishnavism meaning “the worship of Vishnu”.
- The focus of Gaudiya Vaishnavism is the **devotional worship (known as bhakti-yoga) of Radha and Krishna**, and their many divine incarnations as the supreme forms of God, Svayam Bhagavan.
- Most popularly, this worship **takes the form of singing Radha and Krishna’s holy names, such as “Hare”, “Krishna” and “Rama”**, most commonly in the form of the Hare Krishna (mantra) also known as kirtan and dancing along with it.

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