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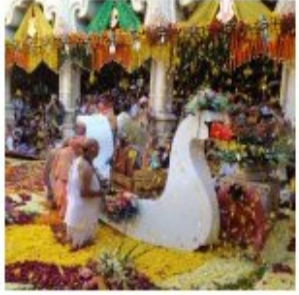
Divine boat festival filled the devotees with joy

MARCH 14, 2015 BY JAGANNATH PODDAR

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Vrindavan, March 10th 2015: The boat festival (Nauka Vihar) was celebrated at the Krishna Balaram Mandir (Iskcon) on Tuesday. A water pool was created in the temple courtyard by filling it with water. The pool was covered with the variety of flowers, wonderfully decorated in different sections of it. It can be described as mystic on how the flowers of different colors were kept intact in the water.

The crowd gathered hours before to grab a seat. A large gathering arrived to witness the festivity. The darshan of the deities and the decoration of the temple brought solace to many visitors from the heat of the life. The festival began with the Naam Sankirtan at 5 p.m placing the deities of Radha Shyam Sundar in a beautiful boat which was shaped like a swan. The event could not be made so grant without the coordinated efforts of the devotees.

The temple atmosphere was vibrant with enchanting kirtan which continued till 7 p.m. The devotees performed kirtan with harmonium, mridanga and other musical instruments. Varieties of delicious prasadam were distributed to all devotees assembled. Thrills of joy were heard from the crowd who came to witness the Divine pastime of Radha Shyam Sundar.

Many of the people, who were present there, were seen catching the divine moments in their cameras and mobile phones. They were heard saying, "We shall show these pictures to our friends, who are not fortunate to be here with us". Temple president Shri Panchagauda Das, Shri Ganapati Das, Shri Ravi lochan Das, Shri Arvind lochan Das and other dignitaries were also present during the devotional celebration.

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Jagannath Poddar

Jagannath Poddar is the director of Friends of Vrindavan, an important NGO engaged in environmental work in the town of Vrindavan since 1997. He is the current managing editor of Vrindavan Today.

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