



## Radha-Govinda temple to come up in Las Vegas

Yudhvir Rana, TNN | Oct 13, 2012, 01:38AM IST

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AMRITSAR: Las Vegas - the gambling haven - will soon get a dash of spirituality. The first International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) Sri Sri Radha-Govinda Temple is set to come up at a cost of \$2 million in the US city.

"The shrine will be built with Vedic architecture and have idols of Radha and Govinda. The idols will be installed after the construction is completed," said temple project manager Nimai Hemphill on Friday.

The temple - a spiritual oasis - would serve the greater Las Vegas area which has a population of more than two million and also to 37 million people who visit the city each year, he added.

Hemphill said the foundation laying ceremony would be held on October 14, which would include bhumi puja, kirtan and fire yajna, marking the beginning of the auspicious project. Aiming to spread Krishna consciousness throughout the 'Sin City', the temple - which lies two miles away from the Las Vegas Strip - would be part of a larger complex named Govinda's Sanctuary.

Hemphill said Radha Jivana, owner of Sacred Threads, a clothing company based in Florida, was inspired to purchase the \$240,000 property that could be a hub of Krishna devotees in Las Vegas.

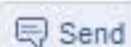
"When the property was purchased in July, engineers and contractors estimated the cost for the new temple project to be \$2 million," he said. Hemphill, who is also the owner of Hemphill Consulting based in Utah, is managing the construction project for Govinda's Sanctuary.

Hemphill was born into the Hare Krishna movement, for his parents were disciples of the founder of ISKCON Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada. Temple president Surapala said the sanctuary would serve as a "centre for spiritual education striving to preserve the values and traditions of the Vedic culture". The sanctuary will feature a lotus room for yoga classes and seminars, a reference library with Vedic literature, gardens and meditation sites, and living quarters for visitors and guests as well as many other exciting facilities. While hailing the temple, president of Universal Society of Hinduism Rajan Zed said it was important to pass on Hindu spirituality, concepts and traditions to coming generations amid so many distractions in the consumerist society.

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