



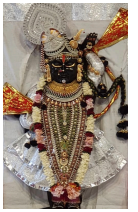
VAISHNAV SANGH OF UK



Vaishnav Youth Group #19

With the blessings of our Spiritual Head Vaishnavacharya
Shri Dwarkeshlalji Mahodayshri (Kadi, Ahmedabad)

NEWSLETTER ન્યૂઝલેટર



Email: vaishnavyouthgroup@shrinathdham.org.uk

Website: <https://vaishnavsangh.org.uk> Tel: 020 8861 1207

Saturday 20th May 2023

Message From Our Spiritual Head Vaishnavacharya Shri Dwarkeshlalji Mahodayshri (Kadi, Ahmedabad)

“On the occasion of the launch of the Youth Group through Shrinathdham Haveli, and Vaishnav Sangh of UK, I send my congratulations and blessings to all the Youth.

Vaishnav Youth Group will conduct a variety of nationwide activities - cultural, social and spiritual - through which enthusiastic youth in the community can come together and engage in undertakings for the benefit of society, and bring Bhakti and meaning into their lives.

The Youth are enthusiastic and ready, and want to pursue several projects and Shrinathdham is giving them this platform. I am sending my heartiest congratulations for the launch of Vaishnav Youth Group. My blessings are that Thakorji makes this group progress and blossom in their Bhakti and Social work.”

Launch of the Vaishnav Youth Group

The Vaishnav Youth Group (National) started off in January this year, on the auspicious occasion of Vasant Panchmi, under the guidance of our Spiritual Head Vaishnavacharya Shri Dwarkeshlalji Mahodayshri (Kadi, Ahmedabad).

Since then, not only have we formed our dedicated committee, but also had our first large event on Holi (read more about it in the newsletter). Over the next few months, we're lining up national visits around the country; tentatively planned for Leicester, London, Northampton and Manchester over the next 3 months - if you live in these areas do let us know! We're also organising volunteering events and meet-ups, running sports activities, and facilitating virtual seminars - you can read more about these in our Upcoming Events section. If any of these are of interest, do join in and reach out to one of the committee members to find out more.

To keep up with events and more, register with the Vaishnav Youth Group: bit.ly/vaishnav-sangh-youth

We look forward to serving Vaishnav Youth across the country.

Jai Shree Krishna

Vaishnav Youth Group (National) Committee

Lila - Mahaprabhujino Pragatya Utsav

Shri Vallabhacharya, who established *Pushtimarg* (Path of Grace), and is also known as Shree Mahaprabhuji was born in 1479 C.E. on Krishna Pad Ekadashi in the Chaitra month according to the Amanta lunar calendar. This year, it was celebrated on 16th April, 2023. The story of *Pragatya* (birth) of our beloved Shri Mahaprabhuji is truly *Alaukik* (Divine).

In Andhra Pradesh, which is one of the states in Southern India, river Krishna flows. To the southern side of this river, lies a village called Kankarvaad. In this village, dwelled Shri Vallabh's

ancestors who were Brahmins of the *Telang Kul* (Lineage). Shri Yagya Narayan Bhatt was a very learned and religious Brahmin belonging to this *Kul*. He called a meeting of all the learned Pandits well versed in the *Vedas* and decided to perform a sacred *Somyagna*. This was well received by the celestial beings and the voice of Shri Madanmohanlal (Lord Shri Krishna) appeared from the *Agni Kund* (Fire Pit). Everyone was astonished to feel this divine presence. Lord Shri Krishna mentioned that He was pleased with the Yagna and blessed the family with a boon that He shall Himself take birth in the family on completion of 100 *Somyagnas*. He said this time He would not appear as an Avatar, instead shall take birth in His natural form. Everyone rejoiced when they heard this. To gain this boon, this family continued to perform *Somyagnas* for 5 generations.



In the 5th generation of the lineage, was born Shri Laxman Bhattji who was also very learned like his forefathers. His wife was called Illammagaaruji. They were blessed with one son and two daughters. He conducted 5 *Somyagnas* which were the last 5 to complete the 100 in his family. He conducted the last *Somyagna* in *Prayag* (city in present day Uttar Pradesh, India) where there was *Kumbh Mela* (Largest peaceful conglomeration of pilgrims). All the learned men were present from the whole of India and there were constant prayers. The place was hence, spiritually elevated at that time. During the *Somyagna*, he discovered that his wife Illamagaaruji was 7 months pregnant. The 100th *Somyagna* was successfully completed and Shri Laxman Bhattji left for Kashi Banaras (city in present day Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, India) along with his wife Illamagaaruji. To celebrate the completion of the *Somyagna*, he offered food to 1.25 lakh Brahmins. At this time, there erupted violence in those territories and there arose fear of Kashi being attacked. People started leaving Kashi. Shri Laxmanbhattji also left with his wife for Andhra Pradesh. The journey was long and tough, however, Illamagaaruji still went on. On the way, they reached Champaran (District in present day Chattisgarh, India). Champaran was once upon a time like Vrindavan, where Lord Shri Krishna had spent his childhood. Here, Shri Illamagaaruji experienced labour pain. Swaminiji (Shri Radhaji) herself was to be born in the form of Shri Vallabh. Shri Illamagaaruji gave birth to a child. However, the child was still born.

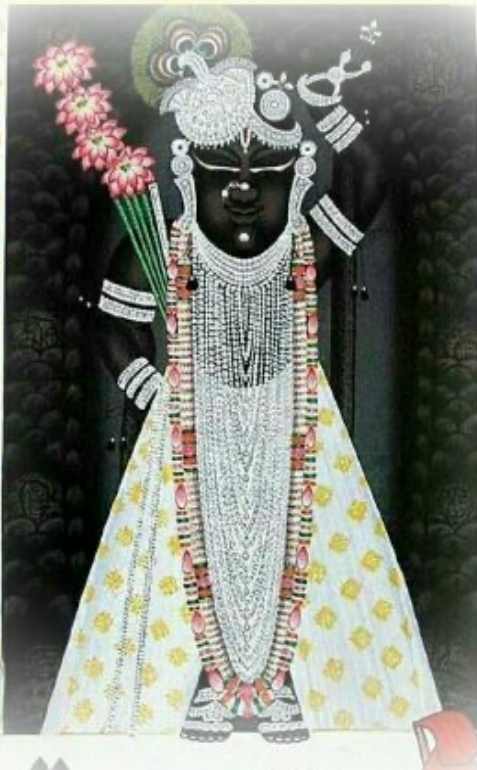
Laxmanbhattji and Illamagaarujji were upset to face this stillbirth which was also premature. They wrapped the child with a cloth and safely kept it on the trunk of a tree in the jungle, covering it with leaves. They then left the jungle and proceeded towards the village. Illammagaarujji had a sleepless night. At this time, Lord Shri Krishna with leaves. They then left the jungle and proceeded towards the village. Illammagaarujji had a sleepless night. At this time, Lord Shri Krishna appeared in Laxman Bhattji's dream and said that the child they have left in the jungle is not actually still but Lord Himself, who is now born in the family. Laxman Bhattji was pleasantly surprised to hear this, told Illamagaarujji about it and they rushed to the jungle, at the tree, back to the child.

They were astonished to see that the child was safe amidst an *Agni Kund* (Fire) in the tree which was protecting the child. Shri Mahaprabhuji is also called 'Vaishvanar' or Agni Swaroop, his presence burns away the turmoils and mental discontentment of people who come to him. Despite the fire, Illamagaarujji proceeded towards the child, the fire made space for her and she took the child in her arms and hugged Him tight. Immediately, all the Devtas appeared in their planes and started showering flowers on the Lord and were playing instruments. They did not want to miss the *Pragatya* of the Lord. There was a celebration like the one which appeared for Krishna's appearance. Everyone was filled with joy and there were songs of praise for the Lord and of happiness in the whole of Champaran.

Basics Of Pushtimarg : Akshaytritiya

Vaishakh Sud Teej is celebrated as Akshaytritiya or Akhateej. This year, it was on 22nd April, 2023. According to Shrimad Bhagwad, Tretayug started from this day. Akshay-tritiya is considered an auspicious day to conduct good deeds.

Chandan yatra (Sandalwood voyage) also starts on this auspicious day. *Chandan Yatra* is the longest festival observed at Jagannatha temple at Puri, India. It continues for 42 days and is observed in two parts: *Bahar Chandan* (Outer Chandan) and *Bhitar Chandan* (Inner Chandan), 21 days each.



Seva Prakar for Akshaya Trutiya - As this day comes during extremely hot summer, *Chandan* (Sandalwood) and white coloured and light *vastra* (clothes) are adorned to Shri Thakorji so that Shri Thakorji does not experience the heat. *Chandan* is mixed with four items - *Kesar* (Saffron), *Kasturi* (Musk), *Kapur* (Camphor) and *Chova* (Dark Sandalwood). The colour of *Chandan* represents Chandravali, *Kesar* represents Swaminiji, *Kapur* represents Yuthadhipati and Shri Lalitaji and *Chhova* represents the love of devotees towards Shri Thakorji. *Chandan* is to be applied on the forehead and chest of Shri Thakorji. *Shringar* includes pearls, oysters, sandalwood and flowers.

Also, from this day onwards, Jhariji, Bantaji, Venuji, Vetrari etc. are all silver. Kirtans in Raag Sarang are sung in Rajbhog and a fan must be done with hands. Also, from this day until Rath Yatra, every day in Sandhya-aarti, the pulses of gram dal, wet moong dal and sprouts are offered to the Lord respectively. The Lord's *Shayan* bed is also sprinkled with rose water.

Narsimha Jayanti : Avatar Significance

Out of the several avatars of Lord Vishnu, ten important incarnations are classified as Dasaavataras. Among them, Narsimha avatar is the fourth avatar. Nar means "Man" and Simha means "Lion". Narsimha's head was of a lion, and the body was of a man with the claws of a lion. This year Narsimha Jayanti was on 4th May, 2023.

The specific purpose of this avatar was for protection of his devotee Prahlada from his demon father Hiranyakashipu, and hence restore *Dharma* (righteousness) on the Earth. The story goes as under:

Lord Vishnu, in his third incarnation as Varaha Avatar, killed Hiranyaksha, brother of Hiranyakashipu. Hence, Hiranyakashipu got furious and had hatred towards Lord Vishnu. To get more powers, he started an austere penance. After years of penance, Lord Brahma was pleased and asked him for a boon. So, Hiranyakashipu asked for immortality, which Brahma denied as it was not possible. So Hiranyakashipu asked that he would not be killed by human or animal; neither by any weapon, nor by any living or non-living entity created by Brahma; neither in the day, nor in the night; neither inside, nor outside a residence; neither in the sky, nor on the ground. Lord Brahma granted this boon to him.



After this, Hiranyakashipu attacked Indra, the King of Gods and defeated him. He started prosecuting devotees of Lord Vishnu and forced people to worship him as God.

His son, Prahlada, was however, a staunch devotee of Lord Vishnu. Hiranyakashipu tried to persuade his son to worship him instead, failing which he tried to kill Prahlada on multiple occasions, who somehow was saved every time. When asked, Prahlada told him that Lord Vishnu was protecting him, and He was present everywhere, including the pillar. Hiranyakashipu challenged Prahlad to prove it. As soon as he said this, Lord Narsimha appeared from the pillar. He got hold of Hiranyakashipu and ripped him apart with his nails at the doorway on His lap. He was neither man, nor animal, but both; it was neither day, nor night, but evening, neither inside, nor outside, but at the doorway; neither any weapon, nor entity created by Brahma, but nails, neither in the sky, nor on the ground, but on His lap.

After that, Prahlada became the King, and he ruled for the many years. This story goes on to show that God always come to the rescue of His devotees who surrender to him with sincere devotion.

Holi Event - 4th March 2023

Vaishnav Youth Group came together and organised their first event - Holi Hai!

The whole community, from children to elders, had a wonderful time - throwing colours, playing games and enjoying each other's company at our Shrinathdham Haveli, London.

There was an incredible atmosphere created by the youth volunteers with several stalls for food, games, music and obviously lots of colour.

Over 1000 people enjoyed this event - the youth group would like to thank each and everyone, who attended the event for their support.

We hope to have more events like this in the near future.



Upcoming Events

1) **Social Volunteering Day**
- We'll be visiting **Ahimsa Dairy Farm** on **17th June** from **10am to 4pm** to volunteer and learn more about cows
To register please contact **Priyanka Geriya** (07747 157 353) or **Amar Chotai** (07708 971 218)



2) **Leicester Meet Up** - We'll be visiting **Vrajdharm Haveli, Leicester** on **28th May** at **4:30-6:30pm**
All youth in the Midlands are invited to join
Please contact **Ridhi Raichura** (07773 625 687)



4) **Online Seminar** - Zoom
(July - Date TBC)

5) **Cricket:**
May - 14, 28
June - 4, 18
July - 9, 23
Aug - 13
Sep - 3



6) **Join us in Volunteering at the Sodash Granth Saptah:**
12th to 18th August;
27th to 28th August

