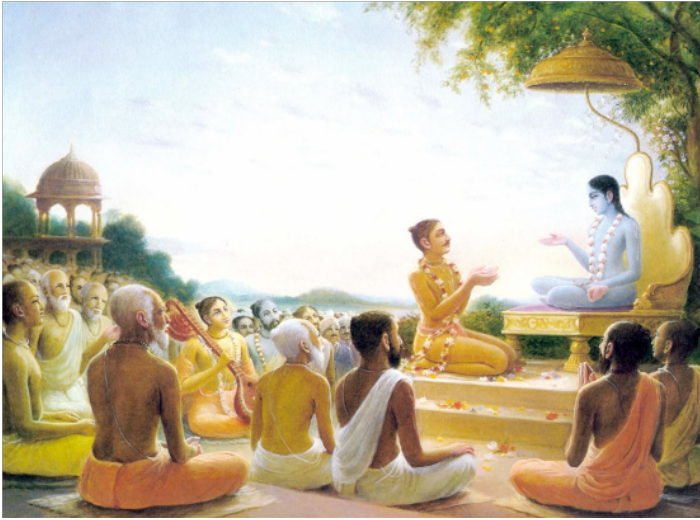


Granth - Shrimad Bhagavat Purana

The Shrimad Bhagavatam is a central text in Pushtimarg, as well as within Sanatan Dharma as a whole. The Shrimad Bhagavatam consists of twelve skandhas (books), all of which record different incarnations and lilas of Shri Krishna from the creation of this universe to the beginning of the Kaliyug (the current stage of the world). The Shrimad Bhagavatam is revered as a manifest form of Shri Krishna and can be worshipped as such. The Shrimad Bhagavatam acts as a definitive source of wisdom on bhakti, or devotion to Shri Krishna and therefore was highly valued by Shri Mahaprabhuji, who authored his own commentary on the Shrimad Bhagavatam known as Shri Subodhiniiji.



The story about the manifestation of the Shrimad Bhagavatam follows the story of Maharaja Parikshit. Maharaja Parikshit was the son of Abhimanyu, and the grandson of Arjuna, one of the five Pandavas and a very close friend of Shri Krishna, who was the receiver of the knowledge of the Bhagavad Gita. Maharaja Parikshit was targeted whilst in his mother's womb; however, he was protected by Shri Krishna and is, therefore, known as Vishnurata (one whom the Lord always protects). After the Pandavas left this world, Maharaja Parikshit became king. He ruled justly, prevented social issues, crime, poverty, and disease from his subjects, and was renowned as a devotee of Lord Vishnu.

On one occasion, Maharaja Parikshit went into the forest on a hunt where Kali, the physical embodiment of the Kaliyuga, confronted him. Kali appeared before him and asked to enter Maharaja Parikshit's kingdom, which the king denied. Upon insistence, Parikshit granted Kali four places of residence - where there is gambling, alcohol, the degradation of women and gold. Tired from the confrontation, Maharaja Parikshit entered the hermitage of a renowned sage, Shamika Rishi, who was in deep meditation. The king requested the Rishi for water; however, due to his deep meditation, the Rishi did not hear the king's requests. This enraged Maharaja Parikshit, which led him to pick up a dead snake out of anger and place it on the shoulder of the sage in an attempt to ruin his meditation. The Rishi's son, Shringi, saw

Maharaja Parikshit placing the dead snake on the shoulders of his father and cursed the king that on the seventh day from that day, a snake-bird would bite Parikshit Maharaja and lead to his death. Shamika Rishi disagreed with his son's decision to curse the king.

Unexpectedly, Maharaja Parikshit accepted the curse as good news and did not fear his death as he had complete faith in the protection of the Lord. This meant that he readily accepted his death and immediately gave up his royal duties, entrusting his kingdom to his son, and went to the banks of the Ganga. He knew that through hearing the pastimes of Shri Krishna an individual gains mukti (liberation), therefore he desired to spend his final days engaging in shravana bhakti (devotion through hearing) of Shri Krishna. Shri Sukadev Goswami, the son of the renowned Vyasdev, appeared on the banks of the Ganga. Maharaja Parikshit asked Sukadev Goswami to narrate the transcendental pastimes of Shri Krishna to him. Pleased by the king's devotion, Sukadev Goswami narrated the pastimes of Shri Krishna and his incarnations and engaged in dialogue with Maharaja Parikshit, which was recorded and compiled into the scripture of the Shrimad Bhagavatam thus creating the text.

Through listening to the Shrimad Bhagavatam, Maharaja Parikshit became wholly absorbed in the pastimes of Shri Krishna for seven days without sleeping, eating, or drinking. After the snake-bird bit Maharaja Parikshit, he achieved moksha (liberation) and returned to Shri Krishna. This led to the tradition of conducting Kathas on the Shrimad Bhagavatam, which last for seven days in remembrance of the circumstances in which the Shrimad Bhagavatam was first recited.

Utsav - Shrinathji Patotsav



"Paat" means throne or seat, and "Utsav" means a grand celebration. It is celebrated on Maha Vad Saatam. It commemorates the day when Shri Gusaiji was on a tour of states outside of Vraj. In Shri Gusaiji's absence, Shrinathji expressed to Shri Giridhariji (the eldest son of Shri Gusaiji) the desire to accept seva (service) from all the Balaks (Sons) of Shri Gusaiji, Bahuji (Wife) and Betijis (Daughters) at Shri Gusaiji's

residence. Bowing to Shrinathji, Shri Giridharji accepted this wish as His command and prepared a new Rath (Chariot) for Shrinathji. Shrinathji was then welcomed at Shri Gusaiji's residence called Satghara in Mathura, and it was for the first time that Shrinathji stepped into Shri Gusaiji's house and was seated on a throne or seat and thus is celebrated as a Patotsav.

Everyone welcomed Shrinathji, who then played Holi with Shri Gusaiji's family. Shrinathji then asked for a gift from Girdharji, who, along with all other Balaks, Bahujis and Betijis, gifted all their ornaments. However, Bhamini Bahuji forgot to gift her nose ring, which Shrinathji demanded, and she gave it joyfully. This is how Shri Giridharji and his family did "Sarva Samarpan" (i.e. surrender everything) to Shrinathji. From this day, Patotsav is celebrated in all the houses of Pushtimarg, commemorating Shrinathji's visit to their home.

Shrinathji's Mojaji (winter socks) are removed from Shrinathji's Patotsav day, and Rasiya (spring musical songs) begins on this day. Mahaprasad (holy offering) from Shrinathji's Kharch Bhandar (place where Shrinathji's chariot had halted when arriving from Vraj) is also distributed this day, and Swaang dances (incorporates theatrics and mimicry accompanied by song and dialogue) are performed in front of Shrinathji. From this day, during Holi khel (playing with colours) in Seva, Pichwai (backdrop) of various lilas (episodes) are created using wet colours and also, Pichkari (water gun) is used.

In Shrinathji's Shringar Seva (adornment service), Prabhu is offered a Kesari Gherdaar vagha (saffron coloured outfit) with a paagh (turban), Loom ki kalgi (crest plume in front of turban), Firoza karnful (turquoise earrings), and Kati sudhi chaar mala (fresh flowers garlands). In Bhog seva (Offering service), Shri Thakorji is offered Kharmanda samagri (a sweet dish made from fried flatbread dipped in sugar syrup). This is because Shri Giridharji's Bahujis and Betijis could prepare this quickly to welcome Shrinathji.



One of the kirtans sung on this day is as below, in Raag Dhanashri:

Dhani Dhani Nandajasumati Ho Dhanya Shri Gokulgaam | Dhanya Kunwar Dou Ladile Bal Mohan Jaako Naam || Chhabeele Ho Lalna || 1 ||

Shri Vallabh Rajkumar Chhabeele | Shri Giridhaari Laal Chhabeele | Tum Ya Gokul ke Chand, Chhabeele Ho Lalna | Sakha Naam Le Boliyo Subal Tok Shridaam | Shravan Sunat Sab Chhaiyo Bolat Sundarshyam || Chhabeele Ho Lalna || 2 ||

Bhekh Vichitra Banaiyo, Bhushan Vasan Shingaar | Mandir Te Sab Saji Chale Balik Ban Banvaari || Chhabeele Ho Lalna || 3 ||

Girivardhar Ati Rasbhare Murlī Madhur Bajay | Shravan Sunat Sab Vrajvadhū Jahan Tahan Te Chali Chhaay || Chhabeele Ho Lalna || 4 ||

Meaning:

Wealthy Nand and Jasumati blessed Gokul. Both sons are blessed whose names are Baldev and Mohan. Good looking are the sons. Shri Vallabh's sons are good looking, Shri Giridharilal is good looking. Shri Krishna, you are the moon of Gokul. Everyone refers to you as Sakha or Friend. Everyone, dressed up differently, with various ornaments, rush to the temple as Vrajvasis (Residents of Vraj). Girivardharji plays melodious flute, and everyone attentively listens to it and follows it like a shadow wherever it goes.

The significance of Saatam or Seven, the day on which Shrinathji's Patotsav is celebrated, is that Shrinathji is a swaroopa swarup (form) with 7 Dharmas (virtues), 6 of which being Aishwarya (success), Veerya (power), Yash (glory), Shree (wealth), Gyaan (wisdom) and Vairagya (detachment). Shrinathji himself is considered as the Seventh after these dharmas; he is regarded as the Dharmiswaroop (righteous form) or that in which all dharmas exist.

Tirth - Mathura

Mathura is a city on the southern bank of Shri Yamunaji, situated between Delhi and Agra. It is the birthplace of Lord Shri Krishna, located in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh, India. Janmashtami (Lord Krishna's birthday) is celebrated with grandeur in Mathura. In ancient times, Mathura was an economic hub at the junction of important caravan routes. Also, in the time of Shri Mahaprabhuji and Shri Gusaiji, many Vaishnavas (followers of Pushtimarg) used to stay at Mathura, including those from the 84-252 Vaishnavs.





There are almost 24 ghaats (riverbanks) on the river of Shri Yamunaji. Vishram Ghaat is considered one of the most significant Ghaats in Mathura. It is called "Vishram Ghat" for two reasons: When Shri Yamunaji came from Golok to Vraj from above the Kalinda Mountain, she took rest over here as Mathura is the entrance to Vraj. Hence, it was called "Vishram Ghaat", meaning the "Resting Riverbank". Additionally, after killing Kansa, Bhagwan Shri Krishna and Balaramji came here and rested at this place after bathing in Shri Yamunaji. Hence, there is also a temple at this ghat of Shri Krishna and Shri Balaramji. Daily Shri Yamunaji's Aarti (ceremony of lighting a lamp to offer to Gods) is performed at the Vishram Ghat in the morning and the evening. There is also a temple of Shri Yamunaji at the ghaat. It is also believed that during the birth of Shri Krishna, after taking His Darshan, Shri Mahadevji rested here. Hence, there is also a temple of Shri Kashi Vishwanath near the ghaat.

When Shri Mahaprabhuji entered Mathura at the age of 14, Shri Mahaprabhuji recited Shrimad Bhagwat to Shri Yamunaji at the Vishram Ghaat. There is, hence, also a Bethakji of Shri Mahaprabhuji at that place.

Shri Dwarkadishji's temple is also one of the most significant temples in the city of Mathura, and it is located in the market near Vishramghaat. Also, at Bengali Ghaat, there is Dauji-Madanmohanji's temple and Shri Chhote Madanmohanji's temple. The swaroops (forms) worshipped here were worshipped by Kanojia Brahmin, a disciple of Shri Gusaiji. Chunri Manorath (Offering Chunri or Saree Cloth to Shri Yamunaji) of Shri Yamunaji is also performed at the Bengali Ghat in Mathura. There is also a beautifully carved Shrinathji temple in Manek Chowk. Two Govardhannathji temples are located near Satiburj and in Swami Ghaat.

Satadhara is also one of the significant places to visit in Mathura. This massive building was built and gifted by Durgavatiji, Queen of Gadha, to Shri Gusaiji when He left Adel (Also known as Arail or Prayag in Uttar Pradesh, India) forever. Seven houses for the seven sons of Shri Gusaiji were here, abbreviated to the name "Satghara".



It is also here where Shrinathji came with Giridhariji from Shri Girirajji, and the family of Gusainji played Holi Khel with Shrinathji. Hence, Shrinathji's Charan Chowki is also here.

Therefore, Mathura is a highly significant historical and spiritual location in India, full of temples and pilgrims. Also, a Panchkoshi Parikrama (circumnavigation of five destinations at a distance of one Kosh, viz. approx. 1.8 km each) of Mathura is done on Ekadashi (the 11th day of the moon), Poonam (the Full moon day), and Amaas (the no-moon day) of every month.



Did you know?

Q - What is the name of the cow who was pouring milk on Shrinathji's Urdhva Bhuja (Upward Arm)?

A - It is "Ghoomer", who used to pour milk on Shrinathji's Urdhva Bhuja atop Girirajji in Vraj (area in Uttar Pradesh, India). This cow was from the lineage of Nandbaba's cattle, and hence very dear to Shri Thakorji.

Q - What is Tilak (Coloured mark)? Why is it applied?

A - Tilak is applied to hold the lotus-like feet of Lord Shri Krishna. It is applied on 12 places in the body, visible at the centre of the forehead with the sentiment that Shrinathji's Charan chinhas (footprints) always remain on our head and thus keep us reminding of our sentiment of service to the Lord. The material used for Tilak is KumKum (Vermillion), which is prasadi (one offered to Shrinathji). Shrinathji's Charnamrut (Nectar of Feet) must be mixed with Kumkum to make the Tilak. For men, the U-shaped (Urdhwapund) must be done on the forehead. For women, only circular tiki must be done on forehead.

Q - How is "Charnamrut" (Nectar of feet) prepared?

A - Charnamrut is prepared by mixing the soil of Vraj (an area in present-day Uttar Pradesh, India), the soil of the banks of Shri Yamunaji River (flowing from Uttarakhand to Delhi via Uttar Pradesh & Haryana in India), and the bathwater of Shrinathji (in Rajasthan, India).

Meet the Youth

Name: Swati Soni

What I do: Finance Assistant at a Charity Organisation

What I enjoy: Travelling, Baking, Dancing, Reading novels

Something I couldn't live without: Music

Fav Food, Colour, Person: Pani puri/Blue/Myself

Fun Fact: I love solving Sudoku

What I love about

Pushtimarg: In Pushtimarg, there is a little bit for everyone in our community to learn, grow and live together as one big family

What I'm looking forward to with the Youth Group: Meeting new people from all walks of life and getting to do a lot more seva and satsangs.

What I enjoy about the Youth Group: The youth group is always keen in trying to find ways to engage in activities that help us bond and bloom as a community.



Upcoming Events

Badhai Shree Gopalprabhu Vijayete Badhai

Shrinathdham National Haveli & Community Centre - UK

VAISHNAV SANGH OF UK

With Blessings of Shree Dwarkeshlalji Mahodayashree (Kadi Ahmedabad), VSUK invites you to **SHRINATHDHAM HAVELI** to

Pushti Satsangs

FOR ALL AGES

Sunday 28th April 2024

10:45 arrival | 11:00 start time | 12:30 Aarti

All classes, activities and Satsangs will be held on the same day at the same time.

BAL PUSHTI	KISHORE PUSHTI	VAISHNAV YOUTH GROUP	MENS SATSANG	LADIES SATSANG
Age: 5 to 11	Age: 12 to 17	Age: 18 to 40	Open to Everyone	Open to Everyone
Contacts Mamtaben Kothari 07817 985 860 Binduben Shah 07919 973 781	Contacts Artiben Ved 07438 125469 Urvi Rajdev 07752 369 148	Contacts Umang Rajdev 07510 598 324 Sonal Rajdev 07505 364 612	Contacts Jatinbhai Saggani 07444 638 488 Jaybhai Mashru 07711 690 901	Contacts Diptiben Soni 07411 091 492 Shiluben Patel 07828 208 181

Prasad Manorathi : £350

Minaben Popat 07958 436 586	Shiluben Patel 07828 208 181	Devyaniben Vora 07896 680920
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vaishnavsangh.org.uk <https://www.facebook.com/vaishnavsanghofuk/> 2a Rosslyn Crescent, Harrow, HA1 2SU Registered Charity No 1183435

Upcoming Events

Badhai Shree Gopalprabhu Vijayete Badhai

Shrinathdham National Haveli & Community Centre - UK

VAISHNAV SANGH OF UK

Vaishnav Sangh of UK is pleased to announce

Shri Yamunaji 41 Pad Raspaan Katha

Yamuna Swaroop Aradhna Mahotsav

Vachnamrut by Shree Dwarkeshlalji Mahodayashri (Kadi, Ahmedabad)

Saturday 3rd to Friday 9th August 2024

3pm to 7pm

Harrow Leisure Centre (Byron Hall, HA3 5BD)

DAILY PROGRAMME

1st Day (3rd Aug) 2:30 to 3pm (arrive 2pm) - Shobha yatra
3pm to 3.30pm - Yamunaji Pujan
3.30pm to 6.30pm - Katha
6.30pm - Aarti
Mahaprasad thereafter

For more info please contact

Minaben Popat 07958 436 586	Shiluben Patel 07828 208 181	Devyaniben Vora 07896 680920
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DIVYA ALOUKIK MANORATH

Saturday 3rd August 41 Ratnajadit Kunj No Manorath Dress Code: Blue	Sunday 4th August Hariyali Amavas Saghan Kandra Ma Hariyali Kunj Manorath Dress Code: Green
Monday 5th August Shree Yamuna Lotiji Utsav Dress Code: Pink/Rani	Tuesday 6th August Yamuna Tat Par Maharaas Dress Code: White
Wednesday 7th August Thakurani Teej Thakurani Ghat Par Kach No Hindola Dress Code: Red/Bandhni	Thursday 8th August Chundadi Manorath Dress Code: Yellow/Orange
Friday 9th August Nag Pancham Shreenathji Vam Bhuja Pragatya Dress Code: Purple	

MANORATHI Opportunities & Nyochavar

Pradhan Katha Manorathi	£31,000
Shree Yamunaji Swaroop Aradhna Manorathi	£501

Shri Yamunaji Mandir	Mukhya Manorathi (Jhariji & Bantaji labh with Je Je Shree on stage)	Sahayak Manorathi	Subhechak Manorathi
	£3,001	£1,001	£501

Mahaprasad Manorathi (for each day)	Vaishnav Patar Manorathi (7 days)	Mukhya Patar Manorathi	Sahayak Patar Manorathi	Subhechak Patar Manorathi
	£15,000	£3,001	£1,001	£501

Divya Aloukik Manorath (for each day)			
Mukhya Manorathi	£3,001	Chundadi Manorath	£51
Sahayak Manorathi	£1,001	Lotiji Manorath	£101
Subhechak Manorathi	£501	Ratnajadit Kunj	£151

For Bramasambandh, please contact Shiluben Patel or Devyaniben Vora

Minaben Popat: 07958 436 586 Shiluben Patel: 07828 208 181 Devyaniben Vora: 07896 680 920

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