

THE UTSAV

SHRI KRISHNA'S FESTIVE YEAR



SARADPUNAM (Aaso Sud Punam - 15)

This is one of the most important festivals of Nathdvara and celebrates Krishna's great circular dance with the gopis on a full moon night. Shrinathji is dressed in a silver brocade kachhanti, orange suthana, dark blue-black choli, and a diamond-studded mukuta, crown. All his ornaments are of diamonds. The pichhvai is a painted one, depicting Shrinathji dancing the rasa. In the evening, a bichhat, regal setting, is arranged in the Doltibari, Manikotha and Ratan chowk, in which the divalgeris and chndovas are all white. These have patterns of the full moon and the stars on them. All the utensils used are of silver and even the foods and the beverages served are white. Musical instruments are left out in kamal chowk for the whole night and the doors are closed, to allow Shrinathji to enjoy the rasa, without interruption.arti rites are performed after the appearance of the Full Moon. The Darshan is not open to public.

The months of seva for Lalita sakhi are Kartika, Margashirsha and pausham the approximate equivalents of November, December and January. These are winter months and Shrinathji is richly clad in heavily brocade clothes and ornaments. Even the pichhvais are richly brocade and embroidered with gold and silver thread. Strong and rich colours are preferred.