

THE UTSAV

SHRI KRISHNA'S FESTIVE YEAR



DIWALI (Aaso Vad Avas - 15)

Pushti Elucidation:- Nandrajji celebrates the festival for welcome of Laxmiji. Diwali is the swarup (form) of Shri Krishna Ijela. Thakorji makes us leave Angashray thereby considering us so intimate. After Anavsar on this day 'Kanaajgaag' is done in the same way as God made us leave Indra poojan. Then God comes to Hatari. Hatari should be decorated.

This major festival of the quarter marks the end of the Hindu year. Shrinthji wears clothes of silver brocade which include a chakdar wagha and suthana and a kulhe, turban, mounted with a fan-shaped plume of peacock feathers. His ornaments are of diamonds, rubies and emeralds. The piehhvai is pearlstudded and bears tree motifs on it.

Cows are decorated and brought into the temple in the evening. The temple cowherds put on their best attire and circumambulate the temple, singing merrily. The cows are then brought in to Govardhana Puja chowk. Navanitpriyaji is seated on the steps of Suraj polg and is offered milk. A cow, supposed to be descended from a cow of Nandaraya's herd, is worshipped and the Tilkayat Maharaj requests her to return the next day for , with the other cows.

In the evening, a hatadi, small shop of mirrors, is placed in Ratan chowk and Navanitpriyaji is seated in it. The twelve arches of the hatadi signify the twelve rashis, signs of the zodiac. The hatadi is intended to recall one which Krishna installed during the festival to sell various articles and thereby attract the gopis.