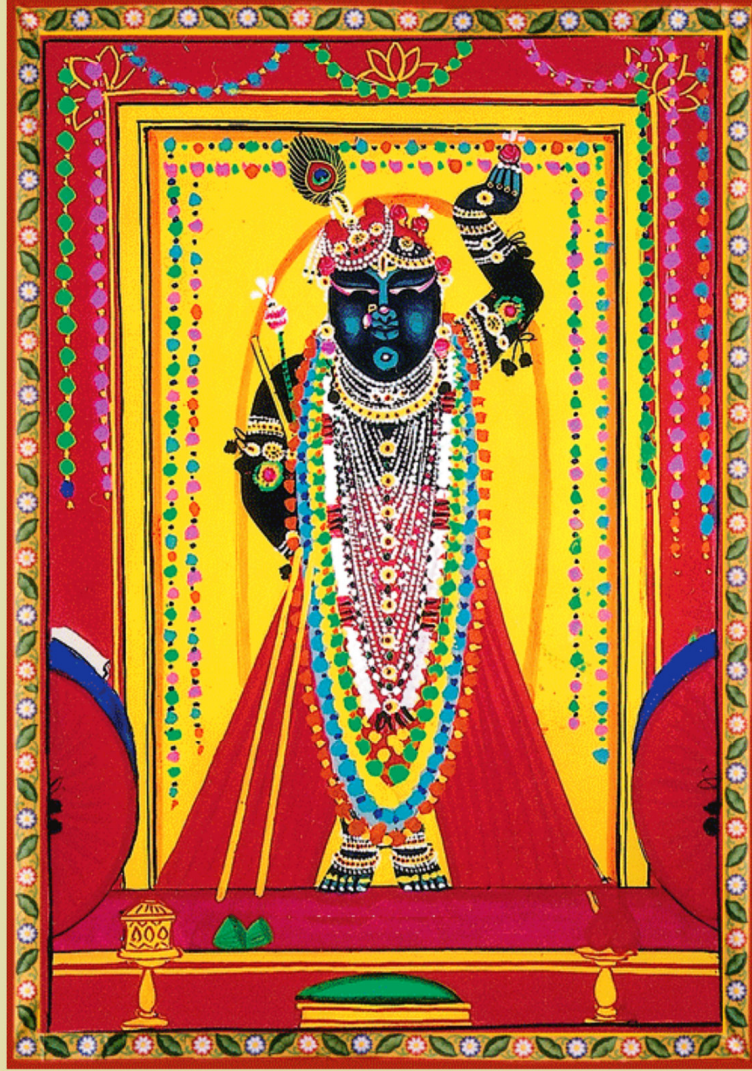


THE UTSAV
SHRI KRISHNA'S FESTIVE YEAR



RAKSHA BANDHAN
(Shravan Sud Poonam - 15)

Shri Yashodaji ties Rakhi/Raksha to Shri Thakurji and Baldevji to protect them from evil eyes / omen.

Here again as in Pavitra, the time factor is given importance to. If the time is auspicious in the morning then the Raksha is tied to Shriji's wrist in the morning. If it is auspicious in the evening then it is tied in the evening. In short, whenever the Rakhi is tied **the time should coincide with the rise of the 'Star Shravan' in the sky.**

Now how to tie the 'Raksha' or 'Rakhi' to the Shreeji :-

In a plate place little Vermillion (Kumkum), little Akshat (Rice coloured with Turmeric) and an 'Aarti' on a Ashtadal made of Kumkum on the Thali. Then the Vetra is removed and then after prostrating before the Lord, anoint him twice with Tilak and Akshat. Afterwards tie the Rakhi or Raksha on the Right wrist, then tie another one at the place where Baaju Bandh is tied. Then tie the Raksha on the left side at the wrist as well as on the arm. In the same manner, Raksha is also tied to Swaminiji as well. A single Raksha is then offered as Bhatt to the Yugal Swaroop. Then the Aarti is performed and then Utsav Bhog is offered. While tying the Rakhi Gulab Katli is offered to the Shreeji.

Today's main offering is Jalebi. During Shagan, remove all the other Rakshas except the one tied on the wrist. From today onwards the Janmaashtami Geet and Dholpad are sung and Bhatti Poojan for making the Saamagri of Janmaashtami is done.

Vastra :- Gulzhar, Rupri Kinariwala, Pichora.

Saaj :- Laal Satin upar Ruperi vel butta no, karchobina kaamano badhay.

Shringar :- Shri Mastak par Chajedar Paag, Abhran Hira naa, Shringar rupechudas vatthay. Tran kalangi no sirpech dharavay.