



Centre Okays Rs. 20,000-Crore Budget for Namami Ganga Scheme

The central government has announced Rs 2000 crore funding in the budget for 'Namami Gange' programme to clean the river and a separate Ganga ministry was created under water resources ministry to prioritise the river cleaning work.

Ganga cleaning programme is all set to get financial boost of Rs 20,000 crore, 10 times since 1986 in the budget. According to official figures, about Rs 2000 crores have been spent on cleaning Ganga between 1986 and 2014 by various governments.

The government has moved a proposal to consolidate Ganga funding under Water Resources Ministry and about 15 union ministries have supported the move. The money has been decided into subheads including launching a urban river development front and Ganga Task Force among others.

The NDA government in 2014 launched

'Namami Gange' project to bring back the past glory of the river and prime minister last month had chaired a high-level meeting to take stock of the progress in the project. He had emphasized upon time-bound, swift action and single-minded focus to stop pollution of the River Ganga.

The NDA has devised a three phase plan spanning for nearly 18 years at Rs 51000 crore to clean the river. The short term plan slated to take off in next six months include stopping open nullahs from falling into the river, restriction on industrial and chemical discharge into the river among others.



In the news

Akshaya Patra featured in Nat Geo



Premium Apartments & Villas at the feet of Vrindavan Chandrodaya Mandir

An initiative of
infinity

Vrindavan to become the first transition town of India

Vrindavan is set to become the first transition town of India. Around fifteen devotees of ten different organizations presented various projects developing sustainability in Vrindavan.

Shri Gopinath Lal Dev Goswami (Raja) of the Radha-Gopinath temple commenced the presentations. He gave emphasis on communication with the local people and is working on a parking solution for Vrindavan. "There should be more parking in the peripheries of Vrindavan for the approx. 4000 visiting cars (there are approx. 300 local cars only). Solar power should be installed on every house - this may be supported with federal subsidies", said Goswami.

Sri Jagannath Poddar of Friends of Vrindavan proposed the establishment of a website and a facebook page.

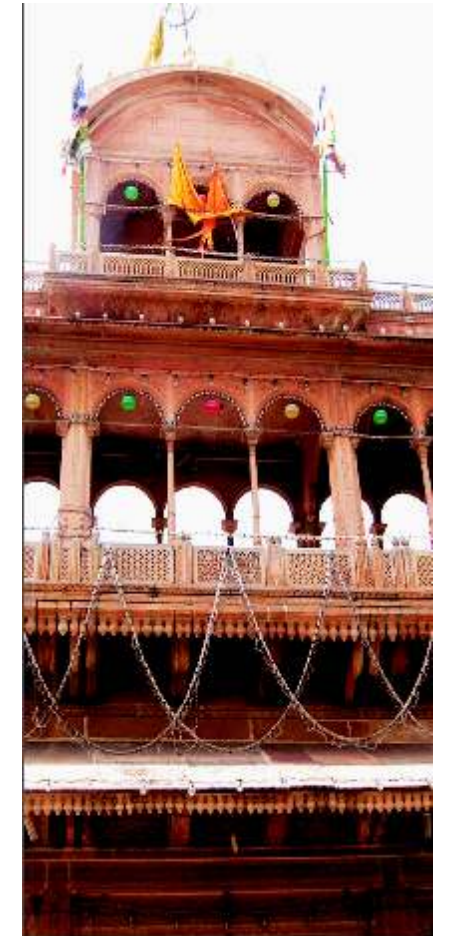
He added, "We have demanded that our suggestions should be included in the Heritage Cities and World Bank's Braj Circuit plan. We have advocated for the massive tree plantation in Vrindavan on both sides of the Yamuna, establish peacock sanctuaries, take care of the plastic pollution and revive traditional cow economy".

Shri Madan Bihari Baba from the Braj Vrindavan Heritage Alliance reminded,

"Mathura is recently declared a Heritage site and we should take advantage from this because Vrindavan comes within Mathura district. This is a chance to reforest Vrindavan. Vrindavan means 'forest of Vrinda', so without the forest, there is no Vrindavan. In Tatia Sthan they have preserved the old trees but in many places they are being cut down."

Sri Sarvanga Gauranga Dasa from Aksay Patra presented their new Vrindavan Chandrodaya temple project. The temple will be the world's tallest Krishna temple and attract thousands of visitors to Vrindavan. The temple and its surrounding buildings are constructed following the highest US LEED gold standard for sustainable construction. The 5.5 acres temple area will be surrounded by 31 acres of new forest - a replica of the twelve forests of Braja Mandal. Visitors will be able to view the trees from a skywalk and they should be inspired to visit the original forests and help to preserve and restore them.

Everyone in the meeting agreed that Vrindavan has all the potential to become a transition town. The meeting concluded with a promise to share intellect, information and resources within the different organizations to make Vrindavan the first transition town of India.

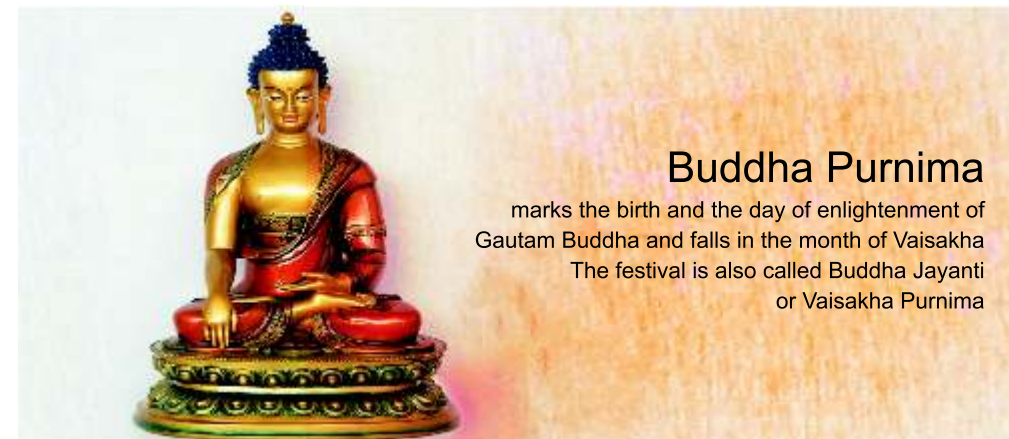


Shri Bankey Bihari Mandir is a Hindu temple dedicated to Lord Krishna, in the holy city of Vrindavan, Mathura.

Owner speak:

DR. ARUN JAIN
Child Specialist
Dr. Arun Jain Child Hospital
Agra, Uttar Pradesh

"Vrindavan is a town seeped with fascinating stories. There is much to be learnt by spending some time here."



Buddha Purnima

marks the birth and the day of enlightenment of Gautam Buddha and falls in the month of Vaisakha. The festival is also called Buddha Jayanti or Vaisakha Purnima

Brajwasis taste Bollywood mood in 'Mathura Mahotsava'

The Brajwasis got a taste of Bollywood in the two days cultural extravaganza of the 'Mathura Mahotsava'. The event completed with success as many Bollywood and TV stars participated in the mega cultural fest. The event was organized under the guidance of the cine star Hema Malini, the Member of Parliament from Mathura.

Eminent political personalities as well as Bollywood stars were present among other local dignitaries. The two day event was inaugurated by the veteran BJP leader Shri Lal Krishna Advani and Karshni Guru Sharanananda. Actor Dharmendra, Jaya Bachchan and Sonu Sood were also present on the stage during the inauguration ceremony.

After the inauguration, the cultural performance commenced with Krishna Vandana, in which Hema Malini danced in the praise of Krishna. She was followed by the popular Mayur dance. Her daughter Isha Deol performed on the poetry of Madhushala, written by Shri Harivansh Rai Bachchan, father of Amitabh Bachchan. Shradha Kapoor performed as the Raj

Kanya and danced in the moon light. Singer Udit Narayan, Sargun Mehta, Sonu Sood, Aditi Rao Haidari also performed on the first day.

More than 2000 non-resident Indians, businessmen and Bollywood personalities were in attendance on Sunday, the second day of the event. The second day was dedicated for Lord Krishna's Bal Lila, the childhood years. The celebrities like Govinda, Remo D'soza, Shankar Mahadevan, Arjun Kapoor, Pariniti Chopra, Huma Qureshi, Jeetendra and several other Bollywood and TV stars also perform to bring delight in the audience. Speaking to the local media most of the celebrities affirmed that they were fortunate to perform in Krishna's own land.



CLICK OF THE MONTH



A cultural performance during Mathura Mahotsav, April 2015

Vrindavan temples celebrate 'Chandan Yatra' on Akshaya Tritiya

Devotees from around the country thronged in Vrindavan to have a glimpse of the Lord decorated with the sandal paste in his whole body. The deities gave darshan smearing the chandan on Tuesday afternoon. The temples were beautifully decorated with flowers, balloons and lights.

On the occasion of the Akshaya Tritiya the deities of various temples were adorned the sandal paste to bring relief to the Lord from the scorching heat of summer. The cooling effect of the sandal is very pleasing to the lord during summer. The festival of smearing sandal wood is also known as Chandan Yatra.

The devotees and temple priests started grinding the sandalwood one month ahead to obtain its paste, which was applied on the whole body of the deities of Shri Krishna after the Panchamrita Abhishek. Later the deities were also adorned with the garland of tulsi and scented flowers.

Smearing the body of Lord with ointments is considered to be an act of devotion, and the best of the ointment is sandalwood.

The Lordships in the Saptadevalyas were offered with the 'Sheetal-bhog', which contain sattu (made of roasted grain powders), cucumber, watermelon, sprout dal etc. The Sheetal Bhog will be offered until the 'Jal-Yatra', the festival which will follow after a month.

The temples of Shri Radha Raman, Radha Gokulananda, Radha Shyam Sundar, Radha Damodar, Banke Bihari, Radha Ballabh, Krishna Balam were crowded with the devotees in the afternoon to have the darshan. While the sandalwood paste brought pleasure to the body of the lord, the darshan of the deities smearing sandalwood paste brought peace to the eyes of the devotees.

Akshaya Tritiya, according to the Vedic calendar, is a day considered to be conducive to success in any significant endeavor. Traditionally those are aware of Akshaya Tritiya's benefit schedule major life events – marriage, business ventures, entering in a new residence and initiations. All the marriage homes of Vrindavan were booked on this day.



Did you know ?

Pashupati Nath Temple remained almost unharmed in the Nepal Earthquake



The famous 5th century Pashupatinath Temple in Kathmandu has survived the massive 7.9 magnitude earthquake that flattened several World Heritages like iconic Dharhara tower and Darbar Square in Nepal.

"The Pashupatinath Temple is safe, we have checked the shrine many times and it has developed no cracks," a devotee at the temple said.

The temple, one of the seven monument groups in UNESCO's designation of Kathmandu Valley as a cultural heritage site, is the oldest Hindu temple in Kathmandu whose existence dates back to 400AD.

From the Bhagwad Gita

इन्द्रयिणिमिनो बुद्धरिस्याधषिठानमुच्यते।
एतेर्वमिहयत्येष ज्ञानमावृत्य देहनिम् ॥४०॥

"It is said that the senses, mind and intellect is the abode or seat of desire. This desire confounds and bewilders the embodied soul by covering knowledge by means of these (viz. senses, mind and intellect)"

Bhagavadgītā (Bhagavad Gita): Chapter III (Karmayoga) Stanza 40



Watch out!

28th May 2015 : Ganga Dasahra
Significance: Holy bath in river Ganges and Yamuna

29th May 2015 : Nirjala Ekadashi
Significance: Water less fast observed on this day and Puja offered to God Vishnu