

Braj Planning & Development Board begins functioning

The 'Braj Planning and Development Board' has formally begun functioning from Monday. The newly appointed Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the board Shri Ravindra Datt Paliwal chaired a meeting in which he briefed the structure of the board, the act under which the board was formed, and it's functioning to the officials from various departments.

The Chief Minister Shri Akhilesh Yadav is the Chairman of the board, which will be working for the preservation of the heritage, culture and environment of Vraja. Shri Paliwal said that the newly formed board will not replace any government department, but will ensure the proper co-ordination between the various departments to give a boost to the religious tourism and bring similarity while executing the projects.

Since the 'board' was formed by getting an act passed from both the houses of the state assembly, it will play a unique role in

the development of Vraja. It will become very easy for the government departments to send the developmental proposal to the government through the board, as the board consists of the members from all the departments. Though the plans will be approved by the government, but the feedback about the plans will be taken from the board. The board will take advice from the local people also.

Shri Paliwal insisted that the development plan should be made in such a way that it sustains for next thirty years. The plan and the budget required for it should be sent to the MVDA.

Shri Paliwal inaugurated the board's office at the MVDA building and took necessary information from the MVDA secretary. The board will accept funds from the corporate houses too. Anyone who can donate minimum fifty million rupees can become the member of the board.



Rare 'Supermoon' Lunar Eclipse 2015



People around the world have observed a rare celestial event, as a lunar eclipse coincided with a so-called "Supermoon" on Monday the 28th of September 2015.

A supermoon occurs when the Moon is in the closest part of its orbit to Earth, as close as 363,000km (the perigee) it appears larger in the sky. The average distance of the moon from the earth is 405,000km (the apogee).

The eclipse - which made the Moon appear red - has been visible in North America, South America, West Africa and Western Europe.

This phenomenon was last observed in the year 1982 and will not be back before 2033.

Owner speak:

Dr. Swandip Kumar Sinha
Doctor
Mrs. Jayalekshmi Nair
Housewife
Delhi Resident

"Thanks to Yamuna Expressway, Vrindavan feels a lot closer to Delhi".



Brahma Kund to witness Sanjhi festival after 125 years

The Brahma Kund is to witness the Sanjhi festival after 125 years. The Sanjhi fest will be organized by the Braj Foundation from 5th October to 12th October with the support from Braj Sanskriti Shodh Sansthan. The different pastimes of Vraja will be exhibited through the Sanjhi Art.

According to Shri Vineet Narain, President of the Braj Foundation the Sanjhi festival used to be organized at the Brahma Kund 125 years back, during Pitri paksha (16 days lunar period). But the culture was forgotten as the Brahma Kund itself fell into ruin due to neglect. The Braj Foundation restored the Kund in 2009. Now in a bid to preserve the Sanjhi culture, the Braj Foundation has decided to organize the 'Sanjhi Mela' in Brahma Kund. The Sanjhi art will be exhibited between 5-8 p.m at the Brahma Kund. The artists will exhibit their art during the event. They will be felicitated in the end of the Mela. Shri Vineet Narain added, "The Sanjhi festival at Brahma Kund is also mentioned in F.S. Growse's book Mathura, a district memoir."

Shri Laxmi Narayan Tiwari, the secretary of the Braj Sanskriti Shodh Sansthan said

that the manuscripts related to the Sanjhi Art will also be displayed during the event. Sanjhi is an important culture of Vraja. This art is exhibited in some temples of Vrindavan.

It is believed that the tradition of Sanjhi began during the times of Lord Krishna.

Radha Rani along with her friends would draw the sanjhi with flowers on the way of Krishna at dusk, when he returned with the cowherd after grazing them. Since the Sanjhi was made at the time of dusk (sanjhi in Vraja language means dusk), it was also known as Sanjhi.



CLICK OF THE MONTH



Shri Chanchalpati Dasa, President Vrindavan Chandrodaya Mandir, Shri Vivek Oberoi, Bollywood actor and Shri Ravindra Chamarla, CMD Infinity Group at the event celebrating the Birth of Lord Krishna at Vrindavan Chandrodaya Mandir site.

Shradh is dedicated to express gratitude to all our ancestors

The Pitru paksha began with the full moon day of Yamuna. The brajwasis reached the ghats of Yamuna in Vrindavan and Mathura to perform the tarpan ritual by offering til (sesame seed) and water to their ancestors. The sixteen day period is dedicated to making an offering to express our gratitude to all our ancestors who have contributed to our life. On this day the Brahmins and cows are fed by the families who perform shradh of their ancestors.

The tarpan rituals are performed in Keshi Ghat, Cheer Ghat, Vishram Ghat and many other ghats in Vrindavan and Mathura. The members of the Brahman Mahasabha of Vrindavan ceremonially performed the first day's tarpan at Keshi Ghat after taking bath in Yamuna.

According to Shri Suresh Chandra Sharma, patron of the Mahasabha, the performance of shradh in pitru paksha regarded as compulsory by hindus to ensure that the soul of the ancestor goes to heaven. He cited the scriptures of Garud Puran, "There is no salvation for a man without a son." He added, "The scriptures preach that a house holder should propitiate ancestors (pitrus) along with the gods (devas), ghosts (bhutas) and guests. The performance of Sarvapitru amavasya rites can also compensate a forgotten or neglected annual Shradha ceremony is central to the concept of lineages."

Shri Suresh Pachauri said, "Shradha involves oblations to three preceding generations - by reciting their names - as

well as to the mythical lineage ancestor (gotra). A person thus gets to know the names of six lives, reaffirming lineage ties. The Pitru Paksha emphasizes the fact that the ancestors and the current generation and their next unborn generation are connected by blood ties. The current generation repays their debt to the ancestors in the Pitru Paksha. The debt is considered of utmost importance along with a person's debt to his gurus and his parents."

Shri Tota Ram Upadhyaya, president of the Brahman Sabha elaborated further, "The shradha is performed on the specific lunar day during the Pitru Paksha when the ancestor - usually a parent of paternal grandparent died. There are exceptions to the lunar day rule; special day are allotted for people who died in a particular manner or had a certain status in life. Chautha Bharani and Bharani Panchami, the fourth and fifth lunar day respectively, are allocated for the people deceased in the past year. Avidhava navami (Unwidowed ninth), the ninth lunar day, is for married women who died before their husband. Widowers invite Brahmin women as guests for their wife's shradha. The twelfth lunar day is for children and ascetics who had renounced the worldly pleasures. The fourteenth day is known as Ghata Chaturdashi or Ghayala Chaturdashi, and is reserved for those people killed by arms, in war or suffered a death."

Apart from all the shradh rituals the Sanjhi darshan at various temples has also begun from Purnima.

Did you Know?

Purnima 2015 Dates Table

Every month when we observe the Full Moon or Purnima Vrat, we feel so blessed and illuminated by the light of the Moon. Let's find out the dates of Purnima in 2015.

Purnima in 2015	Dates
Paush purnima	04 Jan
Paush Purnima	05 Jan
Magha Purnima	03 Feb
Phalgun Purnima	05 Mar
Chaitra Purnima	04 Apr
Vaishakh Purnima	03 May
Vaishakh Purnima	04 May
Jyestha Purnima	02 Jun
Ashadha Purnima	01 Jul
Ashadha Purnima	31 Jul
Shravan Purnima	29 Aug
Bhadrapada Purnima	27 Sep
Bhadrapada Purnima	28 Sep
Ashwin Purnima	27 Oct
Kartik Purnima	25 Nov
Margashirsha Purnima	25 Dec

From the Bhagwad Gita

न बुद्धिभेदं जनयेदज्ञानां कर्मसङ्गानाम्।
जोषयेत्सर्वकर्मणां विद्वान्युक्तः समाचरन्॥२६॥

A knower of the self should not bring about disturbance of mind in the ignorant who are attached to action, he should be devoted to all kind of actions by remaining himself occupied in performing actions.

Bhagavadgītā (Bhagavad Gita): Chapter III (Karmayoga) Stanza 26



Watch out!

28th September : Bhadrapada Purnima
Pitru paksha begins

8th October : Indira Ekadashi

12th October : Sarva Pitru Amavasya

13th October : Navratri Begins

19th October : Saraswati Puja

21st October : Durga Ashtami, Maha Navami

22nd October : Dussehra, Vijayadashami

Extraordinary school for special children in Vrindavan

To meet the needs of children with pronounced disabilities, a school in Vrindavan, Uttar Pradesh, is performing yeoman service by addressing their basic educational requirements.

A growing number of parents who have children who are either physically, mentally or visually challenged are opting for Vaishishtyam, a special school set up by the Param Shakti Peeth at Vatsalyagram in Vrindavan, which is run and managed by Sadhvi Ritambra.

"We are working to tackle the stigma of disability, so that no parent feels pressured to give up a disabled child. For the past one year, Vaishishtyam experts in child development have been successfully working with parents of children, and they have now successfully integrated themselves in the school system and are taking part in intervention programs," said school principal Minakshi Agarwal. At present, 70 children, most of them belonging to poor families, are being home-schooled free of cost and are being provided transport from their homes to the school and back as well.

This institution has created support groups and a specialised curriculum to meet the specific requirements of these children. These kids are also being provided free uniforms, books and teaching material. The Vaishishtyam has also launched a project focused on the latest approaches to be adopted by kindergarten teachers.

The school has sufficient educational assistants, access to specialised services and follows an individualised education plan for each child.

Principal Agarwal said the institution has also started vocational courses for senior students so as to enable them to earn a living in the long run.

The special children require more attention, particularly children with down syndrome, trizomy, mozaic etc where two attendants are required for handling one child. While the institution is spending average 10,000 ten thousand rupees per month on each day scholar children and average Rs 20,000 per month on hostler students but the parents are only requested to contribute voluntarily for generating support base so as institution could sustain in long run.

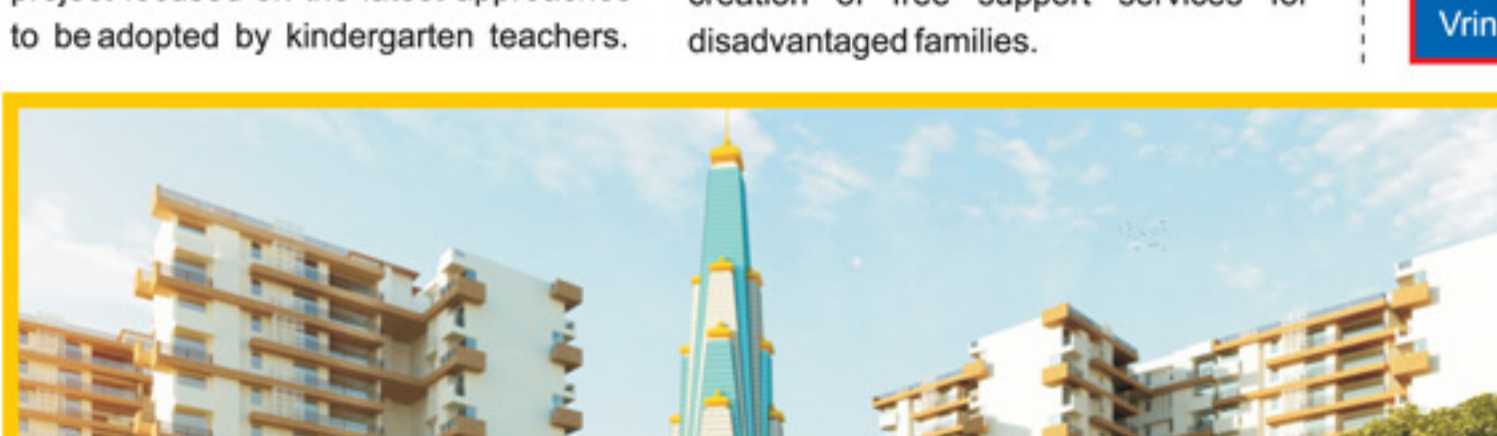
Vaishishtyam is a charitable day and boarding school serving children of different age groups suffering from autism spectrum disorder, speech and language impairments, vision and hearing impairments, Downs Syndrome and multiple disabilities. Most of the students have challenging behaviors that interfere with their academic progress at school as well their home life.

Vaishishtyam is working on building an inclusive school that is open to children with disabilities, through play and the creation of free support services for disadvantaged families.

In the News



Celebrating the Birth of Lord Shri Krishna at Vrindavan Chandrodaya Mandir



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