



# SANDARSHAN

Monthly Newsletter

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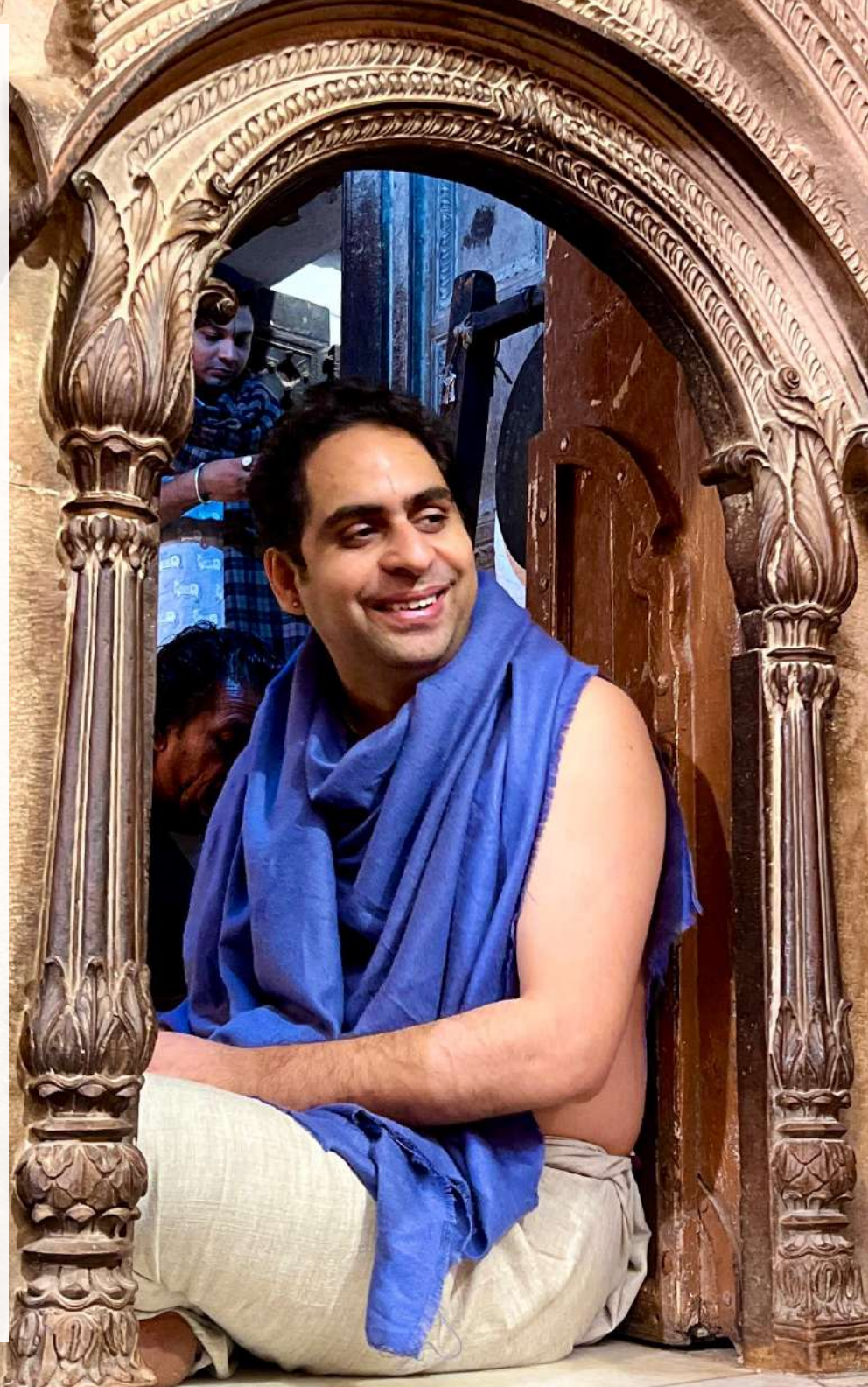
## Vishnu Sahasranama Part 27: Shiv - The Auspicious One by Shri Chandan Goswami Maharaj

The 27<sup>th</sup> Name in the Shri Vishnu Sahasranama Stotram is Shiv, which means "The Auspicious One." Shri Baldev Vidyabhushan says:

अतः शिवः कल्याणात्मा शीडो  
वन् ह्रस्वत्वं गुणाभावाश्च  
निपातनात्।  
मङ्गलानाञ्च मङ्गलमित्युक्तम्।

*ataḥ śivah kalyāṇātmā  
śīḥo van hrasvatvaṃ  
guṇābhāvāśca nipātanāt।  
maṅgalānāñca  
maṅgalamityuktam।*

The name "Shiv" indicates that all forms of auspiciousness reside within Shri Krishn. It also means that he is the one who gives us any good qualities that we lack and





fulfils all our deficiencies. He is often described as "The auspiciousness of all auspiciousness."

Baldev Vidyabhushan's commentary gives a beautiful example of how Krishn provides whatever we lack. When millions of *gopis* asked Krishn not to let them dance alone, he danced with each one simultaneously.

अघहर कुरु युग्मीभूय नृत्यं मयैव  
त्वम् इति निखिल-गोपी-प्रार्थना-पूर्ति-कामः ।  
अतनुत गति-लीला-लाघवोर्मिं तथासौ  
ददृशुर् अधिकम् एतास् तं यथा स्व-स्व-पार्श्वे ॥

*aghahara kuru yugmībhūya nṛtyaṁ mayaiiva  
tvam iti nikhila-gopī-prārthanā-pūrti-kāmaḥ ।  
atanuta gati-līlā-lāghavormiṁ tathāsau  
dadṛśur adhikam etās taṁ yathā sva-sva-pārśve ॥*

"O Aghahar! When millions of *gopis* asked Shri Krishn, 'Please dance with me!' he fulfilled all their desires by dancing with such agility that he appeared to be dancing with every *gopi* at once." (*Bhakti Rasamrit Sindhu*, 2.1.90)

The Amarkosh further says,

शिवं मंगलमस्यास्तीति शिवः

*śivaṁ maṅgalamasyāstīti śivaḥ*

He who is the form of auspiciousness is known as Shiv. Shri Krishn himself is that auspiciousness, he himself is Shiv.

मङ्गलं भगवान् विष्णुः मङ्गलं गरुडध्वजः ।  
मङ्गलं पुण्डरीकाक्षः मङ्गलायतनो हरिः ॥

*maṅgalaṁ bhagavān viṣṇuḥ maṅgalaṁ garūḍadhvajah ।  
maṅgalaṁ puṇḍarīkākṣaḥ maṅgalāyatano hariḥ ॥*

"Shri Hari or Vishnu, the one who rides upon Garud, the one who has lotus-like eyes, is auspiciousness itself." In other words, he is full of all goodness, blessings and benevolence.





# Shri Jeev Goswami



Born in Ramkeli, West Bengal, in approximately 1511 CE, Shri Jeev Goswami was the nephew of Shri Roop and Sanatan Goswami. According to *Bhakti Ratnakar*, he witnessed Mahaprabhu in his hometown and showed remarkable spiritual focus during his childhood. He quickly mastered Sanskrit, and spent much of his time with his deities of Shri Krishn and Balram.

The young Jeev used to cry in separation from Thakurji with such intensity that his family feared he might flee their home. One night, he passed out from repeating "Shri Krishn Chaitanya" and had a vision where his deities of Krishn and Balram had transformed into Shri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu and Nityanand Prabhu. Both of them lovingly blessed him and soothed him with their kind words while embracing him. After this experience, Jeev's consciousness was completely filled with Mahaprabhu and Nityanand Prabhu. He did eventually leave home aged roughly 16 years.

## In Navadwip

From Ramkeli, Jeev travelled to Mahaprabhu's birthplace of Navadwip, where he fortunately met Shri Nityanand Prabhu in person. Later in his life, Nityanand Prabhu had settled in Khardah village (now part of Kolkata).

However, at this time, he was visiting Navadwip and staying in Shrivasa Angan temporarily.

Jeev Goswami and Nityanand Prabhu were overjoyed to meet one another. The moment Nityanand Prabhu saw Jeev Goswami he began to dance, placing his lotus feet upon his head just as in Jeev's dream. Nityanand then personally showed Jeev the sacred places of Mahaprabhu's *lilas* in Navadwip.

When they physically parted ways, Jeev Goswami asked Nityanand Prabhu for permission to visit Puri, where Mahaprabhu had spent many years in seclusion immersed in Radha Bhaav. However, Nityanand instructed him, "Go directly to Vrindavan and assist your uncles Roop and Sanatan with their *seva*. But on the way, you must spend some time in Varanasi and learn Vedant from Madhusudan Vachaspati (a disciple of Sarvabhauma Bhattacharya)."

In keeping with Nityanand Prabhu's commands, Jeev spent several years in Varanasi, completing his study of Vedant around the age of 19. Thereafter, he proceeded to Vrindavan and never left.



## In Vrindavan

Upon arriving in Vrindavan, Jeev helped his uncle with his *sevas*, especially in writing scripture about *bhakti*.

Jeev displayed such a high level of excellence in every *seva* bestowed upon him that Shri Roop and Sanatan Goswami were overjoyed, knowing that Jeev would be a capable steward of Mahaprabhu's legacy. The *Bhakt Maal* says:

बेला भजन सुपक्व कषाय न कबहूं लागी ।  
वृन्दावन दृढ वास जुगल चरननि अनुरागी ॥  
पोथी लेखन पान अघट अक्षर चित दीनौ ।  
सद्ग्रन्थनि कौ सार सबै हस्तामल कीनौ ॥  
संदेह ग्रन्थि छेदन समर्थ रस रास उपासक परम धीर ।  
श्रीरूप सनातन भक्ति जल जीव गुसाई सर गंभीर ॥

*belaa bhajan supakva kashaay na kabahun laagi ।*  
*vrindavan dridh vaas jugal charanani anuraagi ॥*  
*pothi lekhan paan aghat akshar chit dinau ।*  
*sadgranthani kau saar sabai hastaamala kinau ॥*  
*sandeh granthi chedan samarth ras raas upaasak param dhir ।*  
*shri roop sanaatan bhakti jal jeev gusain sar gambhir ॥*

"Shri Jeev Goswami was a very deep reservoir filled with the water of Shri Roop and Sanatan's devotional wisdom. That reservoir was contained and protected by the strong banks of Shri Jeev's personal *bhajan*, and the water therein was never polluted with the algae of *maya* (such as desires for respect, wealth and so forth). He was supremely dedicated to living in Vrindavan all the time, and was madly in love with Shri Radha and Krishn's lotus feet. Whenever he wrote, he put all his heart into every page, and his writing was immaculate. He had a perfect grasp of the essence of all *shastras*, and he could easily resolve all the doubts of anyone who sought his help. He worshipped Shri Radha and Krishn in the romantic mood (as a maidservant of Shri Radharani), and was supremely wise and peaceful."



## The Depth of Shri Jeev Goswami's Dedication

The following story is told in slightly different ways in various books recounting Shri Jeev Goswami's life, however, the version found in the *Bhakt Maal* is particularly sweet and detailed.

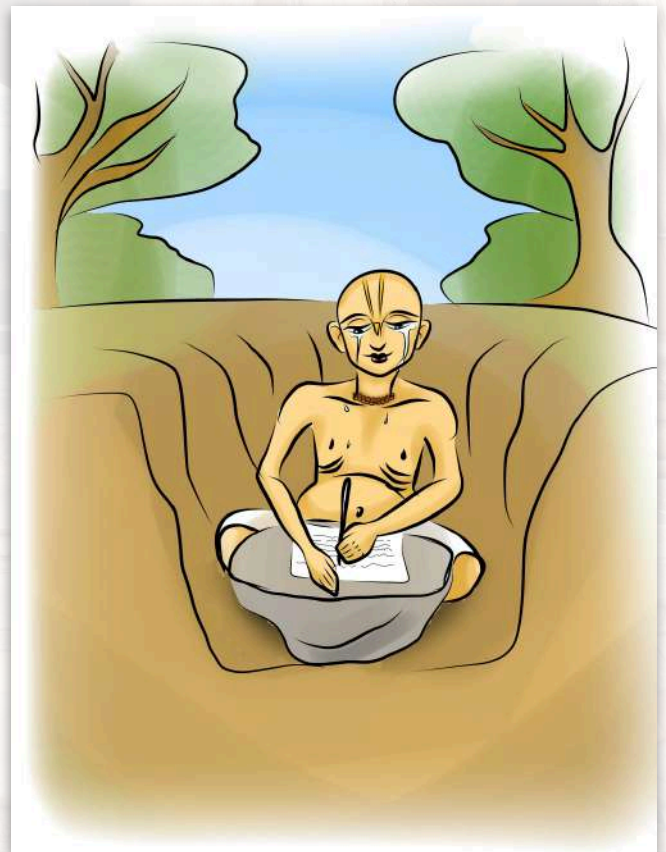
Once, a *pandit* came to Vrindavan with a desire to establish himself as the greatest scholar ever. After hearing about Shri Roop Goswami's fame as a scholar, he decided to challenge him to a debate. Roop, however, took shelter of the *Narad Bhakti Sutra's* aphorism वादो नावलम्ब्यः *vādo nāvalambyaḥ*, which means, "It is inappropriate for devotees to enter into debate." Therefore, he decided not to engage with the *pandit*, while instead presenting him with a signed note saying that the *pandit* had won and he had lost.

After receiving the note from Roop Goswami, the *pandit* began showing it off to many people, bragging that he had actually debated Roop Goswami and won. The *pandit's* lie really upset Jeev Goswami. In his opinion, the *pandit's* actions were deeply disrespectful and amounted to an offence to Jeev's guru. In an effort to gain control of the situation, Jeev challenged the *pandit* to a real debate, which Jeev won easily.

When Shri Roop Goswami found out about Shri Jeev's actions, he was deeply displeased


with him. He said to Jeev, "Yes, you defeated the *pandit* in a moment, but you couldn't defeat your own mind. Did you even think about how troubled the *pandit* would feel? Go. I renounce you. I don't want to see your face from today onwards."

A shocked and emotionally destroyed Jeev had no choice but to follow his guru's instruction. At that very moment, he left Vrindavan for a secluded rural area called Nand Ghat on the bank of the Yamuna River. There, he dug a hole in the ground and started living in it. In his sadness he didn't even go out for alms, but by the grace of the Lord, food would come to him of its own accord and he was able to survive.



Jeev Goswami continues seva in seclusion





Jeev Goswami ate very little of what came to him, and on many occasions he only drank a little flour mixed with water. Eventually, his stomach became distended from severe malnutrition, while his heart continued to burn in the fire of separation from his guru, and tears flowed endlessly from his eyes. But even in such dire circumstances, Jeev continued to perform intense guru seva through his writings, and his *bhajan* continued uninterrupted.

One day by Shri Krishn's will, Sanatan Goswami arrived in Nand Ghat. Whilst collecting *madhukari* (alms), he came to the door of a Brajwasi home and said, "Radhe Radhe!" At that moment, the lady of the house was busy spreading a mix of cow dung and clay on the ground in her courtyard. She thought to herself "Let me just quickly finish this task; then I will give him something to eat." But when the lady took some time to respond, Sanatan Goswami said, "Radhe Radhe" again. The lady got a little irritated and complained out loud, "God, this Baba, riding in on his high horse! He is so impatient. I like our Baba better. He doesn't even ask for anything. He's happy just to drink flour mixed in water."

When Sanatan Goswami heard this, he suddenly felt a strong pull within his heart to meet the "baba" of whom the lady had spoken. To his surprise he saw that the "baba" was his nephew, Jeev. As Jeev bowed at Sanatan's lotus feet, Sanatan was heartbroken to see the poor condition of Jeev's body. When Sanatan asked how Jeev had gotten into this situation, Jeev's response melted Sanatan's heart. He forced Jeev to come back with him to Vrindavan, and took him to see

Roop Goswami. Sanatan said to Roop, "Do you remember Mahaprabhu's instructions?"

Roop softly replied, "Yes, I always remember them."

"Mahaprabhu said, '*jeeve daya, naame ruchi, Vaishnav sevan*' (have mercy on all souls, maintain love and dedication for the Holy Name, and serve the Vaishnavs). When you have been instructed by him to shower mercy on all *jeevs* (souls), then why do you have so much anger towards this Jeev (Goswami)?" Sanatan Goswami placed Jeev at Roop's lotus feet. Roop could not hold back his tears, and immediately embraced Jeev.

## Legacy

After Roop and Sanatan disappeared from this world, Jeev and Gopal Bhatt Goswami were entrusted completely with the care and development of Shri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu's lineage. Countless souls were blessed by Jeev's teachings and written works. Many learned the scriptures from him and became *acharyas* themselves, spreading his teachings far and wide.

Shri Jeev Goswami's written works include the six *Sandarbh*s (written in conjunction with Shri Gopal Bhatt Goswami), *Kram Sandarbh*, *Durgamsangamani tika* on *Bhakti Rasamrit Sindhu*, *Shri Brahma Samhita tika*, *Shri Gopal Champu*, *Shri Madhav Mahotsav*, *Sarvasamvadini*, *Shri Gopal Virudavali* and others.





# Braj Animal Care



We found Bullet in the Gaura Nagar colony. There was damage to his face with swelling around the eyes. He was in a pretty bad shape. Someone beat him with a stick. We treated him for the risk of infection, inflammation, and parasites. He received a lot of TLC. But nothing can take away the trauma of what happened to him today.

If you would like to contribute to Braj Animal Care medical treatments, please scan the QR code below:



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Braj Animal Care with the injured dog

For more information about Braj Animal Care's programmes and services, please keep in touch with us via the following channels:

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## Maharajji's Latest Updates



### Shri Radharaman Premotsav: The Festival of Love!

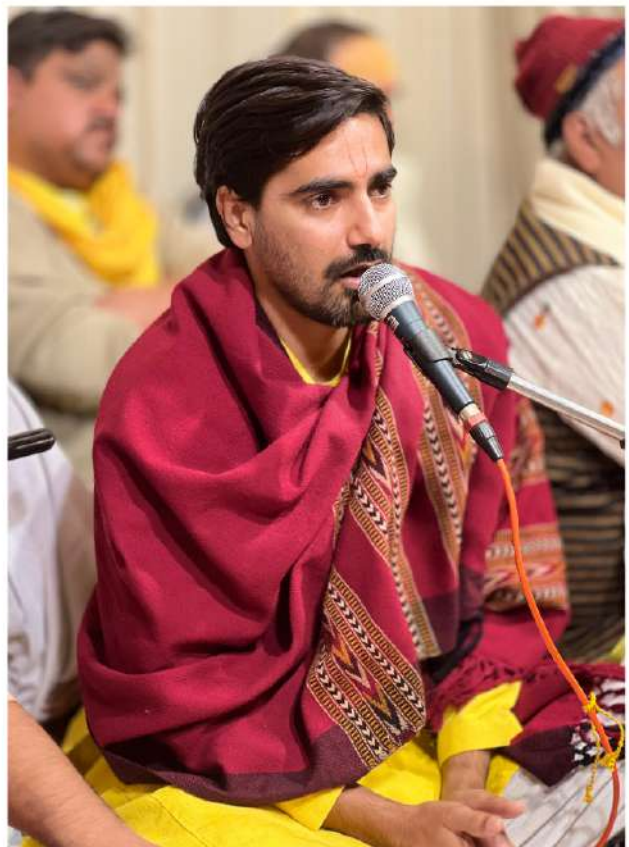
From 9<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> December 2023, Maharajji and his family served on Shri Radharaman Lal's altar at his temple in Vrindavan. Disciples and devotees from around the world travelled to Vrindavan to partake in the *seva* and have *darshan* of the divine couple. Special *kirtan* offerings were made daily which included *pads* in traditional *raags*. In the final days of Premotsav, Maharajji gave Bhramar Geet Katha in the *raas sthali* in front the of Radharaman temple.



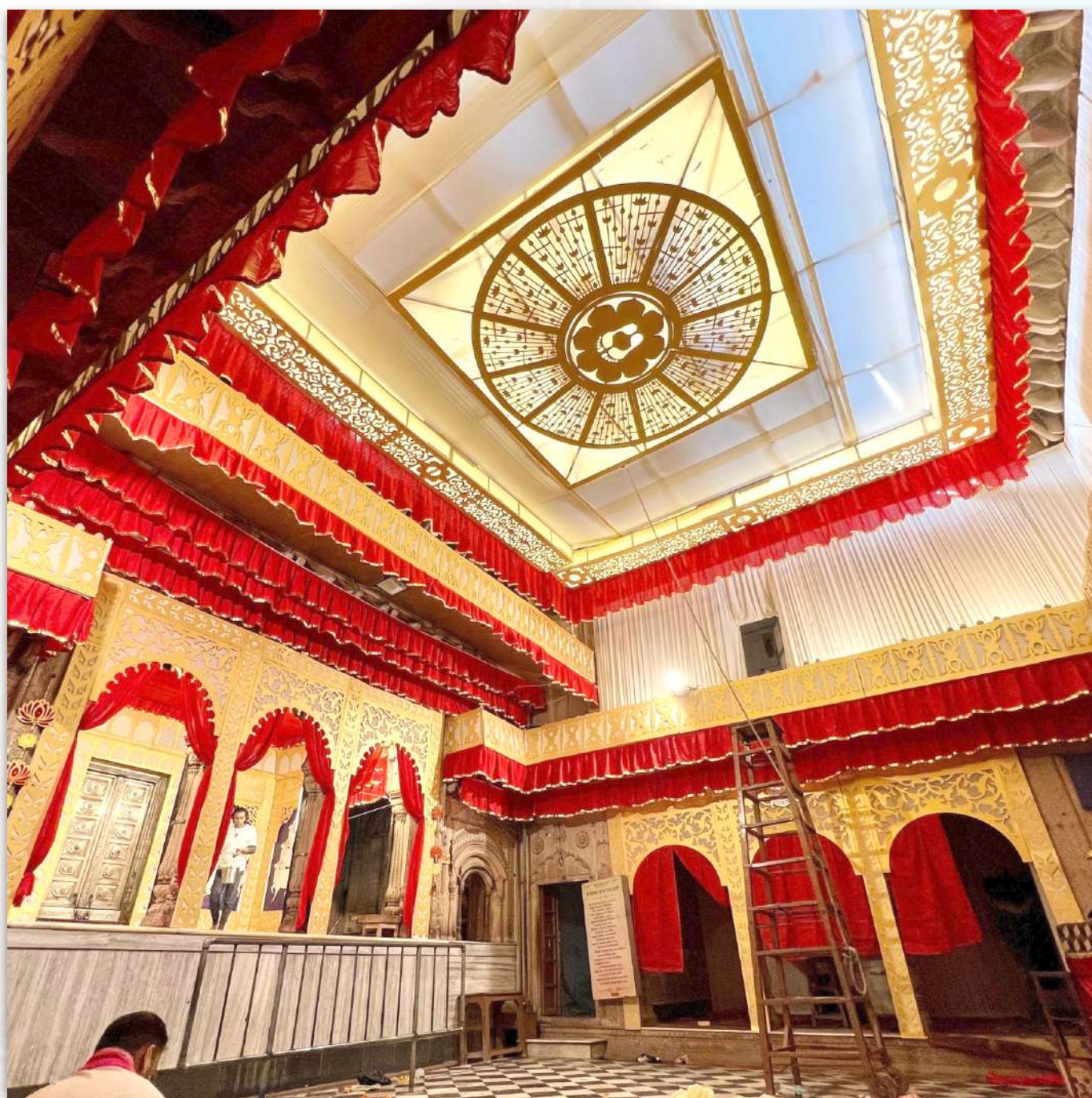












For more information about Maharajji's upcoming programmes, please contact us via the following channels:

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## Vaishnav Calendar

For upcoming festivals and Ekadashi dates, please click [here](#) to view our Vaishnav calendar.

