



UK PRASADI YATRA

Guidebook

UK PRASADI YATRA

Guidebook



BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha

UK PRASADI YATRA

Guidebook

Inspirer: His Holiness Pramukh Swami Maharaj

1st Edition: September 2015

Copyright: © BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be used or reproduced in any form of by any means without permission in writing from the publisher.



Published & Printed by

BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha, UK

BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir

105-119 Brentfield Road

Neasden, London NW01 8LD, UK

T: +44 (0)20 8965 2651

E: info@uk.baps.org

W: londonmandir.baps.org | baps.org

CONTENTS



1. Heathrow Airport



2. Petersham Meadows



3. Porchester Hall



4. QPR Football Stadium



5. Royal Albert Hall



6. Lambeth Town Hall



7. Putney Bridge



8. Lambeth Palace



9. Embankment



10. St James's Palace



11. Buckingham Palace



12. House of Commons



13. Dahyabhai D. Meghani's Office



14. Trafalgar Square



15. Piccadilly Circus



16. Bible House



25. Prahlabdhai's House



34. Harrow Leisure Centre



43. Wesley Hall



17. Durning Hall



26. Dollis Hill



35. Middlesex University



44. Leicester Mandir



18. Manubhai Patel's Warehouse



27. Ealing Road



36. Luton Mandir



45. Leicester Mandir (Second Mandir)



19. Fantaseas Water Park



28. Brent Town Hall



37. Woburn Safari Park



46. Trinity Church Hall



20. Nazeing



29. Copland Community School



38. Wellingborough Mandir



47. Centre Parcs



21. Friends House



30. Manor Drive



39. Rushden Countryside



48. Nottingham University



22. Islington Mandir



31. The Methodist Church



40. Bodleian Library



49. Ashton Mandir



23. Alexandra Palace



32. Wembley Conference Centre



41. Birmingham Mandir



50. Ashton Mandir (Second Mandir)



24. Fourways Residence



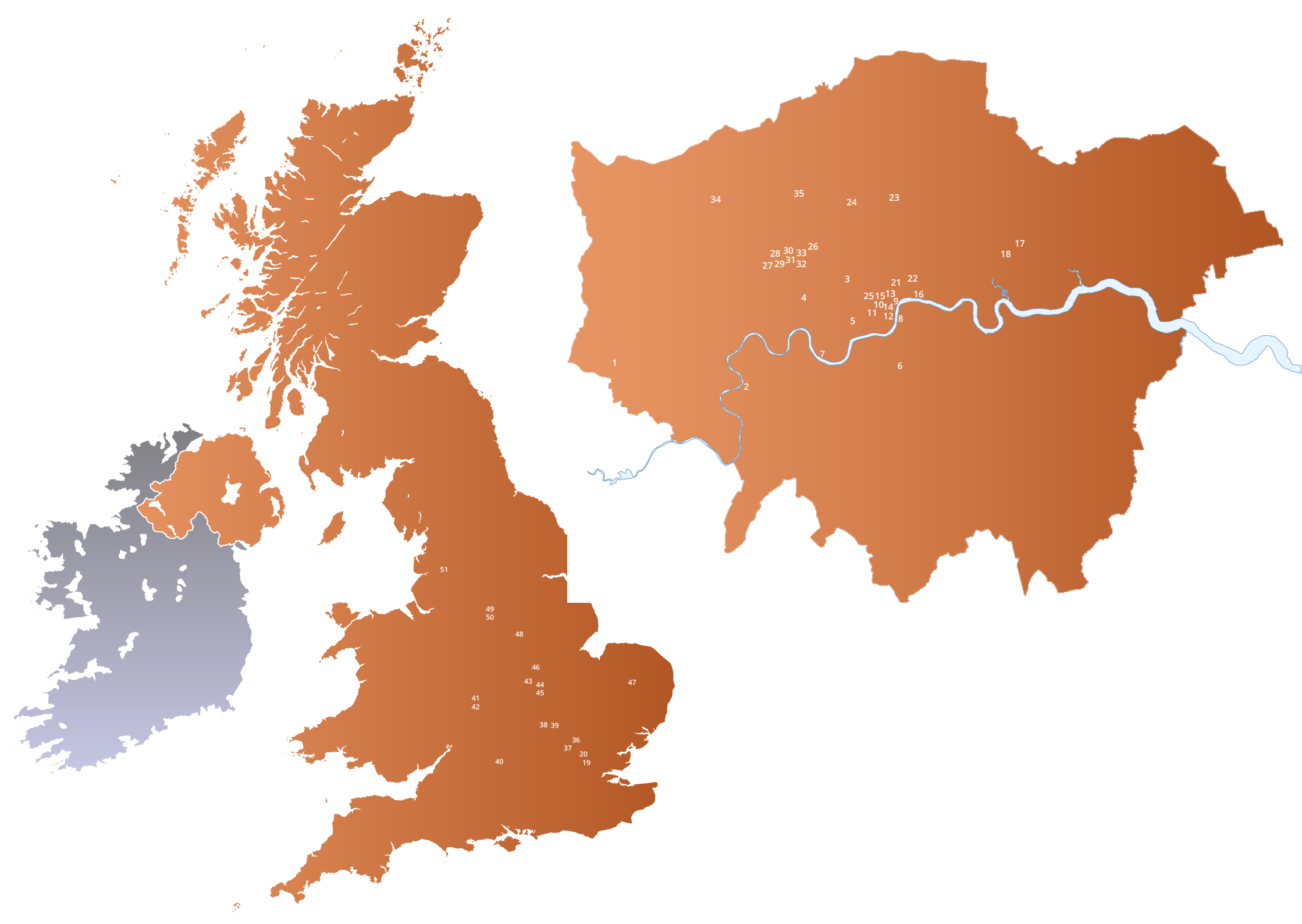
33. Wembley Arena



42. Birmingham Mandir (Second Mandir)



51. Preston Mandir



Introduction

In 1970, Brahaswarup Yogiji Maharaj and a group of 12 sadhus arrived in the UK from India. It was the first time that BAPS sadhus were visiting this country. During their one-and-half-month stay, Yogiji Maharaj inaugurated a mandir in Islington, North London – the first ever BAPS Swaminarayan mandir in the Western hemisphere – and also visited many parts of the UK to fulfil haribhaktas' wishes.

Between 1974 and 2007, Pramukh Swami Maharaj visited the UK 19 times. During these visits, he sanctified thousands of haribhaktas' homes and visited centres around the country.

On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of London Mandir, we are pleased to publish this booklet highlighting some of these places sanctified by Yogiji Maharaj and Pramukh Swami Maharaj. We pray that this guide will help you and your family complete an educational and enlightening yatra of these historical places to learn more about our inspiring gurus and Satsang in the UK.



1

Heathrow Airport

Nelson Road, London TW6 2GW



Yogiji Maharaj graced Europe for the first time on Saturday 23 May 1970, landing at Heathrow Airport at 4.44pm.

Pramukh Swami Maharaj has also used this airport on many of the occasions that he has visited the UK. One particularly memorable time was during his departure in 1988, where hundreds of haribhaktas, young and old, had gathered to see him off. The airport guards were astonished to see such reverence and emotion as everyone sang and jostled to get a glimpse of Swamishri. Eventually, an impromptu farewell sabha assembled in the terminal lounge, much to the continuing amazement of the airport staff.

3

Porchester Hall

Porchester Road, Baywater, London W2 5HS



In his blessings during the sabha here on 31 May 1970, Yogiji Maharaj said, "One should do darshan of God and his Sant. Then one would gain the merits of performing an Ashwamedha Yagna with each footstep. Therefore, do his samagam after understanding this mahima. Such an opportunity won't come again. Understand this otherwise you will regret it later."



2

Petersham Meadows

River Lane, Richmond, London TW10 7AG

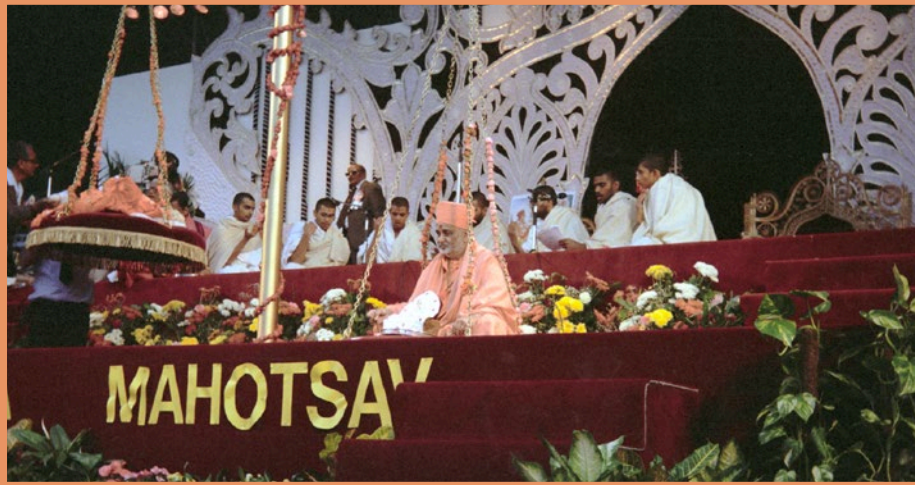


On Sunday 29 September 1974, Pramukh Swami Maharaj celebrated the Jal-Jhilani utsav on the River Thames in the presence of 1,200 devotees. Swamishri touched the water of the Thames five times with the image of Ganapati and performed five artis.

After bathing Harikrishna Maharaj, Swamishri said: "Yogiji Maharaj has sanctified the River Thames by bathing Harikrishna Maharaj in it. Doing darshan of God is a festival. Listening to holy discourses is a festival. Seeing the efforts of everyone, Maharaj will become pleased."



2. Petersham Meadows



4

QPR Football Stadium

South Africa Road, London W12 7PJ

The Suvarna Tula Mahotsav of Pramukh Swami Maharaj was held at Queen's Park Rangers football stadium on Saturday 20 July 1985.

The weather forecast was for rain. When the devotees prayed to Swamishri to bless the occasion with good weather, he said that he would pray to Maharaj. As it turned out, rain poured down around the whole area, except over QPR stadium.



5

Royal Albert Hall

Kensington Gore, London SW7 2AP



On Sunday 22 June 1980, over 5,000 people gathered at the Royal Albert Hall to attend the Bicentenary Celebrations of Bhagwan Swaminarayan. Pramukh Swami Maharaj was welcomed by various dignitaries and in his address to the audience, he said, "A simple and pious life free from addictions and vices, engaged in honest and noble pursuits, with love for mankind and devotion to God is the message of Bhagwan Swaminarayan."



7

Putney Bridge

Putney Bridge Approach, Wandsworth SW6 3JD



6

Lambeth Town Hall

Brixton Hill, London SW2 1RW



Yogiji Maharaj said in his blessings here on 2 June 1970, "We want the entire universe to engage in Satsang. It is the great fortune of this Brixton Town Hall. All the sins from anyone who has spoken wrongly here have been washed away."



Yogiji Maharaj learnt that the River Thames passes through the middle of the city of London. From that point, he had a desire to bathe Harikrishna Maharaj in the Thames and purify the river. Yogiji Maharaj said, "The River Thames has been performing austerities for many years."

On Sunday 28 June 1970, Yogiji Maharaj together with Thakorji and 300 devotees went to the bank of the River Thames near Putney Bridge. Seeing the dirty water, Ishwarcharan Swami said, "Bapa, what if we bathe Thakorji outside in clean water and then place that water in the Thames?"

Swamishri said, "We want to bathe him in the Thames itself. There can't be dirt in the water."

8

Lambeth Palace

Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1 7JU



Pramukh Swami Maharaj met the Head of the Church of England, Archbishop of Canterbury Dr Ramsey at Lambeth Palace on 10 September 1974.



10

St James's Palace

Marlborough Road, London SW1A 1BS



Pramukh Swami Maharaj met and blessed HRH The Prince of Wales, Prince Charles at his home in St James's Palace on Sunday 9 November 1997.



9

Embankment

Villiers St, London WC2N 6NS



The Nagar Yatra for Islington Mandir began at 9:45am on Sunday 14 June 1970 from Speaker's Corner in Hyde Park. Devotees from all over the country participated. A 40-strong band of the Royal Air Force accompanied the procession through the streets of Central London.

Dancing yuvaks followed the chariots, followed by Yogiji Maharaj and Pramukh Swami carrying Harikrishna Maharaj in a decorated car. The procession proceeded through Oxford Circus, Regent Street, Piccadilly Circus and Charing Cross before ending at the Embankment, from where Yogiji Maharaj and the devotees headed to Islington to perform the murti pratishtha ceremony.

11

Buckingham Palace

Buckingham Palace Road, City of London SW1 1AA



Pramukh Swami Maharaj met and blessed and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Philip at his home in Buckingham Palace on Monday 10 November 1997.



12

House of Commons

St Margarets Street, London SW1A 0AA



On Thursday 28 April 1988, for the first time in history, an Indian religious leader, Pramukh Swami Maharaj, was honoured by Members of Parliament in the House of Commons. A 75-minute assembly was held in which Swamishri's work was praised by several distinguished MPs, thanking him for blessing the UK with spirituality and culture.

Bernard Weatherill, Speaker of the House of Commons, said, "I am the speaker of the House, but Swamishri is the Speaker of God."



13

Dahyabhai D. Meghani's Office

Leicester Square, London WC2



On arriving in London, Dahyabhai Meghani, Mahendrabhai 'Barrister', Chandubhai, Maganbhai and others started to meet on a regular basis in Meghani's office in Leicester Square. Before a simple murti of Akshar-Purushottam Maharaj, they did katha-varta and goshti. That, in effect, became the first Satsang sabha in the UK, having formally established the UK Satsang Mandal on 1 June 1953.



14

Trafalgar Square

City of Westminster, London WC2N 5DN

Upon seeing the fountains at Trafalgar Square in 1970, Yogiji Maharaj said, "Maharaj please bathe! Swami please bathe!"

Once, during the katha, Yogiji Maharaj said, "There are fountains everywhere, but one cannot find fountains like the ones they have in London."



15

Piccadilly Circus

City of Westminster, London W1D 7ET

On Friday 18 August 1995, over 12,000 devotees gathered at Hyde Park Corner for the Nagar Yatra to mark the opening of the new shikharbaddha mandir in Neasden, London.

Meanwhile, Pramukh Swami Maharaj graced a high decorated dais under the statue of Eros at Piccadilly Circus from where he could bless the entire procession. The devotees who had no inkling of this arrangement were elated to see him as they passed. Swamishri's presence added joy to an already ecstatic Nagar Yatra. To the huge throngs of tourists and bystanders, the scene was mesmerising.

Swamishri sat quietly, hands joined in prayer, watching the parade move past him down to Trafalgar Square where it would come to a halt. As the last floats moved by, he instructed Brahmavihari Swami, "Make sure you feed the pigeons in Trafalgar Square. Don't forget, scatter handful upon handful." In characteristic love, Swamishri did not forget even the pigeons of London.



16

Bible House

146 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4BY



During his visit to the Bible House on 29 June 1974, Pramukh Swami Maharaj said, "We all need religious values in our lives. We must aspire to mould our lives as per God's wish."

Swamishri signed the guest book expressing his gratitude and invited members of the Bible Society to the Swaminarayan mandirs in India.



17

Durning Hall

Earlham Grove, London E7 9AB



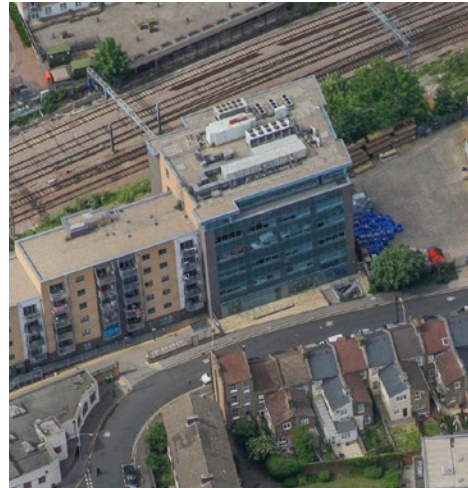
On 30 May 1970, a sabha was held in Durning Hall, East London. Yogiji Maharaj said in his blessings, "This hall has been sanctified. Maharaj will bless whoever sits or speaks in this hall."



18

Manubhai Patel's Warehouse

Grove Crescent Road, Stratford, London E15



On 10 November 1977, the Annakut festival was held in the presence of Pramukh Swami Maharaj at a warehouse belonging to Manubhai Patel in Stratford (next to the current Olympic Stadium). It was the first festival to be held outside Islington mandir.

Youths had spent six weeks cleaning, painting, repairing and building the stage. Almost 4,000 people attended the celebrations.

(Converted to a block of flats)

19

Fantaseas Water Park

New Road, Chingford, Essex E4 9EY



Towards the end of his stay in London, Swamishri delighted yuvaks with breathtaking memories at 'Fantaseas Water Park', in September 1991, spraying the crowd with sanctified water from the swimming pool. Young and old were drenched in his love and left with a lifetime of memories.

(Since closed down and re-opened as Larkwood Leisure Centre)

20

Nazeing

Back Lane, Waltham Abbey, Essex EN9



The first ever Kishore Mandal shibir was held at the home of Mr Cohen in Nazeing, Essex in the presence of Pramukh Swami Maharaj from 30 August to 1 September 1990. Over 50 fortunate kishores received this memorable labh, which included a Suvarna Tula of Harikrishna Maharaj.



21

Friends House

173-177 Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ



On Sunday 7 August 1977, a grand kirtan aradhana was held at Friends House, Euston, London. In the divine atmosphere, Pramukh Swami Maharaj said, "Devotional songs purify the mind."

Swamishri, in his sweet melodious voice, followed his blessings with Devanand Swami's kirtan "Darad mitāyā merā dilakā..." explaining the importance of a spiritual master to cure the ills of the soul.

During the 1980s, many evening sabhas took place here in the presence of Pramukh Swami Maharaj.

22

Islington Mandir

77 Elmore Street, Islington, London N1 3AQ



This property which is currently a nursery was originally a church. It was up put for sale in 1970 for £13,500. The Mandal in London placed an offer for £9,500. One night, Yogiji Maharaj gave darshan to Jayantibhai in a dream and said, "In order to transform the church into a mandir, you will obtain it for £9,000 tomorrow." This is exactly what happened. The church committee agreed to sell the property for £9,000.

Swamishri had said that there would be a three-fold increase in the number of devotees. He said that they should work with samp and suhradaybhav.

After the murti pratishtha on Sunday 14 June 1970, Yogiji Maharaj said in his blessings, "Maharaj will fulfil all our wishes, those of this world and of the world beyond. He will not only fulfil the wishes of this world, but also enable one to attain Akshardham hereafter."

Once Yogiji Maharaj said, "Name the street of the mandir as 'Swaminarayan Elmore Street'. That way there is their name and our name as well."

Yogiji Maharaj used to say, "Everyone should come daily to the mandir for darshan. Everyone should make it a point to come on Sunday. One should buy land near the mandir. Get together in the evenings and do katha."



Alexandra Palace

Alexandra Palace Way, London N22 7AY

On Sunday 9 June 1974, a grand reception was held at Alexandra Palace to honour Pramukh Swami Maharaj for his first visit to the UK as the Guru. Almost 4,000 devotees and a Royal Air Force musical band participated in the welcoming ceremony.

Fondly called 'Ally Pally', the adjacent grounds, Alexandra Park, was also the venue for the month-long Cultural Festival of India celebrated in 1985 from 16 July to 16 August.

On 5 August 1985, Pramukh Swami Maharaj also gave labh here of celebrating the Suvarna Tula again, especially for the volunteers who had missed the original utsav at QPR stadium due to their seva at the CFI grounds.



24

Fourways Residence

25 Bishops Avenue, Finchley, London N2 0BN

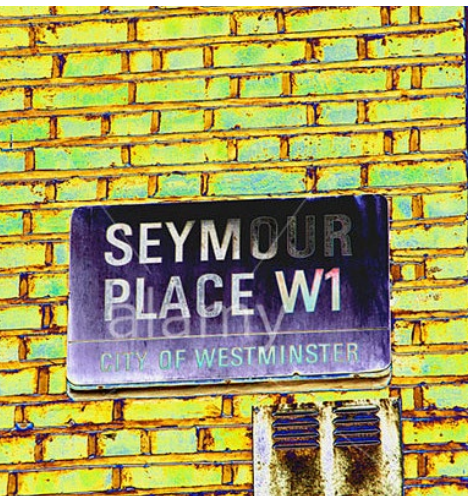


Pramukh Swami Maharaj's residence during his vicharan to the UK in 1974 was at Fourways, Finchley. It was a magnificent house situated in a wonderful location, where large numbers of devotees would visit daily for Swamishri's darshan and samagam.

25

Prahladbhai's House

Seymour Place, London W1H



Saturday evening sabhas began at Prahladbhai Patel's house in Seymour Place near Baker Street station in 1958. The annual Annakut festival was also celebrated here for several years.

26

Dollis Hill

69 Ellesmere Road, Dollis Hill, London NW10 1LH

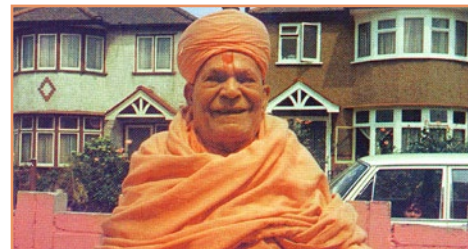


During his visit in 1970, Yogiji Maharaj stayed at the house of Arvindbhai Patel (affectionately called 'Arvind Guru'). Arvindbhai bought the property specifically for Swamishri's visit and renovated it to ensure all of Swamishri's needs could be met.

On 23 May 1970, Yogiji Maharaj reached Arvindbhai's house from the airport. Swamishri's wheelchair was in one of the cars yet to arrive, so Arvindbhai said, "Bapa, please sit and wait. The wheelchair is coming in one of the cars." Swamishri replied, "It will be fine. I won't need the wheelchair." The sadhus insisted. But Swamishri remained firm. "I want to step down and sanctify the land of London." Having said this, Yogiji Maharaj stepped down and walked into the house.

One night Yogiji Maharaj said, "We should call this 'Akshar Hill' and not 'Dollis Hill'."

Once Yogiji Maharaj also said, "Arvindbhai bought the house so we came. If the house had not been bought, then we would not have come. His house has become Akshardham."



27

Ealing Road

Wembley, London HA0



On Sunday 20 July 1980, the festival marking the foundation stone ceremony of the new hari mandir in Neasden, London was celebrated with a grand procession through the streets of Wembley, North London.

During the procession, Pramukh Swami Maharaj was seated on an elephant with Harikrishna Maharaj on his lap. A short while later, it began to rain and an umbrella was passed to Swamishri. He instinctively used the umbrella to cover Thakorji while he himself was drenched.



29

Copland Community School

Cecil Ave, London HA9 7DU



During the final weeks before the opening of the new London Mandir in August 1995, puja darshan and satsang sabhas in the presence of Pramukh Swami Maharaj were held at Copland Community School in Wembley, London.

28

Brent Town Hall

Forty Lane, Wembley HA9 9HD



The main assembly to celebrate Yogiji Maharaj's birth anniversary was held at this hall on Monday 1 June 1970.

During his blessings, Swamishri said, "We have a public assembly in London today. All the muktas and 500 paramhansas have come. Shriji Maharaj and Shastriji Maharaj have given blessings that London Mandal be happy through health, mind and wealth. Maharaj will offer protection. It is our blessings today that everyone lives according to our Hindu values."



30

Manor Drive

7 Manor Drive, Wembley HA9 8EB



Satsang sabhas were held in the late 1960s at 7 Manor Drive, Wembley, which, at the time, belonged to Chittaranjan P. Patel. During Yogiji Maharaj's visit in 1970, Pramukh Swami and a few sadhus stayed at this house.

31

The Methodist Church

Park Lane, Wembley HA9 7SG



Yogiji Maharaj said in the sabha here on 25 May 1970, "Let the whole of Europe prosper. There will be a large mandir in the future. The government will give the land and we will make a mandir on it. How great must be the merits of this land be that we are speaking in this hall? It has become a pilgrimage place even though it is rented."



33

Wembley Arena

Arena Square, Engineers Way, London HA9 0AA



The centennial celebrations of BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha for the UK and Europe were held at one of London's most prestigious venues, Wembley Arena, on Sunday 7 October 2007 in the presence of Pramukh Swami Maharaj.

The programme was witnessed by almost 12,000 invited guests and dignitaries. Thousands also gathered at BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir in Neasden, who watched via a live telecast, while many more from around the world enjoyed the live webcast.



32

Wembley Conference Centre

Stadium Way, London HA9 0DW



On Sunday 19 June 1977, Pramukh Swami Maharaj attended a sabha at the Wembley Conference Centre in London. The air conditioning unit was blowing cold air and in those freezing conditions, Swamishri sat for five hours from 4pm to 9pm.

Pramukh Swami Maharaj hosted the World Religions Conference here on 5-6 July 1980. Sabhas in the presence of Swamishri were also held at this hall in 1980.

Some of the adhiveshan competitions in that year took place at this venue. It has since been demolished, making way for the wider regeneration of Wembley on Empire Way, near to where the new Wembley Stadium currently stands.

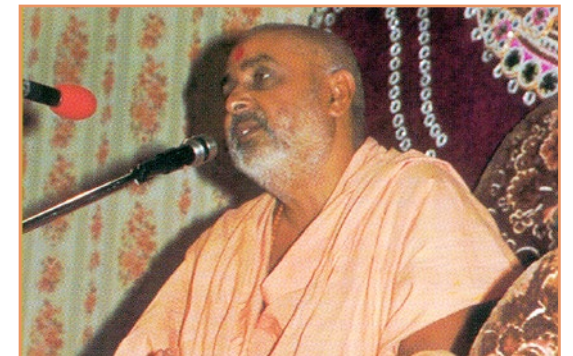
34

Harrow Leisure Centre

Christchurch Avenue, Harrow HA3 5BD



Viveksagar Swami conducted a seven-day parayan here on the Shrimad Bhagwat Puran in the presence of Pramukh Swami Maharaj in 1980.



35

Middlesex University

The Burroughs, London NW4 4BT



Pramukh Swami Maharaj celebrated the Annakut festival at one of the halls of this university on Sunday 9 November 1980.

37

Woburn Safari Park

Crawley Road, Milton Keynes, Bedford MK17 9QN



Pramukh Swami Maharaj visited Woburn Safari Park in August 1990 during his four-month vicharan that year.



36

Luton Mandir

39 Crescent Road, Luton LU2 OAH



Following Yogiji Maharaj's blessings given in Luton in 1970, Pramukh Swami Maharaj inaugurated the new BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir in Luton on Sunday 9 May 2004. Amid Vedic ceremonies, he ritually consecrated the murtis of Akshar-Purushottam Maharaj, Radha Krishna Dev, the Guru Parampara, Hanumanji and Ganapatiji.



38

Wellingborough Mandir

2-22 Mill Road, Wellingborough NN8 1PE



On Saturday 30 July 1977 (Shravan Sud Punam; Raksha Bandhan), Pramukh Swami Maharaj inaugurated a new mandir in Wellingborough, the third BAPS Swaminarayan mandir to be consecrated in a short span of 15 days. In the presence of Swamishri, the pictorial murtis of Akshar-Purushottam, Radha-Krishna and the Guru Parampara were taken out in a grand procession through the streets of Wellingborough.

What began with two houses made way for a few more properties, which were then followed with a completely new building that opened on 23 August 2009.

39

Rushden Countryside

280 Bedford Road, Rushden, Northants NN10 0SE



The Yuvak Mandal travelled to Mukeshbhai Pabari's house in Rushden for a mini-shibir in the presence of Pramukh Swami Maharaj on 26-27 August 1990. The vast open countryside adjacent to the property provided plenty of opportunities for sporting activities. Swamishri gave memorable darshan to the devotees by participating in various sports.



41

Birmingham Mandir

Ivor Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham B11 4NR



On 23 September 1990, Pramukh Swami Maharaj opened this 'Satsang Bhavan' in Birmingham.

40

Bodleian Library

Broad Street, Oxford OX1 3BG



Yogiji Maharaj often said that Bhagwan Swaminarayan came in a divine form to collect Sir John Malcolm on his death-bed. At their meeting in Rajkot on 26 February 1830, Bhagwan Swaminarayan had presented a copy of the Shikshapatri to the Governor of Bombay, Sir John Malcolm. Governor Malcolm brought this sacred Shikshapatri back with him to London and it was said to be later discovered in the Indian Institute of the Bodleian Library in Oxford. Pramukh Swami Maharaj visited the library on 21 July 1980 and held the Shikshapatri in his hands.



42

Birmingham Mandir (Second Mandir)

75 Pitmaston Road, Hall Green, Birmingham B28 9PP



Due to the growth of Satsang in Birmingham, and with the blessings of Pramukh Swami Maharaj, a new site was purchased in July 2002. The same murtis that were consecrated by Swamishri in 1990 were moved to the new premises in a special ceremony on 18 April 2004.

43

Wesley Hall

76 Hartington Road, Leicester LE2 0GN



A Satsang sabha was held in this hall in the presence of Yogiji Maharaj on 6 June 1970.

45

Leicester Mandir (Second Mandir)

3 St. James Street, Leicester LE1 3SU



The second mandir in Leicester was opened by Pramukh Swami Maharaj in 1980. Devotees worshipped here from 1980 to 2011 until the third mandir was opened at Gipsy Lane on Sunday 9 October 2011.



44

Leicester Mandir

148 Doncaster Road, Leicester LE4 6FB



Satsang had been established in Leicester following Yogiji Maharaj's visit in 1970, and further consolidated by Pramukh Swami Maharaj's vicharan in 1974. The local devotees were inspired by Swamishri to search for a place to worship.

On the morning of Sunday 24 July 1977, Pramukh Swami Maharaj joined 60 devotees in the yagna ceremony, before consecrating the murtis of Akshar and Purushottam at the new mandir in Leicester on 148 Doncaster Road, the third BAPS Swaminarayan mandir in the UK.

46

Trinity Church Hall

Royland Road, Loughborough LE11 2EH



A Satsang sabha was held in this hall in the presence of Yogiji Maharaj on 6 June 1970.

47

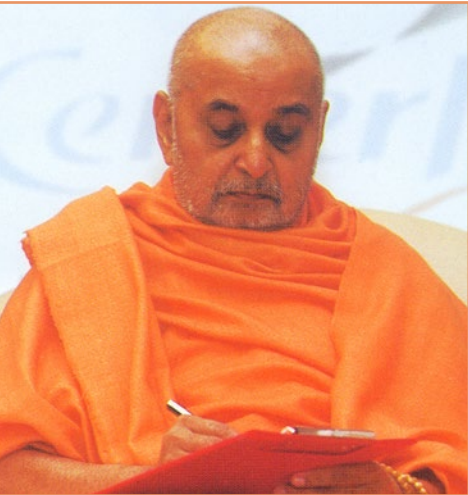
Center Parcs

Elveden Forest, Brandon, Suffolk IP27 0YZ



A three-day national Kishore-Kishori Mandal shibir was held from 27 to 30 June 2000 in the serene surroundings of Center Parcs, Elveden Forest and the divine presence of Pramukh Swami Maharaj. The theme was 'Aap Rijo Em Raji'.

Out of deep concern for his beloved kishores and kishoris, Swamishri spoke for more than 75 minutes in the opening session, pouring out his heart to all those present. The entire shibir left the kishores and kishoris with lifelong memories.



48

Nottingham University

Nottingham NG7 2RD



Between 25 and 27 June 2000, more than a thousand yuvaks, yuvatis, balaks and balikas gathered for a Family Shibir at Nottingham University in the presence of Pramukh Swami Maharaj.

The theme of the Yuva Shibir was 'Aap Rijo em Raji', while the theme of the Bal Shibir was 'Mare Swamine Raji Karva ja Chhe'. Both young and old left with unforgettable experiences through a variety of Satsang-based activities and interactions with Swamishri.



49

Ashton Mandir

35 Cowhill Lane, Ashton-under-Lyne OL6 6HJ

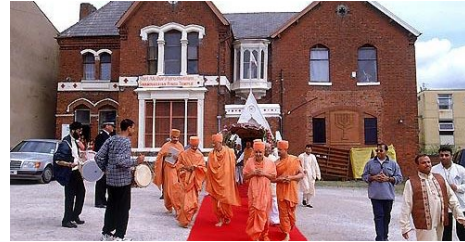


On Saturday 16 July 1977, almost six years after the Satsang Mandal had begun with a handful of devotees, Pramukh Swami Maharaj opened a small hari mandir in Ashton-under-Lyne, near Manchester. The murtis that Yogiji Maharaj had originally consecrated in Islington in 1970 were consecrated at these premises on Cowhill Lane following a yagna ceremony at the Indian Association Hall.

51

Preston Mandir

8 Avenham Place, Preston PR4 3RQ



The devotees of Preston had transformed a Jewish synagogue into a mandir. On Saturday 21 April 1984, Pramukh Swami Maharaj performed the murti pratishtha of Dham, Dhama and Mukta here, making this the UK's fifth hari mandir.



Over 4,000 devotees had arrived from all over England, and Lancashire Radio reporter Ronald Clarke recorded the full Vedic ceremony. Finally, he asked Swamishri to address the people of Lancashire. Swamishri blessed all by saying, "Today the images have been consecrated here in Preston. May everyone experience peace, worship God, and become happy. We pray to God to shower his blessings upon everyone and for peace to prevail in society and the world."

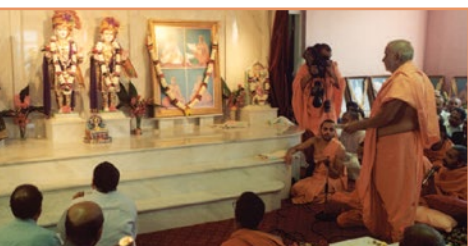
50

Ashton Mandir (Second Mandir)

29 Russell Street, Ashton-under-Lyne OL6 9QS



The growth of Satsang in Ashton led to the need for larger premises in 1980 where devotees continued to worship the murtis that had been originally consecrated in Islington. After the entire premises were refurbished in 1994, Pramukh Swami Maharaj consecrated the marble images of Akshar-Purushottam and Radha-Krishna on 14 August 1994.



The day before the murti pratishtha ceremony, the murtis were paraded in a Nagar Yatra through the streets of Ashton. On the day of the pratishtha, Pramukh Swami Maharaj said as part of his blessings, "Shriji Maharaj has been consecrated with his abode. Now we have to please him with devotion."



Inspirer: His Holiness Pramukh Swami Maharaj

BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir
— LONDON —