

Chaitri Poonam

Bhav Siddhachal Yatra

*"Tirthrajam Namaskritya Shree Siddhachalsamgyakam;
Chaitrishuklapurnimayah, Vyakhyanam kriyate maya"*

It means I bow down & salute before the greatest pilgrimage place amongst all the pilgrimage places in the world and describe then, an importance of Chaitri poonam, the fifteenth day of bright half of Gujarati month Chaitra, which falls today.

Chaitri Poonam – The 15th day of the bright half of the Gujarati month of Chaitra and also the last day of the Chaitri Mass Ayambil. This Poonam is considered very auspicious because it increases good merits and several devout lives attained Moksha on this day on the sacred Giriraj Shatrunjaya (Palitana).

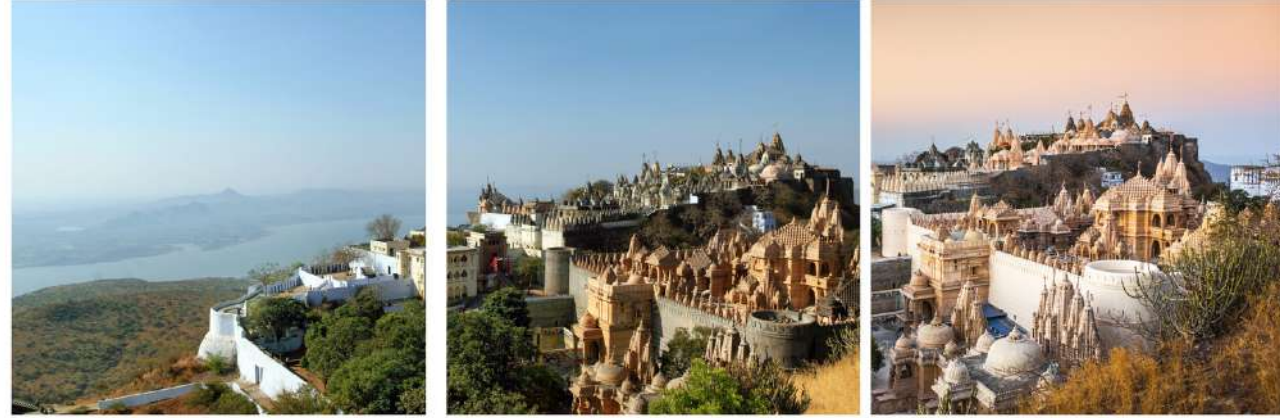
- Nami and Vinami, two sons of Bhagwan Rishbhdev also achieved Moksha on this day here with 2 crore sadhu (monks)
- The First Ghandhar of Adinatha Bhagwan, Pundarikswami, attained liberation on Shatrunjaya along with 5 crore (50million) monks. Pundrik's original name was Rishabhasen and he was the son of Bharat Chakravarti and grandson of Adinatha Bhagwan.



Gahuli by Hansha Shah
Poonam Bhav Siddhachal Yatra
at South London, Mahajanwadi



Chaitri Poonam *Bhav Siddhachal Yatra*



Pilgrimage as a spiritual practice is common for most religions. Unlike other religions, pilgrimage for Jains can be either physical or mental and both are considered as spiritually merit worthy. Mental pilgrimage is codified in Jainism and is known as “Bhava Yatra”. Many Jains all over the world do “Bhava Yatra” on auspicious days like Chaitri & Kartik Poonam, which are of great significance to all Jains.

During these Bhav Yatras, it is customary to display a large wall hanging made of cloth painting, depicting Shatrunjaya in a stylised manner. This type of cloth painting is known as a Pata and is a form of western Indian art popular since at least the 17th century. Patas depict images of Jain universe, other pilgrimages sites and major temples. Patas depicting Shatrunjaya are very popular and are known as Shatrunjaya Patas.

The Pata is a point of focus of concentration for the Bhava Yatra and also, surrogates for the physical journey of the yatra.

Bhava Yatra done sincerely with a pure heart is considered by our Guru Bhagwants to be the highest form of pilgrimage. Bhava Yatra ritual usually takes about 3- 3.5 hours, however it is surprising how quickly the times flies. It is a very joyous & spiritually uplifting occasion.

It’s our minds’ nature to be preoccupied by hundred & one thoughts all the time, how nice is it then, to quieten it for a while whilst engrossed in bhakti and devotion.

