

Bhav Yatra

Poonam - Bhav Siddhachal 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.

For Jains, Poonam is an auspicious day, when many Jains undertake religious activities like fasting and going on a pilgrimage (Yatra). Two Poonama of great significance to all Jains is Chaitri Poonam and Kartik Poonam. On these days as well as on other Poonam days during the year, many Jains residing in India, go to Shatrunjaya to do Yatra. Nowadays, with quick flights, people can do this as a day event.

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 as well as the other Poonams during the year

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 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.

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The Bhava Yatra ritual, as done by us at home, consist of doing chaityavandan, reciting meaningful stutis, bhakti – singing stavans.

1. Recite stuti

2. **Perform Agrapuja** which is dhooppuja, deepakpuja, akshatpuja, naivedyapuja, falpuja.

3. Bhaavpuja

First chaityavandan highlights our wish to go to Shatrunjaya to do Yatra Navanu. This is referenced to Adinatha Bhagwan who is said to have done pilgrimages to Shatrunjaya 99 purva times, delivering sermons on each occasion. Most people who mention this figure, are not really aware what it actually means. Since one Purva is equal to 70.56 trillion, it means that Adinatha Bhagwan did this pilgrimage 6985.44 trillion times, which is an unimageable number. However, as he is said to have lived 8.4million purva years, the frequency of his said visits in comparison to his life span pales into insignificance.

Anyone doing Navanu yatra are obliged to do chaityavandan at five locations on the main route to the main temple of Adinatha on the summit of Shatrunjaya, during every single pilgrimage. Some doing a normal yatra also try do these five chaityavandans. In our Bhava Yatra, we do these five chaityavandans, imagining we are at each location.



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A: Jay Taleti -“(praising the foot)” marks the beginning of the climb to the summit. The Taleti rock represents the eternal, scared mountain and is said to represent the feet of the first Jina. Previously it was known as “Manmohan Paag” but after performing chaityvandan here, pilgrims used to chant “ Bolo Adisvara Bhagavana Ki Jaya” and thus due to the word Jaya it is now known as Jaya Taleti. Over the course of time, location of this Taleti has changed five times as the mountain has become smaller and smaller. First Taleti was at Vadnagar, near present day Taranga Hills, then Vallabhipur. Third Taleti was Ghetipag – Aadpur. It is said Adinatha Bhagwan climbed from here. Fourth – Old Taleti in Palitana City near the Kankubhai Dharamshala. Lastly present day Jay Taleti.

B: In our Bhava Yatra, we have now reached the main temple compound on the summit of Shatrunjaya and the next chaityavandan is dedicated to Shantinath Bhagwan – the 16th Tirthankara. He is said to have spent eight rainy reasons here and apart from Adinatha Bhagwan, believed to have visited Shatrunjaya more often then the other 22 Tirthankaras.

C: The third chaityavandan is dedicated to Rayan Pagla. This is where Adinatha Bhagwan delivered his 1st sermon. Today, at this place there are footprints of Adinatha Bhagwan under a Rayan Tree. I read that this Rayan Tree is shasvat as well.



D: The fourth chaityavandan is dedicated to Pundarikswami. As mentioned before he was the grandson and 1st Ganadhar of Adinatha Bhagwan and the first to attain salvation on Shatrunjaya.

E: In our Bhava Yatra, we have now reached the main temple called Dadanu Derasar where the Mulnayak is of Adinatha Bhagwan . The fifth chaityavandan is dedicated to Adinatha Bhagwan.

4. Next we do Khamasamnas – All present together recite 21 Doohas – short poetic verses – which eulogise the glory of Shatrunjaya.

There are 108 names of Shatrunjaya.

The verses highlight either facts, stories, or souls who have attained salvation associated with 21 names of Shatrunjaya. Like :-

- **Adinatha Bhagwan** grandson and 1st ganadhar – Pundarikswami along with 5 crore sadhus attained salvation here – hence the name Pundrikgiri
- Verse extols the size and importance of Shatrunjaya -hence the name **Mahagiri**
- **The Pandavas** and other infinite souls have attained salvation on Shatrunjaya – hence the name **Siddha Shetra**
- **Simandharswami** conveys the importance of Shatrunjaya to Indra giving rise to the name Indra Prakash
- As it is an everlasting Tirth, it is also known as **Shasvat Giri**.

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In each verse, we also recite that we are fortunate to have been born as Manushya, to get Jain Dharam and to be born in a Uttam Kud. From a Jain perspective, we are truly blessed, although, we may not always appreciate it.

Then give a Khamasamnas before reciting the next verse. We do Khamasamnas 21 times.

5. Recite stuti dedicated to Saraswatimata

6. Perform the seventh and last chaityavandan dedicated to Dada Adishwar. In the last stavan, we recall all the derasars, deris, dev and devis en route from Taleti right up to the top include Nav Took. It is quite detailed. We also recall many other tirths. In the last stuti, Adinatha Bhagwan is telling Bharat – whoever comes to Shatrunjaya Gir will shed their pap and even “Pashu Panki” – birds who come to Shatrunjaya will attain Moksha in their 3rd birth.

7. Aarti & Mangal Divo.

8. Recite Moti Shanti

END OF RITUAL



BY KISHOR B SHAH



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Poonam Bhav Siddhachal Yatra has taken place at South London, Mahajawadi regularly at each Poonam for the past 25-30 years.

Shatrunjaya

“Whatever purity may be obtained in any other artificial places of pilgrimage, through tours and by climbing mountains, or by prayers, vows, gifts and study, ten fold of that is obtained in Jain places of pilgrimages, a hundred fold as much as Chaityas of the Jambu tree, a thousand fold as much as the Eternal Dhatuk tree, ten fold more may be acquired at Nandavara; infinitely more, however is obtained at once by the mere sight of Shatrunjaya”

JAM KINCHI NÄMA-TITTHAM SUTRA

Jam kinchi näma-tittham, sagge päyäli mänuse loe. Jäim jina-bimbäim, täim savväim vandämi.

This sutra reveres all the Jain places of pilgrimage and the idols of all Tirthankar Bhagwan existing anywhere in the heavens, in the lower realm of the universe, and in the middle section of the universe, commonly known as Manushya Lok





FIRST CHAITYAVANDAN OF JAY TALETI

Shree Shatrunjaya siddhakshetra,
dithe durgati vare; Bhav dhari ne je
chadhhe, Tene bhav par utare. 1
Anata siddhano ahe thham, Sakal
tirthno ray; Pruva navanu Rushabhdev,
Jyain thavia prabhupay. 2
Surajkund sohamano kavadjaksha
abhiram; Nabhiraya kul mandano,
Jinvar karun pranam. 3

STUTI

Shri Siddhachal Mandan, Rushabha
jinande dayale, Marudevanandana,
Vandan karu trunkala. A tirth jani,
purvanavanu var, Adishwara avya, jani
labha apar.



**SECOND CHAITYAVANDAN
OF SHREE SHANTINATH BHAGWAN**

Shanti jineshwar solama, Achirasut
vando, Vishwasenkul nabhomani,
Bhavijan sukh kando. 1
Mruglanchhan jin aukhun, Lakh varas
praman, Hatthinaur nayari dhani,
prabhuli gun manikhan. 2
Chalis dhanushani dehadia,
Samchoras santhan, Vadan padma
jyu chandalo, Dithe param kalyan. 3

STUTI

Shanti Jineshwar Samrie, Jeni Achira
May, Vishvasen Kul Upanyo,
Mrug Lanchhan Pay; Gajpuri Nayarino
Dhani, Kanchan Varani Chhe Kaya,
Dhanush Chalishvar dehdi,
Lakh Varasnu Aya.



**THIRD CHAITYAVANDAN
OF RAYAN PAGLA**

Eh Giri Upar Adidev, Prabhu Pratima
Vando, Rayan Hethe Paduka, Pujine
Anando. 1 Eh Girini mahima Anant, Kun
kare Vakhan, Chaitri Punamne Dine, Teh
Adhiko Jan. 2 Eh Tirth Sevo Sada, Ani
Bhaktidhar Shree Shatrunjay Sukhdayko,
Dan Vijay Jaykar. 3

STUTI

Shree Shatrunjay Adijin Avaya, Purva
Navanu Varji, Anant Labh Ihan Jinvar
Jani, Samosarya Nirdharji;
Vimalgirivar Mahima Moto, Sidhdhachal
Ine Thamji, Kankare Kankare Ananta
Shidhya, Ekso Ne Ath Giri Namji





FOURTH CHAITYVANDAN OF SHREE PUNDARIK SWAMI

Adishwar Jinrayni, Gandhar Gunvant,
Pragat Nam Pundrik Jas, Mahimae
Mahant. 1 Panch Kodi Munind Sath,
Ansan Tihan Kidh, Shukla Dhyan Dhyata
Amal, Kewal var lidh. 2

Chaitri Punamne Dine E, Pamyapa Pad
Mahanand, Te Dinthi Pundarik Giri, Nam
Dan Shkhland. 3

STUTI

Pundarik Mandan Pay Pranmi Je,
Adjshwar Jinchandaji, Nem Vina Trevish
Tirthakar, Giri Chadhiya Anandiji;
Agam Mahen Pundarik Mahima,
Bhakhyo Gyan Dinandaji,
Chaitri Punam Din Devi Chakkesari,
Saubhagya Dyo Sukhandaji



FIFTH CHAITYAVANDAN OF ADINATH BHAGWAN

Adidev Alveshru, Vinitani Ray,
Nabhiraya kul Mandano, Marudeva May. 1
Panchse Dhanushni Dehdi, Prabhuji param
Dayal, Chaurashi Lakh Purvani,
Jas Ayu Vishal. 2

Vrushabh Lanchhan Jin VrushDharue,
Uttam gun Mani Khan,
Tas Pad 'Padam' Sevan Thaki,
Lahie Avichal Than. 3

STUTI

Adi Jinvar Raya, Jas Sowan Kaya,
Marudevi Maya, Dhori Lanchhan Paya;
Jagatshiti Nipaya, Shudhcharitra Paya;
Kewalsiri Raya, Moksha Nagre Sidhaya

