



## S.K.S. SWAMINARAYAN TEMPLE (LONDON) – BAL YUVAK MANDAL

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### **HINDOLA**

*// The Hindola utsav is celebrated from Ashadh Vad 2 to Shravan Vad 2 //*

Every year, during the monsoon months of Ashadh and Shravan (July - August) the mandirs in India and abroad are filled with devotion. A "Hindolo" is a swing. A small murti of Harikrishna Maharaj, known fondly as "Lalji" (child form of Bhagwan Swaminarayan), is placed in a Hindolo.

The arrival of the Hindola Utsav during these months usher a new breeze of Bhakti and festivity in the mandirs of India and all around the world. For one whole month, the murti of the Lord is placed in a hindola and pulled to and fro with a string by devotees.

#### **The Origin of Hindola**

The festival finds its origins in Vrindavan, 5000 years ago where the Gopis swayed Lord Krishna on a decorated swing. The Hindola Utsav has a special status in the Hindu Dharma because of the divine joy of rocking the almighty Lord for His pleasure. The back and forth motion is expressive of bliss, a flight away from the mundane worries of the world.

The swinging motion creates joy and this identifies spirituality. One experiences a tranquil state of mind because of the immersion into His lustrous murti swaying back and forth. The act of seating the idol upon the Hindola is in itself a form of worship.

During Swaminarayan Bhagwan's time, once whilst in Vadtal, a decorative twelve door Hindolo was tied to two mango trees and the devotees swayed the Lord back and forth which was constructed by Nishkuland Swami. Bhagwan became so pleased that He blessed the devotees by showing his twelve divine forms for this whole month. Devotees sing hindola bhajans, and the whole mandir is charged with the extra vibrancy and energy of the extra special bhakti that surrounds this utsav.

Satsangis perform daily aarti of these richly decorated Hindolas for the blessing and merit of Bhagwan Swaminarayan. Bhagwan Swaminarayan also often sat on a swing tied between two tamarind trees in Laxmivadi in Gadhada.

The hindola festival is celebrated with joy and enthusiasm at all Swaminarayan mandirs. Sadhus and devotees spend great time and effort to produce hindolas of a variety of colors, shapes and forms. The hindolas can be made of varieties of things/ items i.e., beads, fruits, vegetables, flowers, dry fruits, beans, rakhis, currency notes, steel dishes, crystals, decorative stones, coins, strings, ribbons, wood, pooja items etc.