



Madhavpur Ghed Fair

Bringing the National Colours Together

The significant village of Madhavpur on the seashore close to Porbandar is a cultural hotspot in Gujarat. Evolved out of legends and mythology, the temple town is known to have been the venue of the wedding of Lord Krishna with Rukmini, who came from faraway Arunachal. Actually she was kidnapped from the mountain kingdom by Krishna. The wedding event is immortalized with a temple dedicated to Lord Madhavraiji – another name for Lord Krishna - and by an annual fair held in the village. This temple is believed to have built in the 15th century and the town takes its name from the temple.

Every year people converge by the droves to celebrate the holy marriage of Kirshna and Rukmini. The celebrations will be held for five days from the day of Ram Navami. This year the fair was conducted from 25th March to 29th March. It seemed that the town blushed like a bride as the colorfully decorated Chariot with the idol of Krishna passed as a procession through the village. The local folks throw colours at each other in the festive mood and also participate actively by performing various dance forms. Officially it is

known as the Madhavpur Ghed Fair. The Madhavpur Ghed Fair shares the idea of Hon'ble Prime Minister's Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat mission to promote the spirit of national integration through a deep and structured engagement between all Indian States and Union Territories. The concept of Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat is aimed at bolstering national integration. India is a unique nation, whose fabric has been woven by diverse linguistic, cultural and religious threads , held together into a composite national identity by a rich history of cultural evolution, coupled with a rousing freedom struggle that was built around the tenets of non-violence and justice.

The idea of a sustained and structured cultural connect between denizens of different regions was mooted by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi during the Rashtriya Ekta Divas held on 31st October, 2015, to commemorate the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. According to the Prime Minister, Sardar Patel gave us Ek Bharat and it is our solemn duty to make it Shrestha Bharat. Hon'ble Prime Minister propounded that cultural diversity is a joy that



Cultural Programme

ought to be celebrated through mutual interaction & reciprocity between people of different States and UTs so that a common spirit of understanding resonates throughout the country. Every State and UT in the country would be paired with another State/UT for a year, during which they would carry out a structured engagement with one another in the spheres of language, literature, cuisine, festivals, cultural events, tourism etc.

Though Gujarat is paired with Chhattisgarh this year, in the spirit of Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat, the Madhavpur Ghed Fair connected the State with Arunachal Pradesh. The fair was attended by many hon'ble dignitaries – Governors of Arunachal Pradesh and Gujarat, Chief Ministers of Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh and Gujarat. Minister of State for Culture Gol, Minister of State for Home Affairs, Gol, Minister of Tourism GoG, Minister of Culture, Assam, Chief Secretary of GoG, and other VVIPs and VIPs.



Here is a day to day event list of the fair:

25th March 2018

- Manipuri dance-drama based on Rukmini-Krishna using the Zhang and Pung.
- The drama of Krishna and Rukmani
- Idumishmi religious dance performance.

26th March 2018

- North-Eastern music and dance dramas on the wedding of Krishna and Rukmini.
- The drama of Krishna and Rukmani
- Neonanga folksongs of Arunachal Pradesh.
- Manipur's Laihaoraoba dance performance.

27th March 2018

- Visit of Kirti Mandir, Porbandar by all the Hon'ble Dignitaries.
- Visit to Madhavpur Temple.
- Visit to Art & Craft exhibition, painting hall based on Krishna

Rukmini Theme.

- Before dais programme felicitation of NE guests with Turban by Dignitaries of Gujarat
- "Madhya se Madhavpur" North-Eastern Culture Program based on kidnapping of Rukmani by Shri Krishna.
- Different dance forms performed by Manipur artist like Laihaoraoba, Pung Cholam.

28th March 2018

- The procession from Madhavraiji temple at 3 pm in the afternoon.
- Dancing according to the religious ceremony of Idumishmi monks and nuns of Dibang Valley
- Arunachal's Neonanga folk songs will be sung while sending his bride to his future home.

Dance Performances

