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### Vraj Yatra – Part – 3

#### Shantan Kund:

The name of this village is 'Satoha'. At this place, there is a temple of Shantanu Bihariji. There are also other temples like 'Sribaldevji' Mandir, Shri Girdharji Mandir etc. This is the place where King Shantanu performed severe austerities to get Bhishma as his son. Here there is a kund named 'Shantanu Kund' after the name of King Shantanu. Many childless couples come to worship this Deity and pray for children. Women who desire to become pregnant come here to worship on any Sunday that falls on the seventh lunar day. Women first bathe in the kunda and then they draw swastikas with cow dung or vermilion on the rear wall of the Shantanu-bihari Temple.

#### Bahulavan:

Bahulavaan is the 4<sup>th</sup> vana amongst 12 prominent vanas of Vraj. The name of this village is 'Baathi.' Here, there is a temple of Bahula Gaay (Name of a divine cow), Bahula Bihari Temple and Balbhadraji Mandir. Also, besides the Krishna Kund, there is the Bethakji of Shri Mahaprabhuji.

Bahulaa Cow is renowned in Puranas for her Righteousness and truthful.

There is an anecdote about bahulagaay in Padma Purana. Once, this cow was returning back to home after grazing full day in the forest. At that time, Dharmaraaj (Yamaraj) in the swaroop of a Lion, came before that cow. Other cows with Bahula ran away seeing the lion coming on their way. But Bahula remained calm and faced lion. The moment, lion started capturing Bahula, she stopped and requested that lion that if he could wait for some time before he could actually make her as his food, so that she could go and feed her little calves. She promised lion that she would return back once she feeds her small calves. Lion let her go to that cow. When bahula was done feeding her calves, she returned back to that Lion. Seeing her coming back, that lion was very much influenced and returned back to his original form (i.e. Yamaraj). Yamaraj gave boon to bahula that She would be worshipped by many devotees in this world from now onwards.

People used to pray bahula cow a lot. After some time, bahula cow became dead and people started worshipping her idol.

During the time of Shri Mahaprabhuji, when apshri reached bahulavan in Vraj where the temple of Bahula cow is still their, people started complaining Mahaprabhuji that the Muslim Hakim is not allowing to worship this cow. Shri Mahaprabhuji, showed that Hakim a legend about Bahulagaay by showing the cow actually becoming alive and

eating the grass kept at her tail. That hakim regretted his act and came into the shelter of Shri Mahaprabhuji and people again started worshipping that cow. This hakim was initiated later on by Shri Gusaiji when he reborned as 'Meha Dhimar' in Vraj.

The temple of Bahula cow is located in this van with Thakurji and Lion.



Temple of Bahula Cow (with Shri Thakurji and Lion)

Shri Mahaprabhuji's Bethakji at Bahulavaan is located besides this Temple. Bahulavaan is the middle of Raas Shthali.

### Radhakund – Kusumsarovar:

From Bahulavan, on the way to Kusumsarovar, two small villages called 'Tosh' and 'Jakhan' comes. There is a temple of Shri Radharamanji and Shri Gopallaji in 'Tosh' Village. Moving further, 'Raar' village comes. Its believed that the bhavnatmak Nikunj of Shri Yamunaji begins with this place. Here there are Balbhadra Kund and Balbhadra Mandir.

Moving further, village 'Jasondhi-Basondhi' comes. In 'Jasondhi' Village, there is a Surya Kund and in 'Basondhi' Village there is a 'Vasant Kund', 'Lalita Kund' and Raaj Kadamb (in this tree, there is a mark of Mukut). Here there is an ancient tree where Radha Krishna did the hindola leela.

After that Radha-kund comes where there are two Kundas named 'Radha Kund' and 'Krishna Kund' side by side. It is said that this kund was built by Shri Krishna with his Flute and Shree Radha kund was built by Shri Radhaji with her finger nail. This Kund was built as a result of Arishtasur(a demon) who was killed by Shri Krishna. Here there are Kundas of 8 sakhis of Radhaji i.e. Shri Chandrabhagaji, Shri Champalkataji, Shri Chandravaliji, Shri Lalitaji, Shri Vishakhaji, Shri Bahulaji, Shri Sandhyavaliji, and Shri Chittraji.

At Radha kund, there bethakjis of

1. Shri Mahaprabhuji

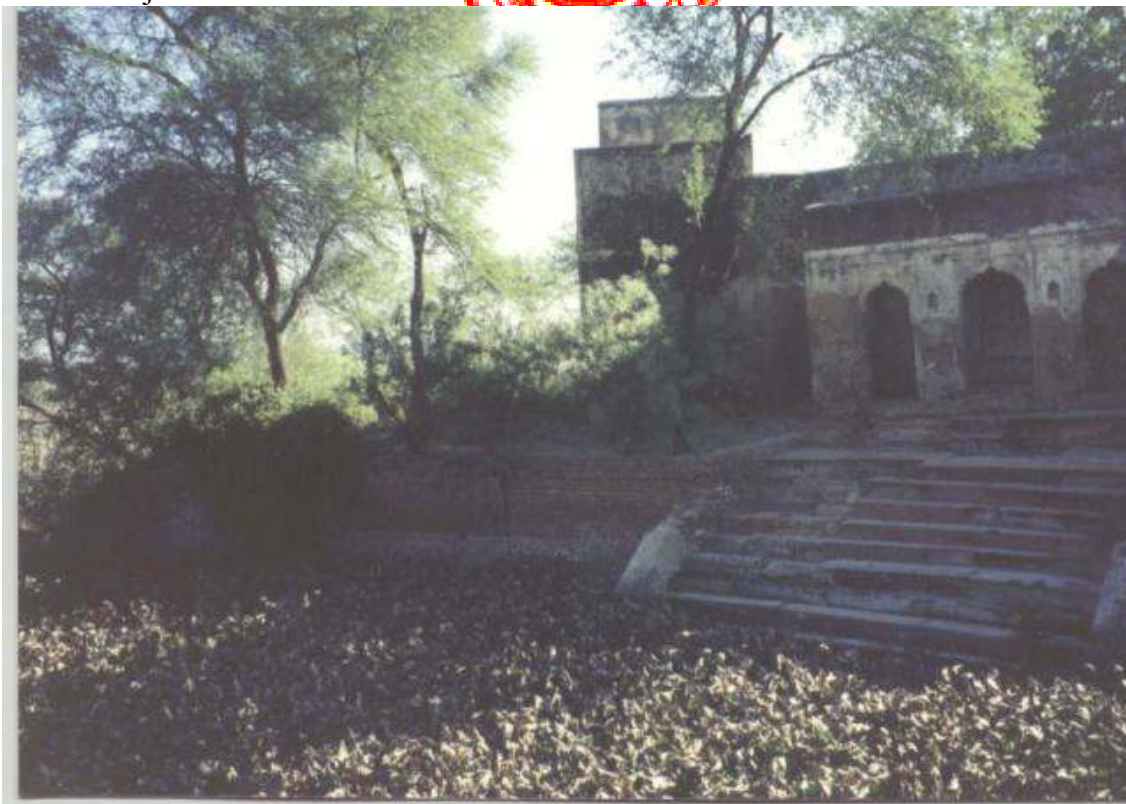
2. Shri Gusaiji
3. Shri Gokulnathji



Shri Radha Kund



After Radhakund, comes the village 'Mukharar' which is the village of Grand mother of Shri Radhaji.



Lalita Kund

**Kusumsarovar:**

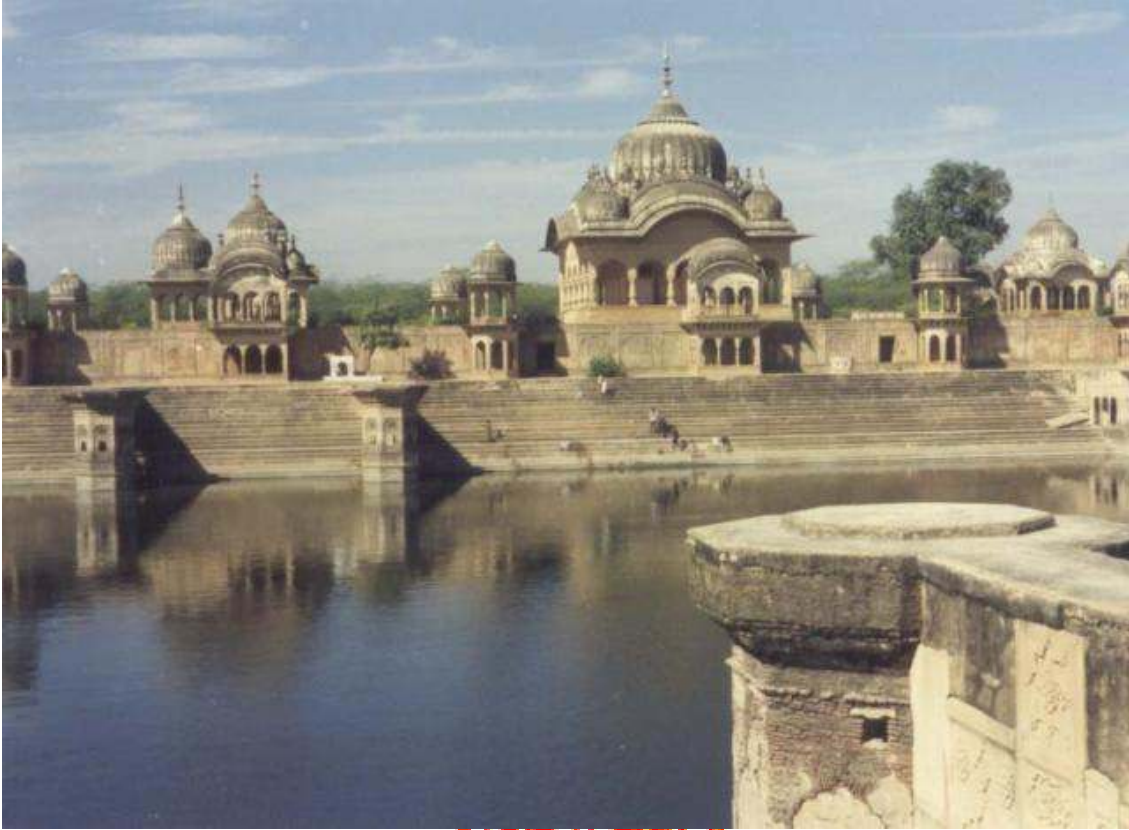
This is also known as 'Kusumokhar' or 'Kusumvan'. This is the place where Shri Krishna did 'Veni Gunthan' Leela with Shri Radhaji during Raas Leela. This place is very beautiful and consists of many artistic monuments. The water in this kund never gets dry. According to 'Skand Purana' in 'Bhagwat Mahatmya', Shri Krishna's great grand son Shri Vajranabhji did the 'Kirtan Mahotsav' for one month at this place. In that Mahotsava, Shri Naradji and Shri Uddhavji appeared and participated in this mahotsav. At the bank of this kund, there is a beautiful artistic monument built by Bharat Naresh Vrajendra Maharaja. From this place only, vaishnavas get the first glimpse of Shri Girirajji during the Vraj Parikrama. Here, going further on left side, there is a Narad Kund where Shri Naradji did Penance and composed Narad Pancharatra – Agama Shastra. Here by taking bath in Kusum Sarovar, Shri Narad attained the female body and entered into Raas Leela with grace of Lord Shri Krishna.

**Kusum Sarovar**



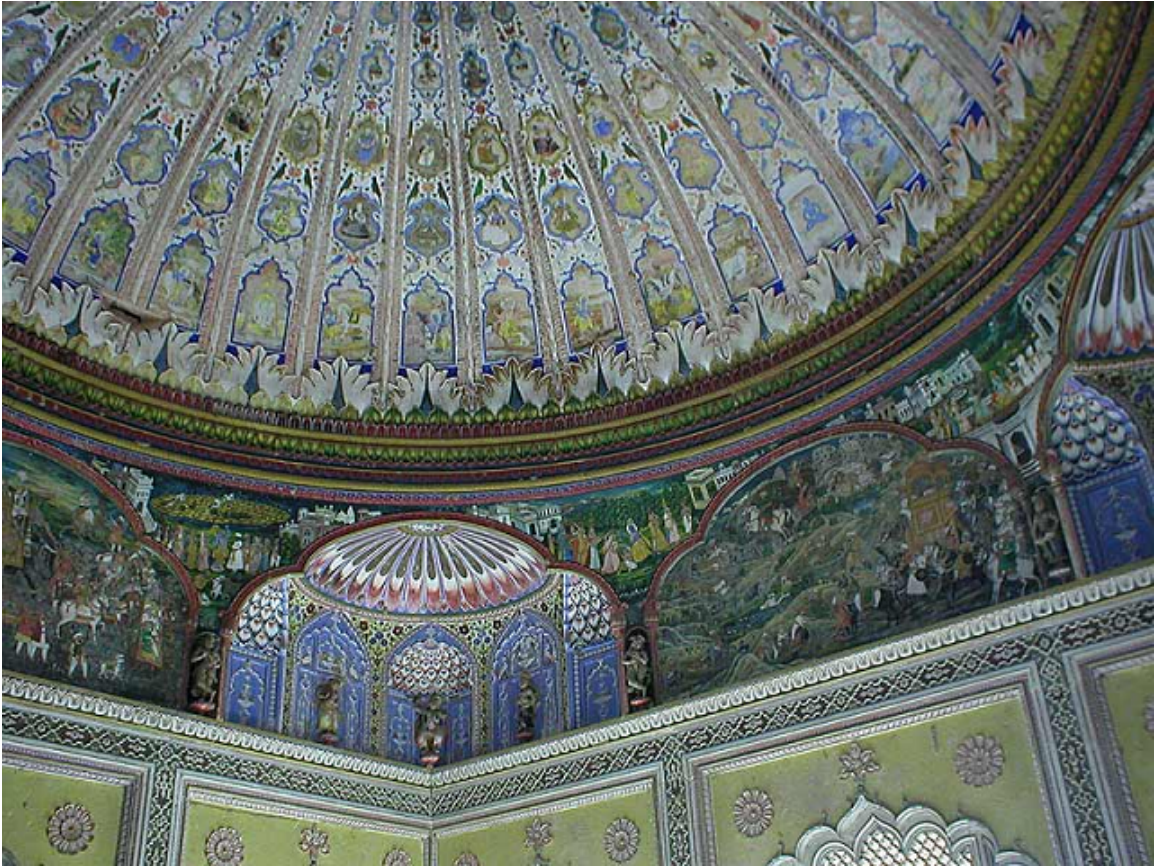
Kusum Sarovar





Kusum Sarovar





Inner Sanctum of Kusum Sarovar

