

## CHANDAN YATRA - DAY 4

### Vanabihari - Frolicking in the Forest

Vrindavana is Krishna's perfect playground, with mountains, valleys, meadows, forests and rivers. Vrindavana's topmost opulence is its flowers. Its beauty is enhanced by Krishna's touch. Once the Lord desired to go early in the morning with all His cowherd boyfriends to the forest, where they were to assemble together and take lunch. As soon as He got up from bed, He blew His buffalo-horn bugle and called all His friends together. Keeping the calves before them, they started for the forest in a great procession. In this way, Lord Kṛṣṇa assembled thousands of His boyfriends. They were each equipped with a stick, flute and horn, as well as a lunch bag, and each of them was taking care of thousands of calves. All the boys appeared very jolly and happy in that excursion.

Each and every one of them, including Kṛṣṇa, was attentive to his personal calves as he herded them in the different places in the forest. The boys were fully decorated with various kinds of golden ornaments, yet out of sporting propensities they began to pick up flowers, leaves, twigs, peacock feathers and red clay from different places in the forest and further decorate themselves in different ways. While passing through the forest, one boy stole another boy's lunch package and passed it to a third. And when the boy whose lunch package was stolen came to know of it, he tried to take it back. But the boy who had it threw it to another boy. This sportive playing went on amongst the boys as childhood pastimes.



When Lord Kṛṣṇa went ahead to a distant place in order to see some specific scenery, the boys behind Him ran to try to catch up and be the first to touch Him. So there



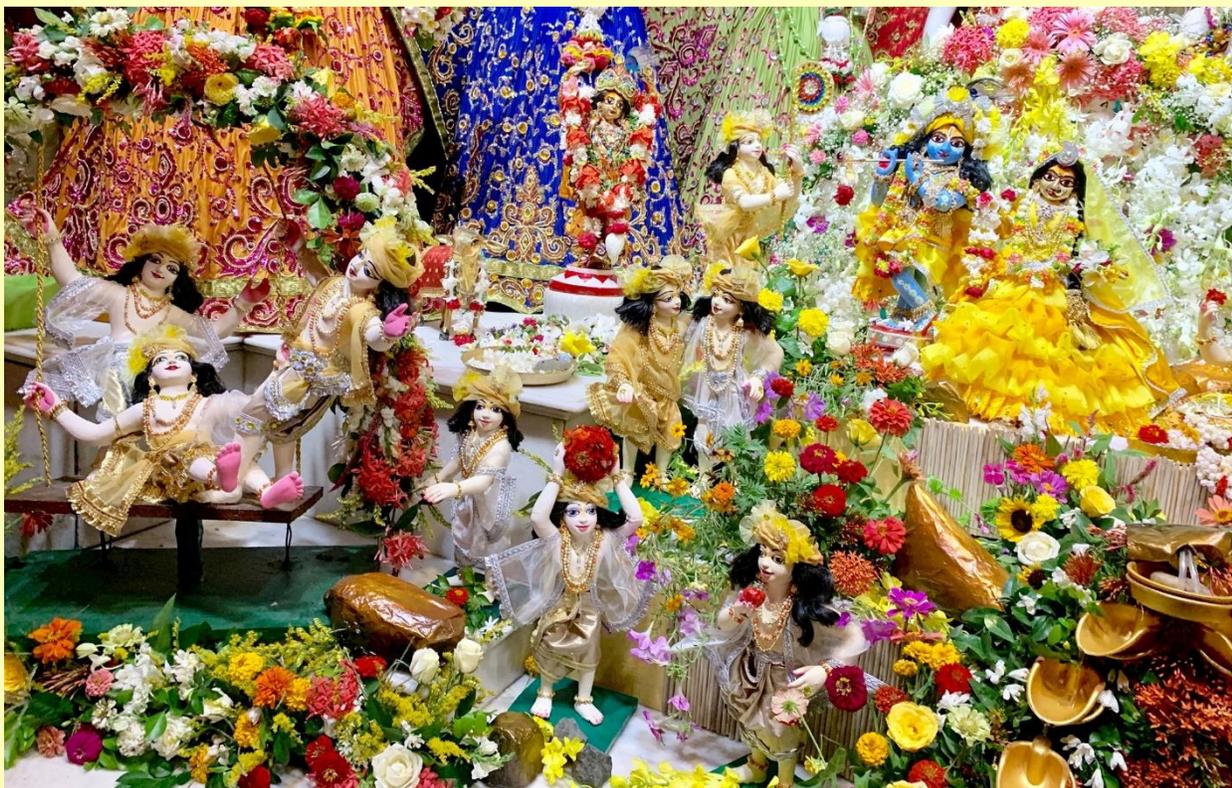
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was a great competition. One would say, “I will go there and touch Kṛṣṇa,” and another would say, “Oh, you cannot go. I’ll touch Kṛṣṇa first.”



Some of them played on their flutes or vibrated bugles made of buffalo horn. Some of them gladly followed the peacocks and imitated the sounds of the cuckoo. While the birds were flying in the sky, the boys ran after the birds’ shadows along the ground and tried to follow their exact courses. Some of them went to the monkeys and silently sat down by them, and some of them imitated the dancing of the peacocks. Some of them caught monkeys by the tail and played with them, and when the monkeys jumped into a tree, the boys followed. When a monkey showed its face and teeth, a boy imitated and showed his teeth to the monkey. Some of the boys played with the frogs on the bank of the Yamunā, and when, out of fear,

the frogs jumped into the water, the boys immediately dove in after them, and when the boys came out of the water and saw their own shadows, they would stand imitating, making caricatures and laughing. They would also go to an empty well and make loud sounds, and when the echo came back, they would call it ill names and laugh.



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## RHYME TIME

Vrindavana is such a nice place!  
With Krishna there, there's never a trace  
Of doubt or fear.  
It's springtime all year,  
The peacocks crow and cool winds blow,  
The waters fall and cuckoos call,  
The lotus blooms beneath the moon.  
But everything is mute, when Krishna plays His flute.

## DID YOU KNOW?

- There are 12 main forests in Vrindavana.
- Some of Krishna's gopa friends are Sridama, Subala, Madhumangala, Arjuna and Stokakrsna.
- The trees of the forest supply many items of worship to Krishna. The dew drops serve as His foot wash, the trees offer many kinds of fruits to eat and fragrant flowers to decorate His body.
- After playing, Krishna and Balarama rest in the forest. One gopa makes a bed of fresh leaves. Another offers his leg as a pillow, while another massages Krishna's lotus feet. One boy brings heaps of fresh fruit and affectionately feeds Him. In the same way, a second group lovingly serves Balarama and they exchange services so that they can both get the opportunity to serve both brothers.

## ACTIVITY TIME – Forest Peacock

You will need:

- Green, blue, yellow and white paper
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Stick glue
- Paper clip
- Black marker

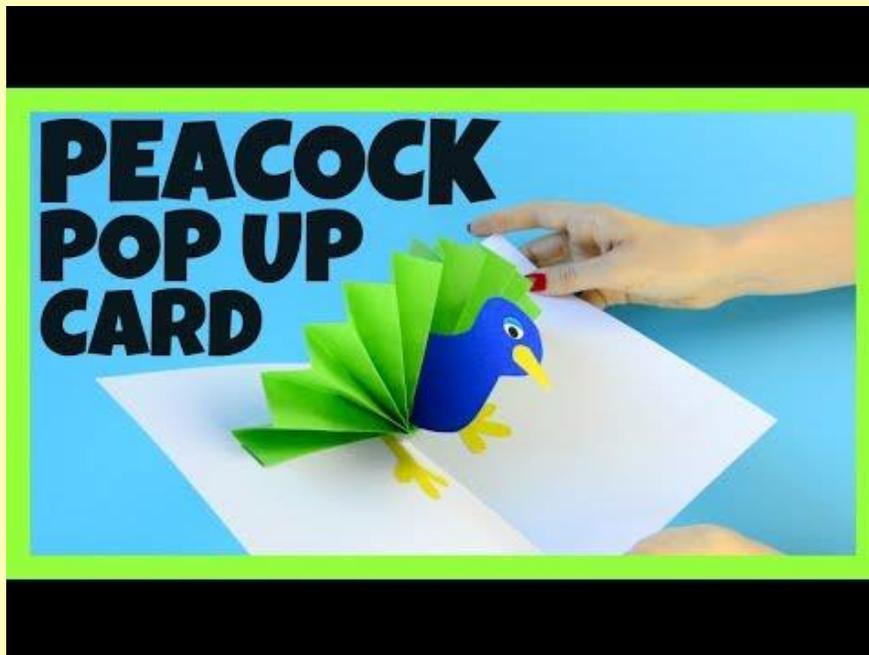


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### Steps to follow:

\*Follow the video tutorial below - <https://youtu.be/ehki9RFBf5o>

1. Fold the green paper like a fan and fold it in half.
2. Place the blue paper between the green fan and draw the peacock body.
3. Cut out the peacock's body.
4. Glue the peacock's body onto the green paper and fasten with a paper clip to let it dry.
5. Cut out the beak out of yellow paper and glue it on.
6. Draw the eyes with a black marker.
7. Fold the white paper in half.
8. Cut out the peacock's legs from yellow paper and glue it on the sides of the folded line.
9. Glue the first and last sides of the green fan and place it on the folded line on the white paper. Press tightly until dry.
10. Draw other animals such as frogs, monkeys, bees, birds and the beautiful forest scenery with trees, flowers, lakes and fruits.



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