

BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha

#### PRESENTS

# The First of its Kind

THE UNTOLD STORY OF LONDON MANDIR AND ITS CREATOR







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Swami Shriji

Bhagwan Swaminarayan manifested on this earth and built mandirs to forever preserve the upasana of Akshar-Purushottam.

Shastriji Maharaj and Yogiji Maharaj materialised the eternal principles of Brahma and Parabrahma through murtis.

A mandir is that which inspires a virtuous life and teaches mutual respect.

A mandir is that which calms the mind and gives paramount peace.

A mandir is a centre for realising God.

With prayers to Bhagwan Swaminarayan that all continue to benefit from this supreme and divine work.

Blessings and Jay Swaminarayan from Shastri Narayanswarupdas (Pramukh Swami Maharaj)





## ABOUT THE DOCUMENTARY

This historic 14-episode documentary series chronicles the fascinating untold story of one of the world's most acclaimed Hindu temples and the first of its kind in the west – BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, London.

Through over 150 eyewitness interviews and thousands of hours of unseen footage, it reveals new dimensions into the life, work and values of its visionary creator, His Holiness Pramukh Swami Maharaj.

All episodes will be streamed on **WWW.THEFIRSTOFITSKIND.ORG** 

## EPISODE 1 A GURU'S VISION

1950 TO 1982

In 1970, Yogiji Maharaj reveals an unfathomable vision. Pramukh Swami Maharaj accepts this as his personal mission, setting in motion the creation of something inconceivable.

Stream Date
WEDNESDAY 22 DECEMBER 2021



#### EPISODE 2 ATHE DWARKA 1982 to 1990

The search for land commences but is fraught with failures and hurdles. The devotees try to remain brave, but how many rejections can they take?

> Stream Date WEDNESDAY 29 DECEMBER 2021

#### EPISODE 3 ALIGNED WITH THE STARS 1990 TO 1992

An international team of experts assembles to construct a traditional Hindu mandir in the west for the first time ever. Despite embarking upon the unknown, Pramukh Swami Maharaj sets a tight deadline for completion.

Stream Date
WEDNESDAY 5 JANUARY 2022



# A THOUSAND YEARS

1991 TO 1993

Pramukh Swami Maharaj envisions a mandir that would last a millennium. A gruelling process begins to select the material that would make this possible. A logistical nightmare ensues.

Stream Date
WEDNESDAY 12 JANUARY 2022

EPISODE 5 START FROM HOME

1990 TO 1995

As the stones are on their way to London, the British economy plunges into a devastating recession. Where would the funds come from to keep the construction going?

Stream Date
WEDNESDAY 19 JANUARY 2022



#### EPISODE 6

#### GOD LIES IN THE DETAILS

1990 TO 1995

From conceptualisation to construction, Pramukh Swami Maharaj was not just the inspirer of the mandir; he was its creator. Every inch of the mandir is engraved with his touch.

Stream Date
WEDNESDAY 26 JANUARY 2022

EPISODE 7 A LABOUR OF LOVE 1993 TO 1995

The designs are drawn and the materials procured. Now, the mandir needs to be constructed. Hindus unite in a massive volunteer effort never before seen in the UK.

Stream Date
WEDNESDAY 2 FEBRUARY 2022



#### EPISODE 8 MARA HARIBHAKTO

1994

With the UK tightly ensnared in the financial recession, Pramukh Swami Maharaj makes a special trip in 1994 in a final attempt to raise vital funds in the last few months. But will it be enough?

Stream Date
WEDNESDAY 9 FEBRUARY 2022

episode 9

### SHOULDER TO SHOULDER

1994

In 1994, the mandir is in the critical stages of construction. Pramukh Swami Maharaj, despite his advancing age and silently suffering from various ailments, makes several visits to the site.

Stream Date
WEDNESDAY 16 FEBRUARY 2022



# RACE AGAINST TIME

1995

It's 1995 and the countdown is on. Everyone is scampering to complete the mandir on time, just as Pramukh Swami Maharaj arrives in London for its grand opening.

Stream Date
WEDNESDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2022

EPISODE 11 VISION FULFILLED 1995

25 years on from his Guru's vision, Pramukh Swami Maharaj makes history

as he inaugurates the first traditional Hindu temple in the west and the 'Festival of Inspirations' for the grand opening takes the world by storm.

Stream Date
SUNDAY 6 MARCH 2022



#### EPISODE 12 WORDS BECOME REALITY

1995 TO PRESENT

International media attention had never been Pramukh Swami Maharaj's objective. He had envisioned the mandir's purpose long before it had even been conceived.

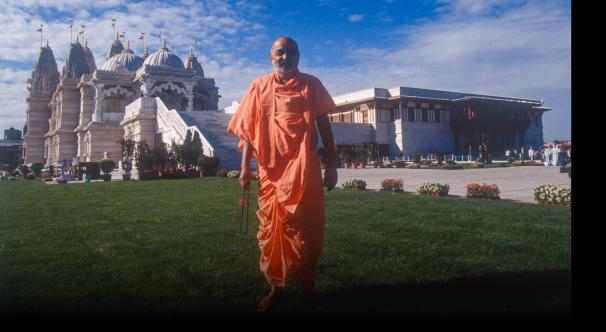
Stream Date
WEDNESDAY 16 MARCH 2022

### EPISODE 13 HE NEVER LET GO

1995 TO PRESENT

With the mandir now complete, what would happen next? Volunteers and devotees fondly look back on their time in seva, and how the mandir and Pramukh Swami Maharaj changed their lives forever.

> Stream Date WEDNESDAY 23 MARCH 2022



## TESTIMONIALS



"It will bring us face to face with Pramukh Swami Maharaj." HIS HOLINESS MAHANT SWAMI MAHARAJ

"Will consolidate that Pramukh Swami Maharaj was not of this world." sadguru pujya swayamprakashdas ('doctor') swami





"A moving tribute to the life and mandir-building legacy of Pramukh Swami Maharaj." sadguru pujya bhaktipriyadas ('kothari') swami

> "Not just for London, but the whole world." sadguru pujya tyagvallabhdas swami





"Future generations will attest that this is truly incredible." sadguru pujya ishwarcharandas swami

> "History in cinematic form." SADGURU PUJYA VIVEKSAGARDAS SWAMI





"Feels new and fresh each time you watch it." sadguru pujya ghanshyamcharandas swami

## EPISODE 14 NOT HUMANLY POSSIBLE

1921 TO FOREVER

This one creation story illuminates an array of insights into the ways, values and wisdom of Pramukh Swami Maharaj – the creator of over a thousand mandirs and inspirer of millions.

Stream Date
SUNDAY 3 APRIL 2022

## A CENTENNIAL TRIBUTE

Thank you Pramukh Swami Maharaj for gifting us London Mandir, the first of its kind.

> But this documentary series is not so much about the creation as it is about its creator.

It is a humble tribute made in eternal gratitude for your vision, diligence, expertise and spirituality that made the inconceivable tangible, empowering millions with faith, righteousness and purpose.

> On your centennial birth anniversary, we offer 'The First of its Kind' to our one of a kind Guru.



WWW.THEFIRSTOFITSKIND.ORG



#### "It will bring us face to face with Pramukh Swami Maharaj."

HIS HOLINESS MAHANT SWAMI MAHARAJ

