

## Bhadran Bandhu Samaj UK (BBS UK)

Charity no. 1020546

Established in 1993 in London, Bhadran Bandhu Samaj UK (BBS UK) is a volunteer-led charity rooted in unity, service, and cultural preservation. Founded by members of Bhadran's community in the UK, it maintains ties with its ancestral homeland while addressing the needs of its growing community. Governed by transparency, BBS UK directs its donated funds to charitable projects, reflecting its volunteer-led approach.

### Core Principles:

1. **Cultural Heritage Preservation:** BBS UK maintains Bhadran's traditions through festivals, workshops, and religious activities, ensuring younger generations stay linked to their heritage.
2. **Community Support:** Provides aid to elderly individuals, low-income families, and people with disabilities in the UK and India.
3. **Global Collaboration:** Encourages cooperation between Bhadran's diaspora and local communities to strengthen cultural connections.

### Key Accomplishments:

- **Over 40 Years of Collective Service:** Although formally registered as a charity in 1993, the community's philanthropic efforts began over four decades ago as an informal collective. Funded schools, healthcare facilities, and disaster relief in Bhadran; supported NHS donations and homeless aid in the UK.
- **Volunteer Network:** Over 30 volunteers manage operations, from fundraising to project delivery.
- **Accountability:** Bhadran Bandhu Samaj is registered as a charity with Charity No. 1020546.
- **Distinctive Approach:** BBS UK operates with volunteers, ensuring donations directly aid communities.

## Bhadran, Gujarat: Heritage & Community

### Historical Background of Bhadran, Gujarat

Bhadran's origins are deeply intertwined with its rich heritage and documented historical events. According to local accounts, the village takes its name from the goddess Bhadrakali Maa, revered for defeating the demon brothers Bhadrasur and Aghasur. These brothers, known for their formidable power, once dominated the region near present-day Bhadran. To restore harmony, the Devas called upon the goddesses Bhadrakali and Ambaji, leading to the construction of temples dedicated to their worship. Over centuries, the area came to be known as Bhadrapur, eventually becoming Bhadran, a place of spiritual and cultural importance.

The village's recorded history traces to 1357 AD, when brothers Kalidas and Ananda Patel, belonging to the prominent Charotar Patidar community, journeyed from Akkalav to settle near the Mahi River. Drawn by fertile land, they established a community focused on farming and family bonds. Their descendants later organised

into two neighbourhoods: Moti Khadki, guided by elder brothers Revandas and Dhanjibhai, and Nani Khadki, established by younger siblings Harkhijibhai and Manjibhai. These groups kept traditions strong while also ensuring local governance functioned effectively.

Over time, Bhadran expanded steadily as its traditional neighbourhoods evolved and extended outward. Moti Khadki grew towards Jirawad and Kot Faliya, while Nani Khadki developed further into Devidas ni Khadki and Brahmapole, shaping the village's physical and social landscape. Despite this growth, Bhadran has preserved its distinct cultural character, with each locality contributing to its rich architectural and community fabric.

The village's spiritual heritage is equally significant. Around 400 years ago, the Mahakaleshwar Mahadev temple was established just beyond the Bhadrakali Mata temple area, becoming a key centre of devotion. In the years that followed, additional Shiv temples, Jain derasars and other places of worship were built in and around Bhadran, reflecting a long-standing tradition of faith, diversity and harmony.

Bhadran has also been associated with revered spiritual figures. His Holiness Pramukh Swami Maharaj spent time in the village during the early 1930s, studying at the Sanskrit Pathshala, and retained a deep affection for Bhadran throughout his life. Furthermore, the village is the birthplace of Dada Bhagwan, in whose honour a dedicated temple has been established in recent decades. This continues to draw devotees and stands as a testament to Bhadran's enduring spiritual legacy.

This deep-rooted spiritual tradition continues to inspire the community today. Most recently, the village celebrated a proud milestone when a local youth, Vrajibhai, took Bhagwati initiation on the holy path of monastic life under the divine blessings of P.P. Mahant Swami Maharaj. Now officially named Sadhu Pujya Pavitracharitdas Swami, his dedication serves as a modern and inspiring continuation of Bhadran's rich religious heritage.

Bhadran flourished under the Gaekwad dynasty of the Baroda State. During the reign of Maharaja Sayajirao Gaekwad III (1875 to 1939), the village gained recognition as the "Paris of Charotar" for its forward-thinking infrastructure. It pioneered underground drainage and piped water systems in Gujarat, achievements that set it apart. The Maharaja's influence also shaped education and spirituality, with institutions like Vidyarthi Ashram (a boarding school) and the Swaminarayan Temple (constructed in 1906) reinforcing its status as a hub of learning and devotion.

A railway line was established connecting Bhadran in 1912, marking a significant step in its development and accessibility. In the same year, Tulsidas Bakorbhai High School was founded, and it continues to function from its original building, which remains strong and serves the community through education and employment. Over time, Bhadran has developed a well-rounded infrastructure, including girls' schools, children's libraries, banks and dedicated facilities for women and children. The village also established one of the first ladies' special skill training centres, along with a health centre, which shows its commitment to education, empowerment and overall community well-being.

Bhadran's history lives on in its buildings, celebrations, and daily community life today. The Bhadrakali Temple remains central to worship, while annual events like Holi and Navratri attract visitors with traditional dances, music, and shared meals. The village's connection of myth, history, and contemporary life provides insight into Gujarat's rural traditions, upheld by its residents and global diaspora.

Over the years, many families from Bhadran migrated to different parts of India, initially to Vadodara, Mumbai and Ahmedabad, and from the late 19th century onwards, to abroad such as South Africa, Fiji and East Africa, including Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. The lineage and heritage of these families are carefully documented through a Vamshavali, which serves as a detailed genealogical record or family tree of the village.

Significant efforts have been made to preserve this history, notably by individuals such as Kaushikbhai Patel of Ahmedabad, as part of the Chha Gaam Vamshavali initiative. It is noteworthy that a large proportion of people originally from Bhadran, predominantly from the Patel community, now reside outside India. For instance, in the United Kingdom alone, there are estimated to be around 1,000 families with ancestral roots in Bhadran. Even larger numbers are settled in the United States, with others spread across East Africa, Australia and various parts of the world, which shows the truly global presence of the Bhadran diaspora.

In recent decades, several individuals from Bhadran have distinguished themselves across entrepreneurship, academia and public life, achieving notable success both in India and abroad. Among the most prominent examples is Padma Bhushan Pankaj R. Patel of Zydus Lifesciences (formerly Cadila Healthcare), whose father, Ramanbhai Patel, was a pioneer in the pharmaceutical industry, having established Cadila Laboratories over six decades ago.

Building on this legacy, many from Bhadran have gone on to make significant contributions in sectors such as property, healthcare, media, and beyond.

The Bhadran diaspora has also played an influential role in public life across the countries where they settled, particularly in East Africa, including Kenya. In the United States, Kash Patel stands out as a prominent figure, having held a senior position in the administration of Donald Trump. These examples highlight the continued impact and global presence of people from Bhadran, whose achievements span industries and continents.

#### Community Life:

- **Neighbourhoods:** Divided into Moti Khadki and Nani Khadki, reflecting ancestral lineages.
- **Economy:** Relies on cotton farming, mango cultivation and agriculture, along with dairy cooperatives and a range of small-scale and home-based industries (Gruh Udyog).

- Culinary Heritage: Bhadran holds a cherished place in Gujarat's culinary history, particularly within the Charotar region. The village is famously associated with 'Bhadran Mung', a delicately spiced and crispy green gram snack that has grown from a local delicacy into a globally exported commodity. Alongside other regional specialities like the festive Mathia, these traditional recipes have travelled with the diaspora, allowing Bhadranwasis across the world to maintain a flavourful and tangible connection to their ancestral home.
- Education: Bhadran is home to Kanya Vidyalaya, established in 1935, one of the early girls' schools in rural Gujarat. Over time, the village has developed strong educational facilities, including colleges offering programmes in Arts, Science and Commerce, with opportunities to pursue studies up to the Master's level.
- Festivals: Holi and Navratri celebrated with traditional dances and communal meals.

#### BBS UK: List of Donations & Initiatives:

1. Bhadran India: Hospital Donation collected by founding members and community in UK: £23,000.
2. Cancer Research UK.
3. Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children Charity.
4. Heart Foundation.
5. NHS Donation to Hammersmith Hospital Leukaemia Department.
6. Epilepsy Society: £1,300.
7. Pass It On Charity for the Homeless in association with Smiths News and Connect Group: Picnic for Clothes Collection.
8. Northwick Park Hospital Covid-19 ITU support: £4,501.00.
9. Donation to Bhadran Gam development: Shree Udaybhai Patel.
10. Family Picnic: Diabetes Awareness.

#### Sustaining Our Mission

##### Strategic Goals:

1. Digital Growth: Introduce online platforms for donations and cultural events.
2. Youth Development: Partner with students and educational institutions for sustainability and development.
3. Elderly Assistance: Create support and volunteer networks for care.
4. Financial Stability: Seek grants and corporate partnerships.
5. Transparency: Share annual progress reports at [www.bhadran.com](http://www.bhadran.com).

##### How to Contribute: You Matter:

- Donate: Funds support health, education, or disaster relief via [donate@bhadran.com](mailto:donate@bhadran.com).

- Volunteer: Assist with events, mentorship, or administrative tasks.
- Collaborate: Organisations can partner via [partnerships@bhadran.com](mailto:partnerships@bhadran.com).

Bhadran's legacy:

From its rich historical roots to its distinction as the 'Paris of Charotar', Bhadran epitomises resilience and cultural pride. BBS UK amplifies this legacy worldwide by uniting generations through preserving cultural practices, advancing health initiatives, supporting education, promoting community aid and celebrating both time-honoured and advancing traditions.

Dr. Jamnadas Patel, an internationally respected diabetes specialist, was among Bhadran's most distinguished sons. Having earned his MRCP from England in the late 1940s, he established a successful medical practice in Mumbai. Despite his professional commitments, his deep connection to Bhadran remained unmatched. He would travel at his own expense by train every weekend from Mumbai to Bhadran to serve patients at the local hospital, demonstrating remarkable dedication to community welfare.

He was instrumental in forming the Bhadran Mitra Mandal in Mumbai, which later took over the management of the government clinic in Bhadran. In his efforts to expand healthcare services, he also travelled to the UK to raise funds. During the early 1980s, several meetings were held at the Gujarat Samachar premises in Hoxton, attended by prominent community members including Rambhai Jethabhai Patel, Kanubhai Maganbhai Patel, Rasikbhai Manibhai Patel, VM Patel and Mahendrabhai Manibhai Patel (Leicester), among others.

These collective efforts led to the establishment of the Bhadran Bandhu Samaj (BBS), with C B Patel serving as its first President and Rasikbhai M. Patel as Secretary. They held their positions for three years before passing the leadership to other capable individuals. During this period, the organisation successfully raised substantial funds to support healthcare and community initiatives in Bhadran.

Rasikbhai M. Patel (RM), after semi-retiring, returned to Bhadran and devoted himself to serving those in need, particularly patients suffering from limb-related disabilities and mobility challenges every year. His work had a profound impact on many lives. Similarly, the Bhadran Bandhu Samaj in Nairobi made significant contributions towards healthcare and charitable causes in the village.

For several years, the BBS UK consistently supported Bhadran Hospital through generous annual contributions, reinforcing a strong culture of giving within the diaspora.

Today, the Bhadran Bandhu Samaj UK remains active under the leadership of Bimal Patel alongside its dedicated office bearers and committee members, continuing its long-standing tradition of service and community support. At the same time, Uday Patel, the Sarpanch of Bhadran, has been working diligently to strengthen and transform the village's infrastructure, with the support of local residents and the wider community. These efforts have been significantly supported by generous contributions from people of Bhadran origin across the world, resulting in visible progress and reinforcing a strong spirit of unity and development.

Bhadran, though relatively small in population, has established a distinct identity not only across Charotar which is today's Anand and Nadiad districts, but throughout Gujarat, India and across the world. It is our collective responsibility to keep this connection alive by actively involving our people, wherever they may be.

Many among us, even those born and brought up abroad, carry Bhadran in their very DNA. This bond must be preserved, promoted and strengthened with care and pride. At the same time, we must also acknowledge and embrace the growing generation of individuals from mixed parentage. They too share roots in Bhadran, and it is equally important that they feel connected, included and valued within our community.

When we reflect on how the Bhadran Bandhu Samaj was established here in the UK, it reminds us that its foundation was built on the vision, enthusiasm, energy and deep devotion of a committed few. These very qualities remain the true driving force behind the progress and growth of any institution or community.

Get Involved:

Visit [www.bhadran.com](http://www.bhadran.com) or contact [info@bhadran.com](mailto:info@bhadran.com).

Some References in respect to the above copy provided:

Here are the reliable documentary references that corroborate the historical facts regarding Bhadran:

### 1. His Holiness Pramukh Swami Maharaj in Bhadran

- **Historical Point:** After his initiation, he was sent to study Sanskrit in Bhadran, where he also begged for alms as part of his ascetic training.
- **Reference Source:** Official Biography of Pramukh Swami Maharaj, BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha.
- **Quote from Source:** *"Narayanswarup Swami [Pramukh Swami's initial name] then continued his studies first in Gondal and then in Bhadran with a group of other sadhus. While studying Sanskrit, they would also beg for alms in the streets of the village and serve in the mandir."*
- **Link to Copy:** <https://www.baps.org/About-BAPS/PramukhSwamiMaharaj/His-Life.aspx>

### 2. Dada Bhagwan's Ancestral Connection to Bhadran

- **Historical Point:** Dada Bhagwan (Ambalal Patel) was born at his maternal home in Tarsali but was raised in his ancestral village of Bhadran.
- **Reference Source:** Official Publications of the Dada Bhagwan Foundation.
- **Quote from Source:** *"Ambalal was born in Tarsali, a suburb of the city of Baroda and raised in Bhadran, Gujarat." and "His father Muljibhai Patel and mother Jhaverba were residents of Bhadran village located in the Charotar region of Gujarat."*
- **Link to Copy (Dada Bhagwan Part 1 Biography PDF):** <https://download.dadabhagwan.org/Kids/Books/English/PDF/Dada-Bhagwan-Part-1.pdf>
- **Alternative Link to Copy (Harmony in Marriage Publication):** <https://download.dadabhagwan.org/books/English/PDF/harmony-in-marriage.pdf>

### 3. The 1906 Swaminarayan Temple

- **Historical Point:** The construction of the Swaminarayan Temple in Bhadran during the Gaekwad era (1906).
- **Note on Digital Evidence:** Unlike the biographies of major spiritual leaders, the specific foundation dates of rural village temples are rarely hosted on primary global websites. The year 1906 is recorded in physical local village registries, Vahivancha (genealogical) records, and the Swaminarayan Sampradaya's physical Mandir Mahotsav (temple anniversary) logs.