



## **PUJARI (Non-Pastoral Religious Worker)**

### **Background**

The Shree Kutch Satsang Swaminarayan Temple (London) in accordance with Vedic Hindu rituals, idols (*murtis*) of Hindu deities have been installed. Accordingly murtis require a certain level of care and attention to ensure their purity for God Almighty to reside in them and it is customary for rituals to be performed on a daily basis. Thus, the pujari must have been instructed in performance of the duties in India under training from Swamis (Saints).

### **Role Profile & Responsibilities**

- Prepare all murtis for *darshan* by 7:30am and 4:30pm daily
  - Waking each individual murti of each God whilst also reciting the appropriate mantra. - Bathing mentally and physically (according to each murti) per the Vedic method whilst also reciting the appropriate mantra.
  - Dressing each individual murti of each God appropriately for morning darshan, afternoon darshan and evening darshan
  - Performing the aarti for each individual murti of each God whilst also reciting the appropriate mantra.
  - Appropriately preparing and then offering to each individual murti of each God food and water, four times during the day, whilst also reciting the appropriate mantra.
  - Finally in the evening placing each individual murti of each God to sleep whilst also reciting the appropriate mantra
- Prepare all items for *puja* in readiness for all religious events according to the Hindu calendar with special attention to the Swaminarayan Sampraday, as directed by the Temple Management.
- Accompany the murti of God which followers and non-followers request visit their home to celebrate/occasion good luck, reciting the appropriate mantra at their homes, as directed by the Temple Management.
- Recite divine/Vedic blessings/mantras at special occasions such as; marriage, illness, bereavement etc, in consultation with the temple management.
- Keep the murti showcase (*sinhasan*) in good order and clean and inform Temple Management regarding repairs and renewals requiring attention.
- Self-contained accommodation shall be provided on Temple premises and the *Pujari* shall reside therein as an integral part of the appointment.
- Clothing and meals are provided by the Temple from its own resources and the *Pujari* shall have a free hand at meal preparation. Clothing shall be provided appropriate to the office of *Pujari*.