

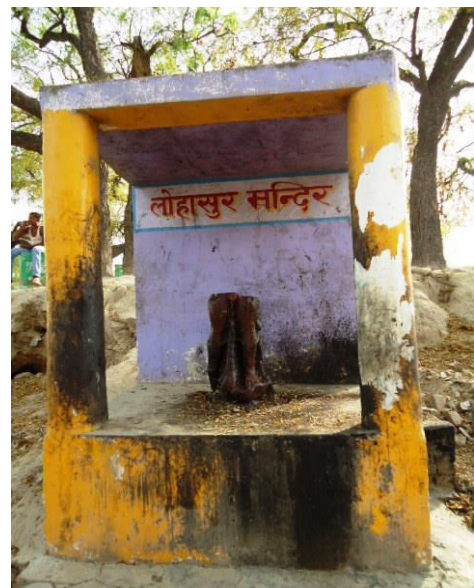
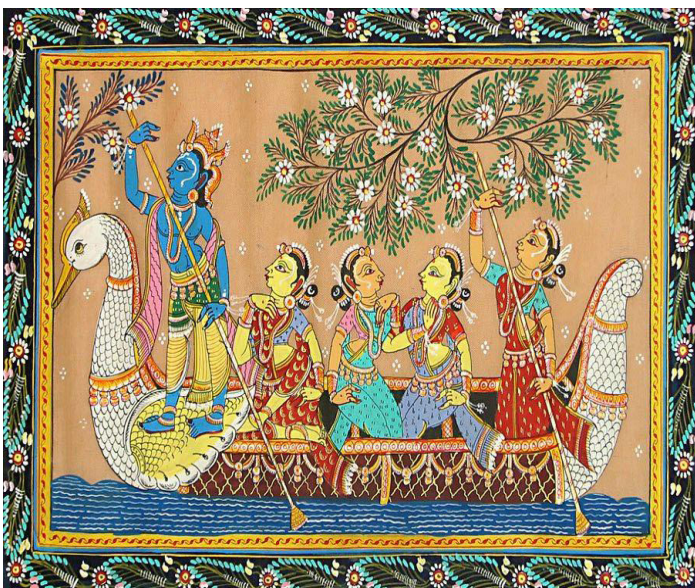
Lohjanghvan / Lohvan / लौहजंघवन



This place lies just across the Yamuna from Mathura, approximately two miles north-east of the Mathura—Gokul highway. **Bhakti-Ratnakar** describes Lohvan as follows:

lohavanekrsneraadbhuta-gocharana
nanapuspasugandhevyapitaramyasthana
ethalohajanghasurebadhebhagvan
Lohjanghvannamahayataihara

"The forest of Lohvan is decorated with all varieties of trees and flowers and is one of the places where Krishna pastures His cows. It is called Lohvan because, while grazing the cows here, Shri Krishna killed Lohjanghasur."



At a Yamuna Ghat, Krishna enjoyed boating-pastimes in the company of the gopis. These pastimes has been beautifully described in Bhakti-Ratnakar:

yamuna-nikateyaiShrinivase kaya
eiGhate Krishna nauka-kridaarambhaya
se atikautuka rat sakhirasahite
dughdhailaiyaaisena Para haite
dekhi, se apurvasobha Krishna mugdhahaiya
ekabhiterahilenajirnanaukalaiya
Shri-Radhikasakhisahakahe bare-bare
Para karanavika-yaibasighra pare

"Lohvan is a charming and delightful place adorned with attractive flowers of all kinds. Nearby, in the virtuous Yamuna, Shri Krishna performs boating-pastimes with the Gopis. Disguised as a boatman, He seats the beautiful young cowherd girls in His boat and takes them out into the middle of the Yamuna's flowing waters. Then He says, 'My old dilapidated boat is leaking, and water is rushing in. Throw all your pots of milk and yoghurt overboard; otherwise, it will surely sink.' The gopis beg and beseech this boatman to quickly take them to the other side of the river."



Lohavana is also the where Jarasandha was defeated 18 times. There is the Radha Gopinatha Temple here on the bank of Krishna-Kunda. It is said that Krishna would row the gopis across this lake {kunda) in a boat. Lohavana has a circumference of 5 km. Krishna used to tend cows in this forest. There is a Gave where the demon Lohasura (Lohajangha) lived. Krishna killed this demon. This cave is under the ground, inside a building, about 50 feet from both Krishna-Kunda and the RadhaGopinatha Temple. Krishna-Kunda is basically in the middle of nowhere, next to the small village of Lohavan (Lohvan). Not many people visit this place.



Ayore Gram

This village lies near Lohvan. During the Mughal rule, this village was named Alipur, and is still known by this name today. When Krishna had killed Dantavakra, He crossed the Yamuna and started for Gokul, to meet with the Brajvasis – His mother, father, sakhas, gopasand gopis. They met Him at this place, crying out with great love, "Ayore, ayore, kanhaiya! – He is coming, Kanhaiya is coming!" Nand Baba's and Yashoda's meeting with Krishna brimmed with intense affection. This village therefore became known as Ayore. Bhakti-Ratnakar describes this poignant scene:

Krishna dekhidhayagopaaanandevihvala
`ayoreayore' balikarekolahala
miliyasabare Krishna, Krishna sabelaiya
nijalayeailayamunaparahaiya
hailaparamanandabrajghare-ghare
purvamatasa-sahaShriKrishnavihare
`ayore' baliyagopayekhanemilila
ayorenametegramathatayahaila