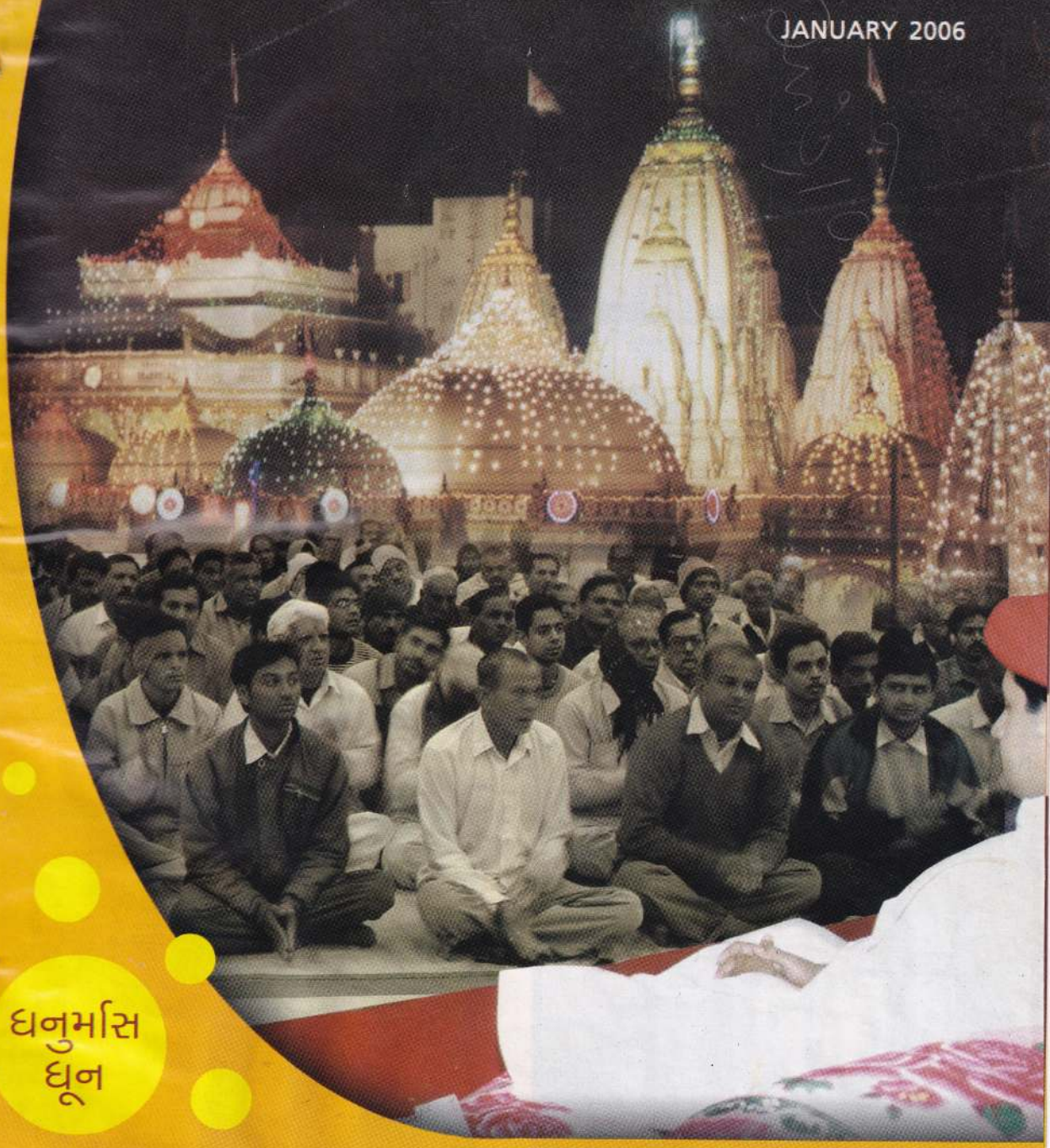
SHREE SWAMINARAYAN

શ્રી સ્વામિનારાયણ

JANUARY 2006



ધનુર્માસિ ધૂન

પ્રકાશક:- શ્રી સ્વામિનારાયણ મંદિર, અમદાવાદ-૧

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The views of the 'Saptah-Parayan' organized at Shri Swaminarayan Temple Kalupur, Ahmedabad. The events were hosted by Samkhya Yogi Meghanaben (Guru : Kanbai) of Gadhda.



H.H. Acharya Maharajshri concludes Shri Hari-Yaag.



The Sixth and Seventh Descendant Heirs of Shri Hari graced the Parayan sessions.



Host child Deep receives blessings of H.H. Lalji Maharajshri.



Samkhya Yogis at the Katha sessions.





Host family Shri Mavjibhai, Arvindbhai, Vishrambhai and Virchandbhai at the Pothi Yatra and the ladies with the sacred scripture.

Official News-letter from Shri Narnarayandevdesh Diocese



SHREE SWAMINARAYAN
श्री स्वामिनारायण

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Editorial

The temple emanates divine luminosity in early mornings of the Dhanurmaas days. Devotees and aspirants shake off their lazyness in early hours of day and charged by devotional fervour they rush to the temple to join collective Dhoon sessions. They salute to Lord Narnarayandev Harikrishna Maharaj and begin a dhoon of Shadakshara Mahamantra. Lord Narnarayandev Harikrishna Maharaj bless them heartily.

Since time immemorial, nobody dared to cross the path to obstruct Dhanurmaas devotion presented at the court of Lord Narnarayandev. The court of supreme Lord is divine and the great ascetic Lord Narnarayan receives here worship presented in the forms of Mangla Aarti - Shringaar Darshan in blissful presence of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri and Dharmkul. Thousands of aspirants and Haribhaktas present here collective Dhoon at this divine abode of God.

Here is a devotional song singing praise of the Dhoon session.

જે સ્વામિનારાયણ નામ લશે, તેના બધા પાતક બાળી દેશે.
સુખી કરે સંકટ સર્વ કાપે, અંતે વળી અક્ષરધામ આપે.
આ મંત્રથી ભૂત પિચાશ ભાગે, આ મંત્રથી તો સદ્‌બુદ્ધિ જાગે.
આ મંત્ર જેના મુખથી જપાય, તેના થકી તો જમ નાસી જાય.

(Sins burn to the ashes when uttered the Dhoon of Swaminarayan. Dhoon makes us happy, destroys our sorrows, and consigns the devotees to the divine abode of Akshardhaam. Ghosts and evil spirits run away by the sacred tunes of Dhanurmaas dhoon. Spiritual wisdom rises if attended the dhoon sessions. Yama and his men run away in fear of such a devotee.)

There are occasions and miracles witnessed by the Satsang, wherein venom of a deadly snake bite was removed by the spirit of the Mahamantra Dhoon. S.G. Premanand Swami sings :

ભવ બ્રહ્મા મુનિ મુક્ત જપે આ મંત્રને,
તે સહુ પામ્યા મનવાંછિત સુખ સાજ જો.
પ્રેમાનંદ કર જોડી કહે સહુ જનને,
ભૂલશોમાં અવસર આવ્યો છે આજ જો.
સ્વામિનારાયણ આજ પ્રગટ મહામંત્ર છે.

(Lord Shiva, Brahma and great Rishis sing the Dhoons of Mahamantra, to attain desired fruits. Premanand Muni prays with folded hands to the world to forget not this fact. Don't miss this opportunity. Mahamantra of Shri Swaminarayan is supreme among the divine hymns.)

We devotees pay salute to Lord Shri Hari dwelled at the temples in the village and towns. Those who have missed the opportunity, should join the sessions right now. May Shri Hari bless you.

- **Shastri Swami Nirgundas**
Editor
Shri Swaminarayan.



Appointment Diary of H.H. Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharajshri

December-2005

3. Graced Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Borna and installed idols of God amidst festivities. Blessed the devotees and graced the region of Kutch in his religious tour of Bhachau-Kutch.

4. Graced Shri Swaminarayan Mandir Acharda and installed idols of God at the temple.

Graced the place of Shri Ramanbhai B. Gajjar, Bardolpura.

Blissful presence at the marriage ceremonies held in the family of Shri Kiritkumar H. Soni, Satellite, Ahmedabad.

6. Graced house warming ceremonies organized at the house of Shri Chetanbhai Patel, Sabarmati, Ahmedabad.

Geraced marriage ceremonies in the family of Shri Chimanbhai B. Gajjar, Memnagar, Ahmedabd.

Graced marriage ceremonies in the family of Shri Harikrishnabhai G. Patel, Hansol.

7. Graced Patotsava services to God at our temple at Himatnagar, S.K.

Graced Patotsava at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Vadu and Presented invocation Aarti-Poojan to Lord Hanumanji at the Hanuman Temple, Vadu.

9.-12. Graced presence at Parayan Satsang organized at Chhapaiya Dhaam, Chhapaiya U.P.

13. Graced presence at Maha Pooja organized at the place of Shri Bhaktibhai V. Patel, Ranip, Ahmedabad.

Graced Maha Pooja rituals at the place of Dr. Bhavin R. Parikh, Maninagar.

Graced the dwelling of Shri Jagdishbhai K. Patel, Ranip.

14. Graced Idar area and invoked idols of God at our temple at Maniyor (Idar) S.K.

Graced the house of Shri Natvarbhai S. Patel, Shilaj, Ahmedabad.

16. Blessed marriage ceremonies organized in the family of Dr. Atulbhai K. Patel (MLA., Kalol), Rajpath Club, S.G. Road, Ahmedabad.

17. Graced the house of Shri Amritbhai S. Jani.

18. Graced Shakotsava organized at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Dhamasana.

19. Graced Parayan-Satsang Organized at the residence of Shri Revabhai Ranchhodbhai Patel, Gavada.

20-12-05 to 6-1-2006 Overseas religious tour to conduct youth Satsang camp, L.A. California U.S.A. and blessed presence at the I.S.S.O. Chapter active in U.S.A.

Shri Swaminarayan Museum

The project of Shri Swaminarayan Museum is in progress with the due blessings and spirited direction from the former Acharya Maharaj H.H. Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharajshri. Satsangis and well wishers have sponsored colourful calendars for the year 2006 A.D. Shri Narnarayandev dioces distributes the calendars in India and abroad.

The devotees in USA and UK have enlisted their donations towards the museum, during the earlier tour led by H.H. Acharya Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharajshri. Generous devotees have donated toward the museum, despite on going construction of the new temples in USA and U.K. Acharya Maharajshri has appointed resident committees in those countries to collect, receive and forward the amount on behalf of museum and much of the donated amount have been received by the committee.

Acharya Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharajshri attends Museum office everyday (9-00 to 11-00 am) to receive and bless his faithful followers arrived from Ahmedabad and other places. Visitor devotees are contributing within their capacity during such personal visits.

'Museum service' is the core of the religious tours and blessed visits led by Acharya Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharajshri. The Donations and the Prasadi items are being received in a sizable amount in all such short visits.

This Satsang of Shriji Maharaj will translate in action the sacred resolute of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri by constructing the museum at the cost of rupees thirty crore.

- Sandipbhai Choksi

Don't Steal

- Shastri Hari Swami

Children like to listen stories. They are not tired of story telling sessions. They love to listen and seat for the hours to listen the stories narrated by their grandma and grandpa. They love it like any thing. They forget their play time and ralish joys of a story. Grandpas are great story tellers.

Shri Swaminarayan Bhagwan – our great grand father – narrates a story in his Vachanamrit 55 of Gadhda middle chapter. We should listen to this story of eternal rejoicement. It is highly educative.

Long long a go, there was a village head -a Patel – living in a small village. He was the leader of the local community. Villagers were respecting him as their head. Though very rich and wealthy, this patel leader was very calculative and worldly wise. Though much engaged as a leader of the village community, he was equally committed to welfare of his family. When time came for the marriage of his eldest son, he desired and planned to celebrate the event with pomp and show. He planned smallest of details of this grand event and executed most accurately by beginning with purchase of gold for the ornaments. He bought a large quantity of gold befitting his status and went to a workshop of the goldsmith. The gold smith, though was a person of his trust he said firmly to him, 'Look ! I want most attractive ornaments made from this pure gold. Though you are a family friend, I will not like to leave it unattended. I don't trust anybody in regard to money and wealth. I will sit here in front of you while you make ornaments from my gold. If you are agreeing to my condition, I shall be happy to assign this job to you and if not, I may go elsehwer to have a goldsmith of my choice.' Goldsmith said, 'Patel ! You are unnecessarily mistrusting me and my occupation, eventhough, you being a honoured citizen and a leader of us, I have no objection against your supervision. You are most welcome. I will accomplish my work in your presence. Your presence at my place shall be an honour to my establishment.' Village head sat there comfortably to supervise the work of making ornaments from his gold.

Making of gold ornaments is a lengthy process. Gold smith took the gold in a bowl and placed it in the furnace to melt the gold for making ornaments.

The goldsmith was busy giving air to the fire to melt the gold under high temperature of the furnace. Meanwhile, came there his young son from the adjoining room and began to cry for a chocolate. Adement child cried and screamed constantly to draw attention of his father. Irritated goldmith took his shoe and threw at him angrily and shouted, 'Go away right now. I am busy in work.' Sobbing child ran away with the shoe.

After some time, mother came to the work place, placed the shoe near her husband and said politely, 'Please calm down and be careful. A shoe thrown like that may have hurt our child.' Goldsmith resumed his work as soon dhe left the workshop. Self confident Patel was proud of his control on the situation. Goldsmith was under strict observation. He was not able to steal any gold from the material supplied to him.

The facts were quite contrary. Gold was already stolen by the goldsmith and was sent to the house by transporting it in a shoe ! shrewd lady got it emptied in her treasure chest and returned the unloaded shoe !

The trick employed by the goldsmith couple is called a "Parsi" in language of Vachanamrit. 'Parsi' is a coined word used in

Con. on page 8

Do You Want Goldcoins ?

- Sadhu Shrirangdas

Once upon a time, there was a merchant dealing in trade and money lending. His business was spread over many villages in that region. He was used to manage his trade single handed. He himself was dealing with his customers and for his business he was traveling all alone village to village.

Once he went to a village to recover his money. The village was far away from his town and transaction took whole of the day. It was almost dusk when he finished his dealing. Local merchant asked him to spend night at his residence, but this merchant rejected it politely, 'My friend. This is not new for me. I am used to travel at late evening. There shall be no problem in traveling late. This is part of the game. Thank you for your favour.'

Traveller merchant took his shoulder bag and held a lamp by another hand. Lantern was twinkling in cool moon-light. Sheth thought it fit to light off the lantern. Fields and farms were Quite visible in moon light. It was waste of oil if lantern nwas kept burning. He swited off the lantern and walked swiftly on moon lit path. Crossing the farms and the fields, he walked for a long time and after a journey of several kilometers he came to the forest land. Forest looked dark due to obstruction of canopy like branches and the creepers. He lit the lantern and walked in the light of it. He took two-three dry branches to burn torches to scare wild animals and walked cautiously and carefully checking his path and surrounding. As he crossed the density of the forest, he saw scorpions near a tree. Those were many in number and their dark yellowish backs were shining by the light of the lantern. Merchant was astonished by such unusual scene of the scorpions and when watched carefully, he found in them some thing unusual. He thought that they were not like usual scorpions that looked was something special. Those were like gold coins. He should keep this place in his mind and memory. He then took a strong string and tied a scorpion by it's loop. He took that scorpion home with him.

This wise merchant went to his shop in the morning and suspended the scorpion by a string, to make it visible to the visitors and customers. Whoever came to the shop, saw that unusual scorpion with a shever of fear. Visitors and customers were surprised at the hobby of the merchant. They looked at the suspended scorpion and smiled at the merchant. Merchant too received them it with a meaningful smile. They were showing astonishment for such hobby of the merchant.

Once a noble man came to the shop and saw the suspended scorpion. He said in astonishment, 'Seth ! Business must be brisk and most profitable.' Seth looked at him in suspicion and said, 'Gentleman ! Why are you saying so ? How you observe so ?' 'It is very easy,' said the gentleman, 'Look ! See this gold coin hung to the roof. I saw this gold coin and gathered that the business here at the shop was most profiting.' Merchant stared at the gentleman and thought at his mind that the man at his door was a lucky man. Goldess of fortune favours him. He sees gold coin in a live scorpion. I must take him to that place of the scorpion. His good fortune may favour me.

Con. on page 8

Lord Shriji Maharaj says, 'The eternal form of Lord Shri Krishna should be meditated upon with His consort Radhikaji. Even if a devotee does not see the eternal form of Shri Krishna, in his heart during such meditation, he should not lose heart and stop meditating. One who persists in such divine pursuit, is sure to earn the grace of God. God will be attached to him by his intense devotion.' (Vach. G.F.-5)

Hereinabove, Lord Shriji Maharaj himself is Shri Krishna and the Muktas are Radhikaji. Therefore, the divine image of Lord Shriji Maharaj should be meditated upon by the Satsangis with His group of the Muktus.

Lord Shriji Maharaj asks us clearly to not worship the incarnations other than incarnated God Shriji Maharaj. Shriji Maharaj clarifies this in His Vachanamrit of Loya-4, '..... Therefore, the spiritually wise should always meditate upon that form of God who has assumed human form and has become visible before them. The other forms and previous incarnations, though these are the incarnations of this God, should not be meditated upon. Irrevocable fidelity should be offered to this God only.'

As Goddess Parvati says :

"કોટિ જન્મ લગ રગડ હમારી,
વરુ શંભુ કે રહું કુમારી."

(I will continue most difficult penance during my future births and will continue to live as unmarried maiden to receive Lord Shiva as may husband.)

This resolute should be like a reslute made by a faithful married woman. A faithful married woman trusts only in her husband by treating him as her personal God. A true devotee has absolute faith and trust in Shri Hari. Lord Shri Hari is his destination and supreme God. Have absolute faith and trust in Shriji Maharaj.

Vachanamrit : Gadhda F-5

- Prof. Mahadev Dhoriani

Shriji Maharaj asks us to have absolute devotion and in worship of him. None else but Lord Shriji Maharaj – devotion and meditation at the lotus feet of Shriji Maharaj. This is the core teaching presented in Vachanamrit G.M.-19 : ..... but don't do worship or meditation of other God. Worship or devotion of the other God attracts defilement. It is like defilement of a faithful married woman. Devotion of Such a person becomes like devotion of a prostitute.

The Vachanamrit – Gadhda Vachamarit F-5 – is smallest among the 273 Vachanamrits. Length wise it carries only five lines, but it is profound in it's eternal message.' God showers grace. This grace is the form of manifestation. God manifests himself in his human form. Shriji Maharaj insists for meditational concentration. Meditation is a travel within. A voyage in inner self. It is wonderful.

Gita says : Dhyana (meditational concetration) is an unique state where in mind and innerself are void. There is absolute absence of thoughts or any thought process. To meditate means not to think about any thing.

The meditation, devoid of thought, is the ultimate attainment. Soul withdraws himself and identifies himself as absolute consciousness devoid of gross or conscious body. Dhyana is supreme art of life.

Dhyana aims at uniting soul with supreme. Absolute faith and trust are the means to concentrate steadily at the supreme aim. Dhyana is the royal path that leads to Moksha (salvation). Shraddha (faith), Bhakti (devotion), Dhyana (concentration) and Yoga

(unified meditational concentration) are the means for the the self emanciaption. The Vedas have prescribed these four means for ultimate benediction. Dhyana helps the mind to penetrate innermost.

Thoughts and thinking are very natural in a state of meditational concentration. Meditational concentration is not possible without a strong foundation of faith and devotion. Agile mind should be steadied in blissful image of personal God. Mind becomes pollution free if meditated repeatedly upon the same image of personal God. Though there are many deitites and demi Gods in axiomatic religion, Ishwara – Supreme God is only one. Therefore, offer salute and obeisance to the deities and demi Gods, but do devotion and metiation of personal God – Shriji Maharaj. Dhyana is 'love in action.'

The trio – meditation, meditator and the aim – should be well co-ordinated. Mind can not be purified by a donation or a holy dip, but shall be purified by meditating upon supreme Lord. Oneness attained by a meditation is the unfailing means to attain God. This is the shortest rout to attain God. You may live like a Jiva but you should merge yourself in meditation. Dhyana is the seventh state of the soul and the Samadhi (meditational trance) is the ultimate state of the consciousness. Supreme consciousness can not be experienced without meditation. A bathing purifies our body, a donation purifies our wealth and a meditationa purifies our mind. Think and walk steadily on this royal path of salvation.

Con. from page 5

Don't Steal

Gujarati language. Parsi means a trick. Lord Swaminarayan Bhagwan says, 'Our soul is like sovereign gold. Ultimate knowledge and detachment are sovereignty of gold. The knowledge and detachment are stolen to replace with the Kama (desires) and Krokha (anger), if a soul is not watchful in regard to such pilferage. Cheaper metals in a pure gold reduce the gross value of the polluted gold. Such deluted gold should be got purified by melting again and again under a high temperature of the furnace. Devotion and devotinal sessions are a furnace to purify gold.'

As a true satsangi we should distance ourselves from the people bearing bad habits. Don't be friendly to a sinner. Such sinners and unethical people come in our life in disguise of a welwisher, a friend or a neighbour. At a school or college, chances are more for such an unhealthy company. Take good care of your self and protect it against such hazards ! Rededicate yourself to devotion and meditation of Lord Swaminarayan Bhagwan.

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Do You Want Goldcoins ?

Merchant and the gentleman went to the forest and located the place of the scorpions. The scorpions were hidden near a pippul tree. They dug at the roots of the tree and collected an earthen pot hidden in the depth. Those were gold coins, thousands of goldcoins – gdittering gold ! He offered some gold coins to the gentleman and tok goldcoins and pot at home. The merchant was wealthiest man in the region !

Dear Devotees ! Satsang is like gold coins. Those who think auspicious and good, receive there whealth of eternal happiness – divine pleasures. Lord Shri Hari has blessed us with such divine satsang. If witnessed any ill – it is a misfortune for him – it is a scorpion for him. Shriji Maharaj says, 'Spiritually wise soul looks at the the virtues. He sees good qualities, and by seeing such virtues he earns eternal greatness. Those who see ills and vices, recede in devotion, worship and satsang.' Be positive imbibe virtues and ignore vices.

SHIKSHAPTRI BRINGS SPRING SEASON IN OUR LIFE

- Ramanbhai B. Chaudhari

The spring season is the season of pleasure and life. The spring is a bridge connecting winter and summer.

The fifthday of the bright half Maha is the festive day of Vasant Panchmi. Mankind welcomes queen spring amidst pinkness of new life. Sacred scripture of Shikshapatri was written on this auspicious day in V.S. 1882, by Lord Sahajanand Swami at His vartal abode. He desired to benedict mankind by preaching them universal religion. He wrote Shikshapatri at the age of 45 years and opened the gate of Salvation

Shikshapatri is unique in it's metaphysical charms. In it's gross body, the Shikshapatri is one third of Shrimad Bhagwad Gita. This is not a shruti scripture of the Sampradaya, but the smriti for the entire sect. Most secret truths of spiritualism are unveiled in this Shikshapatri. The religious sects and their ethical heights are evaluated on the bases of their literature Shriji Maharaj has added fragrance in human life by his eternal scripture of Shikshapatri. Those who live in accordance to Shikshapatri shall be successful in every walk of life.

Shriji Maharaj leaves no stone unturned in his efforts towards the equality of religions. Social disorder and violence observed in contemporary society are the fall out of imbalance thinking about the religions and religious groups.

Shriji Maharaj preaches in the Shikshapatri to pay respect to the holy places of other sects. Shriji Maharaj asks his followers to pay salute to Shiva and other Gods on their way. Shikshapatri contains essence of all the scriptures.

Kanaiyalal Munshi says, 'This sect (Swaminarayan) has nullified the differences damaging Shaiva and Jain religion. Shriji Maharaj tried at his best to establish harmony among the sects. Sahajanand Swami is very kind to the poors :

अन्नवस्त्रादिभिः सर्वे स्वक्रिया परिचारकाः ।
सम्भावनीयाः सतत यथायोग्यं यथाधनम् ॥

Those who have engaged servents shall ever book after them by properly providing them with food and clothes, according to their financial capacity.

(Shikshapatri : 67)

Shriji Maharaj orders to his followers to pay just wages to the servents and employees hired by them. Shriji Maharaj has visualized the out come of the forthcoming industrial revolution and keeping in view the exploitation of the workers, he had advised in adance to pay proper wages. He has tried at his best to create economic harmony in contemporany society. Satsangis should practise this teaching in their dealing with the labourers and workers to extend comfort to this poor class of society. Capitalist world tried at

Con. on page 17

I AM YOUR COMPANION

- Atulbhai Pothiwala

Shriji Maharaj and his saints graced Langhnoj to extende divin pleasure to his devotees. There were many Satsangi families and one among them was Amrtibai.

Amrtibhai was a faithful devotee of Shrji Maharaj. She wished at heart to welcome Shriji Maharaj at her home. She went to the camp of Maharaj and prayed to Maharaj to grace her dwelling. But Shriji Maharaj expressed his inconvenience to extend his camp at Langhnaj. Shriji Maharaj then left the village with his retinue of the saints and senior devotees. Amritbhai tried at her best to fulfil her aspiration but Shriji Maharaj found it very difficult to accommodate such request.

Maharaj and saints halted midway to rest for a while. They stopped at a way side farm and camped under a mango tree. The farm belonged to Amrtibai. Lord Shri Hari know it by his divine powers.

They organized devotional session at late evening and had a feast of devotional singing. Farmers and labourers from the neighbouring farms joined them in singing praise of Shriji Maharaj. Devotional session lasted till day-break, and the farmers and the villagers went to their houses early in the morning amritbai knew about this, when they disclosed the news about the camp of Maharaj. It was last quarter of night and the moon was still visible at far in the sky. She looked at the moon and said to herself that Maharaj and retinue will leave the place early in the morning before dawn. She made up her mind and ran to the kitchen. She lit the lamp and cooked the meals in excitement of devotional elation. She carried the meals in a large basket and went to the farm before dawn. :

કાન તમારે કારણે હું તો ઘેલડી, ડોલું રે,
ઘેલડી ડોલું રે તમ વિના બીજું ન બોલું રે.

(Oh My Krishna ! I am mad after you. I don't utter any thing except your blissful name.)

There was a small pond on her way to the form. She saw reflection of the sky, stars and moon in the water of that small pond. The thought to herself, 'Entire sky when fits in this small pond then there should be no surprise if Shri Hari dwell's in my little heart. My Lord is some where near me. I will reach him in no time.' She walked faster with such thought in her mind.

She came to the farm and asked, 'Who is there near that mango tree ? Answer me without delay.'

'That is me' shouted back Maharaj. Amrtibhai thrilled in devotional fervour when she heard the voice of Shriji Maharaj. Her face looked like eastern sky of dawn. She interrogated further with a smile, ''Me' means who ?' Escort Dungarji responded back, 'Shriji Maharaj graces this place.' This words sprinkled eternal bliss at her heart. Maharaj was gracing her farm ! She was a most fortunate devotee. She opened the gate and came to the farm.

Shriji Maharaj was sitting in lotus position beneath a mango tree. He was meditating to offer poojan worship. She stood there at little distance and looked at Maharaj with unwinked eyes. Such divine darshna was not

available even at Kashi or Himalayas.

'Amirtbai ! How are you here ? Where are you going ?

'My companion are on night guard of the fields. I am going with their tiffins.'

'Let me have a look at your tiffin !' says Maharaj and extends His hand to have tiffin. Amritbai lifts her large basket with both her hands and places it near Maharaj. God never asks the men, and if asks, the man is not able to understand it.

Amritbai spreads the thaal and serves sugar, ghee, sev, milk and other eatables to please Maharaj. Maharaj says with a smile, 'Is he accustomed to have such lofty meas ?' 'He works very hard and likes tasty meals. He can not tolerate junk food.' Amritbai says with a smile. Maharaj laughs at her and says, now stop fooling us. This is for me. I am that compinon.'

Mirabai says : **'હરિ વિના જીવનો સંગાથી બીજો કોઈ નથી.'** (Only God is the true companion of soul.)

Shriji Maharaj himself confirms this eternal truth. In ancient time, similar question was asked by Haranyakashipu : 'Where is your Hari ? call him to come here.' His son Prahlad answers : 'He is with me. He is omniscient. He is omnipresent. He is seeing this. He is litening all these.'

Maharaj concludes puja, Amritbai serves Thaal to please Lord Shriji Maharaj. She serves sev and pours pure butter oil with the crushed sugar. Maharaj had it little and asked her to add milk. She pours plenty of milk. Maharaj says, 'Amritbai ! Now, please stop. It is more than enough.' Dungarji was standing at the back of Maharaj. He prayed politely, 'Let her serve it. If you please !' I too will like to have prasadi meal. Maharaj looks at him in consent. Amritbai adds some more milk, butter oil and the crushed sugar. She adds more sugar and admires sweet tooth of Maharaj. Though she thought so at her mind, but all knower God knew whatever she thought. Maharaj smiled at them, at first to Amrtibai and then to Dungarji !

Maharaj had enough of Thaal and left in plenty to satisfy desire of Dungarji. Maharaj directs the thaal to Dungarji and says : 'Your mind is entangled in this thaal – prasad. Have it to reliever your mind.'

'Maharaj ! Thanks for thaal-prasad. I am obliged,' says Dungarji in hurry of having prasadi thaal. Dungarji comforts himself at little distance to have prasadi thaal. As he takes second morsel, he jumps in rude shock. He sats the plate aside and prays, 'Oh Maharaj ! I can not have it. It is absolutely unedible. My stomuch pushes it out. If you permit me, I may burry it under the soil or serve it to bullocks. No man can have it.' Maharaj says - 'You have prayed before to have a prasadi of it. Now, you must have it You can not say no. I will punish you, if left it unfinished.'

Amrtibai was taken aback by such reaction from Dungarji, 'Why Dungarji is upset ? What was wrong with the meals. She checked the items of tiffins – sev, butter oil, milk – all were quite perfact pure and fresh. There was nothing wrong but when she cheked the container of the crushed sugar, she realized her blunder. In excess of devotional fervour, she was come with a container of bajara flour instead of crushed sugar. There was no sweetness nothing but raw and tasteless flour.'

Con. on page 14

DESIRES

- Sadhu Vinayprakashdas (Jetalpur)

यं यं वापि स्मरन्भावं त्यजत्यन्ते कलेवरम् ।
तं तमेवैति कौन्तेय सदा तद्भाव भावितः ॥

Worldly souls are like a container full of desires. Relations between a father and son, a child and his mother are all based on gross desires. Even a caw has such desire towards its calf. Thus the souls are inter connected by desires. Such earthly desires make them to roam in cycle of rebirth and death.

What is this desire ? Desire is a kind of affection – sentimental attachement. We like moveable and immovable wealth. Since time immemorial the souls on the earth are roaming in cycle of birth and death due to such unsatiable desires.

Shriji Maharaj defines 'Vasana' (desire) in his Vachanamrit (Gadha-F-11) : To long to consume the sense objects, which the soul has seen and consumed in earlier births is called desire or vasana. Such desire may be in relation to the sense objects which the soul has consumed or not consumed before, with or without knowledge of it.

A saint has said,

જ્યાં વાસના જેનિ જરી રહે છે તે જન્મ તો ત્યાં જઈને લહે છે.
માટે થજો સૌ નિરવાસનિક જો જન્મ મૃત્યુ તણી હોય બીક.

(A soul, if leaves his body with any desire of a snese object, the soul will have to resume the cycle of birth and death. Therefore be desire free to avoid such repeated deaths.)

The souls are advised to be desire free to to avoid the fear of the death. The souls are advised to be desire free to avoid cycle of the births and deaths. Do devotion and renounce desires.

The soul imprison in desires, has to be born again as a father, a son, a mother to relieve himself from the desires. Due to their unfulfilled desires, the enemy souls too are born in family to settle the account ! Due to a desire, soul of a grand father takes birth as a grandson in his family. such incidents are known to us. Saints Tulsidasji says :

एक मृग के कारणे भरत धरी तीन देह
तुलसी उनकी क्या गति घर घर करत सनेह

(Great enlightened soul – Bharatji was born thrice due to his affection in an your[illegible]one of a deer. What shall be the destiny of the souls attached affectionately to the family and clan !)

Bharatji was a enlightened soul. He was aware of his earlier birth and due to such enlightenment he freed himself from the clutches of desires. But what about us ? We ignorant souls are too poor to know about our present !

वासनाद्वासुदेवस्य वासितं भुवन त्रयम् ।
सर्वभूतनिवासोऽसि वासुदेव ! नमोऽस्तुते ॥

- Vishnu Sahasranama

Desires for Vasudeva. Love God Vasudeva. Detach your self and renounce absolutely. Rope of the desire will not allow you to progress on the path of desires. Relieve your soul from the prison of the desires.

A Brahmin priest (Chaube) of Mathura desired to visit Gokul. In those days there were boat service between Mathura and Gokul. He sat in his boat to take it to Gokul. He was in intoxication of Bhang, and in such state he pressed hard to navigate his boat swiftly. He continued his efforts till day break, but found himself at the same bank in Mathura. Intoxicated Brahmin forgot to untie his boat !

The soul is like that Brahmin. The ropes of the sense organs are firmly tied to the sense objects of various kinds. The soul will have to untie himself by withdrawing the sense organs. Devotion can not be helpful if soul sticks himself to the sense objects. Attach yourself to God and devotion. Relieve your sense organs from those sense objects and attach them to devotion and God.

MAGIC V/S. MIRACLE

- Sadhu Satyaprakashdas

Magic is trated as a miracle, but both are different by nature. The world of magic is spread everywhere. Magic is a trick. An expert magician plays tricks to entangle his viewers in a web of surreal experiences. No mantras or supernatural powers are involved in such performance. It is a dexterity of the gross body of a magician, and a true magician uses this trick to entertain viewers.

Lord Shriji Maharaj has performed miracles. Miracles are an out come of superhuman or divine powers of an individual. Lord Shriji Maharaj has manifested his divinity through the miracles. There are many episodes about such miracles : Varniraj at Loj carried a bundle of vegetables by keeping it one meter up on his head; the bundle stayed suspended on the head and continued to move up in the sky in direction of Varniraj walking towards the hermitage. Lord Shriji Maharaj has displayed entire universe in a cowden when village ladies were collecting it. Bal Ghanshyam opened his mouth wide and his mother saw entire univese in the open mouth of her son. Bal Ghanshaym took a tiny branch of temerind tree and planted it in the courtyard, but Suvasinibhai and others saw it growing as a heathy plant of Tulsi (besils). There are many miracles displayed by Shriji Maharaj. Aspirants, when desired certain happening to confirm divinity or godliness of Shriji Maharaj, Shriji Maharaj displayed such miracle to confirm the resolute of such an aspirants. Great poet Ladudanji had darshan of Maharaj and Shriji Maharaj displayed miracle during that meeting to produce flower garland of the fresh roses. Roses were impossible to bloom in that adverse season !

Varniraj Shri Hari graced Mt. Girnar and camped at the Radha Temple at the peak. A ferocious lion came at midnight to search for his prey. As the lion walked to Shri Hari, the wild cat lost its wildness and like a slave surrendered at the feet of Maharaj. This was the miracle of the eye sight and pure love transmitted through the eyes. The king of the forest-ferocious lion – licked the lotus feet of Maharaj. Varniraj used the lion as a pillow and continued his medition till day break. In his meditative mood, Shri Varniraj thought to ride the lion to visit the village and towns. People were to follow him in light of such miracle and were to accept his orders. But according to Varniraj, that was not a right way to preach ethical duties. He desired to change their heart by his preachings. He desired to take them to the path of ultimate knowledge.

Varniraj placed his hand on the head of the lion and benedicted him. Lion went back to the dense forest. This and others are the miracles displayed by Maharaj to strengthen the sect. But similar power still exists in the form of idols and scripturs.

This is not an ancient reference. H.H. Acharya Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharajshri has mentioned it very recently during a Satsang session. His holiness conveyed it to entire satsang when he addressed them at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Gavada (Vijapur), North Gujarat. H.H. Acharya Maharajshri was with His holiness at the Bhakti Chintamani Parayan Satsang. As

Acharya Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharajshri has conveyed – 'There are many ailing in physical and mental desease. Many among these patients are mental patients. Medicines and doctors are available for a physical ailment, but for a mental ailment treatments are not perfectly fruitful. A well concentrated reading of the Bhakta Chintamani acts like a miracle for those patients.'

S.G. Niskhkulanand Swami has authored the eternal scripture – Bhakta Chintamani. The life and divine acts of Shriji Maharaj are narrated in this scripture. These divine leelas act like a miracle to chase away mental disorders. Devotees ! Please sing the episodes narrated in Bhakta Chintamani. Learn to sing the scritprues and ralish its eternal charms. Sing it to install the episodes on the seat of your heart.

I don't intend to say that the readers are mental patients. We all are in grip of births and deaths. We will have to relieve our selves for our ultimate benediction. Greatest doctor has suggested this 'life seving drug.' We should consume it for our ultimate good.

H.H. Acharya Maharajshri orders us to read Bhakta Chintamani regularly.

Con. from page 11

I AM YOUR COMPANION

She realized her mistake and prayed, 'Maharaj ! Oh My God ! Please forgive me. I have committed gratest blunder. Please pardon me.' But Maharaj ignores her prayer and persistently insists Dungarji to have prasadi meal, 'Dungarji ! Come on. Have it without delay. Be quick. Have it happily. I will hit it to your head if left any thing.'

God was testing the soul. Love calls for total submission – absolute surrender. It is very difficult to digest absolute love. Man longs for joys and pleasures. Man desries to enjoy it all alone without sharing it with others. He is in hurry and haste to have pleasure. If it is incomplete or unsatisfactory, he blames God for such drawbacks.

Dungarji casted his eyes down ward and like a slave looked silently at Maharaj. He tried silently to convey 'Maharaj ! Why you said nothing about the traste ? Why you took it as a perfect meal ? Why you had it happily ?' Maharaj grasped the meaning of his gaze.

This was the basic distinction between a soul and the God. Soul runs after the tastes. God is hungry of pure love. There are many episodes where enthusiastic devotees forgot to check the contents and served flour or salt in place of sugar, offered stale buttermilk in place of sweetened milk. Those servings were not intentional. Those were expressions of unpolluted love. God always tasted sweetness in such service.

Maharaj grants devotional pleasure to Amritbai and resumes religious tour before day break. Amritbai collects the utensils and arranges them in the basket. She carries the basket on her head walks in confidence to the village. The farm was sanctified by holy touch of Maharaj. She had personal dialogue with Maharaj. She found herself most fortunate. She still remembers the words echoing in her mind, 'I am your companion.' Maharaj is her companion. Maharaj is with her ! Tears of eternal pleasure rolls off from her eyes.

TRUE KNOWLEDGE

- Sadhu Ghanshyamprakashdas

Vidya means knowledge, vidya means to know, vidya means information, vidya means intellect, vidya means to acquire the expertise to discriminate between just and unjust, right and wrong, proper and improper. All living beings on the earth know since their birth the art of knowing about their enemies and friends, food and shelter. The species other than human beings, have no reasoning power. Human beings have reasoning power and by their constant efforts they have progressed on the path of continuous development. Development is a postitive fruit of knowledge – vidya.

Vidya or knowledge can be divided in two distinct parts : true knowledge and false knowledge. These are known respectively as Sad-Vidya and Avidyaa. True knowledge – postive thinking usher in happiness and everlasting pleasures. Avidyaa or false knowledge creates conflicts, pains and grief.

There is a shloka in Sanskrit language :

त्वमेव माता च पिता त्वमेव ।
त्वमेव बंधु च सखा त्वमेव ।
त्वमेव विद्या द्रविणं त्वमेव ।
त्वमेव सर्वं मम देव देव ।

(You are my mother, you are my father, you are my brother, you are my friend. You are my knowledge, you are my wealth. Oh God ! You are everything for me.)

A Hindu child learns it right from his birth. He sings it in daily pooja, Darshan and prayer.

Lord Swaminarayan Bhagwan says in His Vachanamrit (Gadhda M-9) God's image should not be ignored. The image of God in front of a devotee should be treated by him as the cause of all the incarnation and God in human form. If he fails to realize so, or takes God as an abstract form is nothing but insult of God. Arjuna was empowered with divine powers of Lord Shri Krishna because he knew and realized God in His true form. King Yudhishthira was empowered with the knowledge of the scriptures. This is why Yudhishthira was doubtful about his emancipation, despite his ethical acts at the battle field of Mahabharata. Lord Shri Krishna took him to Bhishma to listen to the ethical preachings from Bhishma Pitamaha. Despite such enlightening discoures, he was not become doubt free like Arjuna.

Lord Shriji Maharaj says : Take God as your knowledge. God himself is vidya for the devotees. Trust in God and be faithful to Shriji Maharaj. Such a trust and faith will generate eternal love for the image of Shriji Maharaj. Per chance receded in Satsang activities and ousted from the Satsang, the soul despite such adversaries, continue to love God. Though not a Satsangi at the time of his death, he shall be consigned to the divine abode of Akshardhaam.

Shriji Maharaj preaches us (Gadhda F-50) about the true knowledge. He inquires with his saints, 'Intellectuals attain pure conscousness. Is this intelligence pertains to the world or to the knowledge of the scriptures ?' Munis tried at their best to answer this question, but were not successful. Shriji Maharaj then helps them,

'There are many who are worldly wise, but they never care for their benediction. There are many who are wise in knowledge of the scriptures and histories, but they hardly bother for their emancipation. These people, therefore, can not be treated as intellectuals. Know them as unitelligent. Those who are not so intelligent, but cares for their ultimate emancipation, should be treated as true intellectuals.

Here is a shloka :

या निशा सर्वभूतानां तस्यां जाग्रति संयमी ।
यस्यां जाग्रति भूतानि सा निशा पश्यतो मुनेः ॥

Worldly souls takes devotion and meditation as like a dark night. Their intelligence is in dark. They don't to Bhajan or Japa. A true devotee of God is an enlightened soul. He is intelligent. He chants constantly the names of God. He is busy in service of God. Souls are highly responsive towards sounds, touch, charms, tastes and smell. They enjoy it constantly, but a devotee consider them as darkness of ignorance. Thus, the souls bothering for the self emancipation are intelligent souls and rest others are fools.

Duryodhana of Mahabharata was a scholar of the scriptures. He himself has confirmed that he know what was right and what was wrong. While confirming his knowledge, he confessed that thought he knew every thing, he was not able to act in accodance to his knowledge. Is there any sense in loading such knowledge.

Bhishma and Karna have been treated as great devotees. Society has admired them for their good qualities. Many books have been written about them. But as narrated in history, they always stood by unethical souls. They stood at wrong side. Henry. W. Dike says, 'No doctrine however high, however true, can make happy until it has been translated in to heart.' Knowledge should be translated into action.

One can not learn horse riding by reading a book about it. He will have to ride a house if he wished to learn riding. He will fall several times in such practice and shall be bruised and injured in such practice. End result shall be a good horse-riding. Human beings on the earth have learnt walking. All of them walk perfectly, but there shall be no one, who never lost balance or not fell when he learnt the art of walking. Information coupled with an experience is the true knowledge. Montegue says, 'Book knowledge is mere nuisance. It may do for an ornament but never for a foundation.' Taxshila University in India was the highest seat of knowledge in ancient India. There were 150 branches of the knowledge, taught to thousands of the scholars. Chemistry, physics, bilogy, ayurveda, geography, histoy, astronomy, astrology, Mathematics etc. are a few from those.

S.G. Brahmanad Swami mastered the knowledge of 24 branches. S.G. Muktanand Swami too was an expert in many branches of knowledge. He has written ten thousand kirtans. He was a good musician and a very good dancer. He had equal mastery in art of drawing and painting. While dancing on the tunes of his devotional songs, he was drawing pictures of elephant, peacock etc. by holding a chalka stick in his big toe of the right leg. He was good at interpretation of the scriptures. A debate was organized

by the Gaikwar of Baroda and the scholars from Kashi were defeated there by S.G. Muktanand Swami. In his debate with the vedic scholaras. S.G. Muktanand Swami established that 'Bhagwan Swaminarayan was the contempory incarnation of Supreme Lord. The sect Swaminarayan Sampradaya is the original axiomatic Hindu religion. There were five hundred enlightened saints to spread meassage of Lord Sahajanand.

Once up-on a time, a lady at Sarangpur was trying hard to help her child to speak the name of Shriji Maharaj. Shriji Maharaj passed by her dwelling and found her desperate in teaching to her son. Shriji Maharaj asked her 'What are you doing ?' 'Maharaj ! I am teaching him to say Swaminarayan,' said she. 'Why are you teaching that name ?' Maharaj asked her in curiosity. She said, 'Maharaj ! We believe that he acquires entire knowledge if he knows the name of Swaminarayan.' Name of Bhagwan is nectar the essurece of all the scriptures. Swaminarayan is true knowledge.

Sins burn to ashes by a name of Swaminrayan. It showers peace and prosperity. A devout soul should try consciously to attain God. He should engage himself in efforts to attain proximity of God. Such practise and efforts are the true knowledge – Sad Vidyaa.

सा विद्या या विमुक्तये ।

(True Vidya relieves the soul)

Con. from page 9

Shikshaptri brings spring season in our life

their maximum to exploit labour class and the modern world and contemporary society got labour unions, socialist thinking and communist ideology !

Sahajanand Swami cares for living bodies, human beings and others. Non violence and virtuous living are the foundations. He prohibits violence even in the case of bed bugs, mosquetoes and flies. He prohibits killings for the holy fires and sacrifice. He prohibits violent holy fires. he asks his followers to stock enough hey and cattle food-for their domestic animals – cows, bullocks etc. Shri Hari suggests to the wealthy people and social leaders to organize medical and health services by managing hospitals and clinics (Shikshapatri : 132). Shriji Maharaj asks us to spread knowledge by teaching it to others, (Shikshapatri : 35). Shri Swaminarayan Sampradaya holds unqiue postion by conducting a large number of the schools, Gurukulams, colleges and college-hostels.

Shikshapatri is the best medicine to heal the wounds of the five sense objects. Shriji Maharaj asks us not to consume tobacco and other intoxicants. He forbids debouchary, gambling and non vegitarian meals.

S.G. Shatanand Swami wrote Arthadeepika treatise to explain Shikshapatri. Sahajanand Swami consented to the treatise and admired spiritual wisdom of Shatanand Muni.

Devotees and aspirants should live in accordance to Shikshapatri. Shikshapatri protects our life.

News And Notes From Shri Narnarayandev Desh

AHMEDABAD REGION

Lord Narnarayandev receives Dhanurmaas-devotion from his devotees at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Kalupur

Daily Dhoon sessions were organized here at the Prasadi Sabha Mandaam to please Shri Hari by the Dhanurmaas Dhoon. These daily feast of devotion was organized in benign presence of Lord Narnarayandev. The Dhoon sessions were led by H.H. Acharya Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharajshri. H.H. Acharya Maharajshri and H.H. Lalji Maharajshri. The early morning Dhoon sessions (16-12-05 to 14-1-06) were attended daily by the hundreds of the devotees, belonged to all age groups. H.H. Acharya Shri Tejendraprasasdji Maharjashri graced the temple early in the morning (at 5-00 a.m.) at the time of Mangla Aarti. His holiness continued this devotional service when H.H. Acharya Maharajshri led the religious tour of America). Respected Gadiwalashri (both) led such Dhoon sessions at the Haveli temple (for ladies) and favoured their follower ladies. Thousands of devotees have earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by their contribution and donations towards the one day Dhoon and the month long Dhoon sessions. Kothari Swami Dharmprakashdasji, Mahant Swami Shastri Golokviharidasji and Shastri Satyaprakashdasji have earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by managing the Dhoon session under able guidance of S.G. Mahant Swami Shastri Nirgundasji. Kothar staff has earned the blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri and Dharmkul, by their dedicated service at the Dhoon sessions. Thousands of devotees have benefited by this devotional programme.

- Jayesh Patel

Japa Yagya Ahmedabad Temple Please Lord Shri Narnarayandev Harikrishna Maharaj

A sessions of the constant Mahamantra Dhoon (of 9 hours duration) was organized here on date 27-12-05 at 7-00 a.m. The event was hosted by Shri Vasudevbhai Girdharbhai and family in memory of his mother (late) Rukshamniben G. Gajjar. Dhoon session was led with the Mahamantra Chanted by H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. Dhoon session was attended by a large number of saints, Parshandas and vising devotees besides the devotees from local. Hundred of devotees were come from the various places to attend this devotional feast. Faraal-meals were served by the hosts to all a people and the saints were honoured with the pair of Dhotis. S.G. Anand Swami, Shastri Swami Harikrishnadasji, Shastri Swami Purnaprakashdasji and Shastri Swami Satyaprakashdasji have admired the devotional fervour of the host family. The Japa Yagya was concluded by the host family by presenting Aarti to Lord Thakorji.

- Kothari Dharmprakashdas

Shrimad Satsangi Bhushan Parayan at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir (Kalupur, Ahmedabad)

Shrimad Satsangi Bhusan Saptah Parayan was organized here with the due blessings of Acharya Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharajshri, H.H. Acharya Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharajshri, H.H. Lalji Shri Vrajendraprasadji Maharajshri, Respected Gadiwalashri (former) and Respected Gadiwalashri. Shastri Swami Harikrishnadasji (Chhapaiya Dhaam), Celibate saints (Late) Haripriyanandji, S.G. Mahant Sami Hariswaroopdasji (Bhuj Mandir), Mahant Swami Shastri Nirgundasji and Purani Swami Dharmandanandasji have earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by inspiring the devout hosts for this feast of eternal knowledge. Samkhya Yogi Meghnaben (Guru : S.Y. Kanbai of Gadhda in Guru Parampara of S.Y. Late Valbai), has earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by hosting Saptah-Parayana to fulfil the resolute of her Guru for the pleasure of Lord Narnarayandev.

Parayan sessions were organized and

Shrimad Satsangi Bhushan (authored by S.G. Vasudevanand Swami) was recited to please Lord Narnarayandev Shri Harikrishna Maharaj. The seat of the reader priest was graced jointly by S.G. Swami Shastri Narayanmunidasji and S.G. Swami Shastri Ramkrishandasji. Thousands of the devotees have benefited by this Katha Satsnag. Thaal and all related services to Lord Thakorji and the temple were hosted by the host of the Satsangi Bhushan Parayan. A lofty set of the Golden ornaments was presented to Lord Thakorji and similar services were offered to the Dharmkul. Donations were made to the Swaminarayan Museum and the saints to earn eternal pleasure of Shriji Maharaj.

The host family members Hiranis of Mankuva (Late) Narayanbhai Jadvabhai, (Late) Prembai Narayanbhai, (Late) Kanjibhai Narayanbhai, (Late) Nanjibhai Narayanbhai Devout ladies Kesarbai Kanjibhai and Megbai Nanjibhai, were represented by Jayantibhai, Arvindbhai, Vijaybhai, Kantaben, Vijaybhai, Manishaben Arvindbhai, Kanjibhai Haribhai Mirani, Purbai Kanjibhia, Mavjibhai and Laljibhai and the family members of the varsanis of Samaatra (at present at London) were represented by Muljibhai Laljibhai Varsani, Kesarbai Manjibhai and others. Satsangis from Mankuva, Kamlapur, Parvala, Shedubhar and Machiala have earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by their devotion service on this occasion.

The Sabhas were conducted by Shastri Swami Aksharprakashdasji and Purni Swami Krishnapriyadasji (Kutch-Bhuj). The devotional services of S.Y. Meghnaba and the other hosts were duely honoured at the concluding session of the Saptah Parayan. They have earned the pleasure of Shri Hari and the blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri.

Samkhya Yogi Jayshriben (Guru : Meghnaben) and the Samkya Yogi Sisters from Gadhpur and Sukhpar have earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by their services at the Katha sessions.

S.G. Celibate Swami Rajeshwaranandnji, P.P. Swami (Junior), J.P. Swami, Suryaprakash Swami, Balu Swami, Kothari Parshad Digambar Bhagat, Swami Aksharprakashdasji (Bhuj) and K.P. Swami have earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by their services at the Sabha Mandapam. Prasad meals were served to all the devotees and aspirants at the venue.

The saints and the senior devotees from Muli, Bhuj, Gadhpur, Junagadh, Vartal and Dholera were present on this occasion. Our Manjibhai Varsani and his team from London have earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by presenting Kirtan-Satsang to Lord Narnarayan Harikrishna Maharaj.

H.H. Acharya Maharajshri conveyes his hearty blessings to the Samkhya Yogis, saints, hosts and devotees.- *J.P. Swami (Guru : Shastri Swami Harikrishnadasji*

Shrimad Bhagwant Saptah (Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Chhapaiya Dhaam)

Shrimade Bhagwat Parayan (seven days) was organized here at the Chhapaiya Dhaam with the due blessings of H.H. Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharajshri. This feast of eternal knowledge and praise of God was organized in memory of Satsangi (Late) Shri Pranlalbhai Devchandbhai Parikh (Mumbai). About 250 devotees and family members were come to Chhapaiya Dhaam for this week long Satsang and the pleasure of Shriji Maharaj.

H.H. Acharya Maharjashri graced Chhapaiya and blessed his devotees at the Katha sessions. H.H. Acharya Maharajshri graced the Parayan Satsang for the three consecutived days and favoured the hosts and devotees with has benign presence. Chhapaiya region is famous for unbearable cold of the winter. However the guests and the listeners were quite comfortable during these religious days, due to arrangements and facilities provided by Mahant Celibate Swami Vasudevanandji. Events were organized under

able guidance of Gavaiya Mahant Swami Ramkrishnadasji (age : 95) Hosts Shri Jatinbhai Parikh, Umedbhai Parikh, Sunilbhai and Shardaben Pranlalbhai Parikh have earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by their generous service towards the canse. Senior Gadiwalashri was present on this occasion to favour her female devotees. Her holiness was accompanied by Samkhya Yogi Ravikantaba from Loj.

The seat of the reader priest was graced by S.G. Swami Shastri Purushottam-prakashdasji (Jetalpur Gurukul). The guest devotees and residents devotees have benefited by these enlightening discourses. The Mahant Swamis from Ahmedabad, Jetalpur, Kankaria, Loj and Gadhada were present on this occasion with their disciple saints.

- Brahmchari Avinashannadji

Renovation of the Prasadi-well at Kathlal

The well here is a prasadi of Lord Shriji Maharaj. Devout Lady Rambai had washed the feet of Shriji Maharaj and that sacred water of her pot, was added by her in the well to benefit the residents of Kathlal. Local community have benefited for about one hundred years by consuming ground water of the well, but as the time passed, water levels were gone very deep and tube wells were driller to draw water from the lowest level. Thus the ancient well was not used since last few decades. The structure of the well was much damaged with passing of years.

H.H. Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharajshri desired to reconstruct the well to maintain this historical monument and a prasadi place of Shriji Maharaj. The service and contribution towards the renovation of the well was hosted jointly by Shri Kiritbhai Jayantibhai Patel (at present : USA) and brothers Shri Sureshbhai and Dineshbhai of Kathlal. S.G. Shastri Swami Purushottamprakashdasji (Jetalpur Dhaam) undertook the task of renovation and guided the team to bring the well in orginal shape. A hand pump has been installed at the opening of the well to help the devotees to have prasadi-water. A well designed canopy has been constructed to maintain memory of washing feet. A pair of foot prints carved in marble has been installed to locate the holy place.

H.H. Acharya Maharajshri graced this town on 29-11-05 and installed Charanaravind a at the prasadi place.

A large number of devotees and their future generations are to benefit by this most sacred endeavour.

- Kothari Maheshbhai Kachhiya.

Patotsava of Lord Hanuman at our Vadu Temple

S.G. Celibate Vasudevanandji has installed here the idol of Lord Hanuman. The temple is about 150 years old, and adverse seasons have damaged the temple extensively. Since decades it was caling our attention to renovate or rebuilt the structure.

The temple was reconstructed in carved stones in accordance to the religious scritprues and the grand event of invoking Lord Hanuman at the new temple was organized with the due blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. The events of invocation of Lord Hanuman parallels grant event of the sixth annual Patotsava of Shri Swaminarayan temple.

Shrimad Satsangi Bhushan Parayan (five days) and Maruti Yagya with fifty one altars (three days) were organized on this auspicious occasion. The seat of the reader priest was graced jointly by Mahant Swami Shastri Nirgundasji (Ahmedabad temple) and Shasri Swami Vishwaprakashdasji (Vadnagar). Samhita Path (text reading) was performed by Shastri Abhishekprasaddasji. Shastri Swami Harikrishnadasji and Mahant Swamis from Himathagar Narayanpura and Narayanghat were present on this occasion with their disciple saints. The history and devotional fervour of this small village were narrated by Shastri Ramkrishnadasji and Shastri Chhapaiyaprasaddasji.

H.H. Acharya Maharajshri graced this place (7-12-05), amidst jai-jaikar of Shriji Maharaj and graced the Shobhā Yatra to receive obeisance from his thousands of devotees. Shobha Yatra was drawn to Shri Hanuman Mandir amidst devotional music. H.H. Acharya Maharajshri graced the temple and invoked Lord Hanuman by presenting invocation Aarti.

A special sabha was organized on this occasion. H.H. Acharya Maharajshri graced the Sabha to bless his devout followers. The sabha was addressed by M.P. (Upper house) Shri (Dr.) A.K. Patel and Shri Navinbhai Bhavsar. S.G. Vishwaprakahdasji and S.G. Chhapaiyaprasaddasji have earned the pleasrue of Shri Hari by delivering enlightening discourses. The Sabha was ended with the hearty blessings conveyed by H.H. Acharya Maharajshri.

The temple was constructed with in a short period of five months with the due financial support from the overseas Satsangis. Kothari Kalidasbhai, Shri Jayantibhai, Shri Govindbhai, Shri Pravinbhai, Silent worker Shri Jayantibhai Kothari, and the S.N.N.D.Y.M. members Shri Jashubhai, Ashokbhai and others have earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by their service at the temple.

H.H. Acharya Maharajshri graced thereafter the temple and presented Patotsava Abhishekam and Annkut Aarti to Lord Thakorji. His holiness graced then the temple for the ladies and presented festive Aarti to Lord Ghanshyam Maharaj.

Thousands of devotees have benefited by this religius celebrations. *- Pravinbhai Patel*

The 16th Annual Patotsava at Shri Swamianrayan Mandir, Himatnagar

Lord Bal Swaroop Ghanshyam Maharaj has received here Patotsava Abhishekam to give devotional pleasure to His devotees. Grand events and the vedic rituals were organized on this occasion with the due blessings of H.H. Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharajshri. Mahant Swami Shastri Anandjivandasji has earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by encouraging devout family for this religious event. The events of the Patotsava Abhishekam were hosted by Shri Amichandbhai N. Prajapati and family.

H.H. Acharya Maharajshri graced the Satsang Sabha on 6-12-05 and received poojan, Archan, Aarti from the devout family. devotees Shri Manubhai Prajapati, Shri Hirenbhai, Shri Rakeshbhai, Shri Sandipbhai and Shri Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal have earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by presenting poojan Archan in a group. The festive Aarti was presented with 34 ignited lemps. Senior citizens and leaders were come to the stage to honour H.H. Acharya Maharajshri by flower garlands. His holiness favoured them by consenting to their obeisance. Enlightening discourses were delivered by the senior saints. The Sabha was concluded with the hearty blessings conveyed by H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. Thousands of devotees have benefited by the blissful view of Patotsava Abhishekam. *- Poojari Swami Himtangar.*

News and notes from H.H. Acharya Devendraprasadji Kelavani Trust

Km. Mehal Shah (Std. : 9) of Shri Sahajanand secondary school has been selected as caption of the Sub-Junior National Cricket Champinship team of Gujarat. She was selected by women's Cricket Association of India, in a contest among the 20 states of India. H.H. Acharya Maharajshri conveys his hearty blessings. *-Sandipbhai Choksi*

Shakotsava at Dhamasana Temple

Shakotsava was organized here (on 18-12-05) with the due blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. Shakotsava is an integral componenet in the annual festivals celebrated at this temple. the rituals of Shakotsava were performed personally by H.H. Acharya Maharajshri to recreate ancient view of the Shakotsava performed by Shriji Maharaj at Loya Dhaam.

The saints and the devotees from Muli desh and Ahmedabad Dhaam were present on this occasion.

A special Sabha was organized on this occasion. H.H. Achaya Maharajshri graced the sabha and received poojan Archan from the host family. this grand Shakotsava was hosted by our faithful Satsangi Shri Popatbhai and family. (Late) Swami Vishnuprasaddasji has earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by encouraging aspirants to join this sect. Local Satsang is aware of this ancient history.

H.H. Acharya Maharajshri was escorted with due respect by S.G. Celibate Rajeshwaranandji, Shastri Satyaprakahshdasji, Raju Swami Shastri Purnaprakashdasji (orgnizer) and Kothari Swami Swayamprakashdasji (Haridwar Dhaam). About 5000 devotees have received prasadi meals at the Shakotsava. - *Narnarayan Swami, Dhamasana Satsang Samaj.*

Installation Ceremonies and Celebrations at Bhachau Temple

One hundred and fifty years old temple at this place was collapsed in last earthquake. Bhachau is the gateway of Kutch region. The temple was reconstructed by the devotees under able guidance from the saints.

Moorti Pratishtha Mahotsava was organized to invoke idols of God. The events were organized to celebrate this occasion. Parayan of S.G. Nishkulanand Bhashya was organized on this occasion. The seat of the reader-priest was graced jointly by Shastri Aksharamuktadasji and Shastri Nilkanthswaroopdasji. The Sabha was conducted collectively by S.G. Purushottamcharandasji, S.G. G.K. Suryaprakash Acharya and Shastri Swami Aksharprakashdasji.

H.H. Acharya Maharajshri graced this place on 4-12-05 with a retinue of his saints and devotees. H.H. Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji was receivecd most honourably by a colourful procession of the devotees and saints. H.H. Acharya Maharajshri graced the temple and presented invocation Aarti to the indweller God. Thousands of devotees were come to Bhachau to do darshan of this grand event.

A Sabha was organized on this occasion. H.H. Acharya Maharajshri graced the Sabha and blessed his faithful devotees.

H.H. Acharya Maharajshri graced there after the newly built Shri Lohana Samaj Wadi and blessed Shri Lakhamshi D. Thakkar (President, Lohana Community) for his devotional fervour.

Shri Khimjibhai Nishar and other devotees have earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by their devotional service. Vote of thanks was passed by Shri Ghanshyambhai Khimjibhai on behalf of Trust-board. - *Manubhai Thakkar*

MULI REGION

H.H. Acharya Maharajshri Installs the idols of God at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir (Ladies) Borana

H.H. Acharya Maharjshri has favoured the Satsang of this place by installing idols of God at the new temple of the Sampradaya.

S.G. Suryaprakashdasji (Muli) has earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by encouraging the devotees to construct a temple for the female Satsangis. The temple was constructed in a very short period and auspciuos day was finalized to invite H.H. Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharajshri. His holiness consented to invoke God on auspicious 3-12-05.

The events were organized for the three days (1-12-05 to 3-12-05) to celebrate the occasion. Shrimad Dasham Skandh Parayan (Three days) was conducted on this religious occasion. The seat of the reader priest was graced jointly by S.G. Mahant Swami Shastri Nirgundasji, S.G. Shastri Brahmviharidasji (Muli) and Swami Shrijiprakashdasji. Shri Hari Yaag (three days) was hosted by a large number of devotees to earn the pleasure of Shri Hari.

H.H. Acharya Maharajshri graced this place on auspicious third day of December. His holiness and the retinue were received warmly by a huge procession of the devotees and aspirants. H.H .Acharya Maharajshri and retinue were escorted in a Shobha Yatra to grace Shri Swaminarayan Mandir (for gents) and H.H. Acharya Maharajshri received poojan Aarti from his devotees and graced the new temple constructed for the female devotees. His holiness presented there invocation Aarti and concluded there after the holy-fire by presenting concluding sacrifice. A sumptuous Annkut was presented to please Lord Thakorji.

H.H. Acharya Maharajshri graced thereafter the Sabha and blessed his devotees. The Mahants and the saints from Ahmedabad, Muli, Charadava, Halvad, Surendranagar and Vartal were present on this occasion.

OVERSEAS

The 5th Annual Patotsava of Shri Swaminarayan Temple, L.A. (I.S.S.O.)

H.H. Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharajshri graced this sanctified place to celebrate 5th Annual Patotsava of Shri Swaminarayan Mandir at Norvok, L.A. His holiness and the retinue were received warmly by the thousands of devotees and aspirants in a colourful Shoba Yatra.

Katha-Parayan was organized on this religious occasion. The 'Pothi Yatra' was organized as per ancient convention. Female Satsangis wore yellow sarees to represent eternal happiness and carried sacred scripture on their head. Goddess Radhikaji at the temple graced similar saree to receive devotional fervour of her devotees. Pothi Yatra was received with devotional music and the flower Petals that expressed devotional fealings of the devotees.

The seat of the principal reader priest was graced by S.G. Mahant Swami Shasstri Nirgundasji (Ahmedabad Temple). The hosts Mrs. Rashmiben Prakashbhai Patel, Mrs. Lakshmiben Lalbhai Patel and Mrs. Kamalaben Ishwarbhai Patel have earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by presenting Poojan-Aarti to the scripture and the reader-priest. On the first day of the Katha session, devotees were asked by the reader-priest to dedicate absolutely to Lord Shriji Maharaj. He narrated the example of Arjuna in support to his appeal. H.H. Acharya Maharajshri graced the parayan session to favour his Satsangis by His blissful presence. About four hundred families were benefited spiritually by presenting, Poojan-Aarti to H.H. Acharya Maharajshri.

Enlightening discourses were delivered on the secondday and the essence of the three chapters (4, 5, 6) of Shrimad Bhagwad Gita was narrated by Mahant Swami Shastri Nirgundasji. Spiritual discourses were delivered by S.G. Mahant Swami Keshavcharandasji and Shastri Suryaprakashdasji. On the third day of the festival, the activities related to social services were taken on hand and a medical camp was organized under supervision of Dr. Hitesh Patel (Boston). Medical service was extended to 26 patients by the volunteering specialists Dr. Manojbhai, Sheelaben Patel, Nayanbhai Patrel and others from ISSO.

A youth camp was organized at the third floor of the temple-premises and children and youths were educated about the religion and culture of India. The camp was conducted in English by a team of the Satsangi youths from East coast. This was the third of the celebrations. The reader-priest was enlightening the devotees in benign presence of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri, by dlivering deiscourse on the sublte topics of Geeta Bhashya. An ocasional discourse was delivered at evening by Madhav Swami (Mahant Swami, Boston temple) and devotees were helped thereafter, to attend evening Aarti. Group Mahapooja was organized at 7-00 a.m. of the fourth day. The seat of the principal host was graced by His holiness. About forty host family were favoured with the Mahapooja service to

Shri Hari. Devotees were blessed by Maharajshri at the end of Mahapooja rituals. Light prasadi meals were served to the deovtees. About fifty patients were served with medical check-up and basic treatment. H.H. Acharya Maharajshri graced the medical camp and blessed the visitors. His Holiness admired the social service of the doctors and conveyed his hearty blessings. The volunteers at the medical camp were honoured with a photo image of Lord Narnarayandev and a certificate to admire and bless their services.

H.H. Acharya Maharajshri graced the abode of Lord Swaminarayan Bhagwan Shri Radhakrishandev and served Mahabhishekam at 7-00 right after the Mangala Aarti. The auspicious rituals of Mahabhishekam lasted for an hour. Hundreds of devotees did Darshan of the Mahabhishekam served by the seventh descendant son to his great grand father – Lord Shri Hari. Festive Patotsava-Aarti was served to God with Jai-Jaikar of Shri Swaminrayan Bhagwan.

The concluding Aarti was served thereafter, to the holy-sciprute and the reader priest. The eighteenth chapter of Shrimad Bhagwad Geeta was recited on this occasion.

H.H. Acharya Maharajshri graced the Sabha and received poojan, Aarti from the host family of Shri Vinodbhai Patel, Samirbhai Marfatia, Lalitaben, Shilpaben and Nimishaben. The trestees of the Norvok Temple – M/s. Natubhai Patel, Arvindbhai Patel, Bhaktibhai Patel, Jayantibhai Prakashbhai Patel, Rasikbhai Parikh, Rasikbhai Chaudhari, Ishwarbhai Chandubhai, Devrajbhai Kerai, Sanjya Patel and others have earned the pleasure of Shir Hari by serving Poojan-Aarti to H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. The Khes and Kantis etc. of Lord Ghanshyam Maharaj and Lord Shri Radha Krishna were brought the devotees to conduct Uchhamani (donation oriented auction) Devotees Shri Surbhiben Jayantibhai Patel, Sudhaben Arvindbhai, Nitaben Rameshbhai Bhatecha, Rakeshbhai Patel, Rashmiben Prakashbhai Patel, Hansaben Patel, Nita, Dhruval Shah and Pankajbhai have received the sacred items by donating highest amount. H.H. Acharya Maharajshri conveys hearty blessings.

The celebrations were concluded with the hearty blessings conveyed by H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. *-Natubhai A. Patel, President L.A. Temple.*

AKSHARVAAS

Dhamij : Kothari Shri of our Dhamij temple, Manubhai Bhalabhai Patel passed away (1-12-05) to Akshrdham amdist chants of Shriji Maharaj's blissful names.

Ahmedabad : Devout soul Rajendrabhai Vasudev Joshi (advocate) passed away (19-12-05) to Aksharhdma amidst chants of the Mahamantra.

Ahmedabad (Sabarmati) : Satsangi Paragbhai (M.B.A. Son of Shri Natvarbhai Mafabhai Patel) passed away (20-11-05) to Akshardham amidst the chants of Mahamantra.

Balasinor : Devout soul Ravishankar Punjalal Kachhiya passed away (16-12-05) amidst chants of Shriji Maharaj's blissful name.

Chaloda (Dholka) : Kamlaben Punjabhai passed away (19-11-05) to Akshardham amidst chants of Shriji Maharaj's blissful name.

Ahmedaabd (at present London, U.K.) : Shri Vishnuprasad Bhikhabhai Brahmbhatt (yonger brother of Dhirubhai Brahmbhatt) passed away to Akshardham amidst the chants of the Mahamantra.

Ahmedabad : Madhukantaben Bhikhalal Soni passed away (5-12-05) to Akshardham amidst constant chants of Mahamantra.



H.H. Acharya Maharajshri invokes God at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir Borana (Limbdi)



Host Shri Amichandbhai Prajapati and family at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Himtanagar Patotsava served Aarti Poojan to H.H. Acharya Maharajshri



Annakut at Shri Swaminarayan Temple, Ndola (Zambia, Africa)



Shri Manubhai Varsani (Kirtankar-London) presents Kirtan-Seva at the late evening Parayan Satsang.





H.H. Acharya Maharajshri blessed Shri Manubhai Varsani and Shri Arvindbhai (Hosts of the Parayan Satsang) for their devotional fervour.



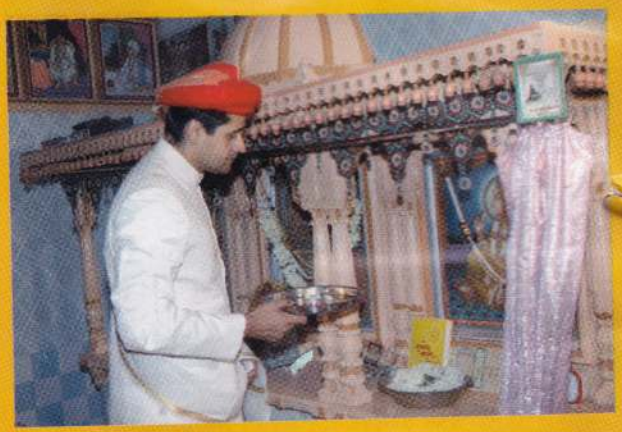
Lord Shri Radha Krishnadev Shri Harikrishna Maharaj at Shri Swamianrayan Mandir, L.A. (U.S.A.)



H.H. Acharya Maharajshri blesses Patotsava Sabha at our L.A. temple (USA).



150 years old Hanuman at Vadu Temple receives invocation Aarti from H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. The idol of Lord Hanuman was installed by S.G. Vasudevanand Swami.



H.H. Acharya Maharajshri serves Patotsava Aarti to Lord Thakorji at Vadu Temple (for ladies).



H.H. Acharya Maharajshri serves sacrifice to Holy



H.H. Acharya Maharajshri blesses satsang at Vadu.

Praful Kharsani