Rs. 5/-

શ્રી સ્વામિનારાયણ

April 2009



નૈરોબી
(શ્રી કચ્છ સ્વા. સત્સંગ)
મંદિરમાં
પ.પૂ. મોટા મહારાજશ્રીના
વરદ્ હસ્તે રંગોત્સવ
અને
પ.પૂ.લાલજી મહારાજશ્રીના
વરદ્ હસ્તે
કાલુપુર મંદિરમાં
ફુલદોલોત્સવ

પ્રકાશકઃ શ્રી સ્વામિનારાયણ મંદિર, અમદાવાદ-૧
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.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and the saints on visit to a lace in Nairobi for Shree Swaminarayan Museum



H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj blessing a Sabha in Nairobi temple



eading Haribhaktas performing Aarti of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj in Kampala



H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj performing Aarti in Toronto temple



Haribhaktas performing Aarti of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj



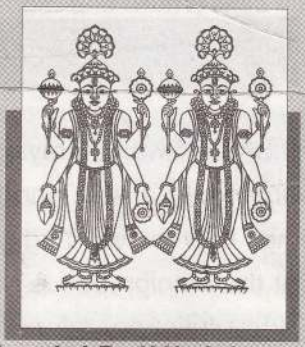
On 1st Patotsav of Auckland (New Zealand), Member of Parliament Mr.Karol Beaumont expressing his gratitude in the Sabha



Haribhaktas performing Aarti of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj in our Eldorate temple



The host family performing poojan of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj on the occasion of 1st Patotsav



Founded By H.H. Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharajshri, Shri Narnarayandev Diocese.

Shri Swaminarayan Museum
Narayanpura, Ahmedabad-13.
Phone : 27499597 - 9825309597
Fax : 27419597
www.swaminarayanmuseum.com

With the directions of
Shri Narnarayandev Pithadhipati
H.H. 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharajshri

Controlling Editors & Publishers
Shastri Swami Harikrishnadasji
MAHANT
SHRI SWAMINARAYAN TEMPLE
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Phone : 22132170, 22136818
Karbhari office : 22121515.
Fax : 22176992.
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श्री स्वामिनारायण

Official News-letter from Shri Narnarayandevdesh Diocese

Vol : 2 No : 24 April-2009

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अस्मदीयम्

By establishing this *Satsang*, the Supreme Almighty Lord Shree Swaminarayan has enlightened the path of emancipation and welfare in *Satsang*. In a very short span of time, Shreeji Maharaj taught innumerable human beings how to live happily in this world while ensuring happiness in the *Other World*. But the omnipresence of the Lord Shree Swaminarayan was such that the Lord brought revolutionary reforms in the lives of the devotees not through any hypnotism or miracle or fear but through proper understanding of it. The Lord himself performed pilgrimage of all the villages and explained to the devotees, real meaning and understanding of Satsang. So let us perform such a Satsang which may bring in us understanding of Bhakti, Vrata, Darshan and their importance in our lives. Let us ask ourselves why do I perform *Satsang, Bhajan, Bhakti, Vrata, Dana, Tapa* and *Pooja*? Is it with an intention that other devotees recognize me? or to create an impression of a noble and gentleman in the society? or to increase my importance and reputation in the society? Or just because I don't have good terms with the members of my family? Or just because I am not found more appropriate at places other than a temple? If we try to seek the answer from ourselves, and if it is in affirmative, then still there is something lacking in my understanding. I perform Satsang just for the progress of my life and for emancipation of my soul and to increase my proximity with the Almighty Lord. If we inculcate such an understanding and attitude then we obtain pleasure of Maharaj and we get real pleasure in Satsang and our interest constantly increases in Satsang. If such an understanding is instilled in my mind then really my life has been meaningful.

Our 'Dharmkul Vandana Mahotsav' has now come very close. A number of devotees from abroad are rendering their services. It may be very difficult and perhaps impossible for us to pour one glass of water into an ocean, but the same glass of water becomes more meaningful when it is poured into a river which is leading towards the same ocean. It is a prayer to the Almighty Lord that, we all may render our services with our mind, body and money.

Editor
Mahant Swami
Shastri Swami Harikrishnadas

Appointment Diary of H.H. Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharajshri (MARCH- 2009)



1. Graced Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Kankaria and performed invocation of Shri Ghanshyam Maharaj and Patotsav of Shri RAdhakrishnadev Harikrishna Maharaj. Graced the hospital of the devotee Dr.Chintan Kevaldas Patel, Sola Road, Bhuyangdev, Ahmedabad.
2. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple Sapawada on the occasion of Patotsav. Graced Bhuj.
3. Graced Rapar (Kachchh).
4. Graced Shri Swaminarayan temple Aproach-Bapunagar on the occasion of Patotsav.
5. Graced Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Kanjaripa on the occasion of 50th Patotsav.
6. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Ghatlodiya and Shree Swaminarayan temple, Ranip on the occasion of Patotsav. Temple.
9. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Gunma and Satsang Sabha organized in connection with 'Dharmkul Vandana Mahotsav'. Graced the house of the devotee Shri Manojbhai Ghanshyambhai Dalal, Nava Vadaj.

11 to 12 Graced Bhuj (Kachchh) and Madanpur (Kachchh).

13 to 25 On pilgrimage to America.

26 to 27 Graced Kera (Kachchh).

28. Graced Radodara village.
29. Graced Dhansura village.
30. Graced Jamsar Halar (Muli Desh) on the occasion of Parayan. Graced the houses of the devotees residing in Rajkot.
31. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple Bhavnagarpura (Pratappura) on the occasion of Patotsav.

Shikshapatri

The Epistle of Precepts

(based on Shatanand's Shikshapatri Arthadipika)

By Pravin S. Varsani

Text 25

One shall never listen to any religious discourses from a person whose preaching might lead one away from the devotion to Lord Shree Krishna and personal Dharma.

Shrimad Bhagvat explains, "Those who do not listen to *Katha* (religious discourse) of God which is likely to destroy sin. But instead listen to *Vartas* (talks) of desires which destroy intellect, can never reach the heavens. Such persons who can never find shelter of God are forever enveloped in darkness." Therefore we must listen to discourses from those who are Krishna-Bhaktas- devotees of Shree Krishna, who are ever faithful to their Dharma.

We must always listen to *Katha* from those who have a true understanding of *Shastras* and who know the nature of God. We must listen to only the *Sat-Shastras* – true *Vedic Shastras* such as the *Vedas, Upanishads, the Puranas, Ramayan, Bhagvat Gita, Satsangi Jivan* etc. but never those which have no Vedic foundation, which lead one away from Shree Krishna and Dharma.

Vishnu Rahasya says, "Never listen to discourses from those who do not accept and respect *Brahmins*, *Sat-Shastras* and saints." **Sanat Kumar Samhita** explains the nature of those who should be listened to: "Those who follow *Swadharma*, who are not sinful, a staunch devotee of God, one who speaks of true Vedic knowledge, who is well learned in the *Shartras* and who has overcome his senses: such a person is a true *Purani* or *Vakta* (deliverer of *Katha*)."

Therefore it is very important that listen to right person who displays all such qualities, so that we are never led astry through imperfect knowledge.

It was vitally important for Lord Swaminaryan to write upon this subject as *Vaktas* of such caliber are few and far between. Lord Swaminaryan incarnated upon this Earth to clean up the knowledge being imparted. He had pious virtuous saints initiated into the *Sampradai*. Such saints of the highest caliber were asked to write and lecture upon true Vedic philosophy and so paved the way for future generations.

Other great Brahmins and *Shastras-Kars* exist in society (outside the Swaminarayan Sampraday) – who are great devotees of Shree Krishna. Only such person should be listened to. There are many, who teach the wrong knowledge, who teach contrary to true Vedic law, whose purpose is to build a fellowship for themselves. These are the person to be weary of.

Often it is difficult to know what true Vedic philosophy is. In such situation it is important to study *Shastras* ourselves. This knowledge will help to keep us on the right path and help us to spot right from wrong. Study of the major *Shastras* mentioned in the *Shikshapatri* and this *Shikshapatri Bhashya* it self will help us in the future to make the right decisions.

The right knowledge derived will act as tool and strengthen us to keep away from that which is false. All sorts of philosophies and views will be forced upon you, but with true knowledge your side you will then be in apposition to reject that which is false. This Vedic knowledge will benefit you in life generally and so it is imperative that a keen interest is adopted.



Blessings from other form of Shree Hari

- Gordhanbhai V. Sitapara (Hirawadi-Bapunagar)

On 28/02/2009, on the occasion of Patotsav of Shree Narnarayandev in our Ahmedabad temple and on 01/03/2009 on the occasion of invocation ceremony of Shree Ghanshyam Maharaj in our Kankaria temple, H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj blessed the saints and devotees. The excerpts of the same are reproduced hereunder:

H.H. Shri Acharya Shri Rakeshprasadji Maharajshri: in Vachanamrit, Shreeji Maharaj has stated that, a statement of Deposit of Money written by a *Sheth* appears simply a paper, but on its maturity earns a lot of money. Similarly, when a great man has given us any directions then initially there may not appear any benefit in it but if such directions are followed scrupulously and when we start yielding its fruits then we realize the importance of such directions. Almighty Lord Shreeji Maharaj has issued certain prohibitory directions in '*Shiksha-Patri*'. Initially, their scrupulous following does not appear meaningful but those who have followed them firmly and permanently, they have been happy in this world and have sought their place in Akshardham.

There are many such people, who wear gold coated ornaments because they do not have capacity of purchasing gold. But they do cherish in their minds, the desire to wear real golden ornaments as and when they acquire such a capacity. When we graced one house, then there were plastic-made lemon and chilly made hanging at lintel level of the main gate. When asked, he replied that, in order to save the time and money being spent behind purchasing real lemon and chilly, he had had ones made of plastic. When a person has got Lord with him, then it is a misconception that any evil hurdle can be there in his life. Furthermore, no duplicate thing can give the effect and result of an original thing. It is a way of self-deception. For us the Lord Shree Hari himself has established original places. We are required to develop these original places.

H.H. Shri Acharya Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharajshri :

A farmer nourishes his farm with the water of the borewell. He can provide water only up to certain area of his farm within a time of 4 to 5 hours. This labour of a farmer is a deed of a man. In stead when Almighty pours rains from above, then within just 1 hours, more than sufficient water is poured upon not one but millions of such other farms. The rain is a blessing of the Almighty Lord. A man may earn lacs of rupees but in a blink of an eye he can lose all the money. When the sensex is bullish, man feels himself puffed up but during the time of recession, one can see his plight. One gets prosperity and pelf due to the mercy and blessings of the Almighty Lord. He never feels deficiency of anything in his life.

Similarly, when we deviate from the path shown by the Almighty Lord, then we realize its consequences. We find ourselves trapped with a number of difficulties and yet our emancipation remains at a distance. How much can be done through human labour? When there are blessings of the Almighty Lord, we can sleep peacefully even after relishing the sweets like sweet balls. Even then there is assurance of our emancipation. Therefore, what is required is to have firm faith in the Almighty Lord.

Sometimes many people ask me, "Maharaj, you are always smiling." We say that, why shouldn't we smile when we have got such a merciful Almighty Lord? Many times we say that, we always wait for two festivals- Patosav of the Almighty Lord Shree Narnarayandev and *Kesar-Snan*. Why? Because on the day of Patotsav, we get an opportunity to touch the lotus-like feet of the Almighty Lord Shree Narnarayandev. On that day, we handover the reins of Satsang at his lotus-like feet and keep smiling throughout the year feeling alighted.

We know the hosts of Patotsav and golden flag-mast. But it is not that we know only them. All of you are the members of our family and familiar to me. Rendering service does not

Con. from page 7.....

હોરી ખેલે મહારાજા શ્રીપુરમેં હોરી ખેલે મહારાજા

- Atul Bhanuprasad Pothiwala (Ahmedabad)



Shree Hari has organized and celebrated *Hutasani* and *Fuldolotsav* twice in Shreepur (Ahmedabad). In Samvat 1859, Shree Hari graced Ahmedabad twice. It was the beginning of the pious *Magh Maas* in Samvat 1859. Shree Hari gracd Machiyav, Vinchhiya and Sanand. Shree Hari was very much pleased with the grandeur of Shreenagar (Ahmedabad).

The pious day of Fagun Sud Poonam of *Hutasani*. On that day the devotees performed poojan of Shree Hari and offered gifts of various edible items and celebrated the festivals. Shreeji Maharaj was very much pleased with the devotees and directed them to make all preparations and to celebrate the festival of *Janmotsav* (*Fuldolotsav*) of Shree Narnarayandev coming on the next day.

On the pious day of Fagun Vad-1, Shree Hari prepared himself, all the saints and the devotees prepared a beautiful *Hindolo* with the leaves of the mango tree and banana tree and also prepared beautiful colours. Therefore, golden idol images of Lord Shri Narnarayandev were brought and placed on the *Hindola* and performed Shodasopchar *poojan, Aarti* and offered *Naivaidya*. Thereafter devotees played various musical instruments and celebrated *Utsav*.

From the pious day of Vasant Panchmi of Samvat 1859, till Phuldol i.e. for one and half month, Haribhaktas of Ahmedabad celebrated the festival of Phuldolotsav with Shree Hari and pleased him. From that day, till date every year, Haribhaktas of Ahmedabad celebrate the festival in the pious presence of Lord Shree Narnarayandev from Vasant Panchmi till Phuldolotsav. The grandeur and importance of the festival has permanent impression upon the mind of the devotees.

This was the first festival of Fuldolotsav celebrated at Ahmedabad. Lord Shree Swaminarayan established the grandeur and importance of Shree Narnarayandev which spread in the hearts of all the devotees. Thereafter in Samvat 1881, when Shree Hari graced Ahmedabad for 21st time, then once again festivals of Hutasani and Fuldolotsav were celebrated.

In Samvat 1881, Shree Hari started from Gadhpur and graced the villages Sarangpur, Sundariyana, Kanthariya, Shiyani, Tavi, Devliya, Daduka, Machiyav and Sanand and accepted the services of the devotees of these villages. On receipt of the message of arrival of Shree Hari, all the saints and devotees of Kalupur Swaminarayan temple started preparations and performed *Samaiya* of Shree Hari while singing Bhajans and Kirtans accompanies by the musical instruments.

Every day saints were singing *Pada* of *Holi* and were celebrated *Utsav* and *Haribhaktas* used to bring a number of things and offer them at the lotus-like feet of Shree Hari. Then Shree Hari used to sprinkle *Gulal* and distribute *Prasad* in the Sabha and thus *Falgun Sud Poonam* was celebrated.

The next day was *Falgun Vad Padavo* i.e. the day of Shree Narnarayan *Janma Jayanti*. On that day *poojan* and *aarti* of Shree Narnarayandev were performed and placed the idol images of the deities in a beautiful *Hindola* prepared on the occasion and swung the deities in the *Hindola*. Thereafter Shree Hari took the seat on *Paat* placed in from of the marble carved Umbrella situated at present in the open space in front of the main temple. Saints and *Haribhaktas* also arrived and took their seats. In the Sabha the saints started singing *Padas* of *Holi*. At the decided time, Bramchari prepared a colour of flowers of *Kesuda*. Adharanand Swami offered to Maharaj a golden water-sprinkler and Shree Hari started sprinkling colourful water. Thereafter Shree Hari lifted two big golden and silver bowls of colourful water and started sprinkling it all around. The whole Narnarayan Chowk became colourful. Then Shree Hari sprinkled *Gulal*. Meanwhile Anandanand Swami came and informed Maharaj that the devotees Govindbhai and Hirachand have been celebrating *Utsav* in front of Shree Narnarayandev regularly for the last one

month. They have also been all other festivals with all fervour and devotion. Since they all are busy with the *Utsav* they ardently desire colour of Prasadi and requested Maharaj to come to the temple and sprinkle colour upon them, too. So Maharaj graced the temple and sprinkled colour on all the devotees and the whole temple became colourful.

After performing *Rang-Krida* Shree Hari came to river Sabarmati for bath while riding on a horse accompanies by the saints and the devotees. On the way all the devotees felt as if Shree Hari was walking along with them. Meanwhile Dariayakhan in human form holding a black utensil in his hand with scattered hair came and on his request Shree Hari offered him a fruit. When Dariyakhan ate it, he became free from all sensual bondages of worldly life and became Mukta attaining the stage of Bhagwati. Then Shree Hari sent him to Badrikashram.

Shree Hari took bath in the river Sabarmati along with the saints and the devotees. Even the water of the river became colourful.

હોરી ખેલે મહારાજા શ્રીપુરમેં હોરી ખેલે મહારાજા એક ઓર શ્રી ઘનશ્યામ સખા સબ, એક ઓર સંત સમાજા...શ્રી કેસર રંગ ભરી પિચકારી, બાજત અનહદ બાજાં..... શ્રી ઉડત ગુલાલ લાલ ભયે બાદલ, નીરખત સુરપતિ રાજા... શ્રી અવધપ્રસાદ સંગ ખેલી, જનમ સુફળ કિયો કાજા... શ્રી

The clothes, the golden sprinkler, all the royal garb and turban which Shree Hari had at the time of Rang-Krida are still preserved as they are in *Dharmkul*. These things of Prasadi are going to be placed in Shree Swaminarayan Museum for Darshan of all the devotees. While performing their Darshan, all the devotees would recall that great *Rank-Krida Utsav*.

The social festivals like Holi and Dhuleti were made colourful by Shree Hari and presented them in a new forms like *Hutashani* and *Fuldol (Dhuleti)*.

Even today on this great occasion of *Phuldolotsv* H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj grace the whole Chalk with the colours of *Kesuda* and *Gulal*. Earlier there were no mechanical equipments but now due to latest modern technology, colourful water is sprinkled upon all the devotees with power motor. Even a single drop of that colourful water touches our clothes and our body then there is great charging of our spirit and echoes for a long time in our heart and inner self. This is the power of the sprinkling of the colour of *Kesuda*.

What is required from us is to make efforts as the Lord Shree Narnarayandev, who is Maharaja of Bharatkhand and Shreepur, is always standing with us with a smiling face.

Con. on page 5

mean offering money. If you remove any garbage lying here, then it is also a service of noble kind and you also get manifold reward of it. Nothing much is to be said. All of you have left your service and business for the day and have come here. Therefore, it is our ardent prayer at the lotus-like feet of the Lord Shree Narnarayandev that, the Lord may run your business continuously, permanently and bring you prosperity.

Kankaria temple : Since invocation of idol image of Shree Hanumandada in the temple, houses of the devotees are transformed who have rendered their services because they did it for the Almighty Lord. If we take care of the Almighty Lord, the Lord would certainly take care of us. Really whatever service we offer for the Almighty Lord and the temples, the same are credited in our account of balance of life being maintained by the Lord. Many people ask, why there are so many temples? The intention is that, when one temple of the Lord is constructed, many other temples are constructed from it. All of you are the temples of Thakorji because those who come to the temple, nurture noble qualities in them. They become religious. All this happens from the temples only.

Power, Money, Designation, Human body all are perishable. They do not survive permanently and in the course of time, everything is taken away. But no can take away the place of an ardent devotee. Shreeji Maharaj is very much pleased with the saints of both these temples because in these temples of the Lord Shree Narnarayandev, they have rendered their selfless services. And this is real service. This is real Knowledge and Renunciation. Otherwise there are only talks of renunciation but people talking in this way, cannot disperse even a trust.

It is the prayer at the lotus-like feet of Shreeji Maharaj that Maharaj may make happy not only the devotees who are sitting in the front but also all those devotees who are sitting at the back.

IMPORTANCE OF AADI ACHARYA H.H. SHRI AYODHYAPRASADJI MAHARAJ



-Gordhanbhai V. Sitapara (Hirawadi-Bapunagar)

No one can assess and evaluate the qualities, richness and competence of one who has been appointed as Acharya and handed over the reins of Uddhav Sampradaya by the omniscient Lord Shri Swaminarayan. Shree Hari entrusts such a responsibility only with those who are like Him. Shree Rampratapbhai had three sons namely Nandram, Ayodhyaprasad and Thakurprasad. Among them Shreeji Maharaj was more pleased with Ayodhyaprasadji and therefore He adopted him as his son and appointed him as Acharaya of *Shree Narnarayandev Pith Sthan.* Not only this, but in an answer to a confusion expressed by Acharaya in *Akshar Auradi* in Gadhpur, Shreeji Maharaj had made a divine promise:

"*I am with you and would help you. And your Narnarayan Desh would prosper like anything. You need not worry about anything.*" Thus, Shreeji Maharaj took Acharya in His arms and patted him and again said:

"*I would not allow any unhappiness or difficulty to anyone with whom I am. Have firm faith in Me. I will always be very close to you and I would run all your worldly affairs.*"

Once one Brahmin of one village came to Ahmedabad temple to perform *Darshan* of Lord Shree Narnarayandev. After performing *Darshan*, he went to a saint in the temple. The saint asked the Brahmin to go and have Darshan of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj who was at that time sitting in His seat. At that time, a thought came to the Brahmin: "I am Brahmin. Acharya Maharaj is also a Brahmin. Moreover, my personal God is Lord Shree Ramchandra. What purpose it would serve to have Darshan of Acharya of Shree Swaminarayan Sampradaya?" thinking thus, the Brahmin avoided to perform Darshan of Acharya Maharaj. However, he did not reveal his thought to the saint.

At night he went home and slept. In his dream, Lord Shree Ramchandra granted him Divine Darshan and asked him to go with Him. The Brahmin followed the Lord Shree Ramchandra. Both of them came to Shree Narnarayandev temple, performed Darshan of Lord Shree Narnarayandev and then came to seat of H.H. Acharya Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj. The Lord granted the Brahmin, Darshan of Acharya and Himself merged into Acharya. H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj smiled and said to the Brahmin, "**It is true that we both are Brahmins. But we are Son of the Lord Shree Swaminarayan and Acharya of *Shree Narnarayandev Pith Sthan*!**"

In this way Shree Hari has established His own importance in Shree Dharmvanshi Acharya. We are eagerly waiting to avail the benefit of Divine pleasure by renedering our services with mind, body and money during "*Celebration of Dwi-shatabdi Mahotsav of H.H. Shri Aadi Acharya Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj Dharmkul Vandana Mahotsav*" which is scheduled to be celebrated from 1st June to 3rd June (*Jeth Sud-09 to Jeth Sud-11*).

INVOCATION AND CHORYASI MAHOTSAV OF SHREE SWAMINARAYAN TEMPLE, KANKARIA, AHMEDABAD (From 25/02/2009 to 01/03/2009)

- Paresh & Gaurangbhai Patel (Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal, Kankaria)

For emancipation of all the people and also in order to spread the message of Dharma in the whole world, by constructing ever first temple in Shreenagar (Ahmedabad), the Lord Shree Swaminarayan installed the idol images of the Lord Shree Narnarayandev in the temple on the pious day of Falgun Sud-3. Thereafter, thousands of the Bhudevs (Brahmins) were offered the meals on the pious bank of the river Sabarmati, offered them *Dakshina* under a tree and satisfied them. On the same place, Aadi Acharya Shree Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj installed the idol image of Shree Balswaroop Hanumanji alongwith the holy foot-prints of the Lord Shree Swaminarayan.

In order to rejuvenate the said place, before 27 years H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharaj got constructed through the saints, a beautiful temple and installed the idol images of Shree Radha-Krishnadev, Harikrishna Maharaj.

"Temple is a centre of faith of the people in this world." And the people strengthen their *Samskaras* from these temples only. Upliftment of the soul and peace of mind are achieved only by performing *Darshan*, *Pooja*, *Archan* of the deities in the temple and by rendering services. In order to rejuvenate the place, H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj Shree Tejendraprasadji Maharaj, Saduguru Shastri Swami Guruprasaddasji and Sadgugu Mahant Shastri Swami Ananadprasaddasji directed to construct a beautiful temple with the best marble carvings sculpture. Construction work of the temple started. Invocation ceremony of the idol images of Shree Radhakrishnadev Harikrishna Maharaj was performed by H.H. Shri Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj on Saturday 04/03/2006, Samvat 2062.

With the blessings of the Lord Shree Swaminarayan, with the directions of H.H. Shri Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj and with the inspiration of Akshar Nivasi Sadguru Shastri Swami Harigovinddasji and Sadguru Shastri Swami Madhavprasaddasji and also with the co-operation of mind, body and money of all the devotees and Haribhaktas the construction work of the great temple was completed and from Wednesday 25/02/2009 to Sunday 01/03/2009 Vikram Samvat 2065 Falgun Sud-5, inauguration of the newly constructed temple, Choryasi Mahotsav, Patotsav of Balswaroop Shri Kastbhanjandev, Balswaroop Shri Ghanshyam Maharaj, Vidhna Vinayakdev in Sukhsaiyaa, Shree Hanumanji Maharaj and Shri Radhakrishnadev Harikrishna Maharaj was performed in Vedic tradition by H.H. Shri 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj, H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj 108 Shri Vrajendraprasadji Maharaj.

A medical camp of Diagnosis of all the diseases was also organized on 22/02/2009 in view of this Choryasi Mahotsav wherein Dr.Rameshbhai Parikh and other doctors had diagnosed the patients with free check-up and thousands of devotees had availed its benefit.

Under the guidance of Sadguru Mahant Shastri Swami Guruprasaddasji of Kankaria temple and Sadguru Mahant Shastri Swami Anandprasaddasji, the Mahotsav began on the pious day of Maha Vad-5 on 14/02/2009 in the temple premises of new temple by H.H. Shri

Acharya Maharaj Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj by installing *Vijay-Stambha* and a large number of devotees and Haribhaktas and members of Shree Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal had remained present. Maha-Abhishek of Balswaroop Shri Kastbhanjandev was also performed on the occasion.

With three great domes, the whole temple has been constructed at the cost of 2 crore rupees and about 60,000 cubic feet stone with artistic carvings thereon is used in it. On completion of the construction work of the temple with three domes from the marbles of Bansi Pahadpur as per *Vastu-Shastra*, golden Kalash and Dhwaj-Dand are adoring the domes. To expedite the construction work of the temple, saints Sadguru Mahant Shastri Swami Ananadprasaddasji, Sadguru Swami Devkrishnadasji, Shastri Swami Yagnaprakashdasji and Parshad Narottam Bhagat etc. have taken great pain and in no time, the whole temple is shining with beautiful colours, golden and silver gates and decorative series of light. In the temple, there are 264 marble curves with artistic carvings thereon and a divine Entrance Gate. Enthusiasm of the devotees was increasing with the festival coming closer. On the pious day of Maha Vad-15 (Amaas) on 25/02/2009 with the golden sun-rays reflecting upon the golden Kalash and Dhwaj Dand of the dome of the newly constructed temple, very beautiful tunes of *Sharnai* started echoing in the divine air of the temple premises. A large number of devotees started thronging at the temple. With more than 800 volunteers ready to render their services in Swayamsevak Office, Central Office, Inquiry Office, Sabha-Mandap, Stage, Medical, Gift-Service, Literature Centre, Kitchen Section, the grand Mahotsav began.

Wednesday 25/02/2009: Early in the morning after tea and breakfast, the saints, Mahants and all the devotees performed *Pothi-Yatra* from the house of the host of Parayan devotee Sheth Shri Harkishanbhai Pitambarbhai Thakkar situated in Maninagar. There were two horse carts, Musical Band, Bhajan Mandli accompanied by the spokesperson of Parayan Sadguru Shastri Swami Nirgundasji, Sadguru Shastri Swami P.P. Swami and other saints in Samhita Path. *Pothi-Yatra* reached Football ground, Kankaria wherein thousands of devotees availed the benefit of *Darshan*.

A large Sabha-Mandap admeasuring 500 X 100 feet without even a single pillar, State admeasuring 100 X 40 feet granting to the devotees Darshan of Talaav of Kankaria where Shreeji Maharaj had performed Choryasi were prepared in Kankaria Football ground under the guidance of Mahant of Badrinarayan temple Shastri Swami Golokviharidasji and the renowned artist Shree Praful Kharsani.

On the very first day, with the beginning of Katha, H.H. Shri Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj and H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharaj graced the Sabha Mandap and the whole atmosphere surcharged with the echoes of *Jay-Ghosh* of Shree Narnarayandev. Along with H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj, the saints from Bhuj, Ahmedabad, Jetalpur temple performed Deep-Pragatya ritual and inaugurated invocation ceremony of the idol images. When spokespersons of Parayan Sadugu Shastri Swami Nirgundasji and Sadguru Shastri Swami P.P. Swami took their seats on *Vyas-Pith,* the hosts of the Paryan and Mahotsav performed their *Poojan.* Devotees could also have Darshan of 51 Samhita pathi saints. On the first day, dignitaries and leading persons of the society were honoured and they were offered the gifts as a memory of the temple. Mahant Swami of Bhuj temple granted blessings. While blessing all the saints and the devotees, H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj narrated that, all had had a glimpse of Choryasi performed by Shreeji Maharaj. On this pious land was to be graced by Balswaroop Shri

Ghanshyam Maharaj and desires of all the devotees would be fulfilled. On the very first day, the whole Sabha-Mandap was overcrowded. Chairman and saints of Gadhpur temple Shri S.P.Swami had also arrived on the occasion. Shri Dinesh Vaghasiya and television artist Devand Patel had rejoiced all the devotees with their duo-programme of Bhajan-Kirtan and Laughter-show in the cultural programme organized at night.

Thursday 26/02/2009 : Early in the morning Mahapooja was organized in the temple in the pious company of Thakorji wherein thousands of devotees had participated. Concluding ritual of Mahapooja was performed by the elder saint of Junagadh Sadguru Swami Harinarayandasji and Mahant Swami of Kankaria temple. H.H. Shri Laxmiswaroop Gadiwalashri had graced the occasion and blessed all the ladies devotees. In the afternoon in Shrimad Bhagwat Katha, occasions like Janmotsav of Leela Purushottam Lord Shri Krishna was celebrated by the members of Mandal in various types of costumes and Maha-aarti of Janmotsav of the Lord was also performed. On this occasion Kothari Shastri Swami Ghanshyamvallabhdas of Gadhpur temple had arrived and had addressed the Sabha organized on the occasion. In the cultural programme organized at night, renowned television artist Jitubhai Dwarkawala and Dinesh Vaghasiya had served before the devotees items of laughter and fun.

Friday 27/03/2009 : In the morning at 8.30, idol images of the deities were installed in Vedic tradition by Shastri Shri Rajendra Shukla (Umrethwala) and Maha Vishnu Yaag started with purification of the hosts. H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj performed initial rituals of Maha Vishnu Yaag. Guidance about *Yagna-Shala* was provided by Badrinath Mahant Swami Golokviharidasji and Swami Rajendraprasaddasji.

H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj graced the Sabha Mandap and honoured all the donors. Kothari Sadguru Swami Devnandandasji from Junagadh temple and other saints from Mangrol, Manavadar, Valia temples had also arrived on the occasion. In the cultural programme organized at night, students of Shree Sahjanand Gurukul, Asarwa, had performed various items on the stage and had pleased the devotees.

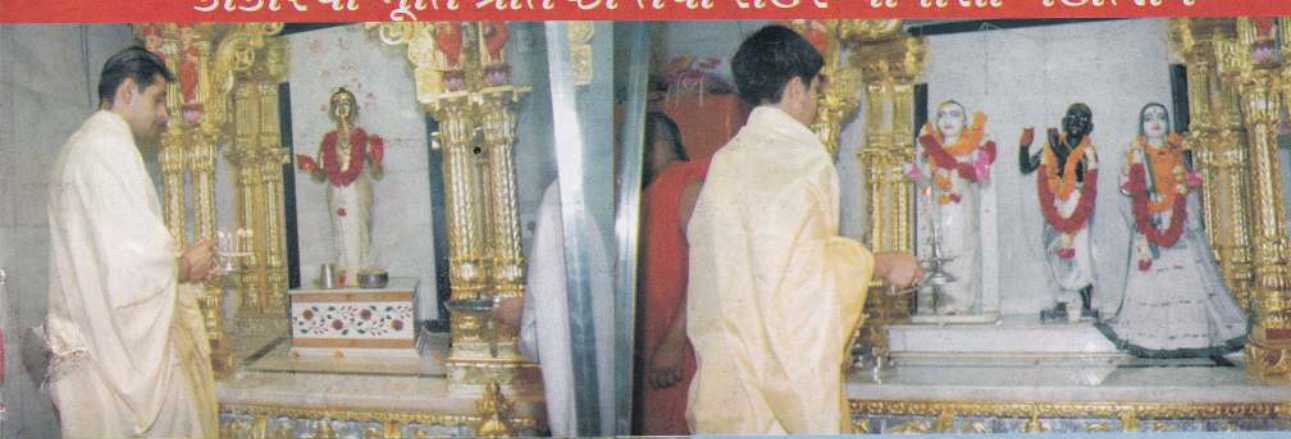
Saturday 28/02/2009 : At 7.30 in the morning, Kalash-Yatra from Kankaria lake upto Yagna-Shala was organized wherein a large number of ladies devotees had participated holding Kalash containing sanctified water and holy fruit on their heads. The whole atmosphere was charged with sanctity when the ladies devotees arrived in *Yagna-Shala*. At 3.00 hours in the afternoon a great Shobha-Yatra was organized on the main roads of Maninagar area. In the Shobha-Yatra, tractors, horse-carts, trucks, musical bands, Bhajan Mandli had participated. The vehicles were decorated with Slogans from '*Shiksha-Patri*' as well as decorative materials. The hosts of the Mahotsav and the saints were sitting in the vehicles granting Darshan to the devotees. There were learned saints and devotees sitting on the elephants decorated for Shobha-Yatra. Members of Shri Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal were riding decorated horses followed by *Bhajan Mandalis*. Then in a tractor beautifully decorated in the shape of White Swan, were H.H. Shri Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj granting Darshan to all the devotees. More than 50,000 saints and devotees had participated in this great *Shobha-Yatra*. The whole road of Shobha-Yatra was echoing with the voice of the fire-crackers. Shree Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal had made the arrangement of drinking water during *Shobha-yatra*. The Shobha-Yatra returned to the temple at 8.00 o'clock at night. Then all the saints and the devotees had availed the benefit of Prasad which was organized on the occasion.

Sunday 01/03/2009 : It was the high time of the whole Mahotsav, which all the devotees were awaiting eagerly. The whole temple was overcrowded with the devotees. At 7.00 hours in the morning H.H. Shri Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj and H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj 108 Shri Vrajendraprasadji Maharaj graced the temple and all the devotees welcomed them with the Jayghosh 'Jay Shree Swaminarayan'. Then Mahaabhishek of Shri Radhakrishnadev Harikrishna Maharaj and Shodashopchar Mahabhishek of Shri Balswaroop Ghanshyam Maharaj were performed. Invocation rituals of Shri Hanumanji, Shri Ganpatiji, golden Kalash and Dhwaj Danda were also performed. With the beautiful arrangements, all the devotees could have Darshan of the deities as well as H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj through Plaza televisions which were placed at number of places in the temple. Thereafter Maha-abhishek of Balswaroop Kastbhanjandev was performed in Vedic tradition by H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj. Thereafter at 9.30 Shangaar and Annakut Aarti of Thakorji was performed by H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and concluding ceremony of Yagna by offering the holy fruit was also performed by him. Kalash and Dhwaj were placed at the top of the domes of the temple.

Concluding ceremony of Shrimad Bhagwat Panchanh Parayan Gyan-Yagna organized on the occasion was also performed by H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj whose benefit was availed by the hosts of Parayan. Thereafter the donors were honoured. On this occasion, along with the Mahant Swami of Ahmedabad and Jetalpur temples, Shastri Swami Nirgundasji, Shastri Swami P.P. Swami and all other saints honoured Mahant Swami of Kankaria temple Swami Guruprasaddasji and Mahant Swami Anandprasaddasji and Shastri Swami Yagnaprakashdasji with certificates. Haribhaktas of Kankariya and Dasgol Sabarmati area offered *Tamra-Patra* to the saints of Kankaria temple. H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj blessed and honoured both Mahant and the saints. Elder saint Swami Narnaarayandasji had remained present on the occasion. At last saints from Kalupur, Jetalpur, Dholka, Muli, Chhapaiya had delivered the speeches.

While blessing the saints and the devotees, H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj stated that, temple is a centre of faith of all the devotees. The day which was eagerly waited by all, had at last come. Lord Shree Swaminarayan had performed Choryasi Mahotsav and offered alms to the Brahmins. On this place Aadi Acharya Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj had installed the idol images of Balswaroop Kastbhanjandev along with the foot-steps of the Lord Shree Swaminarayan. Now today idol images of Shree Radhakrishnadev Harikrishna Maharaj have been installed and with installation of the idol image of Shree Balswaroop Ghanshyam Maharaj the day has become divine. At last Mahant of Kankaria temple, Shastri Swami Guruprasaddasji, Shastri Swami Anandprasaddasji, Poojari swami Devkrishnadasji and Shastri Swami Yagtnaprakashdasji had delivered the vote of thanks. A large number of saints from Ahmedabad, Jetalpur, Muli, Bhuj, Naranghat, Naranpura, Vadtal, Gadhpur and Junagadh etc. places of pilgrimage had remained present on this *Mahotsav*.

Under the guidance of Sadguru Shri P.P. Swami, Kothari Shastri Swami Yagnaprakashdasji had conducted *Sabha* during the whole *Mahotsav*. During this *Mahotsav*, Sadguru Mahant Swami Bhanuprasaddasji of Mathura temple, Kothari Sadguru Bhaktiprasaddasji of Kariyani temple, Saduguru Kothari Swami Dev Swami (Mangrol), Sadguru Jayvallabhdasji, Sadguru Mahant K.P. Swami (Jetalpur), Sadguru Purani Swami Narayancharandasji and *Parshad* Narottam Bhagat etc. had taken care of Kitchen, Stage and residence of the Saints sections and had rendered inspirational services.











બાળ સ્વરુપ કષ્ટભંજન દેવ અભિષેક - આરતી પ.પૂ.મહારાજશ્રી તથા લાલજી મહારાજશ્રીના વરદ્ હસ્તે



વિજય સ્તંભની સ્થાપના



વયોવૃધ્ધ સંતોની ખબર અંતર પૂછતા



શહેર ચોર્યાસી માં હજારોની સંખ્યામાં પ્રસાદ લેતા હરિભક્ત

શ્રી હરિના અપર સ્વરુપોના આશીર્વચન








પોથીયાત્રા





ઉદ્‌ઘાટન સમારોહ

પ.પૂ.મોટા મહારાજશ્રી, પ.પૂ.મહારાજશ્રી અને યજમાન દ્વારા વ્યાસપીઠનું પૂજન





કાંકરિયા મહોત્સવ પ્રસંગે મહાનુભાવ સંતો અ





વિષ્ણુયાગ અને મહાપૂજાનો લાભ લેતા યજમાન પરિવારો

સંહિતા પાઠી સંતો



બન્ને વક્તાશ્રીઓનો મુખે કથા શ્રવણ કરતા હરિભક્તો



ભૂજ મંદિરના મહંત સ્વામી કાંકરિયા મંદિરના મહંત સ્વામી નું સન્માન કરતા



વિધાનસભાના અધ્યક્ષ શ્રી અશોક ભટ્ટનું સન્માન કરતા કાંરકિયા મંદિરના મહંત સ્વામી



ગુજરાત પોલિસ મહાનિર્દેશક શ્રી ખંડવાવાલાનું સન્માન







ભજન સંધ્યા અને અસારવા ગુરુકુળના વિદ્યાર્થીઓ દ્વારા સાંસ્કૃતિક કાર્યક્રમ



રાજકીય મહાનુભાવો પોતાની ભાવના વ્યક્ત કરતા







શહેર ચોર્યાસી દરમ્યાન મહાપ્રસાદ લેતા સંતો તથા પીરસતા સ્વયંસેવકો



બન્ને વક્તાશ્રીઓનું સન્માન
પ.પૂ.મહારાજશ્રીના વરદ્ હસ્તે





ગુરુપ્રસાદ સ્વામી તથા આનંદ સ્વામીનું સન્માન
કાલુપુર મંદિર તથા સમસ્ત સંત સમાજ તરફથી
પ.પૂ.મહારાજશ્રીના વરદ્ હસ્તે



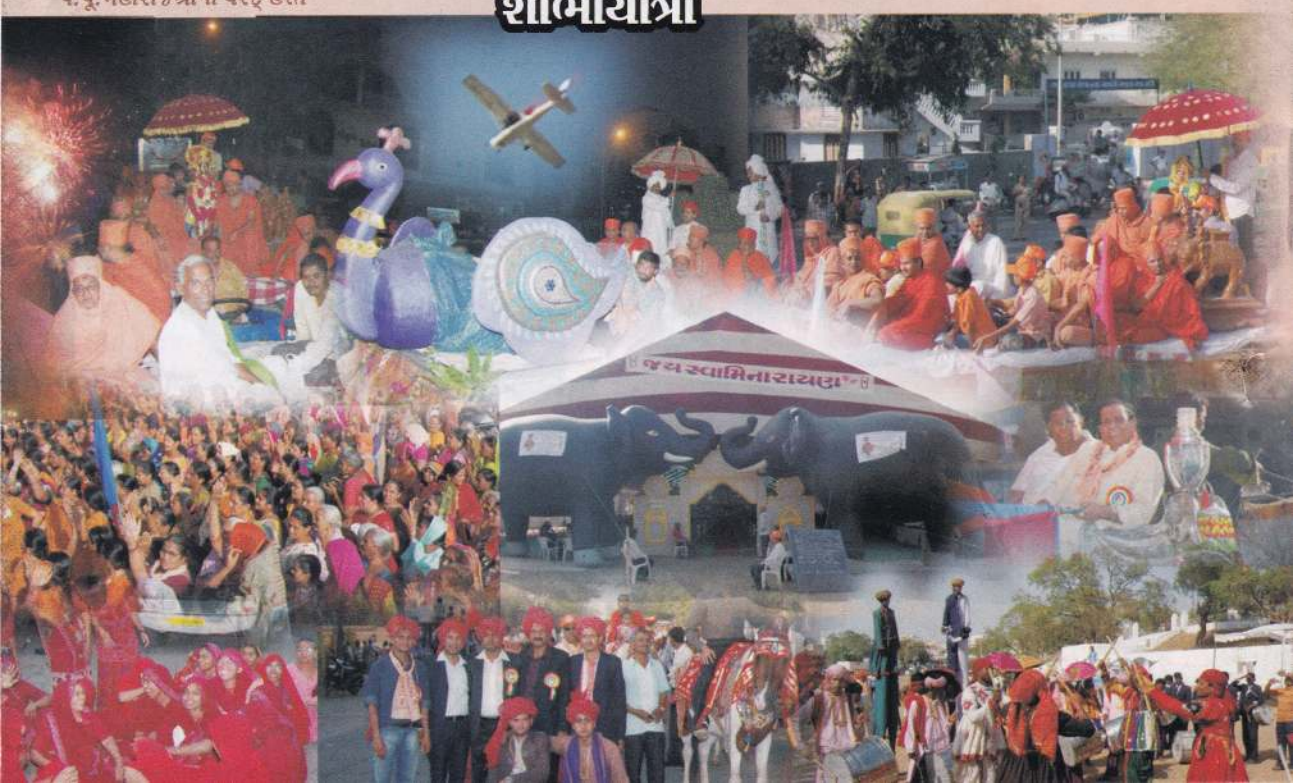
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કાંકરિયા સમસ્ત સત્સંગ સમાજ તરફથી
પ.પૂ.મહારાજશ્રીના વરદ્ હસ્તે

મહાવિષ્ણુયાગ યજ્ઞની
પૂર્ણાહુતિ
પ.પૂ.મહારાજશ્રી તથા
પ.પૂ.લાલજી મહારાજશ્રીના
વરદ્ હસ્તે



પ.પૂ.મહારાજશ્રીના વરદ્ હસ્તે યજમાન પરિવાર તથા
અગ્રણીય હરિભક્તોનું સન્માન

શોભાયાત્રા



Selfless between brother-in-law and sister-in-law

- Chandrakantbhai Pathak (Gandhinagar)

Little Ghanshyam has graced the land of Ayodhya which was once sanctified by the Lord Shree Ramchandra. Being a versatile personality, even unknown persons used to call little Ghanshyam. But he would not keep any familiarity with them. He would talk only as much as would require and would bow down at the feet of the elders. However, he would keep relations with those who were courageous and believed in renunciation. Accordingly he had very good terms with two persons: they were Bhuvandin-a *Brahmin* and Dinasang- a *Kshatriya*. Both of them were brave and courageous. They did not have even an inch of selfishness in them. They were fast friends of Ghanshyamji.

Once Suvasiniba was sitting and cutting the vegetables. At that time Ghanshyamji told her: "***In Raiganj Bazaar, one Akhada (gymnasium) is running. Both the brothers are running it in their home. One is Bhuvandin- he is a Brahmin and the other is Dinasang- he is a Kshatriya. They are very brilliant and they teach others their skills. When I went there and asked them to teach me their skills. They have informed that, I am still young to learn the skills. They asked where do I study? Who is my father? Etc. when I replied that, I am the son of Hariprasad Pande and also uttered the name of the elder brother and that I reside in Barhatta. Listening to the name of our prestigious family, they are now willing to teach me the skills. But they have asked me to obtain the permission of the family members. I liked to talk with them. So now ask you, Can I go there and learn the skills from them?***"

Suvasiniba drew little Ghanshyam towards her kissed him and granted him permission and patted him. However, she asked him to take care of his body. But Ghanshyamji expressed the suspicion of his mind and asked, "Whether elder brother would like this?" The answer he got was in affirmative. Both of them also decided what he should eat in the morning after returning from *Akhada*. Suvasiniba also promised Ghanshyam that, she would keep everything ready when he would return from his exercise session and they embraced each other.

Thus, Shree Hari started learning *Malla-Vidya*. He learnt a number of skills, with stick, without stick and a number of other exercises. Dinasang and Bhuvandin taught Shree Hari all the expert skills of the martial art. At a tender age of 11 years Shree Hari learnt the art in just 4 months. Bhuvandin and Dinasang also used to protect and defend the whole city of Ayodhya as per the instructions of the king of Ayodhya. Both of them very kind and therefore they were very popular among the people of Ayodhya. Both these brothers had special affection towards little Ghanshyam. Many friends of Ghanshyam also used to come to Akhada of Bhuvandin and Dinasang.

(contd...)

હરિભજતા સહું મોટપ પામે

- Shastri Abhayprakashdas Guru Swami Devprakashdasji (Mahant, Narayanghat)

In this world, everyone desires that he gets respect and prosperity. His reputation may spread in all the four directions. And for that he may remain busy doing something constantly. But there have in a number of such people, who had earned name and fame in this world, either through their intellect or through their physical strength, and we do not know all of them nor even their names. However, there are some people who have worshipped the Lord whose name we remember even today.

It is stated about Nine types of worship in our Scriptures:

"श्रवणं कीर्तनं विष्णोः स्मरणं पाद सेवनम् ।
अर्चनं वंदनं दास्य सख्यं मात्म निवेदनम् ॥"

Devotees liked any of them and worshipped the Lord as per the type of their choice and obtained a unique place. The divine affection and love with the Almighty Lord is known as *Bhakti*. Gopis had great affection and love with the Lord Krishna and therefore they got a unique place in the Scripture like 'Bhagwat' and though thousands of years have passed yet we still remember them.

And therefore even Muktanand Swami also writes in one of his *Kirtan*:

હરિ ભજતાં સહું મોટપ પામે,
જન્મ મરણ દુઃખ જાયે રે.
પારસ પરસી લોહ કંચન થઈ,
મોંઘે મૂલે વેચાય રે..... હરિ ભજતા

Here Swami says that, a man may be of any type and kind but if he ardently worships the Lord then he certainly obtains the highest place. Just like an iron piece turns into gold with a divine touch of *Parasmani*.

Swami given an example of Devarshi Naradji and states:

મુનિ નારદની જાતને જોતા,
દાસી પુત્ર જગ જાણે રે,
હરિને ભજી હરિનું મન કેવાણો,
વેદ પુરાણ વખાણે રે....

In his previous birth-life, Narad Muni was a son of maidservant. But since he ardently worshipped the Almighty Lord, in the next life he born as Narad Muni- the son of Brahmaji and while worshipping the Lord came to be recognized as the Mind of the Lord.

Even Radhaji ardently worshipped the Lord Shree Krishna and therefore today the whole worldly takes first the name of Radhaji and then of the Lord Krishna and recognizes and worships the Lord in twin as Radhakrishna.

Even Arjun kept a feeling of a true friend with the Lord Shri Krishna and now he has become immortal. Whose name is also written by the Lord Shree Swaminarayan in the pious '*Shiksha-Patri*' when the Lord said : "***When the Lord Narayan is with Arjun, then He may be recognized as Narnarayan.***"

What is meant is that such a great height can be achieved with ardent worship only. So let us become ardent devotees of the Lord.

સત્સંગ બાલવાટિકા

SATSANG BALVATIKA
- Editor : Shastri Harikeshavdasji (Gandhinagar)

જ્યાં ભાવ ત્યાં ભગવાન

- Shastri Haripriyadas (Gandhinagar)

In '*Shiksha-Patri*', Lord Shree Swaminarayan has stated that, if the devotees talk about their worldly affairs in the temple then they commit a sin. There should be a talk suitable to the place. One cannot expect salt in sweets. In this world, house is meant for all the worldly affairs and temple is meant for worship only. In '*Shiksha-Patri*', Lord Shree Swaminarayan has stated that, "*One should never talk the worldly affairs in the temple.*" If one drinks water of the house of a *Satsangi,* then he is divinely benefited but only when the Satsangi always remember the Lord Shree Swaminarayan even while filling up the pot with water!!!

There is an incident very welknown in our Satsang. In a farmer family, the wife goes to the farm taking meals for her husband. Satsangi ladies prepare loaves for their family members. While preparing these meals, they keep on chanting 'Jay Shree Swaminarayan', 'Jay Shree Swaminarayan'. Resultantly the loaves are very sweet in taste. Once one such satsangi lady devotee brings the loaves to the farm for her husband. On her way in the afternoon, she came across a horse rider. From distance she could not recognize the man, but the moment she came close, she observed that the horse rider was the Lord Shree Swaminarayan himself! With beautiful turban on his head and holding the reins of the mare Manki. The lady devotees puts down the Tiffin of loaves and performs *Pranam* to the Lord. Maharaj says her that he was very hungry and demanded exactly the same loaf which was prepared by her while chanting the name of the Lord Shree Swaminarayan. The moment she tried to take out the loaf from the Tiffin, to her surprise Maharaj disappeared.

Dear devotees! Lord Shree Swaminarayan is always with us and therefore while performing any work in our life, if we remember the Lord, He always accepts our such an action. We may not be able to see him with our these eyes but while preparing the meals we should think, "I am preparing the meals for Maharaj" and then the Lord would always accept our *Thaal*. There is no doubt about it and then only we can say that we have learnt to play real Music of Life.

Manytimes Netra-Yagna, Danta-Yagna or Diagnosis of all Diseases are organized in the rural areas. Similarly listening to the Katha is a camp of our life to create Music of Bhakti in our life. Under any circumstances, live your life in such a way that, while preparing the meals, the Lord Shree Swaminarayan may come to our kitchen !!! while going to the temple perform Darshan in such a way that the Lord may grant us Darshan!!! If we learn this much then really our life would become noble.

EASIEST WAY TO GET RID OF OUR NATURE

- Sadhu Shri Rangdas (Gandhinagar)

Chintu: If there are blessings of the Lord Shree Swaminarayan, then all the miseries of life evaporate from our life.

Pintu : Yes, this is true.

Chintu: Those who worship the Lord Shree Swaminarayan, they safely cross this Ocean of Life.

Pintu : Yes, this is also true.

Chintu : Those we keep Satsang of the saints of the Lord Shree Swaminarayan, they get rid of their bad temple.

Pintu : No, this is not true. No one can get rid of his own temper. Even the demon king Ravana did not and could not change his temperament even though he was persuaded time and again by the Lord Shree Rama. He obtained *Moksha* when he was killed by the Almighty Lord but he did not change his temper.

Chintu : But this time, the Lord Shree Swaminarayan has won this battle of the mind. The Lord has transformed many people from within. Even the dumb animals have also changed their habitual actions under the influence of Satsang of the Lord Shree Swaminarayan.

Pintu: I cannot believe this. When it is very difficult to bring in reforms in human beings, how is it possible with the animals?

Chintu : Then listen, I narrate you one such real incident which occurred in Gadhpur.

The horse which the Lord Shree Swaminarayan used to ride was a mare namely 'Manki'. This is a talk about this mare only. The animal grew up. But she had developed had a number of bad habits. The animal used to kick anybody who used to pass by her. Unknown devotees did not know this. Those who knew it, would walk at a safe distance from the animal.

The Lord Shree Swaminarayan came to know the bad habit of the mare of kicking anybody who would walk along her. The Lord, therefore, decided to help the animal get rid of this bad habit. The Lord asked one Parshad to tie the legs of the horse with a rope and directed that all the devotees who would come in the Sabha should stretch this rope.

This was Darbar of Maharaj! Thousands of devotees used to come to Darbar for Darshan of Maharaj. Every devotee would stretch the rope as per the directions of Shree Hari. The moment a devotee would stretch the rope, the mare would kick her leg but it vain. This continued for the whole day. Resultantly, the horse developed swelling in her leg and after some days she left the habit of kicking her leg.

Gentlemen! This is an incident which requires deeper thinking. Many people perform Satsang and Bhajan but they misbehave due to their bad temper. If we get rid of such strange idiosyncrasies, it is better for us otherwise the Almighty Lord has already the ways and means to severe such misbehaviour from our habitual actions. It is better that we improve upon ourselves in stead of doing so after going through an arduous test of the Almighty Lord and then the Lord would be happy with us.

BIRTHDAY TRIBUTE TO OUR GADIWALASHRI

- (NNDYM Females UK)

The Supreme Almighty Lord Shree Swaaminarayan has kindly bestowed and provided an opportunity for the female followers of the Swaminarayan Sampraday- a female Guru **(GADIWALASHRI)**. Gadiwalashri guides, directs and elevates her fellow female disciples on the holy path of emancipation and to ultimately achieve eternal bliss in the Divine abode of Akshardham. This is a unique system in the sanatan dharma which was never established and was even rarely heard of.

Her Holiness Gadiwalashri (The female Guru of the Swaminarayan Sampraday)

Chaitra Sud 6, marks an auspicious day in Swaminarayan Sampraday, especially for the female satsangies. It is a birthday of our very own Laxmi Swarup Her Holiness Gadiwalashri (wife of his Holiness Acharya Maharajshri Koshalendra Prasadji Maharahshri- the seventh direct descendent heir of Almighty Lord Shree Swaminarayan).

Gadiwalashri, with the permission of the Acharya, provides initiation to the women folk who desire to enter in to the fold of the Swaminarayan faith. She motivates female disciples through the teachings of the true principles of religion and also to make sure they conform to their respective obligations and duties laid down by the Supreme God.

Gadiwalashri takes the highest seat to be the leader and guru for the female disciples in the Swaminarayan Sampraday as established by the Lord Himself.

How to celebrate Gadiwalashri's Birthday?

All female devotees are obliged and duty bound to commemorate and celebrate this occasion. As female devotees, one has to surrender herself (*Shishya*) to her Guru and feel privileged to serve and please her. Gadiwalashri provides a unique opportunity to her disciples to liberate oneself from the cycle of life and death. In return, one of the many ways to repay this invaluable debt is to at least wish Her Holiness a very happy birthday.

There are many ways where one can do this but below are just a few to mention:

- Hold special *Raas-Garbas* in temples
- Hold a *Bhajan Bhakti* program in temples
- Perform Special *poojans* to Shri Ghanshyam Maharaj
- Prepare and offer special *Thaals* to gods, such as cakes, *mithai*, chocolates etc.
- Visit a local and nearest temple to offer a Special worship on the day
- Lastly, one can celebrate it at one's own home by remembering Her Holiness.

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भक्तिसुधा
BHAKTI-SUDHA

BHAKTIMATA

- NNDYM Females UK

(contd.. from previous issue)

When a pilgrim came to her house, she would welcome them respectfully and give charitably to the poor. In this way she has given a perfect example of how a loyal wife should be.

In Shri Swaminarayan Sampraday, Bhaktimata holds the highest position at the side of Shri Hari by continuously serving him. Bhaktimata is a mentor to the female devotees and has proved by examples during her lifetime how to perform duties towards family, husband, god and humanity in general. Bhaktimata had always been a centre of devotion which shows the path to the devotees of leading their lives and making the bhakti/devotion within one self glow.

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MEANING OF LIFE (EXCERPTS FROM THE SPEECH OF H.H. SHRI GADIWALASHRI DELIVERED IN THE SABHA OF EKADASHI)

- Compiled by Varshaben Natvarlal Kotak)

Our sculptor H.H. Shri Laxmiswarop Shri Gadiwalashri explains the Meaning of Life very beautifully with an example. 'Samskar', 'Sankalp' and 'Sarjan' are the

three important pillars of life. A sculptor goes to a shop of Granite Marbles. A big stone was lying outside the shop and all other things were arranged decently inside the shop. The sculptor asks the shopkeeper why he has kept the stone outside his shop. The shopkeeper replies that the stone is useless and no one takes it. The sculptor shows his willingness to purchase the stone. The shopkeeper asks him to take it without any consideration. The sculptor brings the stone home, makes a beautiful idol-image from it and brings it to the shopkeeper. The shopkeeper is very much pleased to see the beautifully carved idol-image and praises it like anything. The sculptor reminds him that, it is made of the same stone which was once useless for the shopkeeper.

Meaning of our Life is also of similar kind. The birth of the birds and the animals is a result of half-noble deeds of their previous lives whereas human birth is a result of complete-noble deeds of their previous lives. After taking birth in a number of lives, one gets human life. But it does not end there. We are not to let this human life go in vain while considering it futile like a stone. But by making constant efforts through *Divya-Satsang*, *Divya-Scriptures* created by Shreeji Maharaj, we shall have to make it meaningful.

(I) ***Samskara*** : Among the scriptures, if we take '*Shiksha-Patri*' then we come to know how to live a human life. Similarly from '*Satsangi-Jeevan*' we come to know how a life of a Satsangi should be. From '*Vidurniti*' we learn about the worldly affairs. So we should make constant efforts to inculcate noble qualities in our life from these scriptures.

(II) **Sankalp** : 'Sankalp' means noble thoughts. Any person gets an idea into his mind before he does any work. And then it comes in his behaviour H.H. Shri Gadiwalashri explains this with an interesting example of a Mahatma: one gentleman goes to a Mahatma and asks him how did he inculcate noble qualities in him? how did he absolve himself from all his sins? Then Mahatma says to the gentleman that now he(gentleman) is left with all seven days of his life and so he may do whatever noble deeds he likes in his life and he may come to him later on and he would answer him. The gentleman goes home and as per his noble thoughts, performs a number of noble deeds like *Japa-Tapa*, *Vrata-Daan* etc. and he comes to Mahatma. When Mahatma asks him he narrates everything. Mahatma asks the gentleman whether he had had any bad or evil thoughts. The gentleman replies that how can one think about anything evil when his death is so close and especially he is aware of it! And therefore he did not have any evil thoughts or ideas and he has not committed anything wrong. Then Mahatma explains him that this is the answer to his own question and says: "*I always live remembering my Death and therefore I have inculcated noble thoughts.*" Similarly we should also remember our death. However we should not be afraid of death because death is certain. If we remember our death constantly then we would never be tempted to think or to do anything wrong in our life and by becoming greater human being we would be able to achieve the highest goal of our life i.e. emancipation.

Thus, through above example H.H. Shri Gadiwalashri explains us how to create a noble human life while constantly remembering death-the ultimate reality of life and reading the scriptures and not considering our life as a useless stone. Thus in reality, 'Sadguru is a sculptor'. Like a sculptor our Guru H.H. Shri Gadiwalashri has been making constant efforts to make our life noble. As per the directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, H.H. Shri Gadiwalashri awakened the first ever night of *Ekadashi* with all the devotees. At that time Sankhyayogi ladies devotees acknowledged how their lives were made more meaningful. Then H.H. Shri Gadiwalashri replied them that for *Satsang* she was ready to awaken with them not only night of *Ekadashi* but all the nights. Parents only give birth but one gets life through Guru only. Without a Guru life is incomplete. There should be a Guru in life. Guru is omnipotent and helps his/her disciples swim across the ocean of life. Shreeji Maharaj has granted us

Dharmvanshi Maharaj and therefore what is required is efforts on our side. May Almighty Lord Shree Narnarayandev grant all of such strength to make such efforts in our life.

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DEVOTEE JINABHAI OF PANCHALA
- Sankhya Yogi Kanchanba (Dhrangadhra)

There is a village called Panchala near Junagadh in Sorath region. Great devotee Jinabhai was of village Panchala. Once he had gone to Mangrol. There villagers informed him that ardent devotee of the Lord Shree Swaminarayan, devotee Shri Kamalshibhai was very sick and none of his family members was serving him. hearing this, Jinabhai immediately went to the house of Kamalshibhai Vanza. In the house, Kamalshibhai was lying on a bed. He was sick and bed-ridden that, he had to do everything in his bed only. Therefore the whole bed was stinking. Despite this, he was chanting the name of the Lord Shree Swaminarayan.

Jinabhai was very much disturbed to witness the plight of the devotee Kamalshibhai. When he met the patient, Kamalshibhai started crying in front of him and narrated how he had become dependent upon his family members who were not Satsangi.

Jinabhai called the relatives of Kamalshibhai and asked why they were not attending him. Immediately his wife said that, they all were tired of his staunch rules and regulations, which he used to compel upon the rest of the family members. And that now they did not want that he should get well. So Jinabhai asked their permission whether he could take him to his house. The moment family members agreed, Jinabhai called three servants, brought a wooden bed and all the four persons lifted the bed-ridden Kamalshibhai on the bed and started walking.

While passing through the village, Patel of Mangrol saw Jinabhai. He stopped them and said to Jinabhai that, being a King of Panchala, it was not good for him to perform the work of a servant. Jinabhai replied that, it was his luck that he got an opportunity to render services to a great devotee like Kamalshibhai. Jinabhai reached Panchala at the house of his sister Aadiba, narrated everything about the plight of the deceased devotee.

Aadiba did not like this and she asked to keep the bed of the patient in one corner of the house. But Jinabhai kept the bed in his room. Then Jinabhai himself started serving the deceased devotee Kamalshibhai. Once Kamalshibhai developed chill and so Jinabhai asked his sister Aadiba to bring black pepper but she replied that black pepper were not available in the kitchen. After two three days Jinabhai himself developed chill. Aadiba immediately rushed to her neighbours borrowed the black pepper and while offering the herbal medicine of black pepper to Jinabhai and requested him to allow her to apply it upon his forehead through which he would feel great relief.

Jinabhai was very angry; he threw away the bowl of black pepper and asked his sister not to come before him. for six months Jinabhai remained angry with Aadiba and did not utter even a single word with her.

When Shreeji Maharaj came to know that, devotee Jinabhai of Panchala has been rendering services to the deceased devotee Kamalshibhai of Mangrol. Immediately Shreeji Maharaj came to Panchala along with the saints and the devotees. There was no end to the happiness and pleasure of both the devotees when they came to know that Shreeji Maharaj had graced the village Panchala. Aadiba begged pardon of Maharaj and prayed that her brother should speak with her. Then as per the directions of Shreeji Maharaj, Jinabhai forgave his sister. Shreeji Maharaj said that He was very much pleased with the services which were rendered by the devotee Jinabhai.

After many years, when Jinabhai passed away to Akshardham, Shreeji Maharaj himself had attended the funeral rituals of the devotee. Listening to this Muktanand Swami had praised devotee Jinabhai like anything. So loving was Shree Hari and so ardent devotee was Jinabhai.

सत्संग समाचार

News And Notes From
Shri Narnarayandev Desh

AHMEDABAD REGION

Celebration of 187th Patotsav of Shree Narnarayandev

By constructing a great Temple in Shree Swaminaryan Sampradaya at Shree Nagar (Ahmedabad) and by establishing the idol images of the Lord Shree Narnarayandev in the temple, Shree Hari has laid open the path of emancipation for all the devotees. On the pious day of Falgan Sud-3, 187th Patotsav of the Lord Shree Narnarayandev was performed by Shree Narnarayandev Pithadhipati H.H. Shree Acharya 1008 Shree Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj, Vadtal Shree Laxminarayandev Pithadhipati H.H. Shree Acharya Shree Rakeshprasadji Maharaj, H.H. Shree Mota Maharaj and H.H. Shree Lalji Maharaj. Thousands of devotees of the country as well as abroad had availed the benefit of divine *Darshan* of the deities.

Under the guidance of Mahant Shastri Swami Harikrishnadasji of Ahmedabad Temple, the Sabha organized on the occasion was conducted by the young *Kathakar* Sadguru Shastri Swami Ramkrishnadasji (Koteshwar Gurukul). The hosts of the *Patotsav* devotee Shree Jitubhai Maganbhai Choksi and devotee Shree Navinbhai Maganbhai Choksi family and the host of *Dhwaj Danda* devotee Shree Surendrabhai Patel (Vishalawala) had performed *Poojan, Archan & Aarti* of both Pithadhishwar and obtained the blessing.

Mahant of Ahmedabad Temple Sadguru Shastri Swami Hari Krishnadas, renowned writer and *Kathakar* of *Sampradaya* Shastri Swami Harikeshavdasji, Sadguru Shastri Swami P.P. Swami of Jetalpur, Sadguru Shastri Swami Nirgundasji, Swami Krishnavallabhdasji of Muli, Shastri Swami Narayan Vallabhdasji etc. saints explained the structure and road map of '*Dharmakul Vandana Mahotsav*' and asked all the devotees to render their services with mind, body and money.

The book *'Langhnaj Leela'* written by renowned writer and *Kathakar* of Sampradaya Shastri Swami Harikeshavdasji was released by H.H. Shree Acharya Maharaj on this divine occasion and under the guidance of Mahant Swami, Brahamachari Swami Rajeshwaranandji, Sadguru Mahant Swami Devprakashdasji (Mahant Narayan Ghat Temple) Sadguru Mahant Nana P.P. Swami (Narayanghat), Kothari Parshad Digambar Bhagat, Bhandari Swami Suryaprakashdasji, Sadguru Swami Haricharandasji (Kalol), Yogi Swami, Bhakti Swami etc. saints and *Parshads* had rendered their services. After a break in the *Sabha*, both the Acharya Maharajs performed *Annakut Aarti* of Shree Narnarayandev. All the devotees and *Haribhaktas* performed *Darshan* of *Annakut* and availed the benefit of *Mahaprasad.*

(Kothari J K Swami).

Celebration of Shree Narnarayan Jaynati – Pushpa Dolotsav

On the pious day of Fagan Sud – 15 Shree Narnarayan Jaynati – *Pushpa Dolotsav* was celebrated in the noon from 12.00 to 1.00 hours in the temple premises of the Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Ahmedabad. Future Acharya of Sampradaya H.H. Shree Lalji Maharaj 108 Shree Vrajendraprasadji Maharaj performed *Aarti* of Shree Narnarayandev and sprinkled divinely sanctified *Abil* and *Gulal.* Thereafter, under the guidance of Mahant Swami Kothari Swami Digambar Bhagat and saints of the temple had prepared colour of flower of *Keshuda* in a huge tank placed in a tractor–trolley. H.H. Shree Lalji Maharaj played with colors through electronic sprinkler and all the devotees had availed this divine occasion. On this occasion Brahamchari Swami Rajeshwaranandji, Mahant of Narayanghat, Shastri Nana P.P. Swami, Sadguru Swami Haricharandasji (Kalol), Bhandari Swami Suryaprakashdasji, Yogi Swami, Bhakti Swami etc. saints and Hari Bhaktas had rendered their services. *(Kothari J K Swami).*

Celebration of Annual function of Shree Swaminarayan Sanskrit Pathshala In Town Hall Ahmedabad

Even during the time of Shreeji Maharaj, Sadguru Muktanand Swami, Premanand

Swami etc. Nand Saints used to please Shree Hari by performing *Nritya* through their art and skill. Time and again Premanand Swami says in his *Kirtan* : "પ્રેમાનંદ ગાયે આગે. આવે ઓરા ઓરા ખસતા ક્યારે હવે દેખું રે હરિ હસતા."

By performing a beautiful *Nritya*, Sadguru Muktanand Swami used to draw a beautiful picture an Elephant through his *Kumkum* red legs. Following the tradition and with the blessings and directions of H.H. Shree Acharya Shree 1008 Shree Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj and H.H. Shree Mota Maharaj, students, saints, *Parshads* and *Bhudev* (*Brahmins*) of Shree Swaminarayan Sanskrit Pathshala established by Adi Acharya Shree Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj and presently run under the guidance of Mahant Shastri Swami Aatma Prakashdasji and Shastri Swami Purushottamprakashdasji (P.P. Swami) of Jetalpur, a grand historical cultural programme was organized in view of 'Dharmakul Vandana Mahotsav' being organized by Kalupur Temple on the occasion of 200th Janma Jayanti of Adi Acharya Shree Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj.

The students of the *Pathshala* were more enthusiastic as such a public programme was being organized for the first time in Sampradaya. Moreover, Shree Narnarayandev Pithadhipati, H.H. Shree Acharya Shree 1008 Shree Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj, Shree Laxminarayandev Pithadhipati, H.H. Shree Acharya Shree Rakeshprasadji Maharaj, H.H. Shree Mota Maharaj, H.H. Shree Laxmi Swaroop Gadiwala Shree (Ahmedabad) and more than 200 saints Sankhya Yogi Lady Devotees and a large number of Hari Bhaktas had remained present and had encouraged the art of the students. The well come song at the time of arrival of Dharmakul was very moving. After Vedic Mangla Charan, Deep Pragyatya was performed by both the Maharaj leading saints, Shree Pankajbhai Jani the former Vice Chancellor of Shree Saurashtra University and Babubhai Desai M.L.A. of Kankrej. Thereafter, one by one all the cultural items were presented and the audience had hilariously appreciated all the cultural items which were performed on the stage.

A large number of people had provided inspiration and guidance directly or indirectly to make this programme a grand success. Even H.H. Shree Acharya Maharaj was very much happy and appreciated the whole programme and expressed their such a cultural programme should be organized in every year. Shastri Swami Satyaswaroopdasji of Muli and other co-worker of the institute had rendered their intellectual and physical services for the preparation of this programme. The whole programme was beautifully conducted by Shastri Swami Hariomprakashdasji, in-charge of Jetalpur Wadi. On this occasion Maharaj of both the Desh, H.H. Shree Mota Maharaj, H.H. Shree Gadiwala Shree saints and Shankhya Yogi Ladies Devotees from Mangrol to Surat and large number of Hari Bhaktas and volunteers had remained present on the occasion and therefore, Shree Hariom Swami had delivered vote of thanks. Co-operation of young Mahant K.P. Swami of Jetalpur Temple behind the success of this programme was praiseworthy.

(V.P. Swami, Jetalpur)

Shreemad Bhagwat Parayan at Olla Village

In the place of Prasadi of Village Olla which was once graced by Shree Hari and devotee Shree Ratanbai of the village had welcomed Shreeji Maharaj like a bridegroom, with the direction of H.H. Shree Acharya Maharaj and with the inspiration of Sadguru Shastri Swami Aatmaprakashdasji, Mahant of Jetalpur Temple, Shreemad Bhagwat Saptah Parayan was organized from 18.02.2009 to 24.02.2009 in the memory of Aksharnivashi Devotee Shree Chimanlal Nathalal Patel and with the noble wish of the devotee of Shree Nathiben Chimanlal. Renowned Kathakar Sadguru Shastri Swami Purshottamprakashdaji (P.P. Swami of Jetalpur) was the spoke-person of the Parayan. Samhita Path was performed by Mahant Shastri Swami Uttampriyadasji (Mehsana).

During the Katha Shri Krishna Janmotsav and Rukshmani Vivah were celebrated with great enthusiasm accepting the invitation of the host family, H.H. Shri Gadiwala Shree Gadiwala Shri had graced the Parayan and granted the benefit of Darshan and bleesings to the ladies devotees.

On 24.02.2009 H.H. Shree Acharya 1008 Shree Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj had graced the occasion and saints and hari bhaktas had performed *Samaiya* with grand procession. Thereafter, H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj graced the Sabha organized on the

occasion. H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj performed Poojan, Archan and Aarti of Vyaspith. Thereafter, the host family performed Poojan, Archan & Aarti of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and offered the clothes in gift.

In the sabha organized on the occasion Sadguru Mahant Shastri Swami Aatmaprakashdasji (Jetalpur) Mahant Shastri Swami Ghanshyamprakashdasji (Mansa) Sadguru Mahant Shastri Nana P.P. Swami (Narayanghat) Sadguru Mahant Swami Narayanprasaddasji, Mahant Shri K P Swami of Jetalpur, Brahamchari Shri Poornanad Swami of Jetalpur, Hariom Swami and Bhakti Swami etc. saints had delivered speeches on the occasion the whole Parayan was organized by the host devotee Shri Jagdishbhai Chimanlal Patel family and Sadguru V.P. Swami (Jetalpur). At last H.H. Shree Acharya Maharaj had asked all the saints and devotees to have firm faith in satsang and while explaining the importance of the Lord Shri Narnarayandev, blessed them.

(Sadhu Vraj Vallabhdasji, Jetalpur Dham)

Celebration of Second Patotsav of Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Ghatlodiya

The blessings and directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, a thee days Ratri Katha was organized in Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Ghatlodiya, Ahmedabad on the occasion of Second Patotsav of the Temple. Sadguru Shastri Swami Nirgundasji, young Kathakar Shastri Swami Ghyanshyamdasji (Mansa Mahant) and Swami Vishwa Swaroopdasji had explained Shree Hari Leela Charitra and importance of Dharmakul in a very simple an interesting style. On this occasion group Maha Pooja was also organized very about 100 hari bhaktas availed the benefit. Shastri Swami Premswaroopdasji had conducted Maha Pooja. On the pious day of Patotsav H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj had graced the occasion and had performed Patotsav Aarti of Thakorji.

In the sabha organized on the occasion, the learned saints had delivered inspirational speeches and thereafter, H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj had graced the Sabha. Students who passed Shree Narnarayandev Religious Examination were given gifts by H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj.

The host of the Patotsav devotee Shree Somabhai Narsibhai Patel family (Gulabpurwala) had performed Poojan, Archan & Aarti of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and had obtained blessings. At last all the devotees performed Darshan of the deities and H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and had availed Prasad. Shri Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal had rendered inspirational services.

(Pravinbhai T. Patel)

Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Dangarva (The Temple of Darbar)

With the directions of H.H. Shree Acharya Maharaj, on pious day of Fagan Sud – 3 (28.02.2009) 83rd Patotsav of Shree Swaminarayan Temple was celebrated. On this occasion the whole temple was decorated. In the morning from 7.30 to 9.30 a programme of Kirtan, Bhakti was organized and at last all were offered Prasad. The students who passed in Shree Narnarayandev Religious Examination were issued certificates and prices as inspiration.

(Dabhai Shivaji Rajuji Kothari)

Celebration of 4th Patotsav of approach (Bapunagar) Temple

With the directions of H.H. Shree Acharya Maharaj, and with the inspiration of Mahant Sadguru Laxmanjivandasji Swami, on the pious day of Falgun Sud – 8, Shodshopchar, Maha Abhishek Dhoon, Kirtan, Annakut before Thakorji and the Sabha were organized in view of 4th Patotsav of Approach Temple.

Early in the morning at 6.45 hours H.H. Shree Acharya Maharaj performed Maha Abhishek in Vedic Tradition of Shree Ghyanshyam Maharaj and also performed Annakut Aarti.

In the Sabha organized in the occasion the host of the Patotsav devotee Shree Ashokbhai Ishwarbhai Patel performed Poojan, Archan of H.H. Shree Acharya Maharaj. Thereafter, former Mahant of Ahmedabad Temple Sadguru Shastri Shree Nirgundasji Swami Anandjivandasji, Vishwaprakashdasji, Mahant of Kankariya Temple Guruprakashdasji Swami and Shastri Yagnaprakashdasji had delivered speeches on the occasion. On this occasion Brahamchari Shree Rajeshwaranand Swami poojari of Shree Narnarayandev Temple and saints and Mahants from places of pilgrimage like Mathura, Badri Narayan, Vehlal Temple etc. had remained present on the occasion.

H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj had explained the importance of Shree Hari and had blessed the devotees. Many people were granted

Kanthi and Gruh Mantra and each of the Hari Bhaktas had availed the divine benefit of touching the lotus like feet of H.H. Shree Acharya Maharaj. *(Gordhanbhai V. Sitapara)*

Let us take a noble vow during Dharmakul Vandana Mahotsav

With the directions of Shree Narnarayandev Pithadipati, H.H. Shree Acharya Maharaj 'Dharmkul Vandana Mahotsav' is being celebrated from 01/06/2009 to 03/06/2009 Janma Dwishatabdi of H.H. Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj.

On this divine occasion, let us take the vow as under in order to please the Lord Shree Swaminarayan and other form of the Lord as also Dharmvanshi Acharya Maharaj and also to make our life happy. Details of the same may be forwarded to Shree Swaminarayan temple, Kalupur, Ahmedabad (Sahitya Kendra).

• to perform Mala • to perform Pradakshina • to perform Panchang Pranam • to perform Dandvat Pranam • to perform Janmangal Path • to perform Mantra-reading • to perform Bhakta-Chintamani Path • to perform Balcharitra Path • to perform Kirtan • to perform Pada of Vanduna • to perform Satsang Sabha • to perform group Kirtan Bhakti • to perform services to Thakorji • to perform services to H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj • to perform services to the saints

Name:_____
Address: _____
Tele: (R): _____ (O): _____
(M): _____
Vows adopted: (1) _____
(2) _____ (3) _____
(4) _____ (5) _____

Madhavgadh (Tal.Prantij)

Here in Shree Swaminarayan temple, Patotsav of Thakorji was celebrated on 19/02/2009 with great enthusiasm. First of all H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj performed *Shodasopchar Abhishek* and *aarti* of Shree Harikrishna Maharaj and then performed concluding ritual of of *Shree Vishnu Yag* by offering holy fruit. Thereafter *Annakut aarti* of Thakorji was performed.

In the Sabha organized on the occasion, Mahant Shastri Nana P.P. Swami of Naranghat temple etc. saints had delivered inspiring speeches. At last the whole Sabha was blessed by H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj. The whole programme was organized by Mahant Mahant Swami of Prantij. Along with H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, Brahmchari Shri Rajeshwaranandji etc. saints from Ahmedabad had graced the occasion. Devotee Shri Bhalabhai had rendered the services by making arrangements for resident of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj. *(Kothari)*

Satsang Sabha in village Aakrund

With the directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, a beautiful Satsang Sabha was organized on 28/12/2008. The whole programme was organized with the inspiration of Satya Sankalp Swami. On this occasion our learned writer and Kathakar Shastri Swami Harikeshavdas, Shastri Swami Chandraprakashdas (Biliya), Sadguru Ghanshyam Swami, Uttam Swami and Haripriyadasji etc. saints had explained the importance of the Lord, purpose of *Shakotsav* and importance of *Dharmkul*. Many saints and devotees from Bayad, Demai, Dhansura, Radodara and Sayari villages had availed the benefit of the Satsang Sabha. *(Shree Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal, Aakrund)*

Shree Swaminarayan temple, Dahegam

With the directions and blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, on 26/01/2009 Mahant of Kalupur temple Sadguru Shastri Swami Harikrishnadasji, Mahant of Naranghat temple Sadguru Swami Devprakashdasji etc. saints had arrived in Shree Swaminarayan temple, Dahegam and had availed to the devotees, the benefit of *Katha-Kirtan*. Thereafter *Khichdi-Utsav* was celebrated with great fervour and enthusiasm in front of Thakorji. Many devotees had availed the benefit of this divine *Utsav*. *(Haribhaktas of Dahegam)*

OVERSEAS NEWS

Shree Swaminarayan temple, Cleveland (America, I.S.S.O)

With the blessings of Shree Hari and directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj, H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and inspiration of Shastri Swami Dharmvallabhdasji, a great *Shakotsav* was celebrated in our temple on 28/02/2009. In the Sabha organized on the occasion, Shastri Swami Dharmvallabhdasji has explained the importance of *Shakotsav*.

Mahant Swami Harinandandas had

offered beautiful *Shangaar* to Thakorji and granted *Darshan* of *Shakotsav*. On 15/02/2009 on the pious day of *Shivratri*, Haribhaktas had performed group *Shiv-poojan*. Its importance was explained beautifully by the saints. Ladies devotees had prepared various types of new items of *Prasadi* and offered the same to Thakorji. Here Haribhaktas have been rendering their beautiful services. With the blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj, here activity of *Satsang* has been running very nicely.

(Prakashbhai Patel, Cleveland)

Shree Swaminarayan temple, Hyusten (America)

With the blessings and directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj, here 9th Patotsav of Shree Narnarayandev was celebrated with great enthusiasm and fervour.

From 13/03/2009 to 15/03/2009 *Katha* of 'Purushottam Prakash' written by Saduguru Nishkulanand Swami was organized. Sadugur Shastri Swami Dharmvallabhdasji (Muliwala) was the spokesperson of the *Katha*. In spite of heavy rains, the devotees did not miss to avail the benefit of *Katha*. On 14th March, large number of devotees had availed the benefit of *Mahapooja*.

It was the desire of all the devotees that, H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj may grace this *utsav* of *Patotsav*. Though there was no programme of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, and yet Shree Hari arranged everything very smoothly. A programme of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj of visiting America along with the saints was organized all of a sudden in view of '*Dharmkul Vandana Mahotsav*'. Such a pleasant surprise presence of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj on the occasion of Patotsav of Hystan temple saw no limit of pleasure of the devotees. All the Haribhaktas performed Samaiya of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj with great fervour and enthusiasm. Thousands of devotees performed Darshan and availed the divine benefit. With the inspiration of K.P. Swami, all the Haribhaktas rendered the services with their mind, body and money on the occasion. With the directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj all the devotees also rendered their services for our '*Dharmkul Vandana Mahotsav*' and obtained the pleasure of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj.

(Ramesh T. Patel)

I.S.S.O., Auckland (Newzealand)

With the blessings and directions of H.H. Shree Acharya Maharaj, Shivratri was festival celebrated in a grand fashion. More than 1500 devotees had availed the benefit of a three days function organized on the occasion. Around 70 families performed Shiv abhishek and Mahapuja which was organized in the evening on the pious day of Shivratri.

AKSHARVAAS

Mahesana– Devotee Shri Modi Jayantilal Dahyalal Shroff passed away to Akshardhaam while chanting the name of Shri Hari.

Ahmedabad-Bapunagar– Devotee Shri Jamnaben Shamjibhai Dobariaya, passed away to divine abode of God (08.03.2009) amidst the chants of Mahamantra.

Balava - Devotee Shri baldevbhai Motiji Chaudhari (Kharwad) passed away to divine abode of God (14.02.2009) while chanting the name of Shri Hari.

Aslali - Devotee Shri Sasbhai Sarabhai Patel (Poojari) (brother in law of the devotee Shri Bachubhai Taxiwala) passed away to divine abode of God (22.02.2009) while chanting the name of Shri Hari.

Mandal- Sankhyahogi Kunvarba (age 93 years) *poojari* of Shree Swaminarayan temple passed away to Akshardham (15.02.2009). while chanting the name of Shri Hari.

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The hosts performing poojan of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj on the occasion of Parayan at Ola village

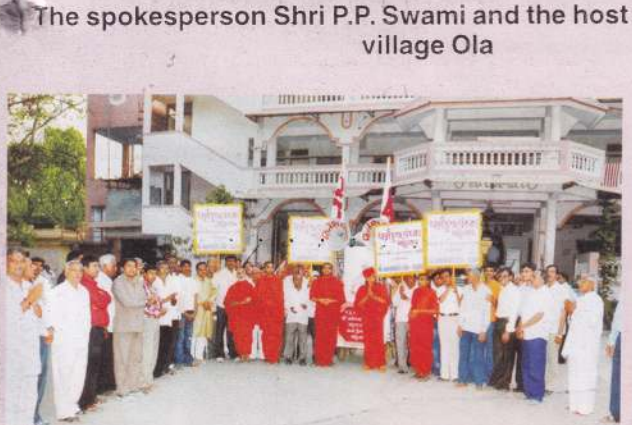




The spokesperson Shri P.P. Swami and the host in the Sabha at village Ola



Abhishek and Annakut Darshan in Jetalpur on the occasion of Patotsav of Shri Revati Baldevji Harikrishna Maharaj





H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj performing Annakut Aarti on Patotsav of temple (ladies) at village Vihar



Shree Narnarayandev Darshan Padyatra organized by Motera, Sabarmati, Jantanagar, Naranghat Yuvak Mandal in

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H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj along with Mahant Shastri Harikrishnadasji, Devswami (Naranghat), Narayanvallabh Swami (Vadnagar) and Ramswami (Koteshwar) blessing the Sabha in our Cherry Hill (South Jersey) temple organized in connection with 'Dharmakul Vandana Mahotsav'



H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj performing Aarti of the deities in our Cherry Hill temple



H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj performing Aarti on the occasion of 10th Patotsav of our temple (ladies) Ranip



શ્રી નરનારાયણ દેવ

પ.પૂ.ધ.ધુ.આચાર્ય ૧૦૦૮ શ્રી કોશલેન્દ્રપ્રસાદજી મહારાજશ્રીની આજ્ઞાથી

પ.પૂ. આદિ આચાર્ય
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જન્મ દ્વિશતાબ્દી
મહોત્સવ

ધર્મકુળ વંદના મહોત્સવ



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તા. ૧ થી 3 જૂન ૨૦૦૯ જેઠ સુદ ૯ થી ૧૧ સુધી

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afful Kharsani