Rs. 5/-

# શ્રી સ્વામિનારાયણ

February 2009







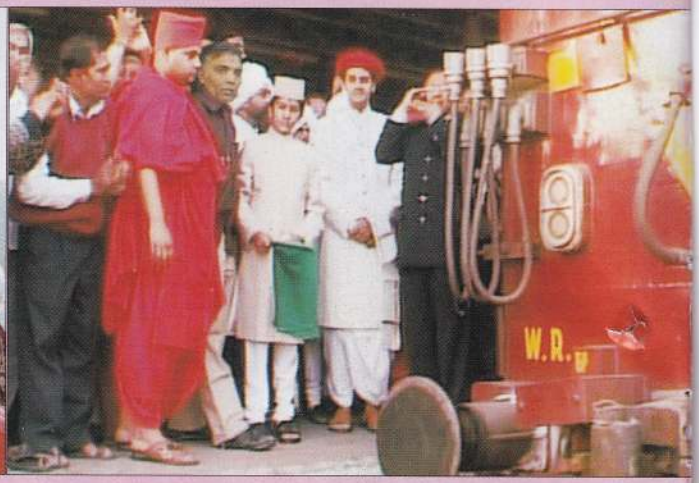


પ.પૂ.ધ.ધુ. આચાર્ય મહારાજશ્રીના વરદ્ હસ્તે ઉજવાયેલ શાકોત્સવ, નારણઘાટ, જીવરાજપાર્ક, સમૌ, નરનારાયણ ન

પ્રકાશકઃ શ્રી સ્વામિનારાયણ મંદિર, અમદાવાદ-૧



.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj granting Darshan in Shobha-yatra with Dev Swami (Naranghat ahant)and Kothari J.K.Swami at village Bhayla




H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj granting green signal to the pilgrims of Chhapaiya special train.




Relatives of the pilgrims of Chhapaiya extending their best wishes.



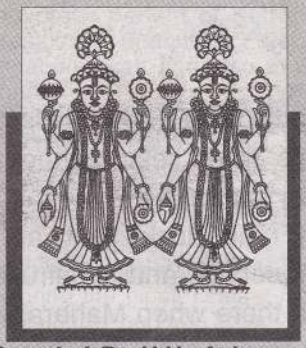
A photograph of Sankhya Yogi and Karma Yogi ladies devotees who arrived at Chhapaiyadham.



H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj blessing the Sabha rganized on the occasion of Parayan of Shastri




H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj granting Darshan in Sabha at Motera and Shastri Swami Ramkrishnadasji



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

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

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**Shatri Swami Harikrishnadasji**
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**SHRI SWAMINARAYAN TEMPLE**
Kalupur, Ahmedabad-1.
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**www.swaminarayan.info**

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**Shri Swaminarayan**
Shri Swaminarayan Temple
Kalupur, AHMEDABAD-1 (INDIA)

**For a Change in Address :**
E-mail : manishnvora@yahoo.co.in

**Life time Subscription :**
One Year : Rs. 50/-
Inland life time : Rs. 501/-
Overseas life time : Rs. 10,000/-
India : @ Rs. 5/-

# श्री स्वामिनारायण

Official News-letter from Shri Narnarayandevdesh Diocese

Vol : 2 No : 22 February-2009

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**: Editor, Printer and Publisher :**
Shatri Swami Harikrishnadasji for
Shree Swaminarayan Temple Kalupur, Ahmedabad.
Printed at Shree Swaminarayan Printing press,
Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Kalupur, Ahmedabad (GUJARAT) Pin-380 001 and
Published at and for Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Kalupur, Ahmedabad (GUJARAT) Pin-380 001.

# अस्मदीयम्

Our Swaminarayan Sampradaya is the Sampradaya of traditions. For the welfare of all the people, Lord Shree Swaminarayan incarnated in this world, established this Sampradaya and developed means of welfare of all the human souls. These means are Deity, Acharya, saint and the scriptures. Really we are very much lucky that, all the festivals and Samaiya, all the noble work and deeds of social service and construction of temple, all the Katha, Kirtan, pleasure and happiness which there when Maharaj was here on this earth, are present even today. We feel that Shree Hari is with us in Satsang even today. We do not feel deficiency of anything which was there at the time of Shree Hari. What is required from us, is ardent faith and worship. If we would remain ardent devotee of the Lord, then we would have divine pleasure. And if we do not feel such divine pleasure in Satsang, then it is the right time for our self-exploration. For pure and devout worship of the devotee Shree Hari has got constructed nine great temples, has installed the idol images of the deities and has blessed the devotees that, they should see any difference between Shree Hari and these idol images. Shree Hari has blessed that, while remaining in these idol images, he would fulfill desires of Shree Hari and would accept the devout feelings of the devotees. If any devotee desires to offer Thaal or clothes, then he should offer Thaal and clothes to these deities, and while remaining in these idol images, Shree Hari would accept them and would fulfill the desires of the devotees. This blessing is a Truth and umpteen number of devotees are witness to it.

In the first ever temple of Lord Shree Swaminaryan in this world was constructed in Ahmedabad and Shree Hari himself had took the idol images of the Lord Shree Narnarayandev of Bharatkhand in His arms and had installed them in inner temple on the pious day of Phalgun Sud-3. Patotsav of Lord Shree Narnarayandev and also Phuldolotsav are coming in recent future. Both these festivals would be celebrated with great joy and fervour in the premises of our Shree Narnarayandev temple, Kalupur, Ahmedabad.

Besides this, 200th Janma Dwishatabdi of our Aadi Achary 1008 Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj is coming on 3rd June 2009. With the directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and under his leadership, we have decided to celebrated Dharmkul Vandana Mahotsav from 01/06/2009 till 03/06/2009 whose details would be placed before all of you at appropriate time. Thus, host of festivals are coming and so devotees, let us prepare ourselves to render our services with *Tana, Mana* and *Dhana* and make our life greater than ever.

Editor
(Shri Mahant Swami)
Shastri Swami Harikrishnadas

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

(JANUARY - 2009)



3. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Jetalpur and procession organized on the occasion of Parayan.
4. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Jetalpur on the occasion of the concluding ceremony of Parayan.
   Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Amja (Taluka Kalol)
6. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Chandisana (Taluka Kalol) on the occasion of concluding ceremony of Parayan.
8. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Mansa on the occasion of Shakotsav
   Graced the Marriage Ceremony at the house of the devotee Dr. P.M. Patel.
10. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Samau (Taluka Mansa) on the occasion of concluding ceremony of Parayan and graced Shakotsav ceremony.
11. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple Naranyan Ghat on the occasion of Shakotsav.
    Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple Jivraj Park on the occasion of Shakotsav.
12. Graced Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Jetalpur on the occasion of Dhoon of pious Dhanur Maas.
    Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Ghatlodia on the occasion of Shakotsav.
13. Graced Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Kankaria - Rambaug on the occasion of Dhoon of pious Dhanur Maas.
14. Pious Dhanur Maas Dhoon Mahotsav in Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Ahmedabad was concluded in the pious presence of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj.
26. Graced Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Dangarwa (Patidar – Talpad) on the occasion of Pad-Yatra and blessed all the Hari Bhaktas.
    Graced Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Jamiyatpura (Shri Prabha Hanumanji) on the occasion of concluding ceremony of Parayan.
27. Graced Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Bhaila (Dholka Desh) on the occasion of concluding ceremony of Parayan.
    Graced Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Kankaria.
28. Graced Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Gothib (Panchmahal) on the occasion of Satsang Sabha.
30. Graced Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Balasinor on the occasion of Panch Kundi Vishnu Yagna.
    Graced Muli in the evening.
31. Graced Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Muli alongwith H.H. Shree Lalji Maharaj on the occasion of Samaiyo of Vasant Panchmi and Rangotsav.

# Shikshapatri

## The Epistle of Precepts

(based on Shatanand's Shikshapatri Arthadipika)

By Pravin S. Varsani

## Text 21

**One shall never slander deities, places of pilgrimage, Brahmins, devout wives, priests or the holy scriptures, not listen to such slander.**

This is a very important Shloka with a lot of information within it. Primarily it prohibits slander in all forms. Here Sahajanand Swami specifies six types of people or things:

***Devtatirithavipranaam Sadhvinaam Cha Sataamapi I***
***Vedanaam Cha Na Kartavya Ninda Shravya Na Cha Kachit II***

***(1) Devta*** – slander of any god. Therefore devotees of Lord Rama should not slander Lord Krishna or even devotees of Lord Shiva. Similarly devotees of Lord Swaminarayan should never slander any other deity, be it Rama, Krishna, Siva etc.

***(2) Tirtha*** – no place of pilgrimage should ever be slandered. Any famed 'holy place' of Shree Krishna, Rama, Swaminarayan or any other deity.

***(3) Vipranaam*** – Brahmins. No Brahmin who is faithful to his duty should ever be slandered. Indeed even those Brahmins who are not faithful to their Dharma should not be slandered. Brahmins are always praised and famed in Shastras, as the very form of God.

***(4) Sadhvinaam*** – devout or chaste women, these *Pativrata* women should never be slandered.

***(5) Sataamapi-*** any renounced devotee of God. Sadhus should always be praised and never slandered.

***(6) Vedanaam Cha-*** The *Vedas*, Holy Scriptures. Here 'Cha' is used to specify 'the like', and so all Holy Scriptures with their root in the Vedas, are included. Therefore the *Puranas, Upanishads, Bhagwat, Ramayan, Gita, Shikshapatri, Satsangi Jivan, Vachamrit* etc. are all worthy of praise and are never to be slandered.

**Shree Hari's Shloka reveals** *'Na Kartavya Ninda'* **- never should such things be slandered and** *'Shravya na Cha Kachit'* **–nor should slander of such things be listened to. Such a directive is very important and is prominent in many Shastras.**

Markandeya Purana **explains,** *'Deva, Veda, Dwijati (*Brahmins), *Sadhu, Tirtha, Mahatma* (great men), *Guru, Pativrata, Yajvi (*those who perform Yagnas and *Tapasvi (those who perform penance)* such things should never be slandered even jokingly- *Parivvadam Na Kurvit Parihaasepi.* Similarly such slander should never be listened to..

Nor should such persons be physically beaten. Shatanand explains here that it is acceptable or appropriate to hit (i.e. punish) one's own child or disciple in the lower part of their body. But never to punish in such a way involving the upper part of the body- the head or the chest.

Sumantu Smruti explains how slandering even once, such great men or women has great consequences. 'Those who slander a *Devarshi* (great saint- God like), Brahmin, Acharya, parents, King, *Sadhu* and *Sati* (devout women), should have their tongues burned and should be severely punished.'

Skanda Purana says, 'Those who slander (those mentioned) become childless and destroy their family.' *Yogeshwar Yagnavalkya* explains the slander of the *Vedas* and others is comparable to committing the murder of a Brahmin- *Vedadinindayastu Brahmanhatyasamatvamapyauktam.*

The Mahabharat says, *Guruninda Dahatyayurmanushyaram Na Sansheyaha* –'To slander one's guru leads to a shorter duration of life'- so saying Shatanand concludes his Bhasya of this Shloka.

Much has been covered in this Shloka. It is very important Shloka. *Ninda* or slander is something I feel many do not mean to do but something that happens. Often they may not know what they are saying is slanderous and so it is important to broaden our understanding of this Shloka.

What does 'Deva Ninda' mean? In broader terms to slander any one of the 330 million gods that Shastras speak of is *Deva Ninda.* To utter even a word which in anyway defames the greatness of any God is *Deva Ninda.*

Much of this slander is often through superiority complex that their God is greater than any other. There seems to be too much talk of one God being greater or better than another. Instead, we need to change this ideology to the fact that a specific God is better for me and say – 'Rama is best for me.' Or 'Swaminarayan is best for me.'

There is only one God. The various incarnations are mere instruments of that one supreme

Lord. To slander any one of these Gods is to slander the supreme Lord, their own '*Ishatadev*'. Those who cannot accept the greatness of the various gods- Rama, Krishna, Swaminarayan, Shiva, Ganapati, Surya, Parvati etc. have not yet understood the Sanatan Dharma.

A person should believe his own personal God- Ishtadev, to be the greatest and in his way strengthen his devotion to his personal God. However he has absolutely no right to slander any other deity and their devotees.

Sometimes slander of deities takes place as a result of some irreligious practice. For example *Maa Parvati* and her forms have often in the past and present been associated with animal sacrifices and the like. In such situations Goddess Parvati should never be slandered, for she is not to blame. These practices take place because people neglect the true meaning of Shastras and follow the wrong principles.

Places of pilgrimage should also never be slandered. They praise only those places associated with their own God. Other places are disregarded. *Chappaiya, Dwarika, Ayodhya* and other such places are all holy places. Those who cannot see this and who on their *Tirtha* start slandering various places do not reap the desired fruits of their pilgrimage. Many often complain about the places they went to saying something like 'the living facilities were not good' as if they are on holiday to that place! They thus fail to grasp the essence of performing a *Tirtha*.

Brahmins should never be slandered. The superiority complex again arises here where people are obsessed with the greatness of their own caste or 'Jata'. Brahmins are famed in all Shastras as the very essence of truth and purity. They are the very form of God and so worthy of praise and respect.

The Gods have placed the Sanatan Dharma in their hands and these true, pure Brahmins will continue their duties as Brahmins to uplift the Dharma. It is inevitable that some Brahmins may go astray, just as any caste member may go astray from their duty, but again to slander any Brahmin is unacceptable.

Many great Brahmins in our society exist who are continuing in Vedic tradition and are also trying to rebuild the Brahmin caste to its former glory. It is our duty to help in this cause and never to slander them as their blessing in a wedding, Yagna and other Vedic rituals are necessary.

It is said that Brahmins are the face of God, Kshatriyas the arms, Vaishyas the thighs and Shudras the feet. Therefore to slander any caste is absolutely unacceptable; as to do so would be to slander the Lord himself.

Chaste women, who live in the shadow of their husband, who follow the rules of conduct prescribed for a wife to the fullest, should never be slandered. She may be often be slandered by their Western counterparts, who do not fully understand what it means to be a true Hindu wife. They have totally different view about being a wife, not at all based in accordance with our scriptures. Only such *Pativrata* women are worthy of praise and are famed in this world. They are to be respected, but never to be slandered.

A *Sadhu, Acharya*, or *Guru* should never be slandered. Those who renounce all worldly pleasures and desires, who live a life of absolute celibacy, whose only reason for living is to serve the Lord are worthy of praise and never to be slandered. Sure, some Sadhus are better than others, but to glorify this fact and to slander those who are less developed is unacceptable. All Sadhus cannot be the same and we cannot expect all Sadhus to be the epitome of sainthood- they do what they can, just as we do what we can as householders.

There is a saying that saints do not keep their *Punya* (benediction) or *Papas* (sins). Instead it is distributed to those who they come into contact with. Those who slander a saint take away with them the saint's sins. Those who praise a saint inherit the saint's *Punya*. Lastly to slander any of the Holy Scriptures is also not admirable. The Vedas are the most prominent Hindu scriptures of Sanatan Dharma. The great knowledge of Vedas has been expanded upon in various Shastras. The works of Vyaas- *Upanishads, Mahabharat, Puranas*, of which Bhagwat Purana is prominent, are all great Shastras which have given mankind the Vedic knowledge in simple form and so should never be slandered.

The works of prominent Rishis including various *Smrutis, Srutis, Darshans, Itihases* and so on are also very great. Lord Swaminaryan's specific aim was to have scriptures written by prominent saints, which covered all aspects of Hindu Vedic philosophy and so all such *Shastras* are with merit.

All these scriptures are equally important and so should be studied to get a better understanding of our Dharma if capable. To disregard any of these scriptures and to even slander a specific scripture is sinful and against all Vedic teachings.

In Mahabharat it is said that those who do not slander receive Punya equivalent to a tenth part of performing a *Yagna*. Those who do slander receive the sins of those persons he slanders. Thus, slandering is wholly undesirable. It is one of the eleven prohibitions in our Sampradai and therefore we must make it a point to fully obey this directive and to never slander anybody.

# श्री स्वामिनारायण म्युझियम

**- Prof. Hitendrabhai Patel**

The blissful name of Lord Swaminarayan Bhagwan echoes every where in the world through the untiring efforts of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharajshri is the perennial source of spiritual enlightenment and acts like a beacon for mankind and the continents.

**Bhagwan Swaminarayan**

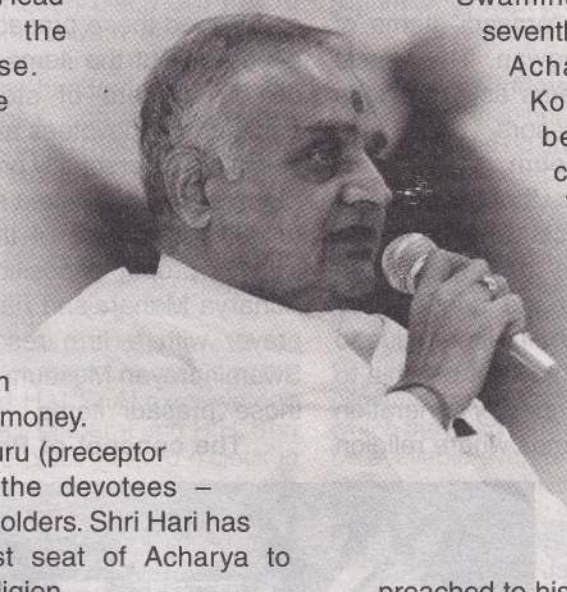
Lord Swaminarayan Bhagwan has manifested himself some 225 years ago and dwelled on the earth as a human being by disguising his divine attributes and majesty. Lord Swaminarayan Bhagwan has enforced the devotion of Lord Shri Krishna and rescued the human society from the murky mud of ill traditions, ignorance, superstitions and blind faith. He preached to them that "service of mankind is service of God", and preached it by practising it through out His life. Those were the days when it was most unimaginable to banish the bad traditions of human society, but due to whole hearted efforts of Shri Swaminarayan Bhagwan the society was freed from the ills of unjust traditions, violence, superstitions and blind faith. The "Panchvratmaan" and the non-violence preached by Shri Swaminarayan Bhagwan have, in those days, impressed the scholars, kings, landlords, and religious heads in such a manner that they renounced and walked to Shri Hari to receive initiation in the Sampradaya. Lord Swaminarayan Bhagwan never discriminated between a king or a pauper. He has graced the palace of Gaikwar and the hut of Sagram Vaghari with equal love and affection. His follower saints stayed away from women and wealth. Lord Swaminarayan Bhagwan had advocated for a virtuous life and sustained Hindu religion – without any discrimination of caste or colour. He has asked his followers to win the opponents not by violence but by selfless love.

**Acharyas and Diocese**

He expanded and reorganized the entire sect and grouped them in to two distinct but uniform dioceses : namely, Shri Narnarayandev Desh Diocese, Ahmedabad and Shri Lakshminarayandev Desh Diocese, Vartal. To manage the organization as per His tenets, Lord Shriji Maharaj Himself chose two of His Dharmkul (lineage of Shri Dharma)



and installed one from each of them as the Acharya (supreme spiritual Head – preceptor) of the respective diocese. Thus, a complete system came into being and it maintained decorum and distance of his ascetic followers and householder devotees in occasion with any female or money. Acharyas are the Guru (preceptor - Acharya) of all the devotees – ascetics and householders. Shri Hari has created this highest seat of Acharya to protect axiomatic religion.



**Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharajshri withdraws himself and dedicates his efforts for Swaminarayan Museum**

The Sixth Descendant Son of the Dharmkul H.H. Acharya Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharajshi had graced the supreme seat of the Acharya of Shri Narnarayandev Diocese on the auspicious second day of the bright half of Ashwin in V.S. 2025 and since then he has led this axiomatic and orginal sect for thirty five years. The sect has expanded its geographical boundaries and spiritual profoundity by founding temples, free inns Gurukuls, and centres for social service under his spirited leadership. He is the spiritual guide, head and preceptor of those billions of his followers who are paying obeisance at thousands of temples and Hari mandirs across the world. Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharajshri is the motivating force behind such expansion, progress and enlightenment in the sect. At his free will, H.H. Acharya Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharajshri has withdrawn himself from the centre and height of spiritual leadership and has opted for retirement to undertake the untiring workload of the historical project of our time : Shri Swaminarayan Museum. The seventh descendant son - H.H. Acharya Shri Koshalendraprasadji has been installed ceremoniously by Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharajshri as the Acharya of Shri Narnarayandev Diocese.

This is the first incident in the entire sect when an Acharya withdraws himself from this supreme position to serve mankind. Through his action, he has preached to his followers and mankind to renounce power and position to serve wholeheartedly. This unique act of his has touched the hearts of the Mahants, preceptors, preachers and the religious leaders.

**Divine Gifts of God**

Lord Shri Hari has favoured His devotees and showered His pleasure by gifting to them His holy foot prints and has said to them expressly that He himself is present there in the form of the foot prints. Lord of the universe has incarnated Himself as a human being and had dwelled on the earth for 49 years, to gift to mankind thousands of His prasadi items. There are thousands of "Prasadi" items in the form of clothes, carving artefacts paintings, drawings, attires, vehicles and utensils maintained and preserved in an 'as it is' condition in this sect to relish the sacred touch and the blissful memories of Swaminarayan Bhagwan. These "prasadi" items have served Shri Swaminarayan Bhagwan personally, and they have become Prasadi by the holy touch of Shri Hari. Lord Shri Hari's presence is felt in the Darshan of

those "prasadi" items. Those are great works of art, craft, literature and scripture. Dharmvanshi Acharyas have unbroken faith and trust in the blessed "prasadi" items of Lord Swaminarayan Bhagwan. They have received these prasadi items as a precious heritage from the predecessors.

**Why a Museum**

These sacred objects, though they are the eternal heritage and most valuable wealth of the sampradaya, are preserved and maintained individually by the householder devotees and the saints who at times, due to their personal limitations, may not be able to maintain it properly. Contemporary generation passes through adverse times where religion has become a business to sell fictitious items under the name of God's "prasadi". So called guards and promoters of various sects have began to eradicate original doctrines, tenets and culture of axiomatic ethical duties. Many of the householder devotees have the "prasadi" items handed over to them from their predecessors, but times are so adverse that it has become most difficult to maintain sanctity of our Kitchen, than what should one expect in relation to those "Prasadi" items ? Though, devout and faithful to the sect and Shri Hari, they can not maintain those high standards of sanctity and decorum, needed in relation to those divine gifts. Differences and division in the family, have divided the divine "prasadi" in those divided families ! H.H. Acharya Maharajshri is pained at heart by such painful incidents. Such incidents have compelled him to think and ponder on the major issue of the sanctity and safety of the divine gifts distributed with pleasure by Swaminarayan Bhagwan. Time may draw deep dividing lines on the map of a family, but such divisive lines should not encroach upon the divine gifts of Shri Hari. Many temples of this diocese have maintained these prasadi items with the due decorum, but the items kept at such places are in a state of storage. Hundreds of householder devotees and a large number of saints have personally prayed to H.H. Acharya Maharajshri to create a most modern system to take good care of these "prasadi" items with its proper exposition to mankind. H.H. Acharya Maharajshri has consented to their prayer with a firm resolute to create Shri Swaminarayan Museum to install and display those "prasadi" items.

**The concept of Prasadi Museum**



It shall be most appropriate if we pronounce that the museum of these "prasadi" items shall not be a storehouse of the relics of history but shall be an illuminated window to peep in to our glorious and majestic past. It shall be a live demonstration of the glorious past of this sect. It will present to the visitors the tranquil atmophere to live in and experience the blissful presence of Lord Swaminarayan Bhagwan. Here at this place, a visitor will stop imagning about God and will perceive Him directly without any obstruction. This is the eternal abode protecting our cultural and traditional heritage.

Acharya Maharajshri, who wields divine powers superseding time and space, works here day and night discussing tge aspects of

the Shri Swaminarayan Museum at his office on the land of the upcoming Museum. His Holiness guides, directs and leads here a well organized team of architects, curators, archaeologists, artists, sculptors and landscape designers to realize his concept of the Museum.

H.H. Acharya Tejendraprasadji has served mankind by gifting his treasure of the divine prasadi to the world community. H.H. Acharya (Late) Shri Devendraprasadji Maharaj had gifted earlier the prasadi items to Shri Swaminarayan Mandir and those items have been displayed permanently at the Akshar Bhuwan of Swaminarayan Mandir, Ahmedabad. The Museum has a well



organized system to display the items in full with a short historical legend of the individual item. Beside those divine gifts, there shall be on display the nails, teeth and hair of Lord Swaminarayan Bhagwan. This will satisfy everyone's thirst of knowledge and majesty.

Lord Swaminarayan Bhagwan Himself has signed a document which is in possession of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. No other signature of Shri Hari is available any where in the univere. The document drawn and signed on a stamp paper of erstwhile Baroda State, is duely authenticated by a seal and signature of a British officer to prove the originality of the document and the signature. This unique "prasadi" item shall be the heart of the museum and made available to mankind by its display at the center of the Museum.

Lord Swaminarayan Bhagwan used to conduct the sessions of instant meditational trance. The aspirants while sitting at the assembly, were gracing the Akshardhaam abode of Shri Hari in their state of instant trance and Shri Hari at Akshardhaam used to favour them by gifting them with a Kanthi, rosary, rosary bag or a string of the large beads to calculate number of the chantings. The aspirants were bringing those items with them from the Akshardhaam. These celestial prasadi items shall be displayed at the Museum.

There the majesty of the prasadi items has not receded, but H.H. Acharya Maharajshri has conceived this perfect system of Shri Swaminarayan Museum to maintain it well in our changed times.

**Shri Swaminarayan Museum**

Acharyas have procured long back, a very large piece of land in Narayanpura area, costing rupees thirty crore or more and handed it over to Shri Swaminarayan Mandir Kalupur, Ahmedabad. A splendid Museum spread over an area of 3100 sq. yd. shall be constructed there with built up area of 1,75,000 sq. ft. and the well developed landscape would be surrounding tge museum galleries, conference room, a.v. room, reference library and research center. The museum shall be a perennial source of ultimate knowledge and enlightenment. It will open up new horizons of knowledge and enlightenment. Each article shall be preserved here most scientifically, with a well spelled legend about the article. The wealth of knowledge and enlightenment treasured since a century under lock-and-key, shall be opened up now to the public for enhancement of

knowledge and perception.

**Support the Cause**

It is our prime duty to protect and take good care of our national heritage. If this chance to serve the cause, is missed this wealth too shall be lost like the sword of Tipu Sultan, Kohinoor and Mayurasana of the ancient times.

The heritage discussed above, belongs not only to the sect or the Hindu religion, but is the heritage beloging solely to the world community – mankind. Human beings are much concerned about their family heritage and the governments take great care of the national heritage. The heritage mentioned here belongs to the whole world and we all human beings are concerned about it. To share and participate in this most memorable experience shall be a good fortune for us. Come and submit yourself to the cause.

H.H. Acharya Maharajshri has not desired any thing from his devotees or the state. He is a desire free soul. He lives in the state of pure consciousness not attached to sense objects. His holiness quotes a thought from the nectar like preachings of Shri Hari, '.. therefore, don't inspire or encourage, if not firm in faith or good intention..... And it shall be alright if carried out in its natural course, but don't recommend it with force. It is most welcome if at their free will they donate land, farms, village or assets to Lord Narnarayandev, let them donate it at their pleasure, but force them not for such a donation.' This is his motto and personal philosophy. His holiness insists for one thing and says that his efforts shall be fruitful if we a visit to the museum.

Wealth and prosperity are not steady or permanent Goddess Lakshimi is unsteady and agile, but Lord Narayan is steadfast and firm. Allow your wealth to support the cause. Come forward and join us in this great service of mankind.

**Let us inspire ourselves**

H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharaj graced the marriage ceremony of the devotee Shri Parin, the son of our devotee Shri Jayeshbhai Ramanlal Soni. It was a unique occasion for Jayeshbhai, when the other form of Shree Hari himself is gracing the marriage ceremony of his home. He decided to obtain pleasure of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj. He offered all the money (Rs.32,501/-) received towards *Chandlo* of his son's marriage for construction work of '*Shree Swaminarayan Museum*'.

Is it not an incident of inspiration for all of us!!! One spends lacs of rupees in worldly affairs to make his relatives and friends happy on such social occasions. Here is an incident from which let us take an inspiration and make our this birth and life worthy.

*(Brahmchari Shri Rajeshwaranandji)*

**APPOINTMENT OF NEW MAHANT SWAMI IN SHREE SWAMINARAYAN TEMPLE, AHMEDABAD**

H.H. Shri Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj has appointed on 14/01/2009- the pious day of Uttarayan, Sadguru Shastri Swami Harikrishnadasji Guru Sadguru Chitara Swami Baldevprasaddasji as Mahant Swami of Shree Swaminarayan temple, Ahmedabad, which was the first ever temple constructed by the Lord Shree Swaminarayan.

**APPOINTMENT OF JOINT MAHANT SWAMI IN NARAYANGHAT TEMPLE**

H.H. Shri Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj has appointed Sadguru Shastri Swami Purushottamprakasdji (nana P.P. Swami Koteshwar Gurukul) along with Devprakashdasji present Sadguru Mahant Swami of Shree Swaminarayan temple, Narayanghat.

# Miracles of Adi Acharya H.H. Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj

**- Compilation by devotee Shri Dineshbhai K. Bhagat (Ahmedabad)**

H.H. Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj was a great person and a giant personality whose words always proved true. Divan of Vadodara had betrayed Maharaj and therefore he was very much unhappy at the end time of his life. Gaiekwar government of Vadodara had stopped annual pension of Divan and he was banished from the territory of Vadodara State. So he came and settled in Ahmedabad. His uncle Rao Saheb asked devotee Zumkhrambhai the reason of the plight of his nephew and requested him to find out its solution.



Zumkhrambhai said that he had betrayed Maharaj in the past. Now Lord Shri Swaminarayan has returned to Akshardham and therefore if Divan sahib ardently prays Maharaj, the problem would be solved. After many efforts and prayer H.H. shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj graced the house of Divan sahib and offered meals to Acharya, saints and the devotees. His son rendered services to Maharaj and offered clothes to saints and obtained blessings and happiness of Maharaj. With the blessing of Maharaj, Gaiekwar government called Divan sahib to Vadodara and after one month his pension was also started. Such a mercy was shown by great Acharya Maharaj upon Divan sahib.

H.H. Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj had Darshan of Shri Ghanshyam Maharaj sitting in his house in his first dream. When he came to Saurashtra region then he saw Maharaj in the Darbar of Vasta Khachar in Kariyani as Acharya Maharaj had firm and ardent faith in Maharaj.

Once H.H. Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj said that when he was in Vadtal in Samvat 1907 then all the saints and both the brother –himself and Acharya Shri Raghuvirji Maharaj were sitting in a Sabha. At that time in his heart he had Darshan of Shreeji Maharaj shining in Divine light.

**Appointment of new Mahant Swami in Shree Swaminarayan temple, Haridwar**

H.H. Shri Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj has appointed Sadguru Swami Shyamsundardasji Guru Sadguru Swami Premjivandasji (Muli) as Mahant Swami of Shree Swaminarayan temple, Haridwar. All the visitor devotees-pilgrims would be provided with the facilities of accommodation.

Shree Swaminarayan temple, Haridwar
Kankhal road, Shankaracharya Chowk
Haridwar (U.P.) **Phone No**:01334-241407

**Special instructions to Kothri of all Hari Temple**

With the directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, Kotharis of all Hari temples of Shree Narnarayandev Desh Gadi are hereby informed that except form of Shree Hari as invoked and established on the throne by H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, no idol, images, photographs, picture, calendar of any other may be kept in the throne which may be noted by all Kotharis and Haribhaktas. *-Mahant Swami*

**Request to all the devotees and the saints about grace of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj**

Whenever H.H. Shri Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj's programme of grace is arranged and during such programmer when any devotee registers his name in the programme of grace of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, it is mandatory for such devotees to fill up a form of Grace of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj in Kothar office of Shree Swaminarayan temple, Kalupur, Ahmedabad. This is very much essential and therefore it is requested and expected that all the devotees would keep in their mind. *-Mahant Swami*

# Places of Prasadi of Shriji Maharaj (Ahmedabad Temple)

-Gordhanbhai V. Sitapara (Hirawadi-Bapunagar)

**Wonderful History of the idol images of the Lord Shree Narnarayandev**: In July-2007 issue of the magazine, history of the idol images of the Lord Shree Narnarayandev was described. Though it was based on our scriptures, it was very short. Many devotees have expressed their desire to know about the history so it is being narrated as under : when I came across a book captioned '***Lord Shree Swaminaryan in Ahmedabad***' written by Sadguru Shastri Swami Shri Ghanshyamswaroopdasji, as inspired by Shreeji Maharaj, I was surprised to learn about the history from this book. This history is unknown to many devotees and therefore, it would be worthwhile to place it before the devotees at this juncture.



The day of invocation of the idol images in Shree Swaminarayan temple at Ahmedabad was approaching. After some discussion with the saints, Shree Hari came to temple to sleep. At midnight saints came to Shree Hari and informed that, the saints who had gone to bring the idol images had yet not returned. The idol images which are brought earlier are smaller in size and the day of invocation ceremony was approaching near. Now what should be done? Meanwhile someone knocked the gate. A camel-cart came. A person came down from the cart, informed that he had brought the idol images and handed over a letter. The saints asked the person to take some rest and to feed his camel. But the person replied that he was in hurry to reach at the place where his other camels were there. The saints did not ask much as to who the person was, from where he had come and where he was going. All were surprised with this miracle and believed that this must be the mercy and blessings of Shree Hari that these divine idol images had come. Shree Hari checked the idol images, its size and praised them a lot. All the saints and the devotees were very much pleased to see the idol images. In the morning, Brahmins were called, Vedic rituals were performed and the idol images were placed at proper place after offering the clothes.

The next day, the saints who had gone to Dungarpur to bring the idol images returned. The saints took their seats before Shreeji Maharaj. Shreeji Maharaj praised the idol images and said that the idol images were brought as per His desire. At that time, the saints informed that, it was nothing else but His blessings due to which they could bring these idol images in time. They informed that, when they had asked the sculptor to carve out the idol images within time-limit then the sculptor had refused as he was already having work pending with him. So all the saints ardently prayed Shree Hari to show them the way from this critical situation. At night they saw these idol images in their dreams. In their dream, the idol images showed them one place situated to the north of a valley from where they would find the idol images after excavation. Then the idol images vanished. Similarly the idol images also came in the dream of the owner of the camel-cart and he was also informed about the same in his dream. The next day all the saints went to the owner of the place which was a farm, narrated everything and asked for his permission to do excavation work in his farm. The farmer asked the saints to let him know as to how can the idol images be there in his farm and requested to tell him about its history.

The saints narrated the history and said that, the Lord Shree Krishna had brought the idol images from Badrikashram. Since there were no idol-images of the Lord Shree Narnarayandev in Bharat-Khand, the people did not know about the Lord and even the sculptors and other artisans did not have any idea or concept to carve out such an idol images. So Lord Shree Krishna thought that, if these idol images would be brought in Bharatkhand, the images would become popular among the people and even the artisans of Bharatkhand would learn to make the idol images. But though the idol images were ready, a temple was yet to be constructed. Therefore, Lord Shree Krishna thought to preserve idol images of the Lord Shree Narnarayandev at the house of one sculptor of Dungarpur where Lord Shree Krishna had stayed while returning to Dwarika. So Lord Shree Krishna kept the images at the house of one sculptor in Dungarpur. Lord also asked the sculptor to prepare such other images and as and when required he would call all the idol images from him.

Thereafter Lord Shree Krishna got all the Yadavas destroyed, and returned to Golok through means of an archer under a Peepal tree in Bhalkatirth at Somnath in Saurashtra region. When the sculptor of Dungarpur learnt this, he thought as to now what he should do with the idol images. At night Lord Shree Krishna gave sculptor Darshan in his dream and asked him not to give the idol images to anybody but to preserve them by burying them in his farm. During Kaliyug, Lord Shree Swaminarayan would come to this earth, would construct a temple in Shreenagar (Ahmedabad) and at that time omniscient Lord would call for these idol images and would get the idol images established in temple in Shreenagar. Therefore, at that time the sculptor buried the idol images in his farm.

Thus saints narrated the history and also showed the farmer the place where the idol images were buried. Listening to this the farmer granted permission for excavation in his farm. While digging the farm, the labourers found the idol images; all were very much surprised. While they were thinking of making arrangement for sending the idol images at Ahmedabad, the owner of the camel-cart came there and informed them that the next day he was going to Ahmedabad. The saints handed over the idol images to him and also gave him the address of the place of Ahmedabad where idol images were to be sent. The saints and the labourers placed the idol images on the camel cart carefully and tied them properly.

All were surprised to find as to how it was possible to come Ahmedabad in just one night with loaded camel cart. The saints and the devotees believed that this must be because Shree Hari desired it. So dear devotees, if we keep ardent faith in Shree Hari, then we would certainly get our noble works accomplished in our life.

**Our future Festivals**

| Date | Festival |
|---|---|
| Maha Vad-5 (14/02/2009) | Patotsav of Shree Swaminarayan temple, Narayanghat, |
| Maha Vad-6 (15/02/2009) | Patotsav of Shree Swaminarayan temple, Morbi |
| Phalgun Sud-2 (26/02/2009) | Patotsav of Shree Swaminarayan temple, Charadva |
| Phalgun Sud-3 (28/02/2009) | Patotsav of the Almighty Lord Shree Narnarayandev, Shree Swaminarayan temple, Kalupur, Ahmedabad |
| Phalgun Sud-4 (28/02/2009) | Patotsav of Shree Swaminarayan temple, Sapavada |
| Phalgun Sud-5 (01/03/2009) | Patotsav of Shree Swaminarayan temple, Kankariya |
| Phalgun Sud-7 (07/03/2009) | Patotsav of Shree Swaminarayan temple, Khan |
| Phalgun Sud-8 (04/32/2009) | Patotsav of Shree Swaminarayan temple, Approach Bapunagar |
| Phalgun Sud-15/1 (11/03/2009) | Shree Narnarayandev Jayanti Phuldolotsav shall be celebrated at 12-00 hours by H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj in Shree Swaminarayan temple, Kalupur, Ahmedabad |

**Publication of *Nirnaya* of *Vrata and Utsav* of new year**

With the directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, ***Nirnaya* of *Vrata and Utsav*** of new year of Samvat 2065066 has been published and would be available from '*Sahitya Kendra*' of all our Swaminarayan temples.

# સત્સંગ બાલવાટિકા

SATSANG BALVATIKA
- Editor : Shastri Harikeshavdasji (Gandhinagar)

## જીંદગી આખી, લાલી લેખે

**- Shastri Haripriyadas (Gandhinagar)**

Brahmanand Swami was very jolly. Once he asked permission of Maharaj to narrate one incident. Though Swami used to narrate facts and truths yet its method and style was joyous. He started narrating the story.

One gentle husband and wife were staying in a village. He had only one daughter. Her name was Lali. She was the most beloved of both husband and wife. While spending money, they did not think even for a moment. Lali was now grown up and so her mother thought to get her married. So the mother got prepared all the ornaments from a goldsmith for her Lali. The ornaments were arranged beautifully in a box. New and colourful clothes were purchased and packed in a suitcase. In this way all such things were purchased and got packed properly and thereby the mother started preparation of her daughter's marriage. She was imagining in her mind that, she would get her married happily and would offer all these things to her as gifts.

But sometimes Desire of Almighty Lord comes out to be quite different than a human being can think about. In a fatal accident, the parents lost their only Lali. They kept on crying like anything. All their relatives tried to console them saying that since Lali was very good by nature, she had attained the place in heaven. But mother was always worrying about her daughter. She was thinking whether her Lali was really happy in the Heaven as all were telling.

One day a cheater came to know about all these things. He came to the husband and wife and introduced himself as a Divine Person who could also go to the Heaven. He also informed them that Lali was there in the heaven and she was very much happy there. The innocent and simpleton parents were very much eager to know more about their most beloved Lali. The person informed that though Lali was happy as everything was available except golden ornaments. And conveyed the feigned message of Lali that, she had asked him to bring her golden ornaments which her mother had got prepared for herself. The mother was overjoyed to listen to this. She rushed in and brought the box of golden ornaments and handed it over to the man. She ardently requested the person to hand over the ornaments to her Lali and to bring her response and message when he would return from the Heaven. After some time, the husband returned home. He was surprised to find his wife very much happy. His wife narrated everything and the husband realized she was befooled by the person. He stated that, no one ever returns from the Heaven nor any one can go there. But he was not sorry for the loss of the ornaments because they were lost in the name of Lali- his dear deceased daughter.

The husband also thought to catch the person as he must be very close to their house. During those times, there were no fuel-run vehicles as are found today. So he took out a horse from the stable and started riding it. Here the person had just reached at the outskirts of the village. He looked behind and saw a man coming to him riding a horse. The man thought that, the man must be coming to catch him. So he climbed up a tree. The husband reached under the tree and asked the person to come down. But the person refused to come down. So the husband came down from the horse and started climbing the tree. The person grabbed an opportunity and directly jumped unto the back of the horse and ran away with the horse and the box of the golden ornaments. The husband returned home dejected.

Brahamanand Swami concluded his story to Maharaj. He explained the message of the story and said that like husband and wife of the above story, people earn much money during their life-time but they spend everything behind their near and dear ones. They do not utilize their earned money properly or for any benevolent cause. Maharaj was very much pleased with Brahmanand Swami. So Friends! You also must have liked this story and its message. One must not spend all his earnings behind their near and dear ones but should perform Bhajan of Almighty Lord and should render their services of body, mind and money for some noble deeds.

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## WHO GETS PARDON?

**- Sadhu Shrirangdas (Gandhinagar)**

Who does not like to listen to the story? All like it. But children like the most. Today let us relish one such interesting story. You will never forget the message of the story throughout your life. The story runs as under :

There was one Guru. He was very learned. He thought that now no one comes in the forest to meet him. All fear entering the forest. So now he must come out of the forest and should go to the villages and cities and should spread great knowledge he had among the disciples. This would ensure that all would start worshipping Almighty Lord and would be happy in life.

With such a noble intention, Guru went to the house of one of his devotees. The disciple was very much happy to find his Guru at his residence. Guru expressed his noble desire to his disciple. The disciple goes to the king and tells him everything about his Guru. The king was very religious. So he accepted the proposal and arranged a Satsang Sabha in the village. A beautiful Katha-Story were performed by the Guru in the Sabha. The king became the devotee by adopting Kanthi from the Guru. Following the king, the people of the village also became the devotees and accepted Kanthi from the Guru. Guru is very much pleased. Now he goes to another village.

Here the king behaves very decently with all the villagers considering them his Guru-Bhai (colleague in learning). But the people took disadvantage of it. When the king started collecting revenue, people started introducing themselves as his Guru-Bhai and got themselves exempted from paying the revenue. The king also agreed to it. Gradually the people turned out cunning and lazy with the burden of knowledge. Administration of the village collapsed and debt was increased. The king got confused and did not know what to do? How to recognize and identify genuine and cunning people?

The king immediately reminded that, the solution of this problem must be with his Guru. So he sent a message to the Guru. Guru came to the village. The king narrated him everything. Guru thought for a while and consoled the king and said not to worry about. The Guru said that, since the people have sought exemption from paying revenue in the pretext of being genuine Guru-Bhai, they would find out the real and genuine Gurubhai. The real ones would continue to get exemption whereas false ones would be fined with double revenue. But how to distinguish the real and wrong Guru-Bhais of the king?

Guru found out a trick. The king got very sick. Guru called a grand Sabha and said to the villagers that they all should make collective or individual efforts to help the king cure of his health. When the people asked for the solution, Guru said that, they had to sacrifice their last finger as the king needed oil of five fingers everyday to be cured of. All were stunned. A confused murmur prevailed in the Sabha. Almost all people left the Sabha advancing one or the other excuse. None of them was ready to sacrifice his finger for the king. Only the poor people were there in the Sabha. They sincerely believed that, by exempting people from paying the revenue, the king had really helped the poor people. They came forward and showed their willingness to sacrifice their finger to help the king get cured of.

Immediately Guru asked the king to forgive the revenue tax of the poor people who were standing in front of him and to collect the revenue tax from rest of the people with fine. The tax from all the people was collected except the poor people who stood by the king in his difficulty.

So friends! You must have grasped the message of this story. Almost all the devotees consider themselves true and genuine devotees of the Lord and regularly pray the Lord to fulfill all their wishes and desires. But Almighty Lord is not so easy to convince. He would test all His devotees. Only those devotees who are ready to sacrifice their lives for the noble cause, get what they want and desire. And therefore Brahmanand Swami has rightly stated:

બ્રહ્માનંદ કહે રે એવા હરિજનની બલિહારી,
મસ્તક જાતા રે ન મેલે ટેક વિસારી.

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**Release of book '*Satsang Setu*' by Shree Swaminarayan temple, Kalupur**

With the directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, a book '*Satsang Setu*' describing wonderful description of Lila Charitra and importance of the Lord Shree Swaminarayan and written by devotee Shri Gordhanbhai Sitapara- our regular article writer of 'Shree Swaminaryan' magazine has been released by H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj on the pious day of *Uttarayan*. This book is worthy to be a part of personal library of every devotee and should be read by every devotee. This book is available in our *'Sahitya Kendra, Shree Swaminarayan temple, Kalupur, Ahmedabad.'*

# भक्तिसुधा
BHAKTI-SUDHA

## A DIVINE PILGRIMAGE OF CHHAPAIYA IN SPECIAL TRAIN

-Sankhya Yogi Manjuba, Bhartiba Guru Godavariba, Haveli, Ahmedabad

In the history of 230 years of Shree Swaminarayan Sampradaya, with the directions of H.H.Shri Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj and with the divine idea and blessings of H.H. Shri Laxmiswaroop Gadiwala, and with a noble intention to grant divine pleasure of Darshan of Chhapaiya Dham to all the ladies devotees, arrangement of Shree Swaminarayan Special Train was made by Haveli of H.H. Shri Gadiwala.

In all 1100 ladies devotees had participated in this Divine Pilgrimage of Chhapaiya. On 12/01/2009 at three hours in the afternoon all the pilgrims reached at Railway station. There volunteer devotees had made all the arrangements and had decorated the Special Train with Posters of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and other decoration material. Exactly at 5.00 o'clock in the evening, H.H. Shri Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj, H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj graced the railway station to grant Darshan and blessings to the devotees. The organizers had also called Musical Band to welcome H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj. The whole railway station was echoing with the music of the musical band and Dhoon of Shree Swaminarayan Maha Mantra. Thereafter H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj granted Green Signal to all the pilgrim devotees. When other form of Shree Hari in Bal Ghanshyam Form is granting Green Signal, can there be any luckier moment in life? Organizers had issued identity cards to all the pilgrims which made it very easy for them to take their seats without any hustle and bustle or difficulty. At 5.30 Special Train started its journey towards Chhapaiya. Meals of evening were offered to all the devotees in the train itself. Arrangement of meals and tea-coffee for both the time was made in the train itself and that also on their seat. The ladies devotees, who are used serve dishes of meals to the family members at home, were surprised and happier to get the ready dish for them. While returning home and again resuming their domestic duty of serving meals to their family members, all would get reminded of luxury of ready meals of the train. Such a nice arrangement was made by the organizers. All the satsangi devotees and Sankhya Yogi devotees were performing *aarti, Dhoon, Niyam, Chesta* in their compartments. So the whole day was passing while chanting the name of Shree Hari even during their train journey. H.H. Shri Gadiwala had made a divine concept to offer Kirtanavali of Brahmanand Swami to each and every pilgrim. The book contains in all 105 Kirtans and it is said that those who sing 100 Kirtans of Brahmanand Swami with faith and devotion, would have Darshan of Shree Hari within six months. So all the pilgrims were offered a book of Kirtanavali of Brahmanand Swami.

In the morning at 4.30 hours on 14/01/2009, Special Train reached at Ayodhya railway station. It was the pious day of Uttarayan. All the pilgrims reached Shree Swaminarayan temple, Ayodhya, and performed Darshan of Mangala Aarti. Arrangement of tea and breakfast was made in the temple itself. After breakfast, Darshan of Shangaar Aarti of Thakorji was performed by all the pilgrims. Thereafter pilgrims performed Pad-Yatra to Ram Janma Bhoomi, Kanak Bhuvan and Shri Hanuman Gadhi. In order that none of the pilgrim devotee may not face any difficulties, volunteer devotees were accompanying them. But what difficult can there be when there are blessings of H.H. Shri Gadiwala? At last all the pilgrims took bath in pious river Sarayu and reached Ayodhya railway station. Train had already arrived on the platform. When they took their seat in the train, it was 1.00 o'clock in the afternoon. All the pilgrims were served the lunch in the train itself. At 4.00 o'clock in the evening, Special Train reached Chhapaiya railway station platform. All the pilgrims were eager to have Darshan of the pious land which was once graced by Lord Shree Ghanshyam Maharaj. Mahant Swami of Chhapaiya temple and other saints had arrived on the railway station with Ghanshyam Maharaj to welcome all the ladies. Beautiful arrangement of vehicles like jeeps and tractors was made for all the pilgrims. All the pilgrims were warmly welcomed on the railway station.

When all the pilgrims reached Shree Swaminarayan temple, Chhapaiya, all the arrangements of their residence was made so that there may not be any difficulty to any of them. Pilgrim devotees dropped their luggage and availed the benefit of Divine Darshan of Lord Shree Ghanshyam Maharaj at the birthplace of Almighty Lord. At night each Sankhya Yogi

devotee and Satsangi devotees had performed *Niyam* and *Chesta* and played Raas-Garba. The next day, all had Darshan of Mangala Aarti thereafter Darshan of each place of Prasadi where Balswaroop Ghanshyam Maharaj was once residing and playing and performing Bal-Lila. When about eleven hundred devotees are visiting these places, chanting Shree Swaminarayan Dhoon, it reminds one the occasion when all the ladies of Chhapaiya had thronged together to celebrate birth-incarnation of Lord Shree Ghanshyam Maharaj. This was really a divine scene. In order that none of the pilgrims face any difficulty, volunteer devotees were accompanying them.

At 12.00 in the noon, all the pilgrims returned to the temple. Thereafter they took meals at the birthplace of Shree Hari. H.H. Shri Laxmiswaroop Gadiwala, H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj and H.H. Shri Raja were to grace the place at 4.00 o'clock in the evening. So there was divine pleasure in the heart of every pilgrim. In the evening all Sankhya Yogi and Karma Yogi devotees performed Samaiya of H.H. Shri Gadiwala and welcomed with rose petals. While performing Samaiyu, they all played Raas and Garaba. H.H. Shri Gadiwala performed Darshan of Lord Shree Ghanshyam Maharaj and Satsang Sabha was organized in the evening wherein Sankhya Yogi devotees delivered very inspirational speeches. Thereafter all went to the temple to perform Sandhya-Aarti. After Darshan and Prasad of evening, all attended Satsang Sabha from 9.00 to 11.00 at night in the pious company of H.H. Shri Gadiwala wherein Sankhya Yogi devotees of Ahmedabad and various other places delivered beautiful speeches. There was such a beautiful atmosphere at that time, that all the devotees thought let this night be of six months. When H.H. Shri Gadiwala blessed the whole Sabha with her divine speech everyone was overjoyed and the whole place was echoing with the clapping of the devotees. The Sabha was thus concluded. In the morning on third day, all pilgrim devotees had availed the benefit of Mahapooja. After Mahapooja, all had breakfast and had availed the benefit of Darshan of H.H. Shri Gadiwala in Sabha Mandap at nine o'clock.

After taking lunch all started their return journey from Chhapaiya railway station. At 4 o'clock, Special Train started its journey from Chhapaiya towards Ahmedabad. In the evening during Sandhya time, all the pilgrims performed *Aarti, Niyam, Chesta* etc. meals of the evening was offered to all the pilgrims in the train itself. The next day in the morning all the pilgrims took bath and had breakfast after Pooja-Path. But there was a mood of desolation on the face of every pilgrim. They kept on telling one another :

પાછી વાળો રે પાછી વાળો રે,
આ ટ્રેન છપૈયા પાછી વાળો રે.

All the pilgrims were performing Dhoon-Kirtan in the train but since the train was returning to Ahmedabad no one was ready to return home. All the pilgrims performed Bhajan, Kirtan, throughout the day and till late night in the train. On 18/01/2009 exactly at 11.00 hours in the morning, Special Train arrived on Ahmedabad Railway Station. Relatives of all the pilgrims had arrived on the station. All returned home.

While cherishing and recalling the Divine Pilgrimage of Chhapaiya in Special Train, all the pilgrims realized that the pleasure and satisfaction which they had during this Pilgrimage, would not be available even after purchasing ticket of first class coach in train and this would never be forgot.

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## WORDS OF EMANCIPATION

- Kokilaben Jayantibhai Thakkar (Kaloli)

One Patel named Lakha was residing in Sarangpur. He should do cultivation work in his field throughout the day. He was very honest, religious and humble. He had great faith in Almighty God and great affection towards his parents. He considered the services to the parents to be his first duty. In the course of time his father passed away to Akshardham. His old mother was still living. Lakha Patel made it Vrata to render his services to his mother.

Once the Lord Shree Swaminarayan graced the village Sarangpur. Lakha thought to avail to his mother the benefit of Darshan of the Lord Shree Swaminarayan with a view to help her achieve emancipation. He went to the great devotee Jiva Khachar and expressed his desire. Jiva Khachar was very much pleased to see a person who loved and served his mother very much and asked him to bring his mother.

There was no bound of pleasure of Lakha Khachar. He was very simple. He rushed home and asked her to get ready as he was going to take her for Darshan of the Almighty Lord. Listening to the words Darshan of the Lord, the mother gathered her strength to stand up from the bed; Lakha Patel helped her stand up and brought her in the Darbar of Jiva Khachar. He made his mother sit at the lotus-like feet of Shree Hari and ardently requested the Lord to grant his mother emancipation by making her a devotee.

Maharaj was very much pleased with Lakha

Patel. Maharaj granted Vartamaan to his mother and blessed her. Maharaj also decided to take the mother of Lakha Patel to Akshardham. Three days passed. On the fourth day a miracle occurred. She had had Darshan of the Almighty Lord. She reminded that, this was the same who she had met three days before whom her son Lakha Patel had brought her. She was very much happy.

The next day it was a pleasant morning. There was pin drop silence everywhere. Old woman was sitting along. Meanwhile she saw Shreeji Maharaj coming to her. Maharaj asked her, "Oh Maa, would you like to come with us in Akshardham? So be ready today. Today we shall come to take you." Maharaj said this and went away. Old woman was surprised to listen to this. After some time, she had had Darshan of Maharaj for the second time. There were tears of happiness in her eyes. She called her son.

Lakha Patel came to her running. She said that, now her life had become meaningful. Shreeji Maharaj had come and granted her Darshan and has also informed to take her to Akshardham. She also informed that, her life had been proved to be success by having such a virtuous son because Shreeji Maharaj was the same for whose Darshan her son had taken her for Darshan. She asked her son not to go to the field on that day and to stay with her for the whole day. Listening to this, there were tears of pleasure in the eyes of Lakha Patel. The son started the Dhoon of Narayan which was attentively heard by his mother. His relatives also got together.

Meanwhile there occurred a miracle. There was divine light in the room. All were convinced that, Shreeji Maharaj had come in the house. Shreeji Maharaj grated Darshan to the old mother along with His Paramhamsas and mother passed away to Akshardham. What should be considered? An incident of happiness or unhappiness? But on that day residents of Sarangpur came to know that Maharaj had kept His promise given to the devotee old mother of Lakha Bhagat.

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## સૌ જીવનો સામટો આજ કરવો છે ઉદ્ધાર

- Nayana Vinodbhai Modi (Ahmedabad)

In No.45 of '*Purushottam Prakash*', Sadguru Shri Nishkulanand Swami has beautifully described the approach of Maharaj.

વળી વળી શું વર્ણવું આ સમાની વાત,
જીવ જગતના ઉપર આજ અમે છૈયે રળિયાત.
જાણીએ આખી જગતને લઈ જાઈએ અમારે ધામ,
કેડે ન રાખીએ કોઈને અમ હૈયે છે ઘણી હામ.
તે સારૂ ભૂમિ ઉપરે કાંઈ રાખ્યા છે સુખના સમાજ,
અમારા અંગ સંગની વસ્તુ રાખી છે જીવના કલ્યાણ કાજ.
ફરી ફરી ફેરો પડે તેવુ કરવું નથી આ વાર,
સૌ જીવનો સામટો આજ કરવો છે ઉધ્ધાર.

Maharaj came to this earth from Akshardham only with a divine pleasure. Feelings of the heart of Shree Hari has been well described by Sadguru Shri Nishkulanand Swami. Maharaj intends to take the souls of the whole world with Him. For that purpose, Maharaj has kept societies of happiness on this earth. Maharaj has granted us these Societies of Happiness in the following four forms :

1. **Acharya/Dharmakul** : Darshan, Divine Speech, relevant examples of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj inspire elder satsangis and saints to derive more and more from Satsang

With suggestive speeches delivered sincere and manly voice, noble work of Satsang is being accomplished by H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj.

H.H. 108 Shri Lalji Maharaj has been inspiring children devotees in Sampradaya and thereby strengthening it very smoothly.

**અમારા અંગ અંગની વસ્તુ રાખી છે જીવના કલ્યાણ કાજ....**

Above words of Nishkulanand Swami are being realized through Shree Swaminarayan Museum by H.H.Shri Mota Maharaj.

In the form of H.H. Shri Gadiwala all the ladies devotees have their Guru and guidance in their spiritual journey.

Every member of the family, brother-sister, mother-father, children, elder members of the family are getting inspiration and guidance of their choice and inclination from Dharmakul- so unique is Design and Arrangement of Shree Hari! Such a unique arrangement is found only in Shree Swaminarayan Sampradaya in the whole world.

2. **Saint:** Saint is one in whose heart there is *Aant* (end )of this *Sansar* (world). A great tradition of Nand saints, which was started right from the time of Shree Hari and tradition of Ekantik Sankhya Yogi devotees for ladies devotees is received by all the ladies and gents devotees of the Sampradaya.

3. **Scriptures :** Shree Hari has granted us '*Shikshapatri*' and '*Vachanamrit*'. Besides this there are '*Satsangijivan*' and '*Satsangibhushan*'. No other Sampradays in this world has scriptures which are either written by Lord Himself or got written by Lord.

4. **Temple :** Maharaj himself has got constructed temples for all the devotees. Shree Hari himself has rendered services for

construction of these temples and thereby started a divine spring of service. Lord himself has installed idol images in these temples and thereby placed an example worthy to be emulated by all the devotees. Moreover, by granting the right of performing invocation ceremony of these idol images only to Acharya, Shree Hari has granted us divine pleasure.

So, let us seek our real happiness from all these four sources- Acharya/Dharmakul, Saint, Scriptures and Temple and become a real Satsangi. One gets reminded of the words of Sadguru Shri Nishkulanand Swami :

"નોતી દીઠી ને નોતી સાંભળી રે, પ્રગટાવી એવી પુનિત રે"
પુરૂષોત્તમ પ્રગટી રે.....

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## UNHAPPINESS OF A BHAKTA CANNOT BE TOLERATED EVEN BY LORD

**- Sankhya Yogi Ushaba Guru Sankhya Yogi Kamalaba (Surendranagar)**

During *Kaliyug* Paramatma took birth in the house of Dharma-Bhakti and granted emancipation to many devotees. Removed darkness from the heart and spread divine light in stead. Many unhappy people became happy. Lord Shree Swaminarayan was very benevolent. Lord could not see anybody unhappy. He would become impatient and try to remove it and thereby helped the devotees.

There is one such incident. There is a place called Kamadhiya in Saurashtra region. Once Shreeji Maharaj graced the village Kamadhiya. Lord was sitting under a Peepal tree. Meanwhile one muslim Kayabhai passed by. He was very short tempered by nature and therefore no one in the village could speak against him. Kayabhai looked at Shreeji Maharaj. His mind got attracted towards Lord. Shree Hari narrated him stories from the scriptures. Resultantly his heart got transformed. He ardently requested Shree Hari to accept him as His disciple and assured Maharaj that he would follow all the directions and regulations scrupulously. Maharaj granted him *Vartamaan* and *Kanthi* and graced Gadhpur.

Kayabhai became Satsangi and therefore his caste-fellows started making fun of him and laughed at him. But Kayabhai had abandoned his anger permanently and therefore he observed silence. Therefore all the jealous caste fellows of Kayabhai went to the king and requested him to compel Kayabhai to abandon Hindu religion. The king ordered accordingly and ordered Kayabhai to abandon Hindu religion and to again adopt Muslim religion. But Kayabhai refused arguing that, because of Swaminarayan religion he had improved a lot and now he was helping others to improve. The king ordered his soldiers to keep Kayabhai standing in severe heat for the whole day. Kayabhai started chanting the name of Lord Shree Swaminarayan. Lord could not tolerate the torture of His ardent devotee. And all of a sudden the king developed sever stomach-ache. The doctors were called immediately but in vain. At last devotee Shree Rupashibhai said the king that in fact he had no disease in his stomach. But he is guilty of Almighty Lord and this was its result. Immediately king ordered his soldiers not to torture Kayabhai any more and permitted him to worship Lord Shree Swaminarayan. The next moment the King recovered. In this way, Shree Hari helps His devotees.

## "ઘનશ્યામ, તારો મલક મારે જોવો છે"

ઓ વાલા ઘનશ્યામ રે,
મને તારા મલકમાં લઈ જાજે રે,
મારે તારો મલકતો જોવો છે..... ઓ૦ ૧

નિત્ય તારી ભક્તિમાં હું મલકાયો,
જોઈ રૂપ તારું હું હરખાયો,
ઓ વાલા ઘનશ્યામ રે,
મને તારા મલકનો રંગ લાગ્યો..... ઓ૦ ૨

તું ભગવાનનો ય ભગવાન છે
ચોવીશ અવતારનો અવતારી છે,
ઓ વાલા ઘનશ્યામ રે,
મને તારા તે સંગે હવે રમવું છે..... ઓ૦ ૩

આકાશે સૂર્ય, ચંદ્રનું મોટું હાલરડું,
બનાવ્યું પહાડો, નદીયોનું પટાળું,
ઓ વાલા ઘનશ્યામ રે,
મારે અક્ષરધામ તારું જોવું છે..... ઓ૦ ૪

ભોળા ભક્તના હૈયાથી તું ભોળવાયો,
ભક્તિ મારી દેખીને તું મલકાયો,
ઓ વાલા ઘનશ્યામ રે,
રંગમહોલમાં તું આવી અટવાયો..... ઓ૦ ૫

*- પ્રહલાદભાઈ વિ. પટેલ (કરજીસણવાળા-ન્યુજર્સી)*

**Appointment of new Pujari of Shree Radhakrishnadev temple, Muli**

H.H. Shri Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj has appointed Sadguru Swami Jayprakashdasji Guru Sadguru Swami Hariswarupdasji as Poojari of Shree Radhakrishnadev temple, Muli.

# सत्संग समाचार

News And Notes From
Shri Narnarayandev Desh

## AHMEDABAD REGION

### Grand Shakotsav celebrated in pious Narayanghat Temple.

With the blessings and directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and pleasure of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and with inspiration and guidance of Sadguru Mahant Shastri Swami Harikrishnadasji (Ahmedabad) and Mahant Sadguru Swami Devprakashdasji, on Sunday 11.01.2009 a grant Shakotsav was celebrated in pious Shri Swaminarayan Temple, Narayanghat situated on the bank of the river Sabarmati

In the sabha organized on the occasion Sadguru Shastri Swami Ramkrishnadasji (Koteshwar Gurukul) had narrated Katha of importance of Shakotsav. When H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj performed divine Shakotsav then present all the saints and thousands of Hari Bhaktas experienced divine pleasure. There were so many people and devotees who had thronged together to celebrate the occasion that there was no more space. Camera Teams of Doordarshan & E T.V. had rendered their valuable services and availed the religious people of Gujarat the benefit of Darshan of Shakotsav through their telecast on television.

At last the whole Sabha and the host families were blessed by H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj the Chief Host of the occasion devotees Shri Kantibhai Devabhai Patel, Shri Amit Kantibhai Angadia, Shri Rajubhai (Vihar) Co-hosts devotees Shri Bhaskarbhai Jaydevbhai Brahambhatt, Dr. Manoj Devjibhai Brahambhatt through Rajdeep Brahambhatt (Naranpura). Devotee Shri Kantibhai Joitaram Patel family (Ghanshyam Construction Company through devotees Dinesh, Jayesh & Nilesh) availed the benefit as the host of Shak. Moreover, many other Hari Bhaktas had rendered their services the Sabha was conducted by Sadguru Shastri Swami Purshottam Prakashdasji (Nana P.P. Swami Koteshwar Gurukul).

Services of Sadguru Brahamchari Swami Rajeshwaranandji (Poojari of Shri Narnarayan Dev) Poojari Swami Balswaroopdasji, Shastri Swami Vrajbhusandasji, Shastri Swami Chaitanyaswaroopdasji, elder Saints Bhanu Prakasdasji, Shastri Swami Abhayprakashdasji and Shri Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal were praiseworthy. *(Yogi Swami – Guru Mahant Swami, Ahmedabad Temple)*

### Parayan & Shakotsav at Motera – Place of Prasadi of Shri Hari

With the blessings and directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and inspiration of Shri Sadguru Shastri Swami Purshottamprakashdasji (Nana P.P. Swami Koteshwar Gurukul), Shrimad Satsangi Jivan Navanh Parayan (Night) was organized in Shri Swaminarayan Temple Motera from 22.12.2008 to 30.12.2008. Shri Sadguru Shastri Swami Ramkirshnadasji (Koteshwar Gurukul) was the spoke person of the Parayan. On this occasion a grand Shakotsav was also celebrated and devotee Shri Bhailalbhai Ambalal Patel family had availed the divine benefit of being Host of the Shakotsav. Many other devotees had also rendered their services in Shakotsav.

On 30.12.2008 in the evening 6'0 clock concluding ceremony of Katha Parayan and divine Shakotsav were performed by H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj. The devotees who were present in the occasion you are lucky to have its divine Darshan.

On this occasion Sadguru Mahant Shastri Swami Harikrishnadasji (Ahmedabad) and Mahant Sadguru Swami Devprakashdasji (Narayanghat) Sadguru Brahamchari Swami Rajeshwaranandji (Poojari of Shri Narnarayan Dev) etc. saints had remained present. Thousands of Hari Bhaktas had availed the benefit of Shakotsav Mahotsav and Katha Amrit.

*(Shastri Abhayprakashdasji).*

### Kahta Parayan & Shakotsav celebrated in Samau Temple

With the mercy of Lord Shri Hari, blessings and directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and pleasure of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and with inspiration and guidance of Sadguru Mahant Shastri Swami Purshottamprakashdasji (Nana P.P. Swami , Koteshwar Gurukul), Shrimad Satsangi Jivan Saptah Gyan Yagna was organized from 04.01.2009 to 10.01.2009 by Shri Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal (Samau). Sadguru Shastri Swami Ramkrishnadasji (Shri Sahjanand Gurukul, Koteshwar) was the spoke person of the Parayan and the all devotees had availed the benefit of divine and musical style of Kathamrit. Devotees Shri Chaudhri Baldevbhai Veljibhai and Chaudhri Bhagabhai Veljibhai families had availed the benefit of the Chief Hosts of Parayan.

The concluding ceremony of Parayan was graced by H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj who had performed Aarti of Thakorji and concluding Aarti of Katha Parayan. In the sabha the host families had performed Poojan, Archan, Aarti of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and had obtained the blessings. Thereafter, H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj had performed divine Shakotsav. A number of Hari Bhaktas had rendered their services at this occasion and thereby obtained pleasure of Lord Shri Hari and H.H. Shri Achayra Maharaj. Accepting the invitation of the ladies, H.H. Shri Gadiwala Shri had graced the occasion and had blessed all the ladies devotees. If the Sabha organized in the occasion Sadguru Shastri Swami Harikirshnadasji (Mahant of Ahmedabad Temple), Shastri Swami Anatjivandasji, Shastri Swami Ghyanshyamprakashdasji (Mansa Mahant) etc. saints had delivered lectures suitable to the occasion. At last, the whole Sabha was blessed

by H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj the Sabha was conducted by Sadguru Shastri Swami Purshottamprakashdasji (Nana P.P. Swami) on this occasion Sadguru Mahant Swami Devprakashdasji (Narayanghat), Brahamchari Swami Rajeshwaranandji (Poojari of Shri Narnarayandev) Sadguru Swami Suryaprakashdasji, Sadguru Swami Ghyanshyamprakashdasji (Balva) etc. had remained present and had availed benefit of the occasion.

*(Shastri Jaykrishnadasji, Ahmedabad Temple).*

**Shrimad Satsangi Bhushan Saptah Parayan in Jetalpur Gham**

In the pious company of Shri Revti Baldevji Harikrishna Maharaj at Jetalpur, with the blessings and directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj and with inspiration and guidance of Mahant Shastri Swami Aatmaprakashdasji, Shrimad Satsangi Bhushan Saptah Parayan was organized from 29.12.2008 to 04.01.2009.

Devotees Shri Rameshbhai Narayanbhai Khetani, his wife Ratanbhai R. Khetani Sant devotee Shri Kishan and daughter devotee Shri Dinaben etc. family (Sukhpar Kutch at present London) was the host of this Parayan about 1000 Hari Bhaktas and 150 Sankhya Yogi ladies devotees from Kutch and a number of devotees of Ahmedabad, Jetalpur and near by villages had availed the benefit of Kathamrit of this Parayan. Sadguru Shastri Swami Purshottamprakashdasji (P.P. Swami, Jetalpur) was the spoke person of the Parayan. The whole Dharmakul and many saints from various places had released Kathamrit Pan.

On 31.12.2008, Shakotsav was celebrated wherein about 2500 Hari Bhaktas had availed the benefit. On 01.01.2009 about 400 Hari Bhaktas had availed the benefit of Maha Pooja. In the cultural programme conducted at night, saints of Shri Swaminarayan Sanskrit Mahavidhyalaya, Jetalpur Vadi had performed dang ras and panchala ras beautiful thal was offered to Thakorji. Maha Vishnu Yag was also organized on the occasion of 02.01.2009 to 04.01.2009. Co-incidentally, before 200 years Lord Shri Hari had also organized and performed Maha Vishnu Yag in Jetalpur on the same day. The host family had availed the divine pleasure of rendering services on the occasion.

Great Samaiya of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj was performed for the first time in Jetalpur on 04.01.2009 wherein a number of Hari Bhaktas of Ahmedabad and Dascoshi and Kutch Satsang had joined the Samaiya. On 04.01.2009, in concluding ceremony of Parayan, the host family had performed poojan, archan, aarti of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, spoke person of the Katha, spoke person of Samhita Pathi and other saints. H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj had blessed the whole Sabha voluntaries, who rendered the services during Mohatsav, were honoured by Mahant Swami all the saints and Hari Bhaktas had availed the benefit of Annakut Darshan of Thakorji, Darshan of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and Maha Prasad. H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj had also graced the parayan and had granted blessing.

*(Mahant K.P. Swami)*

**Celebration of Dhanurmass in Jetalpurdham**

In the pious company of Lord Shri Revti Baldevji Maharaj, with the blessings and directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj, H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj and with the inspiration and guidance of Mahant Shastri Swami Aatmaprakashdasji & Shri P.P. Swami, Shri Swaminarayan Maha Mantra Dhoon was organized early in the morning during the pious Dhaanurmass. In the presence of students saints of Jetalpurvadi and Brahmin Batuk, devotees of Jetalpur and nearby villages had availed the benefit of this Dhoon. On 12.01.2009 H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj had graced the occasion and blessed all (Mahant K.P. Swami).

With the blessings of H.H. Shri Gadiwala Shri and inspiration of Sankhya Yogi Bachiba, Shri Swaminaryan Maha Mantra Dhoon was performed during the whole pious Dhanurmass in Jetalpur Temple of Ladies (Haveli). H. H. Shri Gadiwala had graced the occasion and granted divine Darshan and blessings to the ladies devotees. On 10.01.2009 ***'Khichdi Utsav'*** was celebrated in Haveli wherein a large number of ladies devotees took part.

*(Premilaben Jethwa)*

**Shri Swaminarayan Temple, Harshad Colony (Bapunagar)**

Thousands of people of Saurastra region residing in eastern area of Bapunagar were maintaining their lives by performing their duties in the diamond industry. But due to global bearish strained, a number of people were unemployed. In order to help them with the direction of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and with the inspiration of Shri Dasbhai, on 11.01.2009 the needy people were distributed about 300 grain kits by devotee Shri Bharatbhai Bhavsar & Shri Vallabhbhai Babaria the kit of grain contained 12 Kg wheat, 2 Kg. rice and 1 kg mag wherein Shri Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal had rendered praiseworthy services.

*(Gordhanbhai Sitapara)*

**Celebration of Festival in Idar**

With the blessings and directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and with inspiration and guidance of Mahant Swami Jagdishprakashdasji, ***'Dhoon Mahotsav'*** was celebrated in Shri Swaminarayan Temple Idar during the pious Dhanurmass. Many hari bhaktas from near by villages had availed the benefit of Dhoon.

**Maniyor Village** : With the blessings and directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj on 31.12.2008 Patotsav of Thakorji was celebrated. Hari Bhaktas had availed the benefit of Darshan of Patotsav and Annakut.

**Shri Swaminarayan Temple, Aroda** :- On 28.12.2008, a great Shakotsav was celebrated in Shri Swaminarayan Temple, Aroda. Hari Bhaktas of the village had availed the benefit of Shakotsav Darshan and inspirational speeches of the saints

**Shri Swaminarayan Temple, Sachodar :-** Similarly On 25.12.2008, a great Shakotsav was

celebrated in Shri Swaminarayan Temple, Sachodar. Saints had performed Shakotsav and offered it to Thakorji. The whole village had availed the benefit of Darshan and had taken Prasad of Shakotsav.

*(Sadhu Satyasanklapdas)*

**Shri Swaminarayan Temple, Sabarmati (Ramnagar)**

With the blessings and directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and inspiration of the reverent saints, Maha Mantra Dhoon of Lord Shri Swaminarayan was organized during the pious Dhanurmass early in the morning wherein about 350 Hari Bhaktas participated. On this occasion Shastri Swami Ramkrishnadasji (from Koteshwar Gurukul) and Shastri Swami Guruprakashdasji (Mahant Swami of Kankaria Temple) and Shastri Yagna Swaroopdas had granted to the devotees the benefit of Katha Amrit.

On 11.01.2009 about 1000 Hari Bhaktas had availed the benefit of Shakotsav at Koteshwar Gurukul. Shastri Swami Ramkrishanadasji had explained the importance of Shakotsav. *(Rajvibhai T. Patel)*

**Services in Shri Swaminarayan Museum from Narayanpura (Taluka Kadi)**

With the blessings and directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and with inspiration of Shastri Swami Anandjivandasji, an invitation was sent to H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj to offer things of Prasadin Shri Swaminarayan Museum according on 05.01.2009 Hari Bhaktas had performed Samaiya. H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj graced the houses of the devotees Shri Ambalalbhai and Harjivandas. Devotee Shri Chaturbhai Zhaverbhai - Grand Father of the Devotee Shri Ambalalbhai family had offered things of Prasadi viz. ***Khes, Mala, Nakha, Kesh, Charnarvind and Moorti*** of Shri Hari. Besides this Bhari Bhaktas of village had rendered services of Rs. 75,000/- in the constructions work of Shri Swaminaryan Museum and had obtained the pleasure of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj. Sadguru Shastri Swami Nirmaldasji etc. saints had also remained present on the occasion. H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj had blessed all the devotees.

*(Shastri Dharmakishordas)*

**Shri Swaminarayan Temple, Vavol**

With the blessings and directions of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and with inspiration of Shastri Swami Narayanvallabhdasji Shrimad Satsangi Jivan (Second Chapter) Katha was organized in December, by Sankhya Yogi Surajba (Poojari) H.H. Shri Gadiwala and H.H. Shri Motagadiwala had graced the occasion and blessed Sankhya Yogi Surajba and ladies devotees. On the day of concluding ceremony of Katha H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj had graced the occasion and had blessed all the devotees.

*(Shastri Swami Anandjivandasji)*

**Shri Swaminarayan Temple, Lavarpur**

With the blessings and directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and with inspiration of Shastri Swami Narayanvallabhdasji, a great Shakotsav was celebrated in pious Posh Mass by all the Hari Bhaktas of the village. All the services of Shakotsav were rendered by devotee Shri Rajubhai Kalabhai Jesangbhai. Saints from Ahmedabad had graced the occasion, had performed katha and bhajan of Shri Hari and had blessed all the devotees.

*(Shastri Anandswami)*

**Shrimad Bhagvat Katha in Shri Swaminarayan Temple, Chandisana**

With the blessings and directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj, Shrimad Bhagvat Dasham Skandh Tridinatmak Katha was organized from 04.01.2009 to 06.01.2009 in view of Golden Jubilee Celebration of Shri Swaminarayan Temple, Chandisana. Shastri Abhishekprasaddasji Guru Sadguru Shastri Swami Narayanvallabhdasji was the spoke person of the Katha. Shastri Swami Ghyanshyamprakashdasji (Balva) had performed Samhita Path.

On 04.01.2009 H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharaj had graced the occasion and blessed all the villagers. All the villagers had rendered their services of Rs. 51,000/- in the construction work of Shri Swaminarayan Museum. Shri Sahjanand Kishor Mandal of Visnagar had availed to the devotees benefit of Kirtan, Bhakti in the programme arranged at night on the occasion.

On 06.01.2009 H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj had graced the occasion. Hari Bhaktas of the village along with the saints had performed samaiya of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj in the form of Shobha Yatra. H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj had performed Aarti of Thakorji in the temple. Concluding Aarti of Katha was also performed by H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj. H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj graced the Sabha wherein the devotees performed Group Aarti. Many saints from Ahmedabad, Jetalpur, Mansa, Siddhpur, Gandhinagar (Sector 2) etc. temples had remained present on the occasion and had availed to the devotees benefit of their divine speeches.

*(Shastri Swami Anandjivandasji)*

**Parayan of Temple, Manekpur**

With the blessings and directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and with inspiration of Shastri Swami Shrijiprakashdasji of Naranpura Temple, Shrimad Bhagvat Katha was organized from 20.12.2008 to 24.12.2008 by devotee Shri Gopalbhai Lavljibhai Chaudhri family in the memory of his father Akshar Niwasi Lavjibhai Mashotbhai and mother Joitiben. Shastri Swami Shrijiprakashdasji (Mahant Naranpura) was the spoke person of Parayan. H.H. Shri Gadiwala Shri and H.H. Shri Mota Gadiwala Shri had graced the occasion and granted Darshan to the ladies devotees. H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj had graced the concluding ceremony and had performed Aarti of Thakorji in Temple and had also graced the Sabha. The host family had performed Aarti of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and had obtained the blessings and thereafter, had performed Aarti of concluding ceremony. H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj had blessed the devotees. The occasion of graced by saints from various places. *(Shastri Anandjivandasji)*

**Shree Swaminarayan temple, Aadishwarnagar, New Naroda**

With the blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Mahraj, pious Dhanurmas Dhoon Mahotsav and Shakotsav on 04/01/2009 was celebrated by our devotees in our

Shree Swaminarayan temple. On this occasion, saints from Ahmedabad temple, Naranghat temple, Nikol and Vahelal had graced the occasion and granted to the devotees benefit of Katha Kirtan. Municipal Corporator Shri Bharatbhai Patel and Dy. Mayor Shri Kalpanaben Bhatt had also availed the benefit of Darshan. *(Becharbhai Parmar)*

**Shree Swaminarayan temple, Dahegam**

With the blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Mahraj, all the devotees of the village had performed Shree Swaminarayan Mahamantra Dhoon during the whole pious Dhanur-Maas wherein old people and children had also participated. *(Kothari Arvindbhai Amin)*

**Shree Swaminarayan temple, Kaliyana**

During the pious Dhanur-Maas, after Mangala Aarti, Prabhat Pheri was organized. Thereafter Shree Swaminrayan Mahamantra Dhoon and Kirtan Bhakti were performed till 6.00 o'clock and at last Prasadi was offered. Here Satsang of the ladies has nourished considerably. With the blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Mahraj and H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj, activity of Satsang has been progressing day by day. *(Kothari)*

**Celebration of Shakotsav in Shree Swaminarayan temple, Himatnagar**

With the blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Mahraj, and under the guidance of Mahant Swami Jagdishprasaddasji and Mahant Shastri Swami Harijuivandasji devotee Shri Dr. K.K.Patel family- the member of the Scheme Committee- had been the host and celebrated Shakotsav.

On Sunday 04/01/009 Dr. K.K.Patel had delivered welcome Speech at Bholeshwar Mahadev. Thereafter Mahants of Himatnaga, Idar and Torda had explained the importance of Shakotsav. Dr. Saheb had delivered vote of thanks of all who had extended their co-operation. After performing Thaal-aarti to Thakorji ali the devotees had availed the benefit of Shakotsav. Shree Narnarayan Yuvak Mandal had rendered very inspirational and praiseworthy services during the whole programme. Similarly ladies devotees had rendered their services of preparing loaves.

*(Amrutbhai S. Patel)*

**Shree Swaminarayan temple, Dangarva (Vanto)**

With the blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Mahraj, Shree Swaminarayan Dhoon was performed regularly from 6.30 to 7.00 in the temple. From 30/12/2008 till 14/01/2009 Shri Bhagwat Dasam Skanda Katha was organized in the afternoon from 3.00 to 4.00. Swami Bhaktipriyadasji (Leiwala) was the spokesperson of the Katha. On the pious day of Uttarayan, dogs were offered the sweets. Every devotee had availed the benefit of Dhoon. *(Kothari)*

**Vahelal Temple**

With the blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Mahraj and inspiration of Sadhu Chaitanyamunidasji, Mahamantra Dhoon of Shree Hari was organized during the pious Dhanur Maas and on 11/01/2009 grand Shakotsav was celebrated wherein saints had availed to the devotees, benefit of beautiful Katha. A large number of devotees from nearby villages had participated. *(Gordhanbhai Sitapara)*

**Celebration of Shakotsav in Shree Swaminarayan temple, Ghatlodiya**

On 12/01/2009 H.H. Shri Acharya Mahraj had performed Shakotsav in Shree Swaminarayan temple, Ghatlodiya. On this occasion, Sadguru Mahant Shastri swami Harikrishnadasji (Ahmedabad) Nana P.P. Swami (Naranghat Mahant) Shastri Swami Ramkrishnadasji and saints of Mehsana temple had explained the importance of Bhagwan Lila-Charitra and Shakotsav. At last the Sabha was blessed by H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj. Thousands of devotees had availed the benefit of Shakotsav. Kothari devotee Sombhai Patel and other leading devotees had rendered necessary guidance. *(Pravinbhai Patel)*

**Dhariyavad (Rajasthan)**

With the blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Mahraj from 25/12/2008 till 31/12/2008 Shrimat Bhagwat Parayan was organized. Mahant Shastri Swami Vasudevcharandasji was the spokesperson of the Parayan. A large number of devotees had availed the benefit of this Katha in Hindi accompanied by musical instruments.

Devotee Shri Narayan Lalji Mina- Sarpanch of Myala village had remained the host of the Parayan and had celebrated all the festivals during the course of Parayan. Shastri Achalprakasdas and Shastri Sukhnandandas had rendered beautiful services. (Shreeji Swaroopdas)

# MULI DESH

**Dhanur-Maas Dhoon in Muli temple**

With the blessings and directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Mahraj and in the pious company of ShriRadhakrishnadev Harikrishna Maharaj, in Brahmanand Sabha Mandap of Shree Swaminarayan temple, Muli Shree Swaminaryan Mahamantra Dhoon was organized from 6.00 to 7.00 during the pious Dhanur Maas. About 800 to 1000 devotees had availed the benefit of Dhoon for the whole Maas. Mahant Shastri Swami Narayanprasaddasji had made beautiful arrangements.

**Celebration of Dhanur-Maas in Charadva temple**

With the blessings and directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Mahraj Shree Swaminaryan Mahamantra Dhoon was organized during the pious Dhanur Maas. During the whole month, saints of the temple had performed Katha, Dhoon, Bhajan etc. in all 50 villages of Charadva region. Under the guidance of Mahant Swami Hariprakashdasji, the whole arrangement was made and a number of devotees of all the villages had availed the benefit of Satsang. *(Shree Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal)*

**Shree Swaminarayan temple, Charadvadham**

With the blessings and directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Mahraj, H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj, H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj, H.H. Shri Laxmiswaroop Gadiwala, from 16/01/2009 till 18/01/2009 'Satsang Mahila Shibir' was organized under the guidance of H.H. Shri Mota Gadiwala. More than ten thousand Karma-yogi ladies devotees had participated in the Shibir. During all the

three days, all the ladies devotees had availed the benefit of guidance of H.H. Shri Gadiwala who had narrated in her divine speech importance of Almighty Lord and had blessed all the devotees.

Devotee Shri Krinaben Navinbhai Mandaliya family (Morbi) was the host of Dharmakul Poojan organized on the occasion.

Shree Hari had performed Raas-Lila in Mulipur. Similarly all the ladies devotees had performed Raas-Lila in the pious company of H.H. Shri Mota Gadiwala. Mahapooja was also performed on the occasion. All the ladies devotees had availed the benefit of Darshan and divine speech of H.H. Shri Mota Gadiwala. On this occasion Sankhya Yogi Rajkunvarba, Ushaba, Champaba and Sankhya Yogi ladies devotees from Ahmedabad Kadi Unjha and Halvad had joined. With the inspiration of Mahant Shastri Swami Hariprakashdasji, Haribhaktas of Charadva and saints and Parshads of Muli had rendered praiseworthy services. *(Vishal Bhagat-Charadva)*

**Celebration of Shakotsav in Narnarayannagar (Tal. Halvad)**

With the blessings and directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Mahraj 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj and inspiration of Aksharnivasi saint Shrie Sadguru RAdhamanohardasji and with the guidance of Shastri Swami Narayanprasaddasji. Mahant of Muli temple, Shakotsav was performed in Narnarayannagar and Krishnanagar by H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj. Thousands of devotees had availed the benefit of Shakotsav and divine Darshan and blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj. Under beautiful planning of Shastri Hariprakashdas, Mahant of Charadva temple, all the devotees had rendered praiseworthy services. Swami Laxmiprasaddasji etc. saints from Muli had also graced the occasion. *(Premswaroopdas)*

# OVERSEAS

**Washington D.C. (I.S.S.O. Chapter)**

With the blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Mahraj and H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj,, on 21st December, Satsant Sabha was organized on Sunday in the evening from 4.00 to 8.00 in Servena Park Community Center Community Hall. In the Katha Vachanmrit (273) and Kiran Bhakti, Thaal-Aarti were performed before Thakorji. Shastri Siddheswardas had narrated Katha of Dhanur-Maas on Cell-phone. A large number of devotees had availed the benefit. Now every month Sabha would organized in 'Paris' Hall of Gross Episcoval Church, Ilkridge Merryland.

*(Kanubhai Patel)*

**Shree Swaminarayan temple, Nairobi, East Africa**

With the blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Mahraj and H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj, 9th Patotsav of new temple and 64th Patotsav of original temple of our Shree Swaminarayan temple, Nairobi, East Africa was celebrated in great fervour. Shrimad Satsangjivan (4th Chapter) Saptah Parayan was also organized on the occasion. Saints of Bhuj Sadguru Swami Shantipriyadasji saint-mandal were the spokespersons of the Parayan who had narrated Kathamrit to the devotees. On 25/12/2008 concluding ceremony was performed wherein Prasad was offered by Aksharnivasi Veljibhai Khimji Gorasiya of Sukhapar (Bhuj). On 26/12/2008 Prasad was offered by devotee Shri Ravjibhai Khimjibhai Radhvani family of Baladiya village. The family had also rendered its services to Bhuj temple, Ahmedabad temple and Shree Swaminarayan Museum.

H.H.Shri Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj and elder saint Sadguru Mahant Swami Dharmanandandasji with the saints had graced the occasion of Patotsav-Parayan. On the day of concluding ceremony, H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, Patotsav-Annakur aarti of Thakorji was performed. H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and Mahant Swami of Bhuj temple had blessed all the devotees. At last, Chairman of the temple devotee Shri Laxmanbhai Bhimji Raghvani had expressed his opinion suitable to the occasion. With the blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj, festival was celebrated with great fervour. *(Mantri Bhikhalal Velji Gorsiya, Manti Shri, Swaminarayan temple, Nairobi)*

**Pride of Sampradaya**

Devotee Shri Dr.Kantibhai Patel, whose rendered all the services for construction of firs Shree Swaminarayan temple of Narnarayandev Desh Gadi in Auckland city of New Zealand, was honoured by the Government of New Zealand with *Queen's Service Medal For Services to Community Medicine and Indian Community.* This is an honour for which every Indian can take pride. This is certainly a matter of pride of our Sampradaya. Even his wife Ranjanaben possesses the status of Justice For Peace (J.P.). the whole family- the devotee Shree Dr.Kantibhai, Jayantibhai, Shri Ranjanaben, Rakesh and Deepak) spend most of their time behind the activities of the temple.

Recently Dhyani Swami had graced New Zealand. During his visit, Swamiji fell down and sustained fracture. At that time, devotee Dr. Kantibhai had rendered beautiful services and Swamiji was very much pleased with the devotee.

About 12 Clinics are run under direct supervision of devotee Shri Dr.Kantibhai wherein 42 doctors are rendering their services.

**Editor, Printer and Publisher :** Mahant Shatri Swami Harikrishnadasji for Shree Swaminarayan Temple Kalupur, Ahmedabad. Printed at Shree Swaminarayan Printing press, Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Kalupur, Ahmedabad (GUJARAT) Pin-380 001 and Published at and for Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Kalupur, Ahmedabad (GUJARAT) Pin-380 001.




H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj granting Darshan on the occasion of Parayan in Jetalpurdham and Shri P.P. Swami narrating Kathamrit to the devotees.




The host families (Kachchh-London) along with H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj in Jetalpurdham.



H..H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj granting Darshan in Shobha-Yatra organized on the occasion of Parayan at Jetalpurdham.



Satsangi ladies devotees participating in Mahila Satsang Shibir in Charadva (Muli) un the guidance of H.H. Shri Mota Gadiwala.



Villagers availing the benefit of Kathamrit in



H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj granting happiness of Darshan whi

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Ahd PSO on 11 the every month under postal Regd. No. GUJ. 582
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H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj blessing the devotees during Patotsave of East Africal Swaminarayan Satsang Mandal, Nairobi temple and granting Darshan with the saints in Shobhayatra on the Raj-marg of Nairobi.



Celebration of the Republic Day on 26th January in our Cherry Hill temple.



Photograph when H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj appointed Sadguru Shastri Swami Harikrishnadasji as new Mahant of Ahmedabad temple. Kothari Krishnavallabh Swami, P.P. Swami, Devprakash Swami and Brahmchari Rajeshwaranandji


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



શ્રી નરનારાયણ દેવ

પ.પૂ. આદિ આચાર્ય
શ્રી અયોધ્યાપ્રસાદજી મહારાજશ્રી

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જન્મ દ્વિશતાબ્દી
મહોત્સવ

# ધર્મકુળ વંદના મહોત્સવ



પ.પૂ.ધ.ધુ.આચાર્ય ૧૦૦૮

તા. ૧ થી ૩ જૂન ૨૦૦૯ જેઠ સુદ ૯ થી ૧૧ સુધી

સ્થળ:- ગણેશ હાઉસીંગ કોર્પો.લી., સરખેજ-ગાંધીનગર રોડ,
થલતેજ ચોકડીથી સોલા બ્રીજ વચ્ચે, થલતેજ, અમદાવાદ

-:આયોજક:-


Kharsani