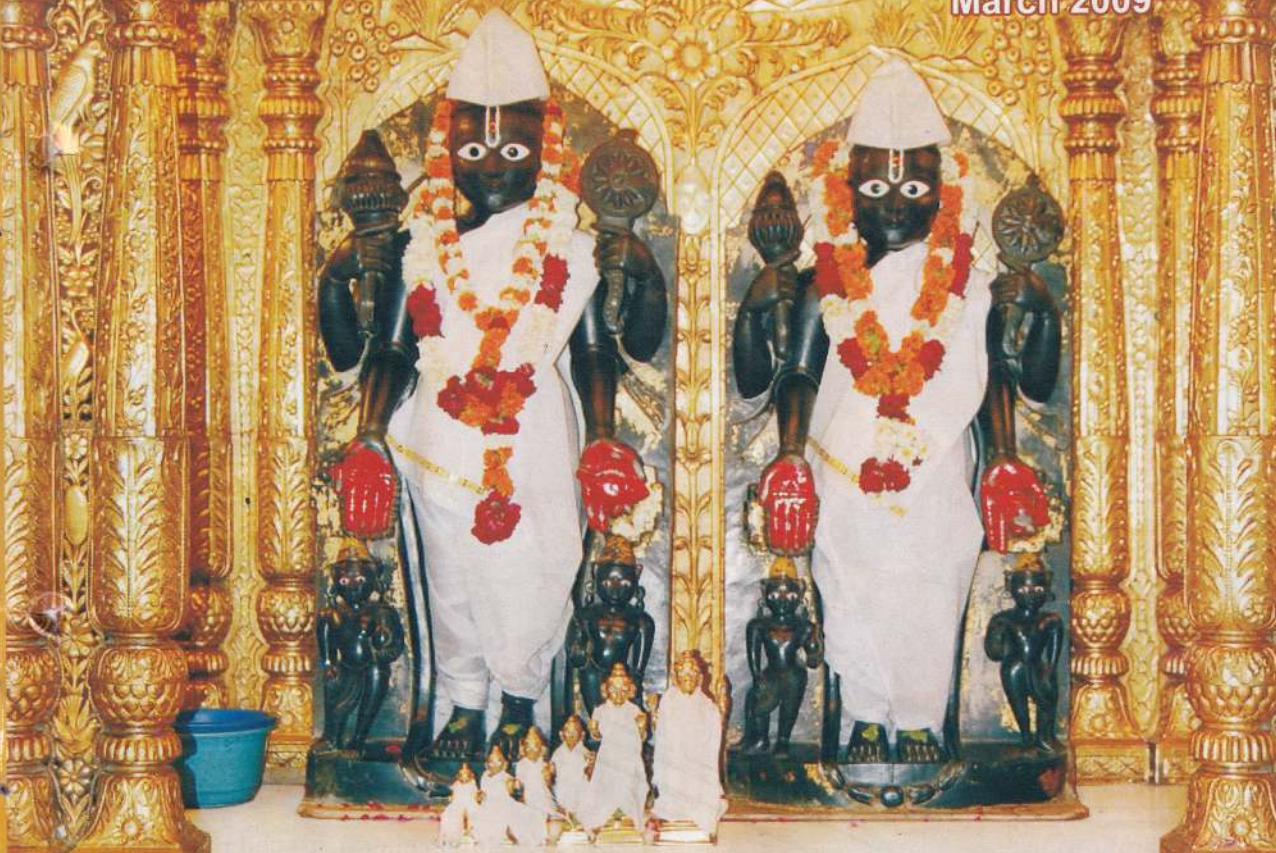
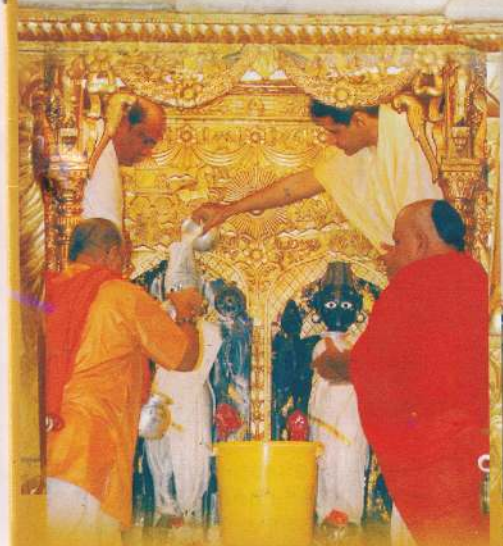
Rs. 5/-

શ્રી સ્વામિનારાયણ

March 2009



Patotsav Mahabhishek and *Annakut Darshan* of the Lord Shree Narnarayandev





પ્રકાશક: શ્રી સ્વામિનારાયણ મંદિર, અમદાવાદ-૧



H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj laying *Rangotsav* with the saints and devotees on he occasion of *Vasant Panchmi* Samaiya of Shree Swaminarayan temple, Muli.



H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj playing *Rangotsav* with the saints and devotees in Shree Swaminarayan temple, Bhuj



H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj performing *Patotsav bhishek* of the Lord Shree Ghanshyam Maharaj in Shree Swaminarayan temple, Naranghat



H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj, graced Hanumanji temple, Jamiyatpura.



H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, spokesperson of *Katha* Shastri Swami Ramkrishnadasji and Kothari J.K. Swami performing *aarti* of *Vyas-pith* in *Parayan* organized at Mokhasan by the devotee Shri Somabhai Patel.



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

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

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श्री स्वामिनारायण

Official News-letter from Shri Narnarayandevdesh Diocese

Vol : 2 No : 23 March-2009

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अस्मंदीयम्

March is the last month of the financial year. A month of accounts. If we remember the words of Shree Hari then He used to tell that just as a businessman maintains his accounts books and evaluate his income and expenses during the year at the end of the year. If income is more then he is happier and even the society would consider him to be an intelligent and an expert businessman; the businessman expresses his gratitude to Almighty Lord and he is satisfied. But if his expenses are more than his income, then the people start abusing him and he gets worried and starts thinking how to increase his business and spends sleepless nights in planning for the next year.

Just as the businessman has concern with the increase and decrease of his business, the devotee has concern with his *Bhakti* and *Satsang*. These are his income. Now in spite of having sufficient time, if he spends his time in the worldly affairs then they are his expenses. And in this way, like a businessman, every devotee should maintain the accounts of his *Bhakti* and devotion and should think whether there has been increase in his *Satsang*, whether his faith has been strengthened or it is the same? Like an intelligent and expert businessman, a devotee should think how to increase his *Bhakti* and *Satsang*, how to increase his understanding in *Satsang* etc. If one keeps on worshipping for a number of years, but if there is no increase in his understanding then though his worship is not totally useless but it is certainly fruitless.

Lord Shree Swaminarayan is the Lord of the festivals. The Lord incarnated in this world along with His *Muktas* on *Chaitra Sud-9* for the welfare of all the people. From that day, all the bondages were loosened and the path of emancipation was opened. On this *Ramnavmi*, this incarnation would complete 228 years. On that day a great *Samaiyo* of *Ramnavmi* would be celebrated in Ahmedabad in the pious company of the Lord Shri Narnarayandev and therefore all the devotees are cordially invited to participate in the festival. Moreover the festival of *'Dharmakul Vandana Mahotsav'* which we are eagerly waiting for, is coming closer and all the preparations of it are going on at a rapid pace. We have got an opportunity to join the festival by rendering our services through mind, body and money so let us take the opportunity and celebrate it with all devotion and fervour and make our life worth.

Editor
Mahant Swami
Shastri Swami Harikrishnadas

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

(FEBRUARY - 2009)



1. Graced Kabha Gurukul
   Graced Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Soja on the occasion of *Deep Pragatya.*
   Graced Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Gawada on the occasion of Patotsav.
2. Graced the inauguration occasion of the office of the devotee Shri Hiren Pragjibhai Kathrotiya, Thakkarbapa Nagar.
   Graced the house of the devotee Shri Nathabhai Chhaganbhai Kevadiya, Bapunagar on the occasion of Maha Pooja
3. Graced Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Kalol on the occasion of Patotsav.
   Graced the village Ishwarpura, Badpuara.
4. Graced the new constructed house of the devotee Shri Mangalsinh Manubhai & Sahjanand Watch Company, Khodiyarnagar.
5. Graced Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Naranpura on the occasion of Patotsav.
   Graced the office Jayesh Scan Graphics of the devotee Shri Ramanbhai Babaldas Gajjar, Bardolpura.
6. Graced the parayan organized by the devotee Shri Somabhai Tribhuvandas Patel on the occasion of Patotsav at village Mokhasan.
   Graced Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Bhimpura on the occasion of its first Patotsav.
7. Graced Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Vasna, Ahmedabad on the occasion of Patotsav.
   Graced Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Mokhasan on the occasion of Patotsav and concluding ceremony of the Parayan.
8. Graced Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Patdi on the occasion of Patotsav.
   Graced the occasion of 'Ganga Poojan' organized by the devotee Shri Bansilal Gajjar, Naranghat Temple.
9. Graced the house of the devotee Shri Chandubhai Aatmaram Patel, Kalol on the occasion of Maha Pooja.
   Graced the inauguration ceremony of the office Shreeji Mobile, Kalol.
10. Graced Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Mehsana on the occasion of Shobha Yatra and invocation ceremony of the idol images.
11. Graced Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Mehsana and performed inauguration of the idol images and concluding ceremony of Yagna and Parayan.
12. Graced the house of the devotee Dr. G. K. Patel, Mithakhali.
13. Graced Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Rajpur (Tal. Kadi) and performed invocation of the idol images.
    Graced the house of the devotee Shri Pareshbhai Jitendrabhai Bhatt, Vatva.
14. Graced Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Narayanghat and performed Patotsav Abhishek.
    Graced Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Kankariya on the occasion of installation of *Vijaya Sthambha* .
    Graced the sabha organized by Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Narayanghat.
    At night graced the cultural programme organized by the student saints of Shree Swaminarayan Sanskrit Mahavidhyalaya, Jetalpurwadi in Town Hall.

15. Graced Shree Narnarayan Trading Company of the devotee Shri Jayantibhai Kanjibhai, Bavla.
Graced Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Vihar on the occasion of Patotsav.
Graced the house of the devotee Shri Babubhai Karsanbhai Patel, Science city – Sola.
16. Graced Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Bhavpura, on the occasion of Patotsav.
Graced the house of the devotee Shri Satishbhai Kanaiyalal Sheth, Isanpur.
17. Graced Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Bakrol on the occasion of invocation of the idol images.
18. Graced Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Sheshra (Panchmahal) on the occasion of the Dashabdhi Pototsav Mahotsav.
19. Graced Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Madhavgadh (Tal. Prantij) on the occasion of the Patotsav.
Graced the house of the devotee Shri Sharadbhai Govindbhai Patel, Rajpath Club.
20. Graced the house of the devotee Shri Kilolbhai Vinodbhai Shelat, Parimal Garden, Ellisbridge.
23. Graced Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Charadva, on the occasion of Parayan.
24. Graced the village Ola (Tal. Kalol) on the occasion of Parayan.
Graced the Sabha at village Vadu organized on the occasion of '*Dharmakul Vandana Mahotsav*'.
25. Graced Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Kankariya on the occasion of Parayan.
Graced Mandi (Kutch) in the evening.
26-27 Graced Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Mandvi (Kutch) on the occasion of Shardha Shatabdhi Mahotsav and celebrated Patotsav of Thakorji and graced the Sabha organized on the occasion.
28. Performed Patotsav Mahaabhishek and Shodsopchar ritual in Vedic Tradition of the Lord Shree Narnarayandev, at Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Kalupur, Ahmedabad.
Graced Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Kankaria Temple on the occasion of Shobha Yatra.

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I, Shastri Swami Harikrishnadasji do hereby declare that the details declared above are true as per my information and understanding.

Sd/- Shastri Swami Harikrishnadasji
Mahant
Shri Swamianarayan Mandir, Kalupur, Ahmedabad-1.

Shikshapatri

The Epistle of Precepts

(based on Shatanand's Shikshapatri Arthadipika)

By Pravin S. Varsani

Text 22

One shall never accept the remnant part of an offering made to any deity to whom wine and flesh are offered and before whom goats and such other animals are scarified.

Devatayai Bhavetasya Surama Snivedanam
Yatpurroajadihimsa Cha Na Bhakshyam
Taniveditam (22)

We have already spoken much about the subject of *Ahimsa* and so Shatanand has not gone into much further detail here.

Shree Hari asks us not to partake in offering of alcohol or flesh *Suramaasnivedanam*. *Vishnudharma* explains, one must never partake in foods from those who are intent on *Himsa* and who themselves partake in meat and intoxicants. *Vaishnavas* are forbidden especially as such foods destroy one's *Satva Guna* (righteous qualities). Shrimad Bhagwat further explains, Impure (*Aetho*) foods, non-vegetarian foods, food prepared by somebody in an angry mood, food from a low born and food even seen by a woman during her menses, should never be consumed, as such food is considered impure and destructive physically and mentally.

Therefore foods such as alcohol and meat are considered extremely foul and should never be accepted even if it is a part of an offering to a deity.

Text 23

When passing by temples of Lord Shiva and other deities, one shall bow to them and pay due reverence to the deities therein.

Na Cha Kasya Api Devtaya Apamanana Na Karyetyha- the reason for this commandment is to prevent an insult to such deities from being committed. Shatanand explains that it is an insult to the Gods if we pass by a *Deva Mandir* and do not pay due respects to the deity. He insists that when passing temple (*Deva-Mandirs*) of *Shiva, Devi, Ganesh* etc. we must pay our respects – ***Shivalai Deviganeshadidevmandirani Syuaha.***

Vashista Smruti- explains, "Those who do not pay humble respects to a *Deva Murti*, a Sanyasi or a yogi after passing are destined for *Prayaschit*". Therefore to prevent insult to the Gods and invoke their wrath, we must pay our respects through *Darshan, Namaskar, Daan* etc.

This Shloka shows the true greatness of the Lord. A truly brilliant Acharya of *Sanatan Dharma*, who accepted the fellowship of all major deities. He himself worshipped many of these deities through *pooja*. We must follow this example set by the Lord and offer equal praise to such deities. We must never walk disregarding any accepted deity.

Text 24

One shall never abandon one's own duties as ordained by one's own *Varna* and *Ashram* nor follow a course of conduct prescribed for others nor follow any faith which is pretentious or fictitious.

It is forbidden to abandon duties pertaining to *Varna*- code of conduct according to caste viz. *Brahmins, Kshatriyas, Vaishyas, or Shudras.* As well as duties pertaining to *Ashrams*- code of conduct according to station in life viz. *Brahmcharis, Grihastramis, Vanaprastas or Sanyasis.* Thus one should always obey *Varna* and *Ashram Dharmas*. Those who abandon such *Dharmas* are destined for sorrow in this world and in others. Following such laws are the tools for attaining *Bhakti Mukhi* (salvation).

Narad Muni explains- ***Svabhavvihito Dharmaha Kasya Neshtaha Prashantaye-*** Ordinary duties (those not in accordance with

Vedic laws) will never derive peace. Thus only by following personal *Dharma- Svadharma*, does man achieve *Bhakti* and *Gnaan* (knowledge) God himself has said, Those in this world who obey Svadharma, who are free from sin and who are pure can acquire true knowledge and devotion with the blessing of the Gods.

Acrura has said, 'Those who abandon their Dharma fall to the neither worlds.' **Manu** also explains, 'Those who live beyond their duties live in darkness, shadowed by sin. For such reason, one must never even think to abandon their *Dharma* under any circumstance,

Similarly one must never forgo ones own personal *Dharma* in favour of somebody else's *Dharma*. All have their own specific *Dharmas* to follow dependent on *Varna, Ashram* etc. To follow one's own specific *Dharmas* is the best way to derive *Bhakti, Gnaan and Moksha*, never by following another's *Dharma*. **Manu** explains, 'One's own *Dharma* is the best, even though it may seem to be devoid of qualities. Another's *Dharma* can never be considered the best, as such *Dharma*, if adopted will cause a person to be shunned within his community.'

Also, we must never follow *Dharmas* that are ***Pakhanda*** or ***Kalpit.*** **Shrimad Bhagvat** explains these two *Dharmas* : '*Pakhanda* is the very sign of sin. *Pa* represents protection or salvation. That which cause destruction- *Khanda* of salvation is considered as *Pakhanda Dharma*. Those *Dharmas* that cause a furtherance in sin is *Pakhanda. Pakhanda* is a *Dharma* that is contrary to Vedic law. Such *Dharma* is *Kalpit* or made- up and so such *Dharma* should never be followed. Both of these are *Adharmic*- contrary to true Vedic law,

Shrimad Bhagwat further explains- (1) ***Vidharma***- Dharma which hinders one's personal Dharma, (2) ***Paradharma***- another's *Dharma*, (3) ***Updharma*** –*Dharma* contrary to Vedic laws, (4) ***Chaldharma***- *Dharma* which is deceptive and (5) ***Abhasadharma***- illusive or desireful *Dharma*; these five are *Adharmic* and should never be adopted. Such *Dharmas* are unpraiseworthy and incur sin. They will invariably lead to one's downfall.

It is very important that people follow the right *Dharma*. They must always follow the *Dharma* that is in accordance with their Caste and *Ashram*. They must always initiate in to a *Dharma* that is accordance with true Vedic laws and precepts.

There are many *Kalpit* or made-up *Dharmas* in this age of *Kali* which teach the wrong disciplines. They enjoy and fulfill desires, often lustful desires. Shrimad Bhagwat has explained that in *Kaliyuga*, such *Updharmas* will be many in number. Many may bestow God-hood in a Guru Acharya. For this reason we must not fail in to such fellowships. We must understand our *Sanatan Dharma* the eternal law based on Vedic laws and so follow only those *Dharmas* that are enlightened by *Sanatan Dharma*.

The *Swaminarayan-Udhavi Sampradai* is one such *Dharma*. Lord Swaminarayan's message of Vedic principles continued to flourish in this *Sampradi* headed by the true Gurus of the *Sampradai*- the two Acharya as established by Lord Swaminarayan himself. Only by living and being initiated into the *Sampradai* by either Laxminarayan and then enjoy the bliss of Satsang and ultimately Akshardhaam.

This great *Shikshapatri* is *Dharma* personified. It is the best *Dharma*. The essence of Vedic Law that has been bestowed upon mankind. To follow such Dharma implicitly will derive eternal towards: the greatest reward of promotion to the heavens is without questions. It is important that we are able to understand each principle or precept so that dedication to these *Dharmas* is strengthened.

This Doctrine of *Dharma* as stipulated by Lord Swaminaryan is above all else. It promotes the very limbs of *Dharma* outlined by *Sat-Shastras* namely, *Satya*- truth, *Tapa*-penance, *Pavitrata* –purity and *Daya*- Compassion.

Dharma is beyond everything- time, place and situation. It is something that can never be abandoned as to do so would be to abandon God himself. For this reason, to translate this great wealth of knowledge of *Sat-Shastras*, in the form of the *Shikshapatri* was very necessary.

PUSHPDOLOTSAV

- Sadhu Ghanshyamprakashdas Jamiyatpura - (Mahant Swami, Mansa)

What does the *Phalgun Maas* bring? "વસંતના વધામણા લાવ્યો, ફુલોનો ખિલખિલાટ લાવ્યો. વિવિધ પાક પકવતો આવ્યો, ને પંખીના કિલકિલાટ લાવ્યો. ગુલાબભરી પિચકારી લાવ્યો, નાચ નચવતા ગવૈયા લાવ્યો. ભક્તિ છલકતા ભક્તો જોતો ફાલ્યો ફૂલ્યો ફાગણ આવ્યો."

Pleased with the austere Tapa-sadhana of Dharma-Bhakti, Lord Shree Narnarayandev came to Narayanghat on the bank of the river Sabarmati and hearts of thousands of devotees were dancing with joy. They became eager to swing the Lord on the golden swing. But the Lord Shree Narnarayandev had taken the form of a Rishi, the gold was not acceptable to the Lord and therefore the devotees decided to offer the gifts of nature to the Lord. An idea struck to the devotees and they plucked beautiful and colourful flowers from the forest and surrounding areas during the pious *Phalgun Maas* and with the art and creativity of their mind, they prepared a beautiful *Hindola* of these flowers and placed the Almighty Lord on the *Hindola*. From that day '*Pushpdolotsav*' (Narnarayan Jayanti) started being celebrated. The devotees sprinkled colours upon one another with the colour-sprinklers and these colours have yet not dried up.

Lord Shree Swaminarayan himself extracted his supremacy and decorated Bhakti replete with Gyan and Bhakti with precious ornaments, offered *Chundadi* of limitation and endowed and patched it with self integrity in such a way that love which had emerged in the hearts of the devotees towards the Almighty Lord may not spilled over in any other shape and it may continue to flow incessantly towards the Lord. In the verandah of Rathod Dhandal in Sarangpur, in the Darbnar of Jinabhai in Panchala, in Kunj-Gali of Gadhpur, in the temple premises at Ahmedabad and in Gyan-baug of Vadtal, the Lord used to great pleasure and happiness to the saints and the devotees and then used to come to the river to take bath. There with beautiful *Jala-Krida*, Shree Hari attracted the hearts and minds of all the devotees and the saints, offered them edible pious items of *Phalgun Maas*. But the devotees were not satisfied with this. They wanted everything that Shree Hari could offer them.

"મહા બળવંત માયા તમારી, જેને આવરીયા નરનારી.
એવું વરદાન દીજીયે આપે, યેહ માયા અમને ન વ્યાપે."

They pray to the Almighty Lord and say, " Oh God! We may never get swayed away by any human feelings, never be proud of our achievements, never be greedy about the wealth and money, never get stuck with the bondages of Time and Karma, never get swayed away with the prosperity of this world and devalue the supremacy of the Almighty Lord under such an influence, never lose the pious company of the Lord and we always maintain ardent and faith in You. Such a blessing may be granted in this pious Phalgun Maas." Listening to this Shree Hari took out all the ornaments and offered them to the devotees.

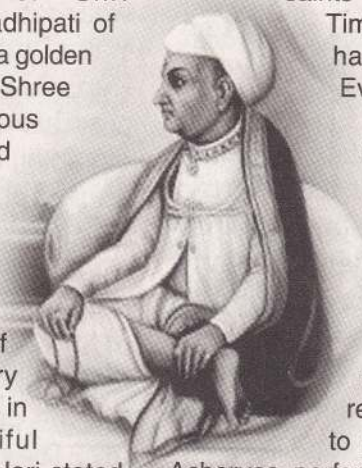
"પોતે તપ કરી રે (૨) આપે ફળ સોય,
બદ્રીપતિ પ્રબળ પ્રતાપ છે....."

AADI ACHARYA H.H. SHRI AYODHYAPRASADJI MAHARAJ

- Rajan Kanaiyalal Bhavsar (Visnagar)

Aadi Acharya H.H. Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj was incarnation of the Lord Anirrudha, the other form of Lord Shree Purushottam.

Phuldolotsav of Vikram Samvat 1882 means, first Phuldolotsav of Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj as Pithadhipati of Shree Narnarandev Gadi and it was a golden opportunity for him to please Lord Shree Hari. Naturally there was tremendous joy and pleasure. Observing and witnessing abundant joy and enthusiasm of the young Acharya Maharaj to please Lord Shree Hari, Mahant Shri Anandanand Swami and Kothari Hayagrivanand Muni also started the preparation of Phuldolotsav. They got prepared very delicious sweets among other items in the kitchen. Observing beautiful arrangement of the meals, Shree Hari stated all the saints and the devotees that now he was free of worry about preparing the meals. Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj made all the arrangements for residence of the saints and the devotees. Various types of colours were got prepared from *Patraang, Kesudo* and *Kesar*. Witnessing the beautiful arrangement of the whole occasion, Shree Hari stated, "*Oh son! Though you are very young in age, yet you have got the prudence and intellect of a mature man. And therefore, after considering all the aspects I have made you sit in this Shreenagar.*"



On the day of Phuldolotsav, Shree Hari got Shree Ayodhyaprasadji perform *poojan* of the Lord Shree Narnarayandev with chanting of Vedic Mantras and playing of classical musical instruments. Thereafter Shree Hari and Shree Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj sat before the Lord Shree Narnarayandev. At that time Shri Muktanand Swami and other saints sang the Kirtans of the glory of Shree Hari. At the time of aarti of the Lord Shree Narnarayandev, the echo of all the musical instruments was spread in all the four directions. Shree Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj performed aarti of the Lord Shree Narnarayandev. Shree Hari got overjoyed and sprinkled the colour upon the Lord Narnarayandev. At that time, the saints and the devotees felt as if Time had stopped for a while to have *Darshan* of this Great Event.

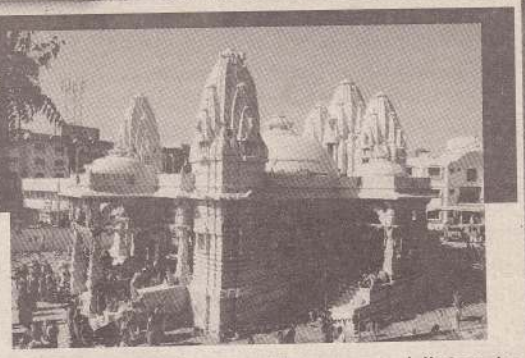
Thereafter Shree Hari took his seat upon Vedica in the centre of the Sabha. He took a golden colour-sprinkler and threw colour upon the saints and the devotees. All the saints and the devotees sprinkled colour upon one another while remaining in restraint and limitation. In order to please Shree Hari, both the Acharyas performed *Rang-Krida* as per the ritual of Koshal-Desh. Shree Hari and all the saints and the devotees were very much happy with this. "અવધમેં હોળી ખેલે રઘુવીરા, દોભાઈ ધીરા અવધમેં હોળી ખેલે રઘુવીરા." thus, after performing *Rang-Krida* Shree Hari and all the devotees went to Narayanghat and took bath. There Shree Hari and both the Acharyas granted to the saints and the devotees divine pleasure of *Jala-Krida*.

Thereafter, Shree Hari offered very delicious meals to all the saints and the devotees. At that time there were strict directions of Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj that, "All satsangi and non-satsangis should also be offered the meals." Like Shree Hari, Shri Ayodhyparasaji Maharaj himself offered *Jalebi* to all the saints and the devotees.

Thus, in order to please Lord Shree Hari, Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj celebrated First Phul-dolotsav with great enthusiasm and joy and like Shree Hari granted pleasure to all the devotees.

Invocation ceremony of idol images of Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Mehsana

(From 05.02.2009 to 11.02.2009)



Lord Shreeji Maharaj has graced Dandhavya Desh a number of times and while recalling Leela of Shree Hari we get divine pleasure. Dandhavya Desh means the present North Gujarat. Once Shreeji Maharaj graced Mehsana – the Head Quarter of the present North Gujarat - divine Charitra of Shreeji Maharaj confirming the importance of almighty God and faith of the devotees is found well described in the famous incident of '***Kashlibai's Khichdi***'.

Once Shreeji Maharaj graced the house of Nagar Brahmin Kashliba in the evening along with Sadhu, Saints and Kathi Darbar. Kashlibai had been waiting for the Lord Shree Swaminarayan for many years and therefore, she insisted to offer them grand meals along with sweet balls. But Maharaj insisted for '***Khichdi***' as it was an evening time. Desire of the Lord was everything for Kashlibai and therefore, while accepting the proposal she prepared Khichdi maintaining equal proportion of Ghee into it. All the saints and Kathi Darbar took their seats to take the meals and Lord himself started serving them the meals. Maharaj served the delicious Khichdi to all including Alia Khachar and Sura Khachar who continued their meals till their stomach refused to accept any more quantity.

With the directions of Shreeji Maharaj all the saints and Haribhaktas got up early in the morning at 4'O clock, and started towards the bank of the river Rupen to take bath and to perform Pooja Path. Meanwhile, Kashliba came and stood in front of Maharaj and requested to stay as they cannot just go away leaving behind Khichdi, which was still lying in the kitchen. There were tears in her eyes. Shreeji Maharaj was very benevolent towards the devotees like Kashliba and therefore, even before bath and *Pooja-path* Maharaj once again offered Khichdi to all the saints and the devotees; though it was a strict rule not to accept and eat anything before taking bath and performing *Pooja-Path* yet it was great love for devotees that Shreeji Maharaj made an exception to this rule at the place of Kashliba. This great incident is referred to even at the present time and as per *Vachan* of Shreeji Maharaj those who would seen and listen to such Charitya of Maharaj, he or she would be given the place in the Akshardham.

There was one Hari Temple on this place of divine Prasadi and there are thousand of devotees settled in Mehsana, who follow Shree Swaminarayan Sampradaya. The city of Mehsana has been expanding and developing in all the four directions. Under the circumstances the number of devotees from the near by villages and rural areas who later on settled in Mehsana has been ever on increase. As per the noble thought of 6th successor of Lord Shree Swaminarayan, H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, Shree Tejendraprasadji Maharaj, temple is a place of faith of human being on this earth. All the human beings great confirmed their religious beliefs in temple. One achieves peace of mind and spiritual progress through *Darshan, Poojan, Archan* and service to the Lord.

With the blessings and directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and Shree Tejendraprasadji Maharaj, a noble concept of constructing a temple of the Lord Shree Swaminarayan on Ahmedabad – Palanpur National Highway was materialized before 10 years when a decision in this regard was taken in Shree Narnarayandev Scheme Committee of Lord Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Kalupur, Ahmedabad and with the great efforts of all land admeasuring 5000 sq. yards was acquired for the purpose.

By encouraging and inspiring all, divine first stone of *Khat Muhurt* was installed by H.H. Shree Acharya Maharaj, Shree Tejendraprasadji Maharaj. The work began under Bhakti Swami who was appointed as Mahant Swami. Thereafter, responsibility of construction of Temple was interested with saint *Mandals* of Shastri Aatmaprakashdasji and Shastri Purshottamprakashdasji of Jetalpur.

By utilizing 40,000 cubic feet stone on the

land admeasuring 600 sq. yards , the Temple has been constructed at the cost of Rs. 2 crores. On completion of the constructions work as per the art of sculpture, it was decided to celebrate invocation ceremony of idol images. Just as Lord Shree Swaminarayan had taken the idol images of the Lord Shree Narnarayan Dev in arms, similarly 6th successor of Shree Swaminarayan, H.H. Shree Ahcarya Maharaj Shree, Tejendraprasadji Maharaj Shree took divine Sthambha in his arms and granted happiness of divine *Darshan* of devotees. Today this Sthambha has been granting *Darshan* to all the devotees in *Ishan* corner of the Temple premises.

With great care and perseverance, the faith of the devotees of Lord and the great tradition of *Sarva Dharma Sambhav* and *Sarva Jiv Hitavah* started by the Lord Shree Swaminarayan can be fulfilled easily. And therefore, *Sabha Khand, Bhojnalaya, Dharma Shala, Saint Niwas* etc. are constructed in the spacious temple premises. Gradually a flow of number of various types of services started from the country as well as abroad.

The invocation ceremony of idol images was decided to be celebrated from Maha Sud – 10, Thursday 05.02.2009 to Maha Vad – 2, Wednesday 11.02.2009. The devotees of Dandhavya Desh were eagerly waiting for this occasion and therefore, preparation of celebration started before 3 months. All *Haribhaktas* were busy in the preparation of Mahotsav. With the services of 100 volunteers and 5 tractors, which continued for five days and nights, the land of Shree Swaminarayan Nagar was made even.

Under the leadership of Mahant Swami Uttampriyadasji, Mehsana and Swami Narayanprasaddasji, Mahotsav was inaugurated on the pious day of Magsar Sud – 9, 07.12.2008 with the ritual of *Vijaya Sthambha* by H.H. Shreeji Acharya Maharaj Shree, Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj in the presents of the saints, *Haribhaktas* and members of Shree Narnarayan Dev Yuvak Mandal of Dandhavya Desh.

In a very short time the Temple was signing with the Golden and Silver gates and beautiful colors and paintings. As many as 21 entrance gate with beautiful carving and curves were prepared and as per the directions of Lord Shree Swaminarayan *Vaastu* Ritual was performed on Maha Sud – 5, Vasant Panchmi, 31.01.2009. This ritual increased Zeal and enthusiasm of all the devotees who could now have the glimpse and the darshan of the idol images in the Temple. On the pious day of Maha Sud – 10, Thursday, 05.02.2009 the premises started echoing '***Sur of Sharanai***' early in the morning in all there were 100 volunteers rendering their discipline services in various capacities during the Mahotsav such as *Sabha Madap*, Stage, Inquiry Office, Central Office, Volunteers Office, Stall of literature, Clock Room, kitchen, medical, gift - offering etc.

All the invited Satsangee, Saints, Mahant joined ***Pothi Yatra*** at 8'O Clock in the morning from the residence of the devotee Shri Natwarbhai Phoolchandbhai Modi situated at 15, Kamboi Nagar Society, Mehsana. This *Pothi Yatra* reached its destination at Shree Swaminarayan Temple, S.T. Workshop Ground, Mehsana.

In this S. T. Workshop Ground, huge *Sabha Mandap* admeasuring 500 ft. * 100 ft. was prepared without any pillar in the centre. A stage admeasuring 100 ft. * 40 ft. with Darbar of Dada Khachar as back ground was prepared. When H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj Shree graced this Sabha Mandap on the very first day the whole atmosphere was charged with Jai Ghosh of Lord Shree Narnarayandev and the Lord Shree Swaminarayan. With lighting of lamp by H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj Shree, invocation ceremony of idol images was inaugurated. Shrimad Bhagwat Saptah Parayan started with Shree Shastri Swami Purshottamprakashdasji (P P Swami, Jetalpurdham) as the spokesperson. On the first day of the dignitaries and other leading persons of the society were honoured by offering them a replica of the temple.

The second session was attendant by large number of devotees who avail the benefit of divine Gyan Amrut. The specialty of Mahotsav was that the meals were common for all the devotees and the guests and dignitaries. For ladies devotees there was *Kashliba Bhojanalaya* and for the gents devotees there was *Avadprasadji Bhojnalaya* wherein volunteers of Muli Desh has rendered their services at night there was cultural program wherein from 05.02.2009 Shree Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal, Manekpur and Balva had performed *Aarti* of Jay Sadguru Swami and had delivered lecture on '***Save the Girls***' subject there were such number of beautiful items on each day during the cultural program.

On the second day the religious devotees availed the divine benefit of Katha Parayan.

Guru of lady devotee H.H. Shri Laxmiswaroop Motagadiwala Shree graced the occasion of granted *Darshan* and blessings to the devotees. At night in the cultural program, a drama showing from faith in the rules of Shree Swaminarayan Sampradaya and another play showing how life of a Loka Satsangee gets transformed with the *Satsang* of the saints were performed by Shree Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal, Visnagar. A young T.V. artist Nikhil Ravat presented a laughter show and all the devotees relished it very much.

On the 3rd day the spokesperson narrated the *Katha* of Pradurbhav of the Lord Shree Swaminarayan in a very interesting manner and all the devotees enjoyed it very much. Just at a cost of Rs.250/- the complete body check-up camps for blood donation camp and camp for check-up of the teeth were organized during the Mahotsav. At night devotee Shri Vijay Bharad and his team performed *Kirtans* of Nand Saints and all the devotees relished *Kirtans* very much.

On the 4th day celebration of *Janmotsav* of Purshottam Narayan Shree Krishna was celebrated during Shrimad Bhagwat Saptah Parayan with various costumes, Ras Garba and '***Matki Phod***' events. *Maha Aarti* of *Pragatya* of the Lord was also performed. In the cultural program at night the famous T V artist Shri Jitubhai Dwarkawala had offered fund with knowledge and all the devotees enjoyed it very much.

On the 5th day the devotees relished Katha of *Bal Leela Charitra*. On that day Shastri Shri Rajendrabhai Shukla (Umrethwala) installed idol images of the Lord on very tradition and started *Maha Vishnu Yagna* were performing purification ritual of the hosts. H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj Shree 1008 Shree Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj and Vaishnav Acharya Shree Vagheshkumarji Maharaj (Kankori) graced the occasion and granted Darshan and blessings to all the devotees. At night in the cultural program, the famous singer Shri Jayeshbhai Soni sang *Kirtans* of Nand Saints and all the devotees relished them.

On the 6th day on Tuesday 10.02.2009, *Kalash Yatra* of Abhishek of the Lord was performed at 8'O clock in the morning from Maha Shakti ground. In the Kalash Yatra 1000 of ladies devotees took copper *Kalash* on their heads containing pious water of Narayan Sarovar Chhapaiya and other places of pilgrims like Kanyakumari. When *Kalash Yatra* arrived in the temple premises the whole atmosphere was charged with dignity. On the same day, as per the tradition free of cost *Yagno Pavit* (Holy Thread) ceremony to Brahmin *Batukas* started by the Lord Shri Swaminarayan was performed on the same day in the afternoon a great Shobha yatra was organized which passed through the main roads of Mehsana Cities. In the *Shobha Yatra* 10 bullock carts were decorated wherein '***Jaan***' of Dada Khachar, Sutra of Shiksha Patri of Sampradaya, Slogans of advice '***Sarva Jiv Hitavah'***. Great saints granted Darshan on two decorated elephants and the hosts were sitting on the other two decorated elephants. In the Shobha Yatra there were 10 decorated horses on which members of Shree Narnaryandev Yuvak Mandal were sitting besides this, 10 tractors were decorated in different shapes wherein there was chariot of the Lord was in one tractor in the second tractor of the idol image of the Lord Shree Swaminarayan and there were ***'Bhajan Mandli'*** in the remaining tractors performing Bhajans and Kirtans during the Shobha Yatra. Thereafter, in a specially decorated tractor, H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj Shri 1008 Shree Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj granted Darshan to all the devotees.

In this *Shobha Yatra*, about 200 Tyagi Sankhya Yogi Ladies devotees were also granting Darshan. 5 persons in a very funny costumes and walking on bamboo sticks was the central of attraction of the *Shobha Yatra*. About more than 50,000 satsangee devotees and other people took part in this *Shobha Yatra*. A number of other vehicles like scooters & bikes were also part of the *Shobha Yatra*. While returning to *Sabha Mandap* at 6 O'Clock in the evening, devotees fired the crackers in the temple premises.

The most eye-capturing matter of the Mahotsav was that the whole programme was being live telecast the channel of Mehsana City and there was live telecast of the occasion all over the world through internet and website. A Yog Shibir of Yog Acharya Swami Vijyanandji Maharaj (Haridwar) wherein about 500 devotees took part.

The pious day of invocation of idol images of the Lord Shree Swaminarayan came. All the devotees were overjoyed. At 7.00 O'clock in the morning on 11/02/2009, H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj, H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj, H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj 108 Shri Vrajendraprasadji Maharaj graced the temple premises. All the three other forms of Shree Hari performed Shodashopchar

Mahabhishek opf Shree Ghanshyam Maharaj, Shree Radhakrishnadev and Shree Narnarayandev in Vedic tradition. The Brahmins were chanting holy Shlokas amongst the music of *Sharanai* and *Shankha*.

With beautiful arrangement of Darshan, devotees could avail the benefit of Darshan of all the three other Forms of Shree Hari. There were Plasma Television Sets placed at different places on the ground of the temple premises from where all the devotees could have Darshan of the inner temple.

Invocation of Shree Ganpatiji Maharaj and Shree Kastabhanjandev were performed by H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and many devotees had availed the benefit of its Darshan. Thereafter concluding ceremony of Yagna was also performed by all the three forms of Shree Hari by offering holy fruit. According to the scriptures, any devotees who gets an opportunity and benefit to have Darshan of the Flag of a temple, he gets emancipation. Flags of five permanent peaks of the temple and ritual of Kalash were performed by H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and there was a sweet echo of Aarti in the inner temples of the Lord Shree Ghanshyam Maharaj, Shri Radhakrishnadev and Shri Narnarayandev.

Aarti of the concluding ceremony of the Third and last session of Gyan-Satra of Shrimad Bhagwat Saptah Gyan-Yagna organized on the occasion of this Mahotsav was performed. All the donors were honoured. On this occasion, the dignitaries like District Collector and District Judge had remained presented and had obtained the blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj.

While blessing all the devotees, H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj preached Knowledge and directed all the devotees and saints residing in nearby area to have *Vrata* of Darshan at the temple on every *Ekadashi* and *Poonam*.

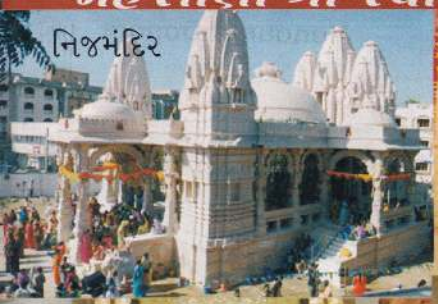
In his inspirational blessed speech, H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj stated that, though there have been invocation ceremony of a number of temples but this was the first temple where he felt that, the Sun God Himself had graced the invocation ceremony of this temple to have Darshan of the Lord Shree Ghanshyam Maharaj, Shri Radhakrishnadev and the Lord Shree Narnarayandev, and therefore, in the morning the inner temple was shining with the sunrays.

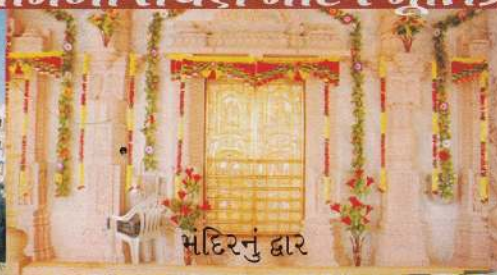
Future Acharya of Sampradaya, H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj, Shri Vrajendraprasadji Maharajshi, in his divine speech narrated a story that, one Guru had many disciples. In order to ascertain as to which of his disciples should be handed over the Seat, he conducted a test of all his disciples. He offered each of them, handful of pulses. Some of the disciples ate them up whereas others placed them in the place of their Pooja, considering the pulses as Prasadi of their Guru. One disciple used the pulses as seeds and sowed them in the field. After some time, the Guru asked each of his disciples what did they do with the pulses. This disciple stated that, the pulses were coming in a truck. When Guru came to know about what he did with the pulses, he was very much happy. The message of this story is that, one should not avail the benefit of Satsang along, he should bring others with him and should relish it together so that one day we may get very good devotees and *satsangis*.

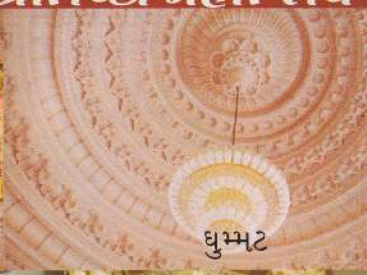
The whole programme was memorable everybody who attended it. This programme had a permanent and a profound effect upon the whole region of Northern Gujarat. The name of the Lord Shree Swaminarayan was echoing in the whole region.

On this occasion, 108 Bhagwat Samhita Parayan was also kept. Saints and the Brahmins performed Patha incessantly for seven days. Everyday one or the other religious, social or political leaders were availing its benefit and they all were honoured. Thousands of saints from all the directions had arrived on this occasion. In seven days, more than 500 saints granted the devotees the benefit of Darshan and blessings. Mahant of Ahmedabad temple, Mahant Swami of inner temple and Kothari, and saints from the places like Muli, Vadtal, Bhuj (Kachchh), Gadhada, Junagadh, Dholera, Chhapaiya etc. had arrived on the occasion. Similarly more than 200 Sankhya Yogi ladies devotees from Ahmedabad-Muli and Bhuj-Kachchh region had arrived on the occasion.

Both the Mahant Swami, Shastri Swami Uttampriyadasji and Mahant Swami Narayanprasaddasji were honoured by H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and all the saints and the local devotees. Similarly *Mandal* of the saints residing in Jetalpur and Jaipur were also honoured. This *Mandal* had offered at the lotus-like feet of the Lord Shree Narnarayandev, the gift of a beautiful temple, whose benefit is being availed by thousands of devotees. *(Mahesh Bhavsar, Visnagar)*













Darshan of invocation ceremony



Mahabhishek



Devotees



Yagna ritual







Maha Vishnu Yagna ritual







Deep Pragatya

Honour of Donors











Sabha





Honour of Donors



Welcome to saints



Poojan of *Dharmakul*



Shree Krishna *Janmotsav*



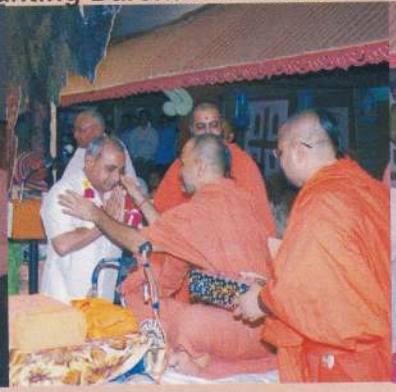
H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj granting *Darshan* in *Sabha*



Group *Aarti* of *Vyas-pith*



Pothi-poojan by the hosts



Honour of Shri Nitinbhai Patel



H.H. 108 Shri Vagheshji Mahara Kankaroli Pithadhishwar









Bhojanalaya



Bhojanalaya of saints







All diseases diagnosis Camp



Cultural Programme



Yoga Camp



Yagna ritual



hobha-Yatra



UNIQUE PREACHING OF H.H. SHRI MOTA MAHARAJ IN KATHA OF SHIKSHA-PATRI BHASHYA

- Prof. Suryakant Bhatt (Bhuj)

Those who have relished the pleasure of divine speech of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj would feel eternal peace in their heart. If we think about His preaching in speeches, then it does never repeated. In every Satsang Sabha, devotees get something new.

Recently family members of the devotee Shri RAmjibhai Meghani, who happens to be one of the relatives of the family of Mahant of Bhuj temple Akshar Nivasi Shastri Dharmjivandasji's earlier life organized Shiksha-Patri Bhasya Parayan in Shree Swaminarayan temple, Bhuj. On Friday 30/01/2009 and Saturday 31/01/2009, H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj delivered a very memorable speech on the occasion and preached a number of things to the devotees and blessed the whole Meghani family, the organizer of Katha-Parayan.

While insisting on Satsang of the saints in human life, H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj stated that if 100 kg logs are tied with the stones weighing 1000 kg are dropped in the ocean, all the longs would sink but if 100 kg. stones are tied with 1000 kg. logs and are dropped in the ocean, then the stones would sail on the surface of the water. Talking about unshaken faith and confidence in Shree Hari, H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj narrated a story which reads as under:

"A steamer was sailing on the ocean. Meanwhile a severe storm emerged and enwrapped the steamer. The steamer was stammering and dancing with the rising and falling waves. When the situation became beyond the control of the captain of the steamer, he requested all the passengers and crew members to remember their god and he also made such loud announcement. All the passengers started remembering their own god. But one passenger was dancing joyously. His wife tried to persuade him to calm down and remember the god. But he got irritated, took out a pistol from his pocket and put it in front of the forehead of his own wife. But the wife was unmoved and confidently said that she was not afraid of him as she very well knew that he would never shoot at his wife. The husband promptly replied that, like her he had also great faith in Almighty God and he knew that the steamer was not going to sink and therefore he was dancing joyously."

Similarly we should also have such an ardent and unshaken faith in Almighty God. Once one saint saw a dog, a cat, a rat and a crow eating from the same garbage place. All of us should have hunger of the satsang and the saints.

While remembering former Mahant of Bhuj temple, Swami Shri Shastri Dharmjivandasji, H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj stated that, day of his Diksha and his Aksharvaas was the same – the pious day of *Vasant-Panchmi*. The same was the case with Mahant of Charadva Shri Gopalcharandasji. While recalling his childhood H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj said that, when he was just 8 or 9 years old, then he used to come to Bhuj Kachchh with his father from Ahmedabad in car. At that time, roads were not so good neither there were facilities of train or bus as are at present. If one is lost in the desert, then one can reach to Pakistan. And there was fear in the mind. At that time, saints from Bhuj temple used to come to welcome them. They looked like guide and in their presence it felt like safe and secure. The message is that the saints are our guide in our life to achieve emancipation. They should be made the guides of our life.

On the pious day of *Vasant Panchmi* Shreeji Maharaj had played with colours with the saints. When Premanand Swami threw a colour upon Shreeji Maharaj, Maharaj said joyously "*****". These clothes of Prasadi of Shreeji Maharaj spotted with the colour sprinkled by Premanand Swami are still there preserved well which are going to be placed in 'Shree Swaminarayan Museum' for Darshan.

સત્સંગ બાલવાટિકા

SATSANG BALVATIKA
- Editor : Shastri Harikeshavdasji (Gandhinagar)

RAIN OF RUPEES

- Shastri Haripriyadas (Gandhinagar)

"સજની આરે ચોધડીયુ અમૃત લાભનું" how can one let go such a unique opportunity? When the Lord himself is going to sit on a throne granting *Darshan* smilingly and when a devotee is getting an opportunity to perform *poojan*, what else remains?

First of all the saints performed *poojan* and then came the turn of the devotees. One by one, the devotees started coming and performed *poojan.* But no devotee would return empty handed. From packet of raw-sugar offered by the devotee, Shree Hari would take some portion and would put in his mouth. But this devotees were also offering the money. The whole dish was now full with the money. Now interesting thing happened. This cash money was in the form of coins and not currency notes as we find today. Moreover, these were silver coins very hard which can hit our head also. There was a heap of the silver coins in front of Maharaj. All of a sudden Maharaj stood up and took handful of coins from the heap and tossed them above in the sky. Generally we abuse those who throw money like this. But here the Lord Shree Swaminarayan was tossing the coins. Some of the coins fell far from the Sabha. Some fell upon the roofs of the neighbouring houses of the devotees. An old woman was residing in such roofed house. Led by her old-age nature, she started abusing. When some more coins fell upon her roof, she rushed out of her house shouting and abusing loudly. But some of the coins rolled over the roof and fell upon her head. She immediately picked up the coins and ran back into her house. Now she was waiting for more voice upon the roof above her head. But it is a rule that, when you wait for something, you do not get it. And if you are sitting without any expectations, then Someone gives you money unasked.

Here Maharaj was pouring the rain of the coins upon the devotees. Those devotees who took even one coin of Prasadi, poverty vanished away from his house permanently. This is a truth. The king of Dwarika Lord Krishna had given nothing in the hands of his friend Sudamaji and yet the latter's poverty vanished away permanently.

Kariyani was a very small village. Observing the wretched condition of the villagers, Maharaj thought that, when the dish is full of money, let us distribute it among others. Money is such thing that, if someone gives us five rupees we hesitate to accept it. But if someone gives fifteen rupees in Prasadi, we happily accept it. Here all the devotees accepted the coins from Maharaj as Prasadi and they became happy in their life.

"હે કરુણાના કરનારા તારી કરૂણાનો કોઈ પાર નથી."

The mercy of Almighty Lord is unique. The Lord never allows anybody to remain unhappy. However, one has to remain vigilant. Shree Hari has poured money for those devotees who perform Bhajan while remaining under the directions. There is an old saying: "ખુદા દેતા હે તો છપ્પર ફાડકે દેતા હૈ." This incident of Shree Hari pouring the rain of rupees made this saying true.

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HOW BRAVE CAN A SAHJANANDI SATSANGI BE ?

- Sadhu Shrirangdas (Gandhinagar)

Those devotees who do not apply *Tilak-Chandlo*, must read this story. There was a brave young man. This is a real incident. Bravery is not required only on the battlefield. Sometimes it is required in day to day life

also, especially in religious matters. Therefore, it is rightly said in that Bhajan : "હરિનો મારગ છે શૂરાનો, નહિ કાયરનું કામ જોને."

This Youngman started applying *Tilak-Chandlo* on his forehead from the day he became a devotee. When laughed at, he used to reply smartly. His neighbours and relatives were jealous of his happy life. They were waiting for an opportunity to mislead him from the path of Satsang and to abolish his *Tilak-Chandlo* and bereft him from his *Kanthi*.

Like good people, bad people also get opportunity in their lives. It so happened that, marriage of the Youngman was decided. All of his relatives and neighbours got together and decided the date of his marriage. The destination was 20 miles away. All got ready and took their seats in bullock carts. During those times, there were no fuel-run vehicles. They reached at the place of marriage while singing songs on the way. All were cordially welcomed. They were offered a very comfortable residence to stay for the day and delicious dish full of sweets and other items to relish. From this, it appeared that, in-laws of the Youngman were well-off and they had the only daughter who was marrying the youngman.

After taking the delicious meals, all the relatives and neighbours of the Youngman went for a stroll. Children were playing and the youngsters were listening to the songs in a tape-recorder. The Youngman observed from his window and saw that, the same neighbours and his relatives, who once abused him, were now gossiping with his in-laws and were enjoying the occasion.

After some time, the in-laws and some of the relatives came to the room of the bridegroom and put a condition that, he will have to do away with his *Tilak-Chandlo* and *Kanthi* otherwise they will have to think about the marriage. The Youngman immediately replied that, he would not change his mind and he would never do way with his *Tilak-Chandlo* and *Kanthi* and that they may take a decision whatever they may like. All were taken aback to listen to this. There was gossiping everywhere. Now the in-laws put another condition. They asked the bridegroom to put aside his *Tilak-Chandlo* and *Kanthi* till he gets married. After marriage and return to his home, he may again adopt his *Tilak-Chandlo* and *Kanthi*. But the Youngman refused it categorically. He was ready to return home without marrying.

All were surprised with the firm decision of the bridegroom. The in-laws were now in awkward position. The father-in-law of the Youngman came near and told him that, he may have his *Tilak-Chandlo* and *Kanthi* but at the time of marriage, he has simply to utter the words that "*he is not a Satsangi*". The Youngman was greatly pressurized to utter at least these words at night at the time of marriage.

At night the rituals of marriage started. Brahmins started chanting mantras which beyond comprehension for the people attending the marriage. Before the time of marriage, the father in law of the Youngman came and asked him whether he was a Satsangi? The Youngman asked that his mother in law should come closer. The moment she came closer, the Youngman asked her to utter the words that "*he (father-in-law) was not her husband*".

The mother in law refused to utter such words, as she had already spent more than twenty five years with her husband. She rebuked her husband and asked her not to pressurize their son in law. The father in law of the Youngman asked the Brahmins to start the rituals of marriage.

The marriage was accomplished happily. The jealous neighbours and relatives of the Youngman were ashamed at the failure of their conspiracy. The Youngman was so firm in his decision that, he got ready to return unmarried but was not ready to do away with his *Tilak-Chandlo* and *Kanthi*. So the devotees who do not apply *Tilak-Chandlo* and *Kanthi* should check their bravery.

MAHARAJ GRANTED OPPORTUNITY OF *PUNYA* OF *BHAAT* TO JASUBA

-Gangani Jasuben Dayaljibhai (Nava Vadaj)

Once Shreeji Maharaj was sitting in the Darbar of Dada Khachar. Maharaj called Bhaguji and asked him to call Kunvarba. Bhaguji went and conveyed the message to Kunvarba. Immediately Kunvarba came to Maharaj and bowed down at His feet. For a while Maharaj looked at her and told her that after Aksharvaas of Ebhal Khachar, he was the sole administrator of his affairs. Now he wanted that Dada should remarry as it was not proper for the family to remain childless anymore and therefore he wanted her consent for it. Kunvarba gave her consent and asked Maharaj to expedite it. Maharaj asked her to convince Dada Khachar. Both Maharaj and Kunvarba came to Dada Khachar. When Kunvarba put the proposal, Dada Khachar refused it immediately and stated that he wanted neither a child nor a family. At last Kunvarba came to Maharaj and asked him to convince Dada Khachar. When Maharaj told Dada Khachar that he wanted him to remarry, Dada Khachar said:

"તમે જો પ્રભુ જાનમાં આવો, પાસે રહી મને પરણાવો.
તો હું પાણી ગ્રહણ કરીશ, આજ્ઞા આપની માથે ધરીશ."

Maharaj promptly replies:

"હાક્યો અર્જુનનો રથ જેમ, તમારો રથ હાંકીશ તેમ."

Now Dada Khachar and Kunvarba both gave their consent. In Darbar Maharaj starts the search and asks all the devotees who come for Darshan whether there was any suitable girl who can marry Dada Khachar. Meanwhile Kalu Messenger came for Darshan. Maharaj asks him the same question. Kalu Messenger replies affirmatively. When asked, Kalu Messenger says:

"ભટ્ટવદર નામે છે ગામ, જાણી કન્યા કુંવારી તે ઠામ
મહા મુક્ત તે જન તન ધારી, જસુ નામે તે સદ્‌ગુણી સારી."

Maharaj immediately sent him to Bhattvadar and asked him to tell Nagpal Varu to send a *Shriphal* (holy fruit) if his response was positive. Kalu Messenger came to Bhattvadar and told everything to Nagpal Varu. Nagpal Varu was very much pleased and he immediately sent *Shriphal* (holy fruit). Maharaj accepted it and sent *Chundadi* for Jasuba. Jasuba was very much pleased with *Chundadi*. Maharaj expedited the process of date of marriage and sent the date Maha Sud Pancham- *Vasant Panchmi*. Maharaj himself started all the preparations of marriage in Gadhpur. He was happy like a father of a son. With all joy and pleasure, preparations of marriage were going on. Maharaj prepared the bullock cart and asked Dada to sit on the chariot. Dada requested Maharaj to take the seat but Maharaj said that it was the marriage of Dada Khachar and therefore he should sit first. Maharaj also invited all the saints on the chariot. Maharaj himself became *Sarathi* of the chariot. All of them reached at the outskirts of the village Bhattvadar.

Nagpal Varu came forward and performed *Samaiyu* of the guests. Maharaj asked him whether all the preparations were made properly. Nagpal Varu said that, though everything was prepared, there was one difficulty and that was of drinking water. Maharaj asked him not to worry about it. The next day Maharaj called Nagpal Varu at sea shore made marks at various points on the land and asked Nagpal to start digging work through men at the marked spots. On digging sweet drinkable water came out from the pits. Surprised with pleasure, Nagpal Varu became an ardent devotee of Maharaj and accepted Kanthi and became a Satsangi. In the past Maharaj when he was known as Nilkanth Varni, was passing through the village Bhattvadar. At that time little girls were playing at the outskirts of the village. When asked for food, little child Jasuba ran home and brought *Bhaat* for Maharaj. "હમકો કોઈ ખાના ખિલાયેગા" Since it took time for the guests to come, Jasuba prays to Maharaj:

"વાલા તમારી વાટડી, જી રે જોવું ધર્મકુમાર જોવું
રસિયા ધર્મકુમાર જોવું, વહેલા આવો ગઢપુરથી
ઓસરીયે ઊભી એકલી, જી રે રસીયા ધર્મકુમાર
રસિયા ધર્મકુમાર, વેલા આવો ગઢપુરથી."

Before the prayer is over, Maharaj is heard to have reached at the outskirt of the village along with Dada Khachar and other guests. Maharaj himself got Jasuba and Dada Khachar

married. When the newly wed divine couple bowed down at the lotus like feet of Maharaj, Maharaj offered a golden necklace to Dada Khachar and a very precious Saree to Jasuba. Jasuba asked the blessings from Maharaj as under :

મારી અવિચળ ચૂડીને રાખજો
મારી ચૂડીનો ભંગ ન થાય, માગું વર નાથજી.
અભય વંશને સુખી રાખજો
પ્રભુ આપજો પુત્રને જોડ, માગુ વર નાથજી

When the marriage rituals were over, Maharaj asked the permission of Nagpal Varu to let them go. When all reached Gadhpur, Maharaj offered Jasuba nuts and Jasuba preserved the nuts. In the course time, Dada Khachar had two sons. One was Mava Khachar and the other was Amra Khachar. At that time Jasuba distributed the nuts between them equally. Since then, the tradition of distributing the nuts in Khachar family has been continuing. Dear devotees, look ! How benevolent Maharaj is! Once Jasuba offered Maharaj *Bhaat* and how generously Maharaj returned the noble deed! So we should also first offer the meals to Maharaj and then we should accept it.

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GANGAMA

- Anandiben Vishnubhai Patel (Gulabpura)

Lord Shree Swaminarayan used to call Gangama as 'Maa'. She was Visnagari Nagar Brahmin of Jetalpur. Gangama was a very strict widow in observing the rules. Her parents belonged to Nardipur. In Yagna, Nanabhai of Nardipur was made the host and therefore it is believed that he might be brother of Gagama. Gangama had one daughter and she was an ardent disciple of Ramanand Swami. A major portion of her house was allotted for temple of Ramanand Swami and there she used to perform poojan and archan of the idol images of Radha-Krishna which are at present beside the throne of Shree Ghanshyam Maharaj in Jetalpurdham. Radha-Krishnadev used to accept all the services and poojan-archan of Gangama. When Shreeji Maharaj came as Nilkanthvarni then after the fast of three days, she had offered the meals. Gangama used to observe the rule of first offering the meals to the guests and thereafter to accept the meals. Shree Hari always insisted that, Gangama should address as her 'Son' and then only he would accept the meals. Shree Hari always used to address Gangama as 'Ma'. She used to prepare very delicious meals for Maharaj and Maharaj liked it very much. Love and affection of Gangama towards Maharaj was unique..

After sitting on Gadi Shree Hari once came to Jetalpurdham. Though Gangama got the news she had no enthusiasm in her heart and she completed the formality and welcomed Maharaj. Omniscient Lord knew this. At night in her dream, Ramanand Swami asked Gangama that Sahajanand Swami himself is the Lord of this World and the Lord of Akshardham. Listening to these words, Gangama repented. The next day she went inside and brought a cushion, which Ramanand Swami used and offered it to Maharaj. Day by day pleasure of Gangama was increasing. Due to such a love of Gangama, Shreeji Maharaj used to grace Jetalpurdham of and on.

With a view to construct a temple, other saints broke down the house of Gangama. Gangama started abusing Shree Hari and the saints. All people got together. There was a *Sanyasi* jealous of Maharaj. He instigated the people to convince Gangama to register a complaint against Maharaj and Maharaj should be behind the bars. Listening to this, Gangama ran after the Sanyasi holding a brick in her hand. The Sanyasi ran away from the place.

From this incident, one can understand, how deeply Gangama would have been cherishing love towards Maharaj and the saints! Poets, writers, Kathakar have tried to measure the love of Ganga but they could not. There is lion's contribution of Gangama for Satsang in Jetalpurdham. She was always eager to remove the suspicions and doubts of people about Maharaj and the Sampradaya. As and when Shreeji Maharaj used to perform Yagna then Gangama was in charge of the kitchen part of it. Even today, house of Gangama is there in Jetalpurdham which reminds the devotees of Gangama and Shreeji Maharaj in Satsang.

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AN INCIDENT OF LIFE OF SADGURU BRAHMANAND SWAMI

- Kanani Puriben Bhagwanbhai (Kharva)

Once Maharaj was sitting in the Sabha. He was not in mood and therefore did not call anybody in the Sabha. all the saints and Kathi Darbars were also in a desolate mood.

Brahmanand Swami and Sura Khachar were very joyous and funny personalities and they tried their level best but could not make Maharaj happy. Then Brahmanand Swami took the form of a lady-Sanyasi and came to Maharaj, She looked at Maharaj and went to the Sabha of the ladies. Motiba Jivaba, Rajba etc. ladies devotees tried to stop her but she did not stop. All the saints stood up on their seats. There was chaos everywhere. The noise of the saints reached to Maharaj. But Maharaj recognized Brahmanand Swami and laughed a lot. When Maharaj asked her where was her Thaker, she replied that he was not in good mood on that day. All laughed a lot when they recognized Brahmanand Swami. Thus, Brahmanand Swami removed the desolate and unhappy mood of Maharaj. So funny and creative was Brahmanand Swami.

Bhakti Mata

'Bhakti' means devotion
'Mata' means mother

Bhakti Mata is the Mother of our beloved Shri Ghanshyam Maharaj. In Kaushal desh (Uttar Pradesh), there is Makhoda Ghaat, and on the northern direction of Makhoda Ghaat, there is a small village called Chhapaiya. She took birth in Chhapaiya on Kartak Sudi Punam on Wednesday in V.S 1798. Krishna Sharma and Bhavani were her parents.

People living in Chhapaiya started to have instant godly thoughts soon after Bhaktimata's birth. They felt the urge to do bhajan bhakti and started holding utsavs in their households. Since the day she was born and as the days went on prosperity of all kinds improved at Krishna Sharma's house. She was constantly engrossed in God's devotion and as she grew up other people in Chhapaiya looked up to her as they saw her strong faith towards god. They even started to calling her by the name of "Bhakti".

The brahmin/Jyotish who came with the proposal for Bhaktimata's marriage saw Bhaktimata and said " Bhakti? What a beautiful name...beautiful and pure as the river Ganges". He also stated "What a glow/tej, I salute to the one who glows". He then explained to Krishna Sharma that your daughter is herself a form of devotion and even the Lord bows down to the power of devotion. Bhaktimata was married to Dev Sharma (Dharmadev) who later stayed in Chhapaiya with her.

During her life especially after the marriage and after having her first son Shri Rampratapji, Dharmadev and Bhaktimata faced a lot of difficulties in life. They had to move from Chhapaiya to Ayodhya and also to remote areas to attain peace and harmony. At times, there was no food and even proper clothes to wear, but despite this, Bhaktimata kept the family together. She would feed Rampratap and Dharmadev and was last to consume food, if any was left. Even though going through these atrocities, she was calm, never lost control and always kept herself in boundaries of Dharmadev's wishes. Bhaktimata had innocent and loving character.

When Ghanshyam Maharaj was about to be born to Bhaktimata, her physical appearance became extremely divine and all the atrocities disappeared. Dharmadev and Bhaktimata again returned to Chhapaiya and spent their days in happiness, contentment and devotion. Ghanshyam Maharaj was born on Chiatra Sud naum of V.S 1837 at 10.10pm. It was evident from divine aura visible around the face of the child that he was the Supreme Almighty.

One day Bhaktimata was feeding her milk to Ghanshyam Maharaj on her lap and when finished, bhagwan yarned and opened his flower like mouth. Bhaktimata saw the whole cosmos including the 14 Lokas, Shiv, Brahma, Vishnu, Indra and all the stars including the Sun, Moon and seven oceans. She saw all the heavenly abodes. Bhaktimata felt extremely overwhelmed once she received this divine darshan and her eyes were filled with tears of happiness and she cuddled him.

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

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

सत्संग समाचार

News And Notes From
Shri Narnarayandev Desh

AHMEDABAD REGION

Deep-Pragatya in Shree Swaminarayan temple, Soja

With the directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and inspiration of Sadguru Swami Haricharandasji (Kalol) and under the guidance of Shastri Swami Purushottamprakashdasji (Nana P.P. Swami), *Akhand Deep Pragatya* was celebrated. Devotee Shri Bhikhabhai Kalidas Amtharam Patel (U.S.A) was the host of the festival. Mahant of Kalupur temple Shastri Swami Harikrishnadasji lighted the Deep on the pious day of Vasant Panchmi in the pious company of the Lord Shree Narnarayandev in Shree Swaminarayan temple, Kalupur temple, Ahmedabad. He also flagged off the Pada-yatra of about 400 Haribhaktas. When Pada-yatra reached village Soja, H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj performed aarti and blessed the whole village.

On this occasion, all the villagers render the services of Rupees five lacs for '*Dharmakul Vandana Mahotsav*'. Mahant Shastri Swami Harikrishnadasji, Sadguru Mahant Swami Devprakashdasji (Naranghat), Nana P.P.Swami and Sadguru Swami Haricharandasji etc. saints had remained present on the occasion and inspired the devotees.

(Kothari Naranbhai J. Patel)

Tridinatmak Gyan-Yagna Parayan in Gavada village

With the directions and blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and inspiration of Mahant Swami of Ahmedabad Shastri Swami Harikrishnadasji, Mahant Swami Devprakashdasji (Narayanghat) and Mahant Shastri Swami Nana P.P. Swami, Shrimad Shikshapatri Bhashya Tridinatmak Parayan was organized from 30/01/2009 till 01/02/2009 on the occasion of Patotsav of the temple. Shastri Swami Ramkrishnadasjim Shastri Swai Chaitanyswaropudasjia nd Shastri swami Abhayaprakashdasji were the spokespersons of the Parayan. H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj graced the occasion on 01/02/2009 and performed Patotsav aarti of Thakorji and blessed the whole Sabha. Haribhaktas performed Darshan of the deities, Acharya and availed the benefit of Kathamrit and Darshan of Annakut at last availed the benefit of Maha Prasad. On this occasion services of Sadugur Swami Suryaprakashdasji and Brahmchari Shri Rajeshwaranandji were inspirational.

(Naranbhai B. Patel)

Celebration of 2nd Patotsav in Shree Swaminarayan temple, Vihar (both the temples)

With the blessings and directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj and with the inspiration of Mahant of Ahmedabad temple, Sadguru Shastri Swami Harikrishnadasji, Mahant Swami Devprakashdasji (Naranghat), Mahant Shastri Nana P.P. Swami and Sadguru Swami Suryaprakashdasji, Shodashopchar Abhishek of Thakorji was performed on 15/02/2009 by H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and Patotsav was celebrated. In the Sabha organized on the occasion, the hosts of the Patotsav devotees Shri bahechardas Umeddas patel (gantudiya) family Shri Ganeshbhai, Shri Amrutbhai, Shri Shivrambhai, Shri Kashirambhai and Shri Vishnubhai performed poojan of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and obtained His blessings. After inspirational speeches of the saints, the whole Sabha was blessed by H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj. All the *Bhaktajans* availed the benefit of *Darshan* and *Mahaprasad*. on this occasion H.H. Shri Gadiwalashri had blessed all the ladies devotees. *(Kothari J.K.Swami)*

Celebration of 1st Patotsav in Bhimpura temple

With the blessings and directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and inspiration of Mahant of Narayanghat Shastri Purushottamprakashdasji (Nana P.P. Swami) from 04/02/2009 till 08/02/2009 Shrimad Satsangibhushan Panchanh parayan was organized on the occasion of Patotsav of Shree Swaminarayan temple, Bhimpura. Sadguru Shatri Swami Suryaprakashdasji (Multi temple) was the spokesperson of the Parayan. H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj graced the occasion on 06/02/2009 and had blessed the whole Sabha. On 08/02/2009, H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj had performed *Patotsav* of Thakorji and concluding aarti of Parayan was performed. In the Sabha organized on the occasion Mahant of Ahmedabd temple Shastri Swami Harikrishnadasji and Nan P.P. swami had delivered inspirational speeches. Thereafter H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj blessed the whole Sabha.

In the memory of Akshar Nivasi devotee Shri Chaudhari Dalsangbhai Virsangbhai and Cheharben Dalsangbhai, their family had availed the benefit of being the host of and had performed poojan-aarti of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and had obtained the blessings. On this occasion services of Brahmchari Shri Rajeshwaranandji, Shastri Swami Ramkrishnadasji and Sadguru Swami Suryaprakashdasji were inspirational.

(D.B.Chaudhary)

Invocation of idol images in Shree Swaminarayan temple, Bakrol (Buzarg)

With the blessings and directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and inspiration of Mahant of

Jetalpur temple Shastri Swami Atmaprakashdasji and Sadugur Shastri Swami Purshuttamprakashdasji (P.P. Swami) and on completion of construction of temple, from 15/02/2009 till 17/02/2009 Shrimad Satsangibhushan (part-1) Tridinatkam Parayan and Shri Hariyag were organized on the occasion of invocation of the idol images. The young Shastri Swami Bhaktinandandasji (Guru P.P. Swami) was the spokesperson of the Parayan. On 16/02/2009, Shobhayatra of Thakorji was also organized.

On 17/02/2009 Samaiya of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj was performed by the saints and the devotees. Thereafter H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj performed invocation ritual of the idol images in the newly constructed temple and thereafter concluding *aarti* of *Yagna* and *Annakut aarti* was performed. Then H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj graced the *Sabha* and performed concluding *aarti* of *Katha*. The devotee Shri Keshavlal Maganlal family (Bostan) was the chief host of the occasion, who had performed aarti of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and had obtained his blessings.

Accepting the invitation of the ladies devotees H.H. Shri Gadiwala had graced the occasion and had blessed them all. In the Sabha organized on the occasion, Mahant Shastri Swami Atmprakashdasji (Jetalpur), Sadguru Shastri Swami Harikeshvdasji, Shastri Swami Nauttamprakashdasji (Vadtal), Brahmchari Swami Rajeshwaranandji, Mahant Swami Guruprasaddasji (Kankaria), Vishwaprakash Swami, Shastri Vrajvallabhdasji and saints of Kanbha Gurukul had delivered the speeches. Member of the Parliament of Ahmedabad Shri Harinbhai Pathak had also come for Darshan.

Under the guidance of P.P. Swami, Mahant of Jetalpur Shri K.P. Swami and other saints had rendered beautiful services. Services of the devotee Shri Godhanbhai Patel was very inspirational throughout the festival who was blessed by H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj.

At last addressing the Sabha, H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj directed all the devotees to keep ardent faith in Satsang and explained the importance of the Lord Shree Narnarayandev and blessing the whole Sabha. Thousands of devotees touched the lotus-like feet of Dharmvanshi and availed the benefit of Mahaprasad. *(Mahant K.P. Swami)*

Shrimad Satsangibhushan Panchanh Parayan on the occasion of Patotsav in Mokhasan

Graced by the touch of the lotus-like feet of Shree Hari at village Mokhasan, with the blessings and directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj, H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj and with the inspiration of Mahant of Ahmedabad temple Saduguru Shastri Swami Harikrishnadasji and Mahant Shastri Nana P.P. Swami (Naranghat), from 03/02/2009 till 07/02/2009 Shrimad Satsangibhushan Panchanh Parayan was organized.. Sadguru Shastri Swami Ramkrishnadasji (Koteshwar Gurukul) was the spokesperson of the Parayan. Devotee Shri Lilaben daughter and devotees Shri Somabhai, shri Rambhai and Shri Ghanshyambhai sons of Akshar Nivasi devotee Shri Tribhovandas Kishordas were the hosts of the occasion.

On 07/02/2009, H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj graced the occasion and performed 19th Patotsav of the temple and 18th Patotsav of temple (ladies) and Annakut aarti. At night beautiful cultural programme was organized. The whole Sabha during the programme was conducted by Shastri Swami Chaitanyaswarupdasji. Many saints from various places had graced the occasion. The host family had rendered very good services for construction of Shree Swaminarayan Museum and '*Dharmakul Vandana Mahotsav*' and obtained the pleasure of Dharmkul. *(Kothari Govindbhai Patel)*

H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj graced the village Vadu for '*Dharmakul Vandana Mahotsav*'

On 24/02/2009 H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and the saints graced the village Vadu. Thereafter H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj performed Sandhya Aarti of Thakorji and graced the Sabha organized on the occasion. Mahant Shastri Swami Harikrishnadasji and Shastri Swami Narayanvallabhdasji etc. saints delivered speeches in connection with '*Dharmakul Vandana Mahotsav*'. At last the Sabha was blessed by H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and the whole village had rendered the services in '*Dharmakul Vandana Mahotsav*' and had obtained the blessings of *Dharmakul*. *(Pravin Patel)*

Shree Swaminarayan temple, Kankaria

In the pious presence of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj and with the inspiration of Mahant Swami Guruprasaddasji and Swami Anandprasaddasji, an inspirational Sabha of Shree Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal was organized wherein Saduguru Shastri Swami Nirgundasji and Mahant of Ahmedabad temple Sadguru Shastri Swami Harikrishnadasji had delivered inspirational speeches. At last H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj had blessed the whole Sabha and He was very much pleased with the occasion.

Khichdo Mahotsav in pious Dhanurmaas

Here during the pious Dhanurmaas, on 13/01/2009 H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj had graced the temple on the occasion of *Dhoon* organized at 6.30 o'clock in the morning. All the devotees were offered Prasadi of *Khichadi* and *Kadhi*.

(Parshad Narottam Bhagat)

***Dhoon-Katha* in pious *Dhanurmaas* in Himatnagar**

With the directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, during the whole pious Dhanurmaas, Shree Swaminaryan Dhoon was organized in Shree Swaminarayan temple, Himatnagar. Along with *Japa-*

yagna Mahant Swami Shastri Harijivandasji had narrated Katha of *Shiksha-Patri Bhashya* during the whole pious *Dhanurmaas*. Everyday the number of the devotees was increasing. All the devotees had rendered their services for *Dhoon* and *Balbhog Prasad* to Thakorji. Poojari Swami Ajayprakashdasji was performing *Shangaar* to Thakorji and Sadguru Dharmapriyadasji Swami had rendered services for preparing Prasad. *(Jasubhai S. Patel, Himatnagar)*

Invocation ceremony of idol images in new temple Rajpur (Kadi)

Graced by the touch of the lotus-like feet of Shree Hari at village Rajpur, with the blessings and directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj, H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj and with the inspiration and guidance of Shastri Swami Narayanvallabhdasji of Vadnagar Gurukul, from 11/02/2009 till 13/02/2009 invocation ceremony of idol images Shree Hari was performed in newly constructed Shree Swaminarayan temple, Rajpur. Devotee Shree Patel Kantilal Parshottamdas (at present U.S.A) was the chief host of the invocation ceremony. Kothari Shri Patel Amaratbhai had taken great pains in supervision of the construction work of the temple. On 13/02/2009 at 8.00 hours in the morning, H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj graced the village Rajpur and his *Samaiya* was performed in the form of procession by the villagers with great fervour and enthusiasm. Thereafter H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj performed invocation ceremony of the idol images and concluding ceremonyof Shri Hariyag organized on the occasion. On this occasion Shrimad Satsangibhushan Parayan was also organized. Shastri Abhishekprasaddasji of Vadnagar was the spokesperson of the Parayan. Sadguru Swami Anandjivandasji of Ahmedabad temple had rendered good services during the whole occasion. After the concluding ceremony of the Katha, Sadguru Shastri Swami Harikrishnadasji of Ahmedabad temple had explained the outline of Satsang of Rajpur village. All the devotees had performed poojan of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and had obtained the blessings. Devotees Choksi Narayanbhai Keshavlal, Patel Ramanbahai Keshavlal and Patel Gandalal Dhandas had rendered the services on the occasion. At last H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj had praised the deep rooted faith in Satsang of the devotees of Rajpur residing in the village as well as in abroad and had blessed them.

Laxmi Vivah in Swaminarayan Gurukul, Kanbha

With the blessings and directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and inspiration of Shri Dhyani Swami on Sunday 01.02.2009 Laxmi Vivah Mahotsav was organized in Swaminarayan Gurukul, Kanbha. H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and H.H. Shri Motagadiwala Shri had graced the occasion. H.H. Shri Gadiwala Shri granted the ladies devotees benefit of *Darshan* and similarly H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj also granted the devotees the divine benefit of *Darshan*.

H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj Shri prayed the Lord Shri Narnarayandev for the recovery of the health of Shri Dhyani Swami and that he may inspire the *Haribhaktas* for services in the constructions work of Shri Swaminarayan Museum.

On this occasion devotee Shri Darshanbhai Vasantbhai Mehta of Ahmedabad was the host of Thakorji and devotee Shri Anilbhai H. Parekh family of Sikandarabad had availed the benefit of being the host of the Goddess Mataji. All the devotees had availed the divine pleasure of *Maha Prasad*.

(Gordhanbhai V. Sitapara)

VAKTAPUR PRANTIJ DESH

With the blessings and pleasure of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and with the blessings of H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj all the *Haribhaktas* of the village had performed *Shri Swaminarayan Mahamantra Dhoon* on 25.01.2009 in the pious *Dhanur Maas*. About 1500 villagers had celebrated grand *Shakotsav* on the day. *(Kothari Keshabhai Patel)*.

SHRI SWAMINARAYAN TEMPLE, BALASINOR

With the blessings and directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj and inspiration of Mahant Swami Harikrishnadasji of Ahmedabad Temple and Shastri Swami Vishavswaroopdasji and with the co-operation of the *Haribhaktas* of the Temple, *Saptakundi Maha Vishnu Yaag* was organized. The ritual of the *Yagna* was initiated by H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj. The Chief Host of the *Yagna* was the devotee Shri Navinchandra Occhavlal Kacchiya and Co-host devotee Shri Narendrabhai Babubhai Kacchiya. The *Sabha* organized on the occasion was blessed by H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj.

On the pious day of *Vasant Panchmi Panchamrut Abhishek* was performed to Thakorji and reading of *Shlokas* and *Shri Shiksha Patri* was also performed. A procession of Thakorji was taken out in the whole village. A beautiful *Shakotsav* was also organized on the occasion. Shastri Vishwaswaroopdas had insisted all the *Haribhaktas* to render their services in '*Dharmakul Vandana Mahotsav*'. A large number of devotees had participated in the festival. *(Ramesh Bhagat)*

SHRI SWAMINARAYAN TEMPLE, NAWA VADAJ

On 08.01.2009 a grand *Shakotsav* was performed by H.H. Shri Mota Mahraj in front of Shri Ghanshyam Maharaj in Shri Swaminarayan Temple, Nawa Vadaj. The Chief Host of the occasion was devotee Shri Alkaben Ranjikant Patel and co-host was devotee Shri Kalidasbhai Jagjivanbhai Soni. Devotee Shri Shambhubhai had made beautiful arrangement. *(Kothari Shri Nawa Vadaj)*

SHRIMAD BHAGWAT SAPTAH PARAYAN IN BALVA TEMPLE

In Balva Village – the place of *Prasadi* of Shreeji Maharaj, with the blessings and directions of Shri H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and guidance of Mahant Shri Shastri Swami Ghanshyamprakashdasji, Shrimad Bhagwat Saptah Parayan was organized from 18.12.2008 to 24.12.2008 by Shri Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal. Akshar Niwasi Devotee Shri Shantaben Chhaganbhai Nathuji family and devotee Shri Joitiben Ramaben Nathuji family were the hosts of the *Parayan*. Sadguru Shastri Swami Narayan Vallabhdasji was the spokesperson of the *Parayan*. During the course of *Katha*, festivals like Shri Krishna *Janmotsav* and Shri Rukmani *Vivah* were celebrated. This occasion was graced by future Acharya of our Sampradaya H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj 108 Shri Vrajendraprasadji Maharaj. Bal Ghanshyam Sanskar Mandal had offered forty five various types of garlands made of Chocolates, Dry Fruits and *Amla* etc. H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj had performed *Aarti* of Thakorji in Temple and performed concluding ritual of *Katha* and had blessed *Haribhaktas*. All the *Haribhaktas* had availed the benefit of *Darshan*. *(Shri Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal, Balva).*

In the memory of Akshar Niwasi Baldevji Motiji Hinduji Chaudhari, Devotee Shri Bharatbhai Chaudhari, Balva, had rendered the services of *Thal* to Shri Revtiji, Shri Baldevji and Shri Harikrishna Maharaj in Jetalpur and meals to the saints.

Celebration of 14th Patotsav in Chanasma

On 15.01.2009 Patotsav of Thakorji was performed by H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj in Shri Swaminarayan Temple, Chanasma. First of all H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj had performed Patotsav *Aarti* of Thakorji in the Temple and then he graced the *Sabha*. The host of the Patotsav devotee Shri Hargovanbhai Ishwardas Patel family had performed *Poojan, Archan* and *Aarti* of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj. In the *Sabha* organized on the occasion Shri P.P. Swami (Jetalpur), Shastri Chandraprakashdasji (Biliya) etc. saints have given beautiful information about the construction of Shri Swaminarayan Museum and had explained the importance of *Dharmavanshi* Acharya Maharaj. On behalf of the Haribhaktas of Chanasma Village, Kothari of the Temple had offered to H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj a cheque of Rs. 1 lac for construction work of Shri Swaminarayan Museum. At last, H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj Shri had blessed all the devotees. A number of devotees from the nearby villages had attended the *Patotsav*. Services of Kothari Babubhai Patel and other devotee were inspirational. *(Modi Govindbhai)*

PARAYAN IN NEW VANZAR TEMPLE

With the blessings and directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and inspiration of Sadguru Swami Swayamprakashdasji, Shrimad *Satsangi Jivan Parayan* and *Shakotsav* were organized from 23.01.2009 to 25.01.2009. Devotee Shri Rajubhai Lalitbhai Thakkar was the host of *Parayan* and *Shakotsav*. Mahant Swami and other saints had graced the occasion and had talked about the teachings. All the *Haribhaktas* availed the benefit of *Darshan* and services. *(Ramanbhai Patel)*

SHRI SWAMINARAYAN TEMPLE, PATDI

With the blessings and directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and in view of *Dashabdhi Vishabdhi Patotsav*, from 04.02.2009 to 08.02.2009 *Shrimad Satsangee Jivan Panchanah Parayan* and *Hari Yaag* were organized in Shri Swaminarayan Temple, Patdi. Shastri Swami Ramkrishnadasji was a spokesperson of the *Parayan*.

On 07.02.2009 H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and H.H. Shri Mota Gadiwala Shri graced the occasion. H.H. Shri Mota Gadiwala had performed *Patotsav* and *Annakut Aarti* in Temple (ladies) and had blessed the *Sabha*.

On 08.02.2009 H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and H.H. Shri Gadiwala had graced the occasion. All the *Haribhaktas* of the village had performed *Samaiyu* in the form of procession.

H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj had performed *Aarti* of Thakorji in inner Temple and had also performed *Aarti* of concluding ceremony of *Katha*. After the inspirational speeches of *Brahamnistha* Saints, H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj had blessed the whole *Sabha*. The *Sabha* was conducted by Kothari Swami Krashnavallabhdasji. *(Naranji Talati)*

MULI DESH

Celebration of Samaiya of Vasant Panchmi and Rangotsav in Muli Temple

H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj had performed *Shodashopchar* and *Patotsav Abhishek* of Shri Radhakrishnadev Harikrishna Maharaj at 6.30 in the morning on the pious day Maha Sud – 5 *Vasant Panchmi* in Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Muli. About more than 40,000 devotees have availed the benefit of divine *Darshan*.

On the occasion of *Vasant Panchmi* Sadguru Shastri Swami Ghanshyamprakashdaji had narrated a beautiful *Katha*. Mahant Shastri Swami Narayanprakashdasji Swami Krishnavallabhdasji and Shastri Hariom Swami of the Jetalpur Vadi had delivered speeches suitable to the occasion. The host family had performed *Poojan, Archan* and *Aarti* of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj and had obtained the blessings at 12'O clock in the noon H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj performed *Rangotsav* with the saints and *Haribhaktas*. There was a huge crowd of the devotees who had availed the benefit of divine *Darshan*. Mahant Shastri Swami Hari Prakashdasji

had conducted the *Sabha*. Sadguru Swami Jagatprakashdaji, Vishnuswami and Chandu Bhagat had rendered the services for the residential arrangement of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj.

(Shastri Aatmaprakashdas, Kothari Muli)

CELEBRATION OF GREAT SHAKOTSAV IN SURENDRANAGAR TEMPLE

With the blessings and directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and inspiration of Sadguru Mahant Swami Premjivandasji on Sunday 18.01.2009 a grand *Shakotsav* was organized in Shri Swaminarayan Temple, Surendranagar. Shastri Swami Dharmajivandasji (Morbi) had narrated *Katha* on the occasion. In the morning group *Mahapooja* was performed with great zeal. About 8000 devotees had availed with the benefit of *Shakotsav* which was beautifully covered by the print media and was printed in the local newspapers. Under the guidance of Shastri Swami Premvallabhdasji, all the arrangements were made by Shri Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal. *(Shailendrasingh Zala)*

SHRI SWAMINARAYAN TEMPLE, LIMBDI

With the blessings and directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj 19th *Patotsav Abhishek* of Balswaroop Ghanshyam Maharaj was celebrated by Akshar Niwasi Amrutlal Keshavlal Modesara Family. *Shakotsav* was also organized on the occasion Mahant Swami had explained the importance of Shreeji Maharaj and *Dharmakul*. All the devotees had availed the benefit of *Darshan* and *Prasad* of *Shakotsav*. *(Sadhu Vandanprakashdas)*

OVERSEAS

Shri Swaminarayan Temple Itaska, Chicago (I.S.S.O.)

With the blessings and directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj, activity of *Satsang* is going on very nicely under the guidance of the saints in our Chicago Temple.

Tulsi Vivah : On Saturday 15th November 2008 *Tulsi Vivah* was organized in the temple. Devotee Shri Thakorbhai and Jayshreeben Patel, devotee Shri Vinodbhai & Leelaben Shah, devotee Shri Ashishbhai Narottambhai Patel & Rinkuben, devotee Shri Ranchhodbhai Patel and Jassiben Family were the hosts of the occasion. Shastri Swami Hariprakashdasji, Shri J P. Swami (disciple of Mahant Swami of Ahmedabad Kalupur, Temple) and Poojari Swami Shantiprakashdasji had taken great pains to make the occasion of success. Shri Dineshbhai Joshi had got performed the ritual of *Tulsi Vivah* very beautifully even the hosts of the next year were also registered on the occasion.

Makar Sankranti – Uttarayan : *Makar Sankranti Utsav* was celebrated in the temple with great joy and pleasure. Shastri Swami Hari Prakashdasji and Shri J P Swami had explained the importance of *Daan – Punya* very beautifully along with the principles of the scriptures devotees had availed the benefit of divine *Darshan* of Thakorji decorated with kites and threads. In the *Sabha* organized on the occasion devotees had rendered their services of *"Gupta Daan"*. A number of devotees had availed the benefit of being the hosts the occasion. Services and inspiration of the saints provided great strength to the *Haribhaktas* to render their services.

On Maha Sud – 13, 07.02.2009 a grand *Shakotsav* was celebrated. Shastri Swami had explained the importance of *Shakotsav* in the *Sabha* organized on the occasion. There were a number of devotees present on the occasion. With the blessings of the Lord Shri Narnarayandev H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj, a large number of devotees participate in every festival organized by the temple. All the three saints render their services very devotedly.

(Vasant Trivedi, Chicago)

SHRI SWAMINARAYAN TEMPLE, FLORIDA (I.S.S.O.)

With the blessings and directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, a grand *Shakotsav* was celebrated in front of Thakorji in our Shri Swaminarayan Temple, Florida. On the pious day of *Vasant Panchmi, Poojan, Archan* and *Aarti* of *Shiksha Patri* were performed. Poojari Shastri Swami Viveksagardasji explained the importance *Vasant Panchmi, Shikshapatri* and *Shakotsav* very lucidly in the form the *Katha*. Day by day activity of *Satsang* has been increasing and the devotees are availing the benefit of divine Darshan.

(Nalinbhai Patel)

SHRI SWAMINARAYAN TEMPLE, COLONIA

With the blessings and directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj, *Shri Swaminarayan Mahamantra Dhoon* was performed from 5.45 to 6.25 in the morning during the whole pious *Dhanur Maas*. Thereafter, the saints used to grand benefit of *Katha* to the devotees. On the pious day of *Uttarayan* special *Dhoon & Bhajan* were performed. On the pious day of *Ekadashi Akhand Dhoon* was also organized. On 7th February 2009 a grand Shakotsav

was celebrated whose benefit was availed by the *Bhakta Janas* Mahant Swami had explained the importance of *Shakotsav*. On the pious day of *Vasant Panchmi Poojan, Archan & Aarti* and a group chanting of 212 *Shlokas* of Shikshapatri was performed in our temple. With the blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, activity of *Satsang* is going on very smoothly. *(Pravinbhai Shah)*

WASHINGTON D.C. (I.S.S.O. CHAPTER)

On Saturday 17th January, 2009 a *Satsang Sabha* was organized from 4.30 to 8.30 in Paris Hall of Grace Evi Scowell Church, Ilkreads, Merryland. In the *Sabha Dhoon, Bhajan* & reading of *Katha Vachnamrit* – 273 were performed. With the benefit of *Katha* who was rendered to telephone by K P Swami from Hyustan. Furthermore, Thal and in group were performed to Thakorji. On Saturday 31st January, 2009, on the pious day of *Vasant Panchmi, Satsang Sabha* was organized in the evening on 5.15 to 6.15 in the house of the devotee Shri Dimpalbhai Kanubhai Patel (Aslaliwala). First of all *Poojan, Archan, Aarti* and reading of 212 *Sholakas* of *Shikshapatri* were performed. Thereafter, reading of *Katha* of *Vachnamrit* – 273 and *Thal* and *Aarti* were performed. With the blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, activity of *Satsang* has been increasing day by day. *(Kanubhai Patel)*

Shrimad Bhagvat Saptah in Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Black Town Sydney, Australia.

With the blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, 7 days Bahgwat Saptah Parayan would be organized in Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Black Town, Sydney Australia from 05/04/2008 to 11/04/2008. Bhagwat Acharya Shri Yogendrabhai Bhatt would be the Spokesperson of the Parayan. The whole programme would be organized in the pious presence of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj.

AKSHARVAAS

Ahmedabad– Devotee Shri Shantaben Poonambhai Patel, (Narwala) passed away to Akshardhaam (31.12.2008) while chanting the name of Shri Hari.

Makakhad– Devotee Shri Bhikhabhai Mohanbhai Chaudhri, (Leader of Shri Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal) passed away to divine abode of God (03.01.2009) amidst the chants of Mahamantra.

Balva - Devotee Shri Chaudhri Jaisangbhai Varvabhai passed away to divine abode of God (01.01.2009) while chanting the name of Shri Hari.

Kharwa (Muli Desh) - Devotee Shri Hareshkumar (the son of devotee Shri Trikambhai Bhikhabhai Patel) passed away to divine abode of God (15.12.2008) while chanting the name of Shri Hari.

Visnagar - Devotee Shri Hasmukhbhai Shankarbhai Darji (father of the devotee Shri Jayeshbhai Darji, member of Shri Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal) passed away to Akshardham (20.01.2009). while chanting the name of Shri Hari.

Kankariya - Devotee Shri Gopalbhai Ratibhai Patel, member of Kankariya Shri Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal passed away to Akshardham (08.01.2009) while chanting the name of Shri Hari.

Ahmedabad- Devotee Shri Rukshamaniben [the wife of devotee Shri Kantilal Mohanlal Patel (Himatnagarwala)] passed away to Akshardham (28.01.2009) amidst the chants of Mahamantra.

Vadodara - Devotee Shri Nirmalaben [wife of the devotee Shri Harshadbhai Jethalal Shah (nephew of devotee Aksharniwasi Bhalja Sir)] passed away to Akshardham (Maha Sud – 8, 03.02.2009) amidst the chants of Mahamantra.

Bapunagar Approach (Ahmedabad)- Devotee Shri Haribhai Tapubhai Chauhan (age 57 years) passed away to Akshardham (30.01.2009) while chanting the name of Shri Hari.

Mendarda – Devotee Shri Bharatbhai Bhulabhai Rathod (Age 18 years) passed away to divine abode of God (30.01.2009) amidst the chants of Mahamantra.

Kaliyana – Devotee Shri Madhuben Kamabhai Butia passed away to Akshardham (19.02.2009) while chanting the name of Shri Hari.

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Shastri Swami Ghanshyamprakashdasji narrating *Katha* in Jamiyatpura in the pious presence of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj.



Student-saints of Shree Swaminarayan Sanskrit Mahavidyalaya, Jetalpur, performing cultural programme in the pious presence of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj of both North and South Pith and H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj.



H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj performing *Khichdo-Utsav* with Mahant Swami Kankaria temple, in pious *Dhanur Maas*.



The hosts of *Patotsav* of the Lord Shree Narnarayandev performing *aarti Darshan* of all the three Maharaj.



H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj initiating '*Akhand Jyot*' in Soja temple.



H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj performing *Yagna* ritual in Balasinor temple.



The hosts of *Patotsav* and *Rangotsav* in Muli



H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj granting *Darshan* in *Sabha*

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nak of Akshar Nivasi devotee Shri
shavlal Amichanddas Patel family-
village Mokhasan rendering
vices for colour work of Rangmahol
Shri Ghanshyam Maharaj.



H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj, H.H. Shri Rakeshprasadji Maharaj (Vadtal), H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj and H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj granting *Darshan* in *Sabha* of Patotsav of the Lord Shree Narnarayandev.

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



શ્રી નરનારાયણ દેવ

પ.પૂ. આદિ આચાર્ય
શ્રી અયોધ્યા પ્રસાદજી
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મહોત્સવ

ધર્મકુળ વંદના મહોત્સવ



પ.પૂ. આદિ આચાર્ય
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તા. ૧ થી 3 જૂન ૨૦૦૯ જેઠ સુદ ૯ થી ૧૧ સુધી

સ્થળ:- ગણેશ હાઉસીંગ કોર્પો.લી., સરખેજ-ગાંધીનગર રોડ,
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-:આયોજક:-
શ્રી સ્વામિનારાયણ મંદિર, અમદાવાદ-૧

Praful Kharsani