SHREE SWAMINARAYAN

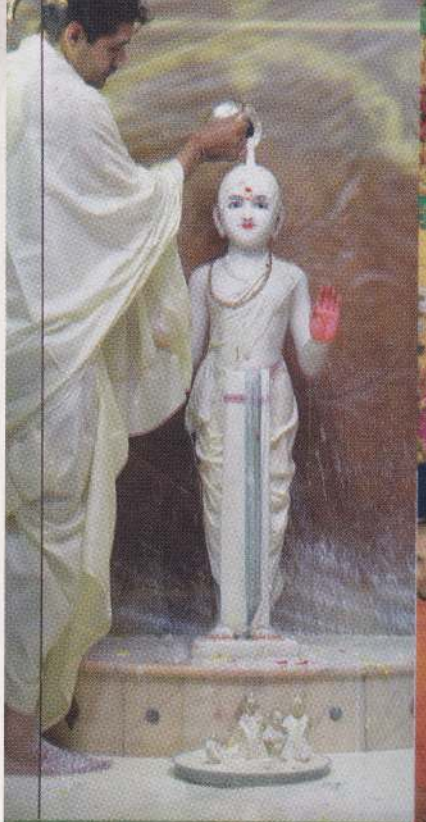
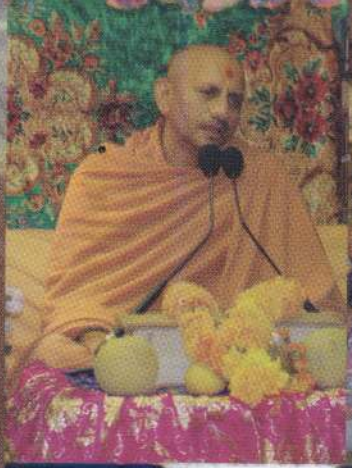
શ્રી સ્વામિનારાયણ

AUGUST 2005

પ.પૂ.ભાવિ આચાર્ય લાલજી
શ્રી વ્રજેન્દ્રપ્રસાદજી મહારાજશ્રીનો
૮ મો પ્રાકટ્યોત્સવ



પ્રકાશકઃ- શ્રી સ્વામિનારાયણ મંદિર, અમદાવાદ-૧ Publisher:- Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Ahmedabad-1





1. H.H. Acharya Maharajshri presents 'Dashabdi Mahabhishekam' to Lord Ghanshyam Maharaj at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Willsden Lane, U.K. 2. S.G. Mahant Swami Shastri Nirgundasji conducts Katha Satsang at Willsden Lane temple, U.K. 3. Kothari Swami Swayamprakashdasji presents the prasadi foot-prints of Lord Shriji Maharaj to H.H. Acharya Maharajshri at the special Sabha held at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Haridwar (U.P.) 4. H.H. Acharya Maharajshri concludes holy-fire at the Haridwar temple. Devout host Shri Lakshmanbhai B. Raghwani accompanies His holiness. 5. H.H. Acharya Maharajshri presents invocation Annakut-Aarti of to God at Haridwar (U.P.) temple.



Founded in 1998 A.D. By H.H. Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharajshri, Shri Narnarayandev Diocese.

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SHREE SWAMINARAYAN
श्री स्वामिनारायण

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EDITORIAL

Ashadha has come with rain to give pleasure to the farmers and the devotees. The devotees have celebrated Guru-Purnima during these rainy days by presenting Poojan-Archan and cash gifts to their Guru - H.H.Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharajshri. H.H. Lalji 108 Shri Vrajendraprasadji Maharajshri has graced the occasion on behalf of His holiness and blessed his devout disciples. The sacred four months – Chaturmaas – is the opportune time to please Shri Hari by Vratta, Niyama, Poojan and Devotion. The devotees are very happy and contented by doing devotion and devotional worship in this rainy days of Chatur-maas. Farmers, animals and birds too are happy and contented due to timely and sufficient rain. Monsoon rain usher in pleasure and happiness. The satsangis are happy in this season by surrendering absolutely at the benign refuge of Shri Hari. God's pleasure is divine and everlasting. Lord Swaminarayan Bhagwan has asked us to practise at least one Niyam from the eight, that He has prescribed in Shloka 77-78 of Shikshapatri :

विष्णोः कथायाः श्रवणं वाचनं गुणकीर्तनम् ।
महापूजा मन्त्रजपः स्तोत्रपाठः प्रदक्षिणाः ॥
साष्टाङ्गप्रणतिश्चेति नियमा उत्तमा मताः ।
एतेष्वेकतमो भक्त्या धारणीयो विशेषतः ॥

These special observances are constituted of the following eight practices :

1. Reading religious scriptures.
2. Listening to religious scriptures.
3. Reciting songs in praise of His divine qualities.
4. Performing Maha Pooja of Lord's image by bathing Him with five substances, namely milk, curd, butter oil, honey and sugar.
5. Chouting His mantra.
6. Reciting His hymns.
7. Performing Pradakshina (going round the image of God in a clockwise direction.)
8. Prostrating (Dandvat Pranam) before God's image.

Practise atleast one Niyam for the self-benediction. This shall be the easiest means for the emancipation.

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



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

July-2005

8. Graced 'Tulsi Bungalows' of Shri Narayanbhai Nathubai Chaudhari, Sola Gam, Ahmedabad.
   Graced Maha-Pooja held at Koshalendra Garden Jhula (Shri Amritbhai S. Patel, Vihar), Shahpur, Ahmedabad.
10. Graced the residence of Shri Bhadreshbhai A. Darji, Narayanpura, Ahmedabad.
    Graced marriage ceremonies and blessed the groom – Shri Nileshsinh Sisodia (son of Shri Virendrasinh Sisodia, Cashier, Shri Kalupur Temple), Ambawadi, Ahmedabad.
13. Graced Mahapooja hosted by Shri Harikrishnabhai K. Jani, Sabarmati, Ahmedabad.
14. Inaugurated Yagyashala at Narayanghat Temple. Graced presence at the sacred-threads ceremonies held at Narayanghat temple.
15. Laid foundation of the prayer-hall and inaugurated Shri Tejendraprasadji B.Ed. College at Abu Road, Rajasthan.
18-29. Religious tour of U.K. Celebrated annual Patotsava at willsden lane Swaminarayan Temple and graced the temples and the assemblies at the various places in London – U.K.
30. Graced presence at the Birthday Celebrations organized in benign presence of Lord Narnarayandev, Ahmedabad to celebrate the 8th birthday of H.H. Lalji 108 Shri Vrajendraprasadji Maharajshri.

DHARMADA - DONATION

Lord Shri Swaminarayan Bhagwan, by His specific order, directs all the devotees to do Dharmada (one tenth or one twentieth part of the earnings). This Dharmada needs to be paid to Lord Shri Narnarayandev or Shri Lakshminarayandev, in whose territory the Satsangi lives.

The donations made to an educational institution, Gurukulam or to a temple can not be treated as a Dharmada, Houscholder devotees are required to do Dhamada at the Kothar office of Shri Narnarayandev, against an authentic receipt. Dharmada may be donated in cash or kind.

Our Satsang is spreading far and large with tremendous growth and development.

The devotees – Satsangis working elsewere and abroad, may be in need of proper guidance. Hope, this clarifies the postion and duty.

The devotees, desiring to donate some extra besides statutory 'Dharmada,' may contact Acharya Maharajshri for an objective guidance in regard to a proper institution, Gurukul, temple building or social service-projects. Such guidance will add value in your additional donations.

Thus spake H.H. Acharya Maharajshri

Complied by : Gordhanbhai Sitapara

What the worldly wise do when they pleased to their relatives ? What they do to their relatives ? What they give to their relatives ?' Most often, they admire their relatives for their favour and help. In some cases, they admire them by a token gift. But such relations are short lived and bound rigidly in the limits of time and space. Those who are good at present and friendly in behaviour, may turn into a foe in days to come and those who are not friendly these days, may become good friends and welwishes in distant future ! Thus the ways of the world are strange and unpredictable, unsteady and short lived. It is well said by a psychologist, that it is imparative at the first hand to make a person good friend to get him as a foe in later days. Our enemies were the best friends of us in beginning of our relationship with them. Thus the relations changes frequently in the world and such changes too last for a short period. Eternal and everlasting relations are between God and soul. God's relations are eternal and most pleasurable. God's pleasures are divine and eternal. Worldly pleasures are most insignificant in relation to the pleasures of God. The soul enjoying divine pleasures, finds the worldly pleasures very small and negligible. Nand Sant sings, "વ્હાલા એ રસ ના ચાખણહાર, છાસ તે નવ પીવે રે લોલ.". Those who have enjoyed the divine pleasures of God, would not like to have ephemeral pleasure of the world.

Now the point is, what God gives, if he pleases to a soul ? God gives good thoughts, benedictory thoughts. The thoughs and the ideas have no end, they continue to overflow our mind. Shriji Maharaj has asked once to his devotees, 'Oh Saints ! Have the thoughts stormed your mind ?' There were many, who have experienced most of ten such storms of the thoughts. Many of them have thought most often to have more laddus or to eat more or to postpone a visit of the temple, but how could they confess it in presence of Shri Hari ? Therefore, they answered collectively, 'Maharaj ! We have nothing more to think, after receiving you. We are not thinking of anything.' Muktanand Swami, took then a handful of soil in his clasped fist and then he opened his palm and prayed, 'Maharaj ! The thoughts that invade my mind are much more in number than the number of these fine earth particles.' Maharaj said, 'Mukatanand Swami is true in his statement.' There is constant bombarding of the thoughts. Some are good, some are normal and some are bad. Holy fellowship and holy company ignite benedictory thoughts.

One may think to do the one hundred japa ! and at the next moment a thought rushes to him to do only one japa ! Good or virtuous company brings in good thoughts-virtuous thoughts and sinful company generates ill thoughts – harmful or distructive thoughts.

Live in virtuous company. Live in healthy environment. Chant holy names of Maharaj. Listen to Katha-Varta , Satsang. Attend satsang sessions. These are the means to strengthen virtuous thoughts. There should be a steady burden of the benedictory thoughts. Don't allow the world to steal your virtuous thoughts. Maharaj asks us to be

(Cont. on page 12)

SPECIAL OBSERVANCE ! SPECIAL GRACE !

- Shatri Hari Swami

A lofty bun of hair adorns his head and a purse with shaligram nestled at his chest adorns his neck. In his lotus like hands he holds a rope of grass and a Kamandalu befitting a celibate saint. He has a thick stick of sacred palash wood and a Japa mala. On his shoulders rests a container to collect alm and a pocket book that contained essence of the religious scriptures. This bare footed celibate boy walks firmly on the earth to quench the thirst of the mother earth separated from her children. Mother earth receives him by spreading green carpet of grass.

The majestic celibate boy walks firmly towards north Himalaya, crossing deep valleys, dense forests and ferocious wild cats like lions, tigers, wild boars, wolves, bears, jackals and leopards. He walks fearlessly through them and walks beyond the black rocks.

There he saw magnificent mount of Shvet Giri – white like milk and snow ! He walked beyond the mount and came near the end of his journey. The direction in front of him was blocked by a pair of the mountain peaks. Both the peacks stood close to each other. It looked that they were deliberating among themselves and water was rushing forcefully from the cave, formed between them. Celibate walked facing force of the strong current and reached to the Pulha Ashrama nestled in snow at the fourteen thousand feet hight of the Himalaya. He bore pains and torments for long many days and nights to grace this peaceful place – the sacred land of Pulah Ashrama.

Friends ! Do you know, who was he ? He was none other, but Lord Swaminarayan Bhagwan ! In his celibate form he dwelled there as an ascetic to under go special observance of the four sacred months (Chatur maas). He did there penance by raising his hands skyward and standing firm on one foot. It was most difficult penance. The ascetics and the Rishis amazed by such great penance of a celibate boy. It was an unbelievable wonder for them. Such penance was not possible for a human being. No man can do it. They believed him God – Supreme Lord.

His parents – Dharmdev and Bhaktimata – accompanying him in their divine form, were much worried for their son. He was become slim and weak physically by the penance :

"દેહ દુર્બળ દેખ્યું ન જાય, રતિ રૂધિર નહી તનમાંય,
અંગો અંગની જે સર્વે નાડી, તે તો થઈ રહી છે ઉઘાડી."

(His body looks feeble and frail. His bloodless veins have become visible on his skeleton like person.)

Shri Swaminarayan Bhagwan did such penance at the Pulah-Ashram. He did it to preach us, he did it for our pleasure. Shri Hari did Tapa of the Chatur-maas and left the hermitage after the penance.

Friends ! Bhagwan has performed the penance for the Chaturmaas. What are we supposed to do ? Don't worry, if you can't do it at Pulahashram. At our home, we can do much of such penance. Do some penance and practise some obsevance to please Shri Hari.

Shri Swaminarayan Bhagwan has ordered us to practise special observance during the sacred period of Chaturmaas. He has ordered it specifilly in his Shikshaptri. He has listed for us the eight observances and we - the devotees of him-need to practise them within our personal capacity. Practise it with faith and turst, Remember it well to practise at least one observance during this Chaturmaas. Special observance brings in special favour of Shri Hari.

'I Belong to Lord Sahajanand'

- Atulbhai Pothiwala

Naja Jogia of the princely state of Jasadan was a humble devotee of Shriji Maharaj. Though a king, he was polite, moderate and simple in his public and personal life. He was a native of Bhonyara. He walked leisurely everyday, through the streets of his village to establish a good rapport with his fellow villagers. Everyday we made two or three Satsangis through his ethical dialogues with them. He used to preach the glory and majesty of Shri Hari. Holy fellowship was his life and Lord Shriji Maharaj his soul.

The Satsang of Naja Jogia became a topic of discussion at the royal court. King Vasur Khachar was a cruel and merciless monarch, harshly punishing his subjects, even for a minor crime like stealing a coin or a handful of food grains. The punishment was uniform and very harsh for all the crimes – minor or major – to arrest the offender, crush his knee and throw him away in a dark, deep and dingy pit to die with the inmates !

King Vasur Khachar summoned Naja Jogia to report to the royal court. Humble devotee Naja Jogia came to the court and sang devotional praises of omniscient Lord Swaminarayan Bhagwan.

King Vasur Khachar roared in anger, when he heard the name of Shri Swaminarayan. He angrily barked, 'Naja ! Listen to me. If your Swaminarayan is God, he should give me his darshan before sunrise. If he fails to come in front of me, I will crush your knees and throw you in to the pit to die with others.'

Naja Jogia prayed, 'Oh King ! Oh Durbar ! Maharaj is not here in this region. He is far away in Gujarat.' King thundered back, 'He may be in Gujarat or beyond the seas but God is not bound by time or space. Omniscience and omnipresence are His divine virtues. Therefore, you will be punished, if your Swaminarayan fails to come here. Is it clear ?' Naja Bhagat politely consented, 'Oh Durbar ! It doesn't matter, whether you spare my life or not, but know it well that Lord Sahajanand is my God and my Supreme Master.'

Naja Bhagat came back to his house. He lost his night sleep and his appetite. He was worried in great anxiety. He was not worried for himself, but for Lord Sahajanand. That sinful Durbar was challenging the glory and majesty of Shri Hari by his nasty mischiefs. He sat steadly in the lotus postion and began constant Japa of 'Shri Swaminarayan.'

He prayed mentally to Shri Hari, 'Oh Maharaj ! Oh My Lord ! I don't care for my life, but your name and image should not be tarnished by such wicked souls. Oh Maharaj ! Oh Lord ! please come at the earliest and shut the mouth of sinful people by your blissful presence.' Those days Shriji Maharaj was gracing the region of north Gujarat. He was dwelling at Visnagar to favour his faithful devotees. Shriji Maharaj woke up suddenly at midnight and readied himself for an emergency visit. Mulji Brahmchari too woke up suddenly and saw Shriji Maharaj. He prayed, 'Maharaj ! It is midnight. Where are you going at such an odd hour ?' Maharaj said in a hurry, 'Brahmchari ! Don't ask me any thing, My devotee is in trouble. His image shall be spoiled, if I do not reach him before sunrise.'

Shri Hari had run long ago to save his devotee - elephant Gajendra, when he prayed to Shri Hari to save him from the killer jaws of the crocodile. Bhagwan had resued his devotee and consigned him to his divine abode. In a similar way, Shri Hari ran again at midnight to stand by the words of his faithful devotee – Naja Bhagat. Shri Hari ran swiftly in his breathtaking journey through the bushy

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Path of God is the Path of Valour

- Sadhu Shrirangdas

The valour and bravery, as are a must in our householder world, in similar way the path of devotion can not be treaded without the valour or bravery. Bhagwan Swaminarayan has said in Vachanmrit ; Devotees of God need to live like a virtuous married woman and should do devotion bravely. S.G. Brahmanand Swami sings :

"હરિજન સાચા રે જે ઉરમાં હિંમત રાખે."

(Those are the true devotees, who are brave at their heart.)

Those who aspire to do devotion should not be scared of society. Hurdles and obstacles can not scare a true devotee in his virtuous resolute. Path of God is the path of valour :

"હરિ નો મારગ છે શુરાનો, નહીં કાયરનું કામ જોને."

(Path of God is the path of the braves, cowards can not tread it.)

Here is an anceint episode. The story is about a brave devotee, who is ready to give his life for God and devotion. By wearing a Kanthi (rosary of finest beads), one can not become a true Satsangi but the truth, firmness, trust, faith and valour in a devotee make him a true satsangi.

This is a true story from Saurashtra, a real incident between a father and a son. Since ancient time of Prahlad, Devotees have bore pains and torments for the sake of devotion and devotional service. Lineage of Hiranyakashipu still exists with us like before. Where ever lives a devotee, God will be there with him. God always lives with his devotes. Unfortunately, the demon too follows the presence of God, to torment the devotees by their presence.

A farmer was living in a small village. The saints were used to visit the village to conduct satsang sessions. A farmer's son liked the devotional ways of the saints. He liked satsang and devotion. He liked to do service of the saints. He lived in holy company of the saints and like a true satsangi, he received Panch Vartman. Thus the boy was used to wake up early in the morning to do poojan, Archan and devotional service of God. He was doing contant Japa of "Swaminarayan" along with his routine duties.

The farmer disliked the devotional ways of his son. He scolded his son "What is this nonsense ?" "Stop chanting Japa." "I don't want this nuisance." "Stop Japa and devotion." The son was very firm in his resolute. He refused to stop it, 'Father ! I can't stop it. It is part of my life.' Father threatened him to kill, but devout son refused to stop the devotion.

The son was very useful in the farm related works. He was tilling the field, driving the cart, harvesting the crop and like a good labourer he shared with love in the farm related assignments. Father too was well aware of his contribution.

Once they went to the farm to irrigate standing crop. There was nobody at the farm except these two. The son was doing his work while chanting holy names of "Swami Narayan..... Swami Narayan." The boy was engrossed in his work and devotional singing. Meanwhile, father came to him to inspect his work. The son was busy in his work with the chants of "Swaminarayan." Father seized him by his neck and shouted, "Stop this nonsense." "Father ! You are free to kill me. I can not stop devotion. It is my life and breath." Father dragged him to the bullock cart, tied him by neck to the yoke at the place of the bullocks and rocked the cart to hang him. Cruel father hanged him to death ! Devout son sacrificed his life for devotion. True devotion instills valour and bravery.

Japa : Touchstone For The Soul

- Dr. Paresh Gajjar

विशेषनियमो धार्य श्चातुर्मास्येऽखिलैरपि ।
एकस्मिन् श्रावणे मासि स त्वशक्तैस्तु मानवैः ॥

All my disciples shall undertake special religious observances during the four months of monsoon and those who are incapable shall perform them at least during the month of Shravana.

विष्णोः कथायाः श्रवणं वाचनं गुणकीर्तनम् ।
महापूजा मन्त्रजपः स्तोत्रपाठः प्रदक्षिणाः ॥
साष्टाङ्गप्रणतिश्चेति नियमा उत्तमा मताः ।
एतेष्वेकतमो भक्त्या धारणीयो विशेषतः ॥

These special observances are constituted of the following eight practices :

1. Reading religious scriptures.
2. Listening to religious scriptures.
3. Reciting songs in praise of His divine qualities.
4. Performing Maha Pooja of Lord's image by bathing Him with five substances, namely milk, curd, butter oil, honey and sugar.
5. Chonting His mantra.
6. Reciting His hymns.
7. Performing Pradakshina (going round the image of God in a clockwise direction.)
8. Prostrating (Dandvat Pranam) before God's image.

I highly value these eight practices, so all my disciples shall observe any one of them devoutly during the sacred period of monsoon.' *(Shikshapatri : 77, 78)*

Shri Swaminarayan Bhagwan asks his disciples to observe special ethical duties listed in shloka 77 and 78, during four months of monsoon. The obervance should begin with Dev Shayani Ekadashi to end it on the Dev Uthi Ekadashi day. The eight practices listed in shloka 77, 78 by Shri Hari are the best among the religious observance. A desciple of Shri Hari may observe any one from them during the sacred period of monsoon.

Merge yourself in names of God, to destroy your sins. Japa burns our sins, improves our mind and directs our mind towards the ethical duties. It withdraws our mind from the sinful acts. Japa removes our habit of committing sins. The sinful acts can not be stopped by reading the books and desires can not be destroyed by a reading of the books but a constant Japa of the name of Shri Hari, destroys our sins and desires. Japa improves the quality of our life. It improves our nature and destroys the sins of the past births.

Devotion becomes a pleasurable service, when we do japa with the selfless love. Set aside all your household works and do Japa of the God's name. Some people are used to do Japa after their householder works. They assign priority to the householder world and Japa trails far behind at the end of those works. Assign top priority to Japa and do Japa in beginning of your daily life. Form a regular habit of doing Japa. Love for devotional service will rise at your heart by the Japa of God's names, and the soul shall be benedicted by the grace of God.

God manifests himself by a Japa by his devotee and removes our inner darkness and ignorance. The mind merges in rhythm of the Japa and God manifests himself in front of the devotee. Japa wields immense power and brings the devotee in proximity of God. God takes good care of the devotees dedicated to Japa – devotion. Do, therefore, the Japa of the blissful names of God. Do Japa in morning and repeat it at night before sleep. Cook the family meals while doing Japa of God's name. The food cooked in such manner, nourish virtues and devotional love, when one consumes such meals. Lord Narayan manifested himself at the bank of Narayan Sarovar by the Japa performed by Prachetas. The japa is most

powerful among the means of self benediction and eternal pleasure. The soul should surrender absolutely at the refuge of God and should do constant Japa to realizes God in His human form. Misfortune and adverse time can be averted by a Japa The stars and the planets have to change their course by the power of a Japa. Devastating misfortunes could be averted by perfoming Japa. A true aspirant should do more Japa for a better concentration. God can be realized by the thirteen crore Japas.

Two rules are compulsory for the Sadhaka engaged in a Japa : (1) absolute celibacy and (2) not to have any thing from the others. One can receive ultimate knowledge by performing Japa. Japa purifies our mind and the ultimate knowledge blossoms in such a pure mind. The Japa is the only means for the self-emancipation in adverse time of Kali-Yuga. Japa-Mantra is always fruitful even if chanted in the bed before deep sleeps. It would protect the soul against the inner enemies. God has blessed us with the nectar of Naam-Japa, to shield us against the poison of the world. The soul is not to renounce the world unless he loved and liked God by chanting blissful names of God. Where ever Japa, God has to manifest there. Naja Jogia did japa in his adverse time, and Lord Shri Hari granted his prayer from a distance of three hundered miles. Shri Hari came to him in no time, supported the devotee and kept his promise.

Do Japa to destroy accumulated sins of the past births. Japa destroys past sins, purifies our mind and concentrates it steadily in devotion of God.

The lamp placed at the threshold, illuminates the house and the courtyard – the inner and outer side of the house. Japa is the threshold and Hari-Naam is the lamp. Place the lamp at the threshold to illuminate inner and outer world. Let it light forever.

(Cont. from page 6)

'I Belong to Lord Sahajanand'

country side and ran bare foot without any break. He reached the house of Naja Jogia and knocked at him door.

Naja Bhagat rose from the meditational trance, walked to the door and saw Shri Hari standing before him ! Drops of perspiration were shining on His lotus like face. His eyes were showering mercy and compassion to favour his devotee. His shoeless feet were injured by sharp pebbles and thorns and blood drops were oozing out from the wounds. Naja Bhagat paid obeisance with a hearty prayer. Maharaj said, 'Bhagat ! Come on ! I am here to see Durbar before sunrise.

The first rays of the rising sun were just to descend. Shriji Maharaj and Naja Bhagat came to the royal palace of Vasur Khachar.

Vasur Khachar looked at Shri Hari. Shri Hari consigned him to an instant meditation trance. He visited infernal lokas and received punishments from yama in that visit of hell. Vasur Khachar realized his sins when he came back to the waking state. He prayed to Maharaj and repeatedly saluted to relieve him from the burden of the sins. Maharaj said, 'Durbar ! It is not good for a king to harshly punish the people who have commited minor offences to fulfil their basic needs. Be kind to others. Love your subjects and sustain them as an ideal family head.'

Maharaj blessed his devout follower Naja Bhagat and graced his dwelling. Naja Bhagat cried on seeing the wounds on the foot sole of Shri Hari. He begged for a pardon 'Maharaj ! You have put yourself to great inconvenience to support your humble devotee. Maharaj ! Please forgive me for my fault.' Maharaj said, 'Naja Bhagat ! Feel free, there is nothing to be shy of. You have surrendered to me with absolute love. It is my duty to support you.'

Maharaj had thaal at the place of Naja Bhagat and went back to Visnagar.

GLORY AND MAJESTY OF GURU-PURNIMA

.- Amritbhai Patel

The festivity and celebrations are an integral part of Indian culture. Indian culture is unique and the best among the civilizations and cultures in the world. As per Indian culture and tradition, the auspicious full moon day of Ashadha (Ashadhi – Purnima) is celebrated as Guru Purnima. The event and the celebrations are rooted back in ancient history. Guru Purnima is the grand meeting between a Guru and his disciples. A disciple worships his Guru with poojan – archan and humble gifts and rededicates himself to his Guru. This is the day of spiritual enlightenment and thanks giving. To do poojan-workship of Guru, means to forget gross matter and its alluring elements - the world to submit himself absolutely at the lotus feet of the preceptor – Acharya. Guru-poojan means to merge himself in image of Maharaj – Lord Shri Hari.

If we look at the history of Guru-Purnima, back in the ancient time, Bhagwan Veda Vyasa – the Guru of the living beings – was born on auspicious Ashadhi – Purnima. The birthday of Rishi Veda Vyasa is celebrated as "Guru Purnima" and therefore, the event is known as "Vyasa Purnima", in many regions of India. Bhagwan Veda Vyasa has educated the mankind through his preachings and the scriptures. He is the visionary creator of the Hindu civilization and culture of the greater India. He was the true Guru of Indian society and therefore, the Vyasa-Pooja was treated as "Guru – Pooja" and Gurus ware honoured most religiously on that auspicious day. This ancient tradition is practised most religiously since ancient time to this date. The disciples find themselves fulfilled by presenting Poojan – Archan to their Guru, they feel bit relieved of the obligations of their Guru.

GLORY AND MAJESTY OF THE GURU

A Guru is a most convenient medium to attain God. Guru is like a lighthouse illuminating our path of self benediction. Guru bestows everlasting peace and pleasures. He is a guide to solve complications on the path of meditation and worship. He is a good companion holding our hands in our adverse time. He relieves our soul from the darkness and leads it to the light, to the eternal truth. He gives us the nector of life to resque us from the dark hole of the death and puts us on the path of salvation. He frees us from the shackles of Maya to enjoy eternal pleasure of God.

WHY NEEDED A GURU ?

'Guru-Seva' is the birth-place of all Good fortunes. Lord Rama has spent whole life in service of his Guru – Vashishtha. Lord Krishna has served like a good disciple at the hermitage of his Guru – Sandipani. He has collected there the fire wood, cleaned the utensils, manned the cows, and had worked at the flower-beds of the hermitage. As the monarch of Dwarika, Lord Shri Krishna has pulled by his shoulders the chariot of his Guru – and had welcomed him at his palace by washing lotus like feet of his Guru. Our swaminarayan Bhagwan has served intensively at the hermitage at Loj to please His Guru – Ramanand Swami. He has awaited there day and night in anxiety to have a darshan of His Guru. Like the fragrance in a flower and the sweet juice in a sugarcane, Bhagwan too dwells eternally in a true Guru. By following the orders of his Guru, a disciple follows the orders of God. The fruitful reward earned by serving a Guru, equals the rewards

earned by such service to Supreme Lord.

The religions and the sects have accepted the Gurus as a most effective medium for the Moksha. Success is not possible without a Guru. Right from the common skills like driving or a decent catering, or the spiritual fields like Yoga, philosophy and theology, one need equally in all those fields a proper Guru to learn and progress well in the study. The path of the ultimate knowledge and self benediction can not be treaded without a proper Guru. It is impossible without a Guru. Therefore, a Guru is a must for our progress and spiritual ascend.

ATTRIBUTES OF A TRUE GURU

Shriji Maharaj has described in his Vachanamrits, the attributes of a Guru. They are not cultured or affected by the wealth or women. They are firm and steady in observance of penance and self-discipline.. Though living in the state of pure consciousness, they do devotion and believe firmly in God in human form. They do darshan of omnipresent God dwelling in all beings-living and non-living. Compassion and mercy are their cardinal virtues. They possess the thirty attributes described in Shrimad Bhagwat and practise firmly the five Vartmans. The service to such a Satpurusha is like serving Supreme Lord. Darshan of such a Satpurush is like darshan of God. As the lotus flowers are not available at all the ponds, such true saints – satpurushas are not available in all the saffron robes. There may be many talking about God, but there are very few who hold God at their heart.

GURU AND HIS DISCIPLE

Shriji Maharaj quotes in his Vachanamrit (G.L. 2) a dictum of Shvetashvatar Upanishada : Love and affection with which you are attached to the God in heaven, if bestowed on God manifesting here on the earth, or on the brahmanised Guru as prescribed by Shruti. You will attain that knowledge which can keep you detached from mundane objects and inspire you to enjoy abundantly the bliss of God. The religious books, though a source of knowledge, impart only information in absence of a Guru and such information can not serve the purpose. Only a Guru preaches time tested knowledge and real life experience to his disciple. Guru guides his disciple on the path of meditation and meditational concentration. Guru acts like a good guide and a true companion at each progressing step of his disciple. On other side, a good disciple is duty bound to his Guru – preceptor. He is bound ethically to discharge duties towards his Guru. Like an ideal son, he serves obediently for the whole of his life by treating his Guru like his father. He shares whole heartedly the pains and pleasures of his Guru.

Surrender your self by your mind, speech and actions. Life is very precious, don't waste it in ephemeral sense objects. Invest and utilize it to receive ultimate knowledge of God. Mind too needs to be surrendered to our Guru. Our mind and thoughts should be at benign refuge of our Guru. Our mind should act at the will of our Guru. It should not act at our free will. A disciple can not walk or progress on the path salvation, without submitting his mind and thoughts to his Guru. Total surrender, total submission brings oneness between preceptor and his disciple. Guru will not hasitate to order anything to such a disciple, and disciple too shall be at ease in following the orders of his preceptor – Guru.

OUR GURU : H. H. ACHARYA MAHARAJSHRI

'Guru Purnima' was celebrated here on dt. 21-7-05 at Shri Swaminarayan Temple,

Kalupur, Ahmedabad, in benign presence of Lord Narnarayandev Harikrishna Maharaj.

Thousands of the devout followers have paid hearty obeisance to their Guru – H.H.Acharya Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharajshri and future Acharya – H.H.Lalji 108 Shri Vrajendraprasadji Maharajshri, in graced presence of Lord Narnarayandev Harikrishna Maharaj. The event was celebrated in a grand way by the saints and devotees, amidst auspicious chants of vedic humns. H.H. Acharya Maharaj 1008 Koshalendraprssadji Maharajshri received Poojan – obeisance and blessed his devotees during his religious tour.

This satsang – holy-fellowship - is most fortunate among the sects. Lord Swaminarayan Bhagwan Himself has chosen the Dharm Vanshi sons to act as our Guru – supreme preceptor of the sect. Satsangis need not search elsewhere, for their Guru. Guru-preceptor- is already here to lead and guide them on the path of self-emancipation. Entire Satsang tries at the best to sat aside their householder and social duties on auspicious Guru-Purnima day to pay personal obeisance to their Guru. They come invariably to the temple at Kalupur, Ahmedabad to receive personal blessings of their Guru. Stay connected to this Holy-fellowship and establish oneness with your Guru by your faith, trust and dedicated service.

(Cont. from page 4)

Thus spake H.H. Acharya Maharajshri

swift and spontenous in the works related to religion. This does not mean that we should act swiftly only in donating money, but such swiftness includes all ethical duties, such as service of God, Dhun sessions, temple services, holy–company, service to the needy and indisposed ones etc. etc. If got any chance to serve, join it quickly without a second thought.

It is good to be related – it is good to be connected to the business, family and relations, but main connection should be with God. It is not necessary to renounce the world for the main connection, stay connected with the main without any break anywhere. Increase the weight of your devotion. It shall be your real balance. Maintain this balance by your devotional service. The temple and the holy–fellowship are the means to do devotion. Merge yourself in satsang and scriptures.

Guruprasada Swami has suggested a good thing to us. We should use this temple for our emancipation. We should spare a few minutes everyday to have face to face and silent dialogue with -God at the temple. We should look inwardly in each such sitting. Temple is a centre for the devotion and devotional service. Therefore, visit this place daily. Share your pleasures and pains in company of God. If tired of householder duties, come to the temple for a while and relieve yourself from the burden of the householdership. You may come to the temple with your office work. There are many, who are used to come to Kalupur Temple with their official assignments ! There is no harm in it. God is our guardian – God is our father. Worldly wealth can not be a permanent balance, but the devotion is. The wealth of devotion is everlasting wealth, even after death, it accompanies us. Satsang is our wealth and majesty. Omnicient Supreme Lord resides here at the temple. I pray to Lord Narnarayandev to bless you all with devotional pleasure.

(Installation ceremony of the idols of God at Odhav Hari Mandir)

The Satsang : OCEAN OF VALOUR

- Atulbhai Pothiwala

Gundali is a small village in region of Kathiawar. A devout Kathi-family of Ranbai and her two sons – Mamaiyo and Meraman, were living at this place. Devout lady Ranbai brought the satsang from her parents side. Her sons, were beginners in satsang and loved their mother heartily. Mother Ranbai was teaching to them the virtuous life style of a true satsangi.

The saints of Swaminarayan Bhagwan came once to this place to conduct Katha-Satsang. They were starving since last three days. Ranbai knew about the visit of the saints. She was very happy to welcome the saints. She did darshan of them and prayed them to grace her house. Mamaiyo and Meraman were at the field to farm the land. She received them with due respect and arranged clean seats for them. Ranbai was very sad when she knew they have starved for the threedays. She was very sad for them. She prayed them to have meals at her house. and got arranged sufficient amount of wheat flour, pulle, rise, green vegetables, butteroil and spices. The saints cooked meals to arrange Thaal for Lord Thakorji. They presented Naivedyam to Shri Hari and served prasadam meals for themselves. As soon, they tried to have it, stormed there a large group of violent youths holding sticks in their hands.

'You mendicants ! Stand up and go away from here.' They barked at the saints. "Get out from this village" they shouted repeatedly. Saints stood silenty in front of that violent group. Invaders continued to shower anger in their dirty language, but the saints preferred to keep quiet.

A group of Kathi darbar was having an open session at the public place to have opium. Kathi Darbar was heading those tipplers. One among the addicts said, 'Do you knew ? The saints of Swaminarayan have came to our village. They conduct Satsang at the places like us and encourage people to give up addiction of wine, opium and tobacco. They have come here to stop addiction of opium. My Lord ! Durbar ! We can not live without opium. Those saints of Swaminarayan will stop it by their satsang.' Durbar lost his temper when he knew about the activities of the saints. He shouted in anger, 'We don't want those Sadhus. Throw them out of the village.'

As were ordered by Durbar, that large group was come to the saints to throw them out. They hit the saints mercilessly. The saints requested to them. 'We will leave this immediately. Please allow us to have the meals. We have starved for last two days.'

Devout lady Ranbai came from her room and said to the villagers. 'Brothers ! These saints are my guests. They are our guests. Guests are like God. Don't insult them.' Villagers said, 'Old lady ! Shut your month and lock yourself in the room. Don't muddle up, otherwise you too shall be punished like them.'

They desacreted the meals by throwing soil in it. The saints left their seats and emptaied their soiled plates. They left the house with the chants of Shri Hari's blissful names. Old lady Ratanbai lamented for irreligious act of the villagers, but the demonic villagers hacked and chased the saints to the outskirts of village.

These saints were capable to rock the universe by a movement of their eyebrows, but they maintained solace and patience to practise the preachings of Lord Swaminarayan Bhagwan. They were ordered by Shri Hari to shower hearty blessings even to the souls hurling bad words. They bore, hitting and insults and chanted blissful hymns of Swaminarayan. After the chase the group of the addicts came back and goined the session of the tipplers. They had opium and smoked chilam of tobacco and Ganja.

Her sons – Mamaiyo and Meraman – came back from the filed. As they stepped in the house, they saw their mother weeping at the threshold of her room. Old lady said in tears to her sons, 'My Sons ! The starving saints have gone back from house without having meals. They asked her, 'Mother ! Why are you crying ? Please tell us.' Mother said, 'My son ! Our saints were come to our place. They sat there under that roof and cooked meals, after a long starvation of two days. Village Durbar had hacked them away by hurling bad words and hitting by sticks and stones.'

Her sons could not bear the agonies of their mother. They consoled her and said, 'Mother ! Please order to us, what should we do ?'

Devout lady Ranbai, looked like another form of Parvatiji. She orders them firmly, 'Go and punish the culprits. Don't spare him even if he is Durbar of this village. Teach them a lesson for their misadventire.'

An Indian lady invokes self respect and asks her sons to rise upto the occasion. The sons too, follows the orders of their mother. Armoured with the available weapons they rushed to the street and came to the open session of the tipplers. Durar and his handymen were zooming in intoxication of opium.

Mamaiyo and Meraman looked like the another form of death. They rushed to the session and roared like a lion, 'Who have tormented our saints ?'

Durbar said, 'I have tormented them !'

Mamaiyo jumped like a lion's cub and killed him by his spear. Blood gushed out of the wound. Durbar lost his life on the spot. Shocked courtiers fled away to protect themselves.

Both the brothers came to their mother and said to her, 'Mother ! We have killed Durbar for his misbehaviour with our saints. Now tell us, what should we do ?' Mother said, 'Now, we don't want to live here. Go away to Gadhada. Shriji Maharaj dwells there. Durbar's army will chase you to kill. Be quick. Run away from this place.'

A large group of one hundred guards chased them immediately. They challenged them to settle the account. Brave sons faught like a brave soldier and killed many of them. They too were injured seriously.

Mamaiyo and Meraman breathed their last to have blissful darshan of Bhagwan Swaminarayan. All knower, Omnipresent Supreme Lord Swaminarayan Bhagwan manifested himelf in front of them, and offered water by his lotus like hands. Bhagwan said, 'Mamaiya ! Meraman ! You have sacrificed your life for my saints. If you want to live, you may have long and happy life and if you wish, may take you to my divine abode.'

Tears of everlasting happiness rolled from the eyes of both the brothers. They prayed, 'Maharaj ! Supreme Lord Himself has come to us to take us to His divine abode. If we survived, we will die later at any time and that death may not be as auspicious like this. We had water by the hands of our God and God himself escorts us to the Akshardham. Maharaj ! We don't want to live any more. Please take us to Akshardham.'

The Muktas of Shriji Maharaj came there by the orders of Shri Swaminarayan Bhagwan. Shriji Maharaj blessed the brothers with the divine bodies and escorted them to the divine abode of God.

Shriji Maharaj says, 'If my humble saints harrassed by the demonic souls, and a brave and valourous devotee protects the tormented saint by his selfless favour, I shall be there with the brave devotee to take him to divine abode at the time of his death.'

Brave and selfless devotees - like Mamaiyo and Meraman - receive eternal pleasure of Shri Hari by favouring Satsang.

News And Notes From Shri Narnarayandev Desh

AHMEDABAD REGION

Guru Purnima Celebrations at Shri Ahmedabad Temple

Guru-Purnima was celebrated here in most colourful way in benign presence of Lord Narnarayandev Harikrishna Maharaj and Poojan – Aarti were presented to the Supreme Preceptor of the diocese.

H.H. Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharajshri leads these days the religious tour of U.K. and London to attend annual Patotsava and other religious festivals. H.H. Lalji Maharaj 108 Shri Vrajendraprasadji Maharajshi graced the main event on behalf of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri and received poojan-Archan Aarti from his follower saints and devotees. The vedic rituals of Guru-Pujan were conducted most religiously by the scholar Brahmin priests. Hundreds of saints were come from Ahmedabad, Muli and Bhuj region to pay obeisance to the their Guru. Thousands of devotees from all over Gujarat have benefitted by presenting Poojan-Archan, cash gifts to their Guru. H.H. Acharya Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharajshri was present on this occasion to favour his devotees. Devotees have earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by presenting poojan Archan to His holiness. The devotees stood in endless queue with the due decorum and presented poojan-Archan-obeisance to their Guru.

The events were organized by Kothari Swami and the saints with the due guidance from Mahant Swami. Shri Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandla has earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by extending loudable service at the programmes.

-Vindo Patel

Ahmedabad temple celebrates the 8th Birthday of H.H. Lalji Maharajshri

The eighth descendant heir of Lord Shri Hari, the worthy son of H.H. Acharya 1008 Shri Koshaldendraprasadji Maharajshri – H.H. Lalji 108 Shri Vrajendraprasadji Maharajshri has favoured the Satsang by receiving from them the birthday wishes and special poojan-Aarti. Birthday celebrations were organized by the temple at the renown prasadi Sabha Mandapam in benign presence of Lord Narnarayandev Harikrishna Maharaj.

H.H. Lalji 108 Shri Vrajendraprasadji Maharajshri graced the temple in early morning of the tenth day of the dark half of Ashadha and presented Shangar – Aarti (full dress Aarti) to Lord Narnarayandev Harikrishna Maharaj and Gods. H.H. Acharya Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharajshri graced the occession and accompanied His holiness at the special assembly. Festive Poojan-Aarti were presented to His holiness to wish happy birthday. Rituals of the Poojan-Archan were conducted by scholar Brahmin priests. Janmotsava Kirtans and devotional music were presented by Shri Jayeshbhai Soni and his group. A colourful raas was staged by the scholars of Asarava Gurukul.

Occasional blessed words were delivered by the scholar saints. The saints and devotees were favoured by the Dharmkul with the blessings from H.H. Lalji Maharajshri and H.H. Acharya Maharajshri.

The events were organized by Kothari Swami and Satyaprakash Swami with the due guidance from Mahant Swami. Kothar Staff and Shri Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal have earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by their services.

- Shastri Satyaprakashdasji

Hindolas at Ahmedabad Temple

God dwelling at the temples of Hindu religion rocked everyday in charmful cradles during the sacred period (between 2nd day of the dark half of Ashadha to the 2nd day of the dark half of Shravana) of Hondola Utsava. Beautiful Hindolas (cradles) are constructed from various materials – such as fruits, vegetables, chocolates, currency notes, dryfruits, food grains etc. to please God by rocking his cradle.

Lord Narnarayandev resides at his abode in Shri Swaminarayan Temple, Kalupur Ahmedabad in holy company of Lord Harikrishna Maharaj Dharmdev Bhaktimata. The saints and the devotees are earning pleasure of Shri Hari by presenting charmful Hindolas to indweller Gods. Hundreds of devotees and aspirants are favoured everyday by the blissful views of Hindolas. Hundreds of devotees are earning pleasure of Shri Hari and blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri by hosting these religious events. Kothari Swami, saints and Kothar staff are constrantly busy in coustructing Hindolas under the guidance of Mahant Swami. Devotees and aspirants are requested to have a darshan of the Hindolas at this temple. Similar Hindolas are being presented these days at all our temples in India and abroad. This is an annual festival and it lasts for whole month with different views everyday. All our fellow Satsangis should benefit from this religious celebration. Make it a point to have soulful darshan of Hindola. Rock the cradle of Lord Shri Hari and emancipate yourself. If a daily visit is not possible, make it a point to have darshan on Ekadashi and Poonam days.

- Kothari Dharmprakashdas

Colourful Silk Hindola at Jetalpur Dhaam (6-8-2005 to 3-9-2005)

Lord Revti Baldevji Harikrishna Maharaj dwell here at Jetalpurdham to bless this Satsangi. Colourful silk Hindolas are being presented everyday at the temple with the due blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. The saints and devotees are inspired and encouraged by Mahant Swami Shastri Atmaprakashdasji and S.G. Swami Shastri Purushottamprakashdasji for these Hindola festivities. Thousands of devotees are benefitted by these blissful views.

- Mahant swami Krishnaprakashdasji

Hindola Festival at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir Unza (Brahman Sheri)

H.H. Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Koshalednraprasadji Maharajshri graced the temple on auspicious 2nd day of August and inaugurated month long Hindola-festival. The saints and devotees at this place have earned the blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri by their firm reslute of presenting new Hindola every day between 2nd to 30th day of August 2005. Hundreds of devotees from Unza and nearby places are visiting this temple to do darshan of Hindola-celebrations.

H.H. Acharya Maharajshri inaugurates the Shri Tejendraprasaji B.Ed. College at Abu Road (Raj.)

A splendid educational campus has come into existence at Abu-Rajasthan with the due blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri of Shri Narnarayandev Diocese.

With the due inspiration and encouragement from Kankaria Mahant Swami Guruprasaddasji and Kothari Swami Anandprasadasji, the compus has been developed adjecant to the main road to Mt Abu. This campus at the foot hills of Mt Abu has serene view of hilly region of Mt. Abu. It is two Kilometer away from Abu railway station.

Shri Swaminarayan Ashrama was established here some years back with the

due blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri and the development plams were implemented by the sect to develop a well planned comprehensive educational campus. Besides the Ashrama, Shri Tejendraprasadji B.Ed. College has been commissioned this year to enchance educational activities by training teachers for the various disciplines.

H.H. Acharya Maharajshri graced the occasion and inaugurated school, college, hostel and clinic cum dispensary buildings. His holiness graced the house warming ceremonies and blessed his devout volunteers and saints for their dedicated service. A free clinic cum dispensary has become operative at the campus. The tree plantation scheme was inaugurated on this occasion by H.H. Acharya Maharajshri to promote the idea of greener Abu. S.G. Mahant Swami Shastri Nirgundasji (Ahmedabad Temple), S.G. Swami Shastri Purushottamprakashdasji (Jetalpur Gurukul), Shastri Keshavprasadasji and other saints from Gujarat and Rajasthan Desha were present on this occasion.

H.H. Acharya Maharajshri graced the assembly to bless his devotees. Devotees from Sabarmati and Kankaria have earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by presenting Poojan-Aarti to H.H. Acharya Maharjashri. The assembly was organized at the spacious library-hall of the institution.

The college buildings have been constructed in memory of devotee (Late) Shri Mohanbhai Panachand Gandhi (Delhi wala), The clinic buildings have been constructed in memory devotee (Late) Hasumatiben Vadilal Modi (Fatakada wala) and the funds for the same are donated by Shri Kamleshbhai Vadilal Modi. Devotees and donors were blessed by H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. The vote of thanks was passed by the Mahant Swami of Kankaria temple and senior devotee Shri Shankarbhai Patel. - *Anand Swami*

Shri Swaminarayan Vividh Seva Niketan, Jetalpur (Ahmedabad)

Shri Swaminarayan Gurukul at Jetalpur imparts education in benign presence of Lord Revti Baldevji Harikrishna Maharaj. This ideal Gurukul of Narnarayandev desh diocese operates schools, boarding house, B.Ed. college and P.T.C. college at it's spacious campus, with the due blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. Following are the results of academic year 2004-2005.

1. Shri Swaminarayan Gurukul (S.S.C.E.) : 100%
2. Narnarayan Shastri P.T.C. College
   1st year : 99%
   2nd year : 99%
3. Shri Tejendraprasadji B.Ed. College : 99%

About 1200 students and trainees avail the educational facilities at this Gurukul campus, right from K.G. to P.T.C. and B.Ed. The campus is managed effectively by S.G. Mahant Swami Shastri Atmaprakashdasji and S.G. Shastri Swami Purushottamprakashdasji. H.H. Acharya Maharajshri conveys his hearty blessings to the saints, students, trainees and faculty for their collective endeavour.

- *Dinesh Patel, Principal*

Inauguration of Yagya-Shala at Narayanghat Temple

The Narayanghat area at the bank of Sabarmati is the sacred prasadi of Lord Shri Hari. A splendid shrine of Lord Swaminarayan Bhagwan has been constructed here with the due blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharjashri. Thousands of devotees have been benefitted spiritually by the devotional activities conducted at Narayanghat temple. A need was felt since long to build a large Yagya-Shala at this shrine. A splendid Ygya-Shala has been added in the complex to favour the Satsang. H.H. Acharya Maharajshri graced the shrine on auspicious 14th day of May –

2005 and inaugurated Yagya Shala.

A special Sabha was organized on this auspicious occasion to praise glory and majesty of Shri Hari and the Dharmvansha. H.H. Acharya Mahrajshri graced the Sabha and blessed his devotees. Enlightening discourses were delivered by Mahant Swami Ghanshyamprakashdasji and other saints to explain glory and majesty of this prasadi place. Celibate Brahmin children have received sacred –threads at the new Yagya Shala. H.H. Acharya Maharajshri has conveyed his hearty blessings to the twice-born.

- Sadhu Purnaprakashdas

Narayanpura (Kadi)

(Late) Shri Kishorbhai Jhaverbhai Patel and family have taken good care of the prasadi items received from the sect. The devout family has desired now to submit the prasadi itmes to H.H. Acharya Maharjshri for it's scientific care at the Swaminarayan Museum. They had requested earlier to H.H. Acharya Maharajshri to grace their residence.

H.H. Acharya Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharajshri graced Narayanpura to favour his Satsangi family. His holiness graced the temple and presented Aarti to Lord Shri Hari. A Satsang Sabha was organized on this occasion to present poojan-Archan-Aarti to H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. The family of (Late) Kishorbhai Jhaverbhai Patel has earned the blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri by submitting prasadi items (prasadi Charanaravind, Kesha, Nakha and beads) in a decorated jewellery box. The sacred prasadi shall be displayed scientifically at the Swaminarayan Museum. Mahant Swami Shastri Anandjivandasji (Himatnagar) temple has earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by inspiring the family for such divine gift.

- Ghanshyam Bhagat

Kherol (Himatnagar)

Shri Narnaraydnev Yuvak Mandal is active at this place with the due guidance from Mahant Swami (Himatnagar Temple). Dhoon, Bhajan and Katha-Kirtans are conducted at evening on each Sunday of the month. Ekadashi Satsang is conducted regularly at the houses of the devotees. A special Satsang was conducted at the house of Ravjibhai in mermoy of (Late) devotee Rajubhai. A Katha-Kirtan session was organized at the temple on full moon day of Jyeshtha and the Kirtans of the Nand Sants were presented by Shri Ghanshyam Bhagat. In their enlightening discourses, Mahant Swami Anandjivandasji and Hariprakash Swami have praised the glory and majesty of Shri Hari and the dharmvansh. Devotees have benefitted by these Satsang sessions.

- Ghanshyam Bhagat

Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Unava

Lord Radhakrishnadev Harikrishna Maharaj residing at this temple have received Annual Patotsava Abhsishekam amidst vedic chants and devotional music. The event was celebrated most religiously with devotional fervour under the blessed orders of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. Five days parayan Satsang was organized on this occasion to sing "Shri Hari Aishwarya Darshana." The seat of the reader priest was graced by Shastri Swami Vrajvallabhdasji. The devotees were inspired and encouraged by Mahant Swami Harivallabhdasji to celebrate and host the events.

A three days lecture series was organized on this occasion and Mahabhishekam was presented to Lord Radhakrishnadev and Lord Harikrisshna Maharaj on auspicious thirteenth day of the bright half of Jyeshtha (20-6-05). Thousands of devotees have thronged the temple to do darshan of H.H. Acharya

Maharajshri and Respected Gadiwalashri. Abhishekam and Katha Satsang were organized by Samkhya Yogi Raiba.

- Suvrata Swami

Patotsava at Idar (S.K.) Temple

Lord Gopinathji Harikrishna Maharaj at this temple have favoured the devotees by receiving Patotsava Abhishekam at the temple. The events were celebrated most religiously with the due blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri.

H.H. Acharya Maharajshri graced the temple in early morning of the eleventhday of the bright half of Jyeshtha and presented by his blessed hands the Mahabhishekam to Lord Gopinathji Harikrishna Maharaj. His holiness graced thereafter the dwelling of his ailing follower Shri Karshanbhai Kuberbhai Patel and blessed him health and devotional fervour. (Devotee Shri Karshanbhai has recovered soon with the due blessings of his Guru). His holiness graced thereafter the inner temple and presented Annkut Aarti to indweller Gods. His holiness graced then the Sabha held on this occasion.

Shri Amichandbhai Sankarbhai Patel (Dungari) and his family have earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by hosting Patotsava celebrations. H.H. Acharya Maharajshri received group poojan-Aarti from them and blessed them with devotional fervour. The Sabha was conducted by Mahant Swami of Idar temple. In his introductory discourse, Mahant Swami explained to the devotees the history of this ancient temple and asked the follower devotees to be faithful to the sect and dioces.

The Sabha was addressed, thereafter by the saints from Dholka, Muli, Himatnagar and Sokli Temple. the saints from Laloda, Torda, Lei and Ahmedabad were present on this auspicious occasion. The Sabha was concluded with the blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. Acharya Maharajshri admired the devotion and renunciation of his follower saints. His holiness said that his saints were such detached and trustworthy that they were renouncing the seat of Mahantship on words of their Guru-Supreme preceptor.

Idar temple has followed the order of H.H. Acharya Maharjashri by consigning huge stock of food packets of Sev and Sukhadi to the flood effected families. The consigument was handed over to the District Magistrate for onward transmission.

- Sadhu Satyasankalpadas

Patotsava at Siddhapur Temple

Lord Dharm Bhakti Harikrishna Maharaj at Siddhpur temple have received 142nd annual Abhishekam at the hand of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. The grand event of 142nd Annual Patotsava was organized on the bright half ekadashi day of Jyeshtya.

H.H. Acharya Maharajshri graced this historical city and presented Mahabhishekam to indweller God. The events were hosted jointly by Shri Navinchandra Nandas Patel, Shri Babubhai Jivabhai Patel and Shri Maheshbhai Jivabhai Patel. Maha pooja was concluded by H.H. Acharya Maharajshri and Annakut Aarti was presented thereafter to God.

A special Sabha was organized on this occasion. H.H. Acharya Maharajshri graced the Sabha and received poojan-Aarti and flower garlands from the host group. The devotees from Unza and Bilia were present at the celebrations. The Sabha was ended with the blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri.

The events were organized by the saints and devotees under able guidance of Mahant Swami.

- Sadhu Balmukunddas

Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Sirohi (Rajasthan)

Guru-Purnima was celebrated here and poojan Archan Aarti were presented to the photo-image of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri by the saints and the devotees. A Sabha was organized on this occasion and glory and majesty of the Guru was explained to the devotees by Swami Aksharviharidasji.

- Kotharishri, Sirohi

Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Karjisan

Guru Purnima was celebrated here by the saints and the devotees, with the due blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. Maha pooja was performed on this auspicious occasion to please Lord Shri Hari. The Maha pooja was hosted by our Satsangi Shri Maneklal Narsinhdas Patel and it's rituals were conducted by the chief-temple priest-Shastri Jasu Bhagat.

Karjisan is a prasadi village of Shri Hari. Lord Shriji Maharaj has graced this place repeatedly by his thrity six visits of this small village. A splendid Swaminarayan temple has been constructed here in later period – to relish graced presence of Shri Hari. Devotees Shri Prahladbhai Patel (New Jersey-USA) and other devotees have earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by their extendisve service to tis shrine and local sating Karjisan temple is a major Shrine of Dandhavya region of Gujarat.

- Pujari Jashu Bhagat

H.H. Acharya Maharajshri graces United Kingdom

The first fullfledged temple of this sect in England was constructed thirty years back in London at Willsden Lane, with the due blessings of H.H. Acharya 1008 Shri Tejendraprasdji Maharajshri. The Satsang in London and U.K. has progressed steadily since that day, and this spiritual progress is still on for the days to come.

The temple was reconstructed in the following years and the idols of God – Lord Ghanshyam Maharaj were installed most ceremoniously in accordance to vedic rituals. All religious festivals, celebrations and vrattas – rituals are being conducted at the temple with total involvement of local satsang and visiting saints from India.

One such event was organized recently in benign presence of H.H. Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasdji Maharajshri. H.H.Acharya Maharajshri graced this imperial capital during his religious tour of United Kingdom and favoured this Satsang by his graced presence at the Guru Poojan celebrations of Guru Purnima. This was the first visit of His holiness as the Acharya of Shri Narnarayandev Diocese. H.H. Acharya Maharajshri graced the Patotsava and Guru Purnima celebrations to give devotional pleasure to his devotees. Guru-Purnima is the annual Patotsava day of this shrine. Shrimad Satsangi Jivan Parayan (seven days) was organized on this occasion to sing praises of Lord Shri Hari. The seat of the reader priest was graced by saintly scholar, S.G. Mahant Swami Shastri Nirgundasji. Afternoon sessions were addressed by the scholar saints of Bhuj Temple. H.H. Acharya Maharajshri has favoured his followers by his daily presence at both the sessions. Devotees have greately benefited by this feast of devotional knowledge.

The Guru Purnima is the invocation day of the God this temple. H.H. Acharya Maharajshri graced the shrine early in the morning and presented Mahabhishekam to indwelling God – Lord Ghanshyam Maharaj. The devotees were blessed with the darshan of this divine view. Lord Ghanshyam Maharaj received abhishekam from His seventh descendant son.

Guru-Purnima Guru-poojan was organized at evening . A special Sabha was organized to pay obeisance to the Guru. Lord Swaminarayan Bhagwan himself has installed H.H. Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasdji Maharajshri as the Guru of Shri Nanarayandev diocese and this sect. H.H. Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharajshri graced the seat of the preceptor and received poojan-archan from his faithful followers. Temple president Shri Manjibhai Halai, saints and the devotees paid hearty obeisance by preseting poojan-aarti and flower garlands to H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. Thousands of devotees followed them in poojan-worship of our Guru. H.H. Acharya Maharajshri blessed them with peace, prosperity and devotion. Dhoon, Kirtan, thaal aarti and cultural programmes were organized daily during the week – 18th to 24th of July.

H.H. Acharya Maharajshri concluded his religious tour on Wednesday dated 27-7-05 for his return Journey to Ahmedabad. Devotees were very sad for such short visit they wished happy journey to their Guru. H.H. Acharya Maharajshri and his retinue of the saints, graced then the youth satsang camp and blessed the youths by his blissful proximity. Devout youths were elated by the personal touch of their supreme preceptor. Devotees have benefited extensively by the presence of His holiness.- *Shivjibhai, Secretary*

MULI REGION

Distribution of the Food-packets by Shri Muli Dhaam

Shri Swaminarayan Temple, Muli has earned credit for it's social service. In time of devastating earthquake, the temple was the first to come forward to provide food and provisions to the needy people in Kutch region. The saints of this temple were guided recently by the Mahant Swami to prepare food-packets (Puri-Shaak and sev-Sukhadi) to distribute to the flood effected people in Kheda, Nadiad and Anand area. They have handed over these consignments to the District Collector at Surenderangar.

- Mahant Swami Narendraprasaddas

Muli Temple celebrates Guru-Purnima

Our temple at Muli is a prasadi place of Lord Shriji Maharaj. The ancient shrine was constructed and managed by S.G. Brahmanand Swami in presence and proximity of Lord Shriji Maharaj.

Guru Poojan was organized here at the prasadi Sabha Mandapam in presence of indweller God Shri Radhakrishnadev Harikrishna Maharaj. Shri Hari's seventh descendant heir – H.H. Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharajshri is our Guru. Poojan – Archan Aarti were present to the photo image of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri, installed at the preceptor's seat. Group Maha pooja was present early in the morning at 7-30 a.m. followed by special Satsang Sabha. Thousand of devotees have paid personal obeisance to the Guru by presenting poojan-archan and flower garlands. The events were organized most decently by Mahant Swami Narendraprasaddasji and Kothari Jayprakashdaasji under able guidance of S.G. Mahant Swami Lakshmiprasaddasji.

- Bharat Bhagat

Patotsava at Surendrangar temple (Ladies)

The annual Patotsava was organized here at our temple (Ladies) with the due blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri and Respect Gadiwalashri. Samkhya Yoig Kamalaba has earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by inspiring the devotees for this grand celebration. Parayan Satsang was organized (4-7-05 to 8-

7-05) to sing Nishkulanand Kavya. Scholarly discourses were delivered by Samkhya Yogi Kamalaba as the reader preist of Parayan Satsang. Group Maha Pooja, Maha Abhishekam and Annkut were organized to celebrate annual Patotsava. Samkhya Yogi Ushaba has earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by her devotional services. - *Shailendra Jhala*

Charadava Temple organizes Satsangi Sabhas

The Satsang Sabhas are being organized at the places of the Satsangis by our temple at Charadava. H.H. Acharya Maharajshri has blessed and admired this devotional service. Following are the dates and venue of the Satsang Sabhas.

4-5-05	Shri Gokalbhai Jerambhai
20-5-05	Shri Dharmshibhai Dahyabhai
2-6-05	Shri Kalyanbhai Panchabhai
18-6-05	Shri Hiteshbhai

Dhoon, Kirtan, Katha-Varta and thaal Aarti are presented at these devotional sessions. - *Jayeshbhai, Sonagra N.N.D.Y.M.*

Guru Purnima celebrations at S.S.N. Samskar Dhaam Dhrangadhra

Guru Purnima was celebrated here at the S.S.N. Samkskar Dhaam by presenting Poojan-Archan and flower garlands to the photo image of H.H. Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharajshri. The saints, Haribhaktas and the students of this Gurukulam have paid hearty obeisance to their Guru. A Sabha was organized on this occasion to sing praises of Guru and the Dahrmkul. In his occasional descourse, Samachalaks Swami Shri Ramkrishnadasji, asked the devotees and the saints to be faithful to our Dharmvanshi Acharya. He asked them to receive only Acharya Maharajshri as their Guru and guide. He asked them to follow the orders of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri to emancipate the soul.

OVERSEAS

Installation Ceremonies of the diols of God at the new Swaminarayan Mandir Florida – Lakeland (ISSO)

A new temple has been constructed in Florida Lakeland by the grace of Lord Swaminarayan Bhagwan. The temple is the materialized form of the virtuous resolute of H.H. Acharya 1008 Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharajshri. The devotees from Florida-Lakeland have co-operated wholeheartedly to materialize the virtuous resolute of building a splendid new temple.

A colourful festival was organized at the temple to install idols of God at the new temple. various devotional events were organized on this auspicious occasion. Shrimad Bhagwat Parayan (five days), Maha Vishnu Yaag, Kirtan Satsang and cultural events were organized to celebrate Installation ceremonies. H.H. Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharajshri graced the shrine with his retinue of the saints and scholars. There was ocean like gathering of the devotees to receive their supreme preceptor. A grand welcome procession was organized to welcome H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. H.H. Acharya Maharjshri reciprocated to their devotional feelings and graced the temple on 28-6-05.

A grand religious procession was organized on 2-7-05 to grace the main roads of Florida. H.H. Acharya Maharajshri graced the procession with Lord Thakorji and blessed the residents of Florida by his benign presence. Light showers of rain have added colour and charms in this public festival.

H.H. Acharya Maharajshri graced the inner temple in early hours of 3-7-05 and installed the idols of Lord Shri Radhakrishnadev Harikrishan Maharaj, Shri Narnarayandev, Shri Lakshminarayandev and other deities, in accordance to the tenets of Shikshapatri. After the invocation, His holiness graced the Yagyashala and concluded the sacred fire by offering conclusive sacrifice. Thereafter he blessed the devotees at Parayan Satsang and concluded Katha-Parayan by presenting Poojan-Archan to the scirpture and the reader priests.

A special Sabha was organized on this occasion to bless the gathering. H.H. Acharya Maharajshri graced the Sabha to favour his Florida-Satsang. S.G. Mahant Swami Shastri Nirgundasji Swami delivered a thoughtful discourse and enlightened the devotees by explaining glory and majesty of the invocation the idols installed by Maharajshri and the Dharmvanshi Acharya. The celebrations were concluded with the blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. H.H. Acharya Maharajshri conveyed his hearty blessings and explained to them the divine powers of a virtous resolute by giving example of this splendid temple constructed by a small group of Florida Satsang.

The Mahant Swamis from New Jersey, L.A., Huston, Boston, Chicago and Detroit were present on this occasion. S.G. Swami Dharmvallabhdasji, Shastri Madhav Swami, Shastri Hariprakashdas Swami and Shastri Purnaprakashdasji from Ahmedabad temple have earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by their enlightening discourses at the Sabha.

Mahant Swami Dharmswaroopdasji (Nathdwara Temple) and Sadhu Jaykrishnadasji have earned the pleasure of Acharya Maharajshri by their dedicated service. The Katha Satsang lectures were delivered by scholar Shastri Yogendrabhai Bhatt and assembly was conducted by Shastri Suryaprakashdasji (Mahant Swami, Flordia Temple). The devotees were come from different states and cities of USA. Gujarat Samachar and other news papers have taken a note of this grand celebration. Overseas Haribhaktas have benefited by this religious celebration. *- Manibhai Patel, President*

Festivals and celebrations at Chicago Temple

Religious festivals are being celebrated here with the due blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. Mahant Swami Shastri Dharmvallabhdasji has earned the blessings of Acharya Maharjashri by inspiring the devotees to conduct Mahamantra Dhoon session on the tenth day of the bright half Jyeshtha (the day of final deparature of Shri Hari). Besides the Dhoon session, a Satsang Sabha was conducted to recite the Chapter of Bhakta Chintamani narrating Shri Hari's final departure to His divine abode. The Sabha was addressed by Mahant Swami and the final orders of Shri Hari were narrated to the devotees, to explain glory and majesty of Dev, Acharya and Shastra.

- Pujari Harinandandas.

Buwei Merriland (Washington, ISSO) Chapter

A Satsang Sabha was organized at evening on 18th of June and the Bhajan, Kirtan, Vachanamrit reading, Thaal, Aarti and Nitya Niyamas were presented to please Shri Hari. A large number of devotees have benefited by this session. The Satsang activities are progressing well with the due blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. *-Kanubhai Patel*

S.G. Nushkulanand Swami has explained the glory and majesty of the Prasadi itmes :

વળી અમારા અંગનું અંબર રે, બહુ સ્પરશેલ સારું સુંદર રે ।
એહ પ્રસાદીનું જેહ પટ રે, મળે ટળે સર્વે સંકટ રે ॥૧૪॥
એહ વસ્ત્ર અનુપમ અતિ રે, થાય પૂજતાં પરમ પ્રાપતિ રે ।
અતિ મહાત્મ્ય એનું અતુલ્ય રે, કહો ક્યાંથી મળે એહ મૂલ્યે રે ॥૧૫॥
જે જે અમારા સંબંધની વસ્ત રે, ન મળે ગોતતાં ઊદે ને અસ્ત રે ।
જણસ અમ સંબંધીની જે જે રે, છે એ કલ્યાણકારી માની લીજે રે ॥૧૬॥
તે તો રાખી છે અમે અપાર રે, સહુ જન અરથે આ વાર રે ।
નખશિખા લગી નિરધાર રે, રાખી સ્પરશી વસ્તુ કરી પ્યાર રે ॥૧૭॥
સ્પરશી ચીજ જે બહુ પરકારે રે, અડી હોય જે અંગે અમારે રે ।
તે તો સર્વે છે કલ્યાણકારી રે, માટે રાખી છે અમે વિચારી રે ॥૧૮॥

(My attires have charms and holiness of my touch. Whoever receives them, shall be free from pains and troubles. Devotee will prosper by worship and poojan of my prasadi attires. These clothes are majestic and divine. My personal items are rare to be passessed. All my personal itmes are most benedictory to the aspirants. I have favoured my devotees by presenting to them plenty of my personal itmes. Those prasadi itmes are for benediction of mankind. Sacred nails and hair have been made available by me to my devotees for their emancipation. The things, touched by me are sacred and divine. Devotees should benefit themselves by darshan, poojan and worship of the prasadi itmes.)

- Purushottam Prakash : 48/14-18

AKSHARVAAS

Nandol (Dehgam) : Devotee Jyotsanaben Rameshchandra Patel (28-6-05) passed away to Akshardham amidst the chants of Shri Hari's names.

Rajkot : Shri Maganbhai Shantibhai Kacha passed away to Akshardhaam amidst chants of Shri Hari's divine names.

Mehsana : Devout lady Shardaba at our Mehsana temple (ladies) passed away to Akshardham amidst chants of Shri Hari's blissful names.

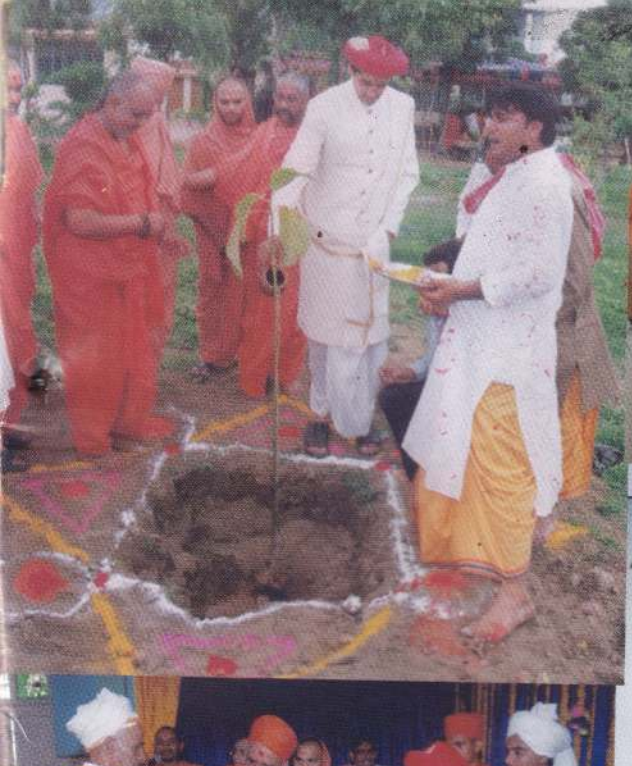
Gandhinagar : Devour lady Sákuba (Mother of Shri Jeshangbhai Mogjibhai Chaudhari) passed away to Akshardham amidst chants of Shri Hari's blissful names.

Dolarana-Vasna : Modi Jayantilal Nathalal (12-6-05) passed away to Akshardham amidst chants of Shri Hari's blissful names.

Dhrangadhra : Devout lady Parvatiben Shantilal (age : 90 years), (mother of Shri Natubhai S. Pujara) passed away to Akshardham amidst chants of Shri Hari's blissful names. May Shri Hari bless her with eternal peace of Akshardham.

Dhrangadhra : Our Youthful devotee Shri Bhaveshbhai (age 24 years) (son of Shri Dharamshibhai H. Kadia) passed away to Akshardham amidst chants of Shri Hari's blissful names.

Haripara (Dhrangadhra) : Youthful devotee Hasmukhbhai Nagarbhai Patel (age : 33 years) passed away to Akshardham amidst chants of Shri Hari's blissful names.

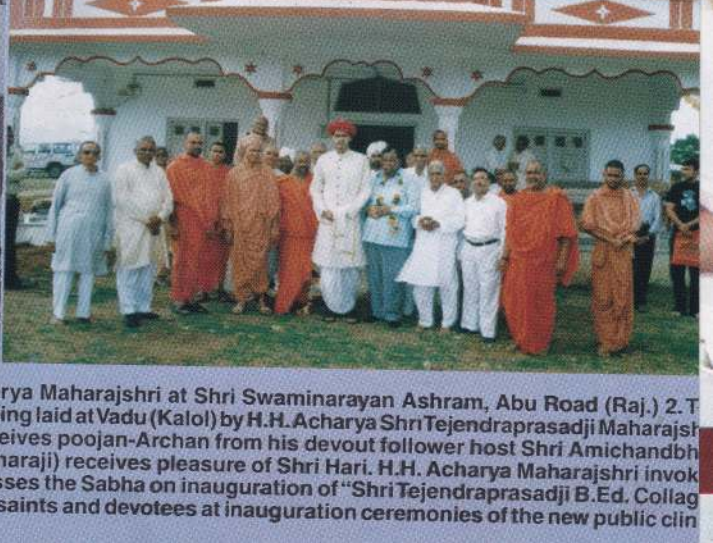












1. "Tree Plantation" is being inaugurated by H.H. Acharya Maharajshri at Shri Swaminarayan Ashram, Abu Road (Raj.) 2. T
foundation of the ancient prasadi Hanuman-Temple is being laid at Vadu (Kalol) by H.H. Acharya Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharajsh
3. H.H. Acharya Maharajshri at the patotsava sabha receives poojan-Archan from his devout follower host Shri Amichandbh
Idar Temple. 4. New Satsangi village Ambala (Teh : Becharaji) receives pleasure of Shri Hari. H.H. Acharya Maharajshri invok
God at the new temple. 5. H.H. Acharya Maharajshri blesses the Sabha on inauguration of "Shri Tejendraprasadji B.Ed. Collag
at Abu-Road (Raj.) 6. H.H. Acharya Maharajshri with the saints and devotees at inauguration ceremonies of the new public clin













1. H.H. Lalji Maharajshri with His grand father - H.H. Acharya Tejendraprasadji Maharajshri, attends birthday celebrations at the temple. 2. Child Harendra Ashokbhai Patel (from London) conveys his hearty wishes to H.H. Lalji Maharajshri. 3. The saints and the devotees celebrating Lalji Maharaj's birthday. 4. H.H. Acharya Maharajshri graces a grand religious procession at the main streets of Lodon (U.K.)

Praful Kharsani