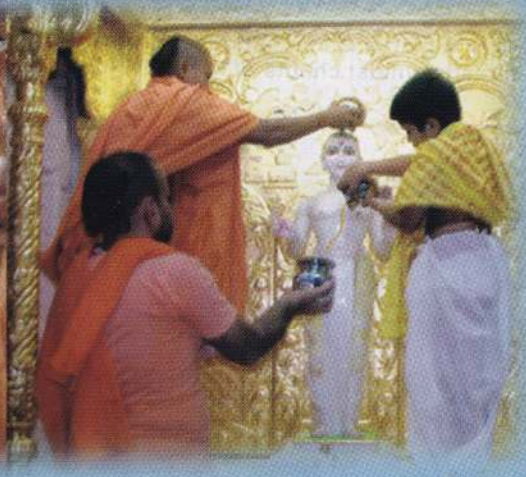
SHREE SWAMINARAYAN
શ્રી સ્વામિનારાયણ

DECEMBER 2005

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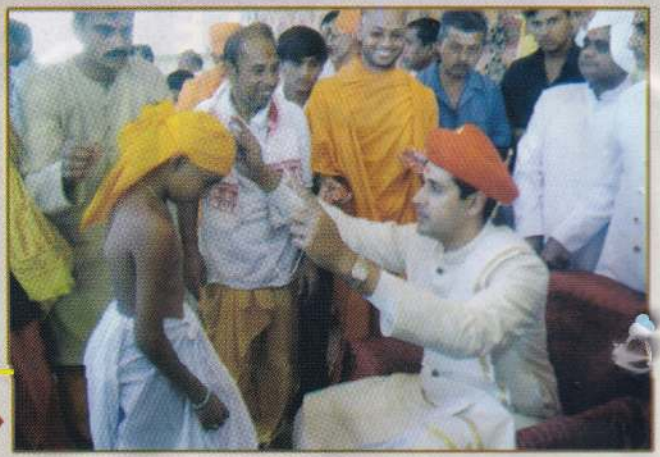




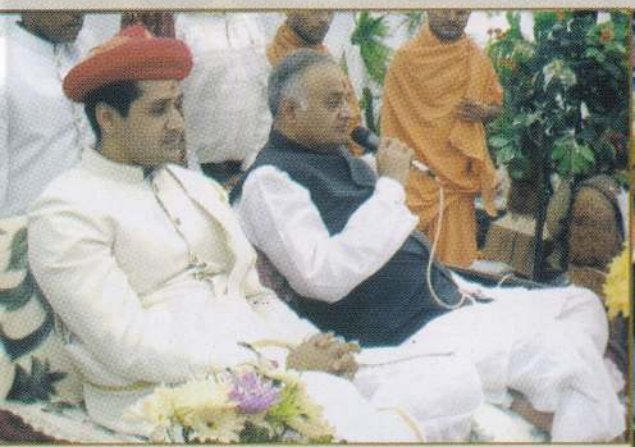
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Lord Narnarayandev, Balswaroop Ghanshaym Maharaj and Shri Radhakrishnadev Harikrishna Maharaj at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir. Surendranagar.



H.H. Acharya Maharajshri initiates sacred threads amidst chants of the vedic hymns.



H.H. Acharya Maharajshri blesses Satsang at our Surendranagar Temple.



Aspirants and devotees at the Parayan session held on occasion of invocation ceremonies at Surendranagar temple.



io form of Lord Shri Hari conveyes blessings to the host family of Shri Khimjibhai Patel - Meda (Surendranagar Temple)



Host Shri Prashantbhai Dholakia earns pleasure of Shri Hari by presenting Poojan Archan to H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. (Surendranagar Temple)

Official News-letter from Shri Narnarayandevdesh Diocese



SHREE SWAMINARAYAN
श्री स्वामिनारायण

Vol : 8 No : 87 December 2005

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

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Editorial

The Jivas spend whole life in search of happiness and end it abruptly without happiness. Unfulfilled wishes throw them in the cycle of births and deaths and compell them to go on, in such unending chase of happiness, birth after birth. Thus the cycle of birth and death rotates constantly without any break.

The scriptures and the saints have shown the path and direction for the true happiness – the path that aims at attaining God – refuge at the sacred feet of God. But God can not be attained by gross object like money, wealth or sense objects, even the virtuous acts like donations and compassion fall short, if not coupled with faith, devotion and selfless love. Evedom – devotion - is the path and means to attain God. The moments and time of such devotion are called 'Utsavas' – the festivals. A true satsangi discards his worldly ways to ralish such devotional moments or festivities.

The sacred period – festival – beginning with the entry of the Sun in the zodiac – Sagittarious and the Sun's travel in that zodiac are then grand festive days of devotion and worship. Early morning Dhoon – Kirtans, restrengthens devotional fervour and evedom. Dhanurmaas Dhoon-Kirtans are the best among the means to attain God and eternal pleasure. Our temples in India and abroad, conduct collective Dhoon sessions at the shrine in your proximity. These Dhoons are chanted loudly early in the morning to establish direct link between Jiva and God. Jiva at such Dhoon sessions, forgets his domestic and worldly worries and problems. He forgets Panchvishayas and concentrates absolutely in divine image of God. Such devout souls are consigned to Akshardham at the end of their natural life.

Dear fellow Satsangis ! Such festive Dhoon sessions of Dhanurmaas begin this year on 16th of December to help you in devotion and devotional service related to Lord Swaminarayan Bhagwan. Join these Dhoon sessions and participate absolutely – by your body, mind and wealth – in these month long sessions of Early morning Dhoon. Shri Swaminarayan Mandir Kalupur Ahmedabad will organize daily Dhoon of Dhanurmaas. Dhoon sessions shall be organized in benign presence of Lord Narnarayandev dwelling at His divine abode of Ahmedabad. Dharmkul shall be present at the Dhoon sessions to guide their faithful followers on the path of devotion. These feasts of divine knowledge are not available elsewhere in the universe.

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



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

November – 2005

6. Graced Mahabhishekam Ceremonies held at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir-Kankaria to please Lord Balswaroop Kashtabhanjandev.
   Blessed presence at the houses of the devotees at Kankaria.
   Graced the house of Shri Ghanshyambhai Parsottambhai Kachchhia, Ghodasar, Ahmedabad.
   Graced the residence of Shri Surjeetsinh M. Puri, Maninagar.

7-9. Graced Kutch-Bhuj Mandavi to present festive Aarti at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir.

10. Graced Pandharpur and blessed his faithful devotee Shri Laljibhai Mahadevbhai Patel.

11. Graced Shri Swaminarayan Mandir Surendranagar and inaugurated Parayan Saptah by presenting auspicious Aarti to the sacred Scripture.

12. Graced Dharmraj Jewellers of Dr. Harshadbhai Jhinjhuvadia, Navrangpura, Ahmedabad.
    Graced Shobha Yatra at Shri Swaminaryan Mandir, Vartal.
    Initiated Bhagwati Deeksha to the saints.

13. Concluded installation ceremonies of the idols of God at our new Swaminarayan Temple, Balol. Balol is the birth place of S.G. Devanand Sweami.
    Graced, 'Tulsi Vivah' celebrations organized at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Naranpura, Ahmedabad.

14. Graced presence at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Narayan Ghat, Ahmedabad.
    Graced the house of Shri Hasmukhbhai Ratilal Thakkar.

16. Graced Shoba Yatra organized by Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Surendrangar.

17. Installed the idols of God at the fulfledged new temple built at Surendranagar.

18. Installed the idols of God at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir Mahundra.

19. Graced the house of Jituba Patel at Ambapur (Distt. Gandhinagar).

20. Attended concluding ceremonies of the Parayan Saptah hosted at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir by Shri Babubhai Manilal Shah and family.
    Graced inauguration ceremonies of Umiya Hospital, Ranip, Ahmedabad.

21. Graced the house of Shri Harivallabhbhai Dahyabhai Patel, Anandpura (The. Kadi)

22. Graced Parayan Saptha at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Vavol (Terpoj).

23. Graced Parayan Saptah at the residence of Shri Keshubhai Rudjibhai Chauhan, Ambola (Teh. : Jodia)

26. Graced Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Kathlal and presented festive Aarti to the sacred foot prints of Shri Hari, installed at the new canopy.

27. Initiated Mahadeeksha to the saints.

Shri Swaminarayan Museum

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

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

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

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

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

- Sandipbhai Choksi

True Happiness Dwells at the Satsnag

-Gandabhai M. Patel

Shriji Maharaj explains to us the inherent nature in answer to a question. He says in Vachanamrit (Gadhada L-20). The karmas of ancient past merge in the Jiva after a thorough seasoning. These seasoned Karmas are like the fire entered in iron. Such karmas are called inherent nature – desires.

What are the ways or means to remove such inherent nature ? Shriji Maharaj says : It is very difficult to carve a idol in a hard rock. In similar way much strain and hard toil are required to remove such inherent nature or desires. A dedicated devotee should practise Navadha Bhakti to over come and eradicate inherent nature. Firm and single minded devotion is a must for defeating inherent nature. The souls if attached to desires, there shall be no way to free him from the clutches of inherent nature. Not only that, but the Jiva shall be shackled tightly in the grip of inherent nature. Single minded devotion eradicates inherent nature.

Shriji Maharaj preaches in his Vachanamrit (Gadhada M-18). Enemies spoil our worldly life by their aggressive opposition and create ill feelings by their unfriendly attitude. They leave no stone unturned in doing bad of us. Oppressed by such enemies, a god fearing soul becomes happy if such enemies are put to some inconvenience by the others. In devotion and meditation, the baser insticts like anger and desires - are the inner enemies. These inner enemies too, become repulsive to a Jiva if they act like an obstacle in his devotion. The Jiva will hate such an inner enemy. Such dislike and hate are a must for a devout soul. It would remove those inner enemies. Such a virtuous Jiva will appreciate the saint, who advise him to correct inherent nature of the Jiva. Jiva will over power his inherent nature by virtue of such saintly advice.

S.G. Gopalanand Swami Says : There is vast difference between the devotees who mend their innerent nature and those who can not mend it. These groups are like those two ships sailing in the sea. The sailor in one ship corrects the direction of his voyage by turning slightly his rudder, and the sailor in another ship goes on sailing without any corrective turn. After a journey of few hours, there shall be distance of two hundred miles between those two ships, despite uniform beginning. Those who have corrected their inherent nature, have received proximity of Shriji Mahraj, and those who have not corrected their nature, have not received any space in Lord Shriji Maharaj.

S.G. Muktanand Swami and Raghunathji Swami lived together at the Ramanand Ashram, Loj with the saints. Both were disciples of Ramand Swami, but they were different in their attitude towards Shriji Maharaj. Muktanandji Swami nursed firm faith and and unshakable faith in Shriji Maharaj. He obeyed to the orders of Shriji Maharaj and lived like a mother of entire Satsang. Raghunathji lacked faith and trust in Shriji Maharaj, and became an opponent of the Sampradaya.

We will discuse here more about inherent nature. Jiva Khachar at Gadhada, prayed once to Shriji Maharaj . 'Maharaj ! You are such mad after Dada Khachar. On each occasion and in all your talks, you bring in the name

Con. on page 14

BENEVOLENCE AND CHARITY

- Sadhu Chaitanyaswaroopdas

Selfish people are a burden on the earth. Benevolence and charity are the supreme virtues. A poet has said :

જબ તુમ આયે જગ મેં, જગ હસે તુમ રોય,
એસી કરની કર ચલો, તુમ હસો જગ રોય.

(Your parents and relatives rejoiced, but you cried on your birth on the earth. Now by your good deeds through out life, they should cry helplessly when you die at peace rejoicing your good deeds.)

People should remember our virtuous deeds at the time of our death. They should lament and grieve four us.

The man who is not helpful to others by his wealth, power, speech or wisdom, shall not be treated of any worth despite his greatness in worldly ways. Skand Purana says : 'After churning the ocean of the sacred scriptures, it is found that no Punya is greater than charity or benevolence, and no sin is greater than ingratitude or selfishness. Benevolence and charity are the ornaments of human life.

Enlightened souls are able to see the hidden power of a selfless soul. Wires carying electric current and the wires without any current look alike appearance wise. Only an expert electrician knows the truth. He knows about the enormous power of a hidden current. Though, not visible, the electric power has enough capacity to illuminate whole town. It holds power to operate heavy machines and huge factories ! The wire, though very thick like a strong rope, can do nothing if electic power is not present in it. In similar way, a benevolent man is like other people, but within himself he holds immense power of faith and trust. Ignorant souls can not recognize it. A benevolent soul wins the world. We should rededicate our selves to the charitable activities. Poet says :

મળી છે કાયા માનવની, જગતમાં ધૂપ-સળી થાજો,
સુગંધી અન્યને દેવા, તમે જાતે બળી જાજો,

(It is good luck to be a human bing, now live like an insense stick, burn yourself in fire and spread fragrance in the world.)

We should spend our life for good of the others. There are trees, rivers and cows to inspire us for such charity.

"परोपकाराय फलन्तिवृक्षाः परोपकाराय वहन्ति नद्यः ।
परोपकाराय दुहन्ति गावः परोपकारार्थमिदं शरीरम् ॥

Trees bear fruits for the others. Rivers carry water for the others. Cows give milk for the others. This body is for helping others. Trees bear heat and sun rays to give shade to others. Tree gives fruits if hit at it by a stone ! River flow for the others. Rivers are not angry on throwing dirt in them and shall not be happy at the Poojan Aarti presented to them. Both the acts are same for the rivers - no discrimination, no partiality. Man should go to the river to receive initiation and education in benevolence and charity. We should imibibe the virtues of trees, rivers and cows. Saint Tulsidasji says :

तरुवर सरोवर, संत जन चौथा बरसे मेह
परमारथ के कारणे चारो धरियो देह

(Trees, lakes, saints and rain are born for charity. Their body and life are for the others. They are born for benevolence and charity).

The skin of animals are used as leather to make shoes and slippers, but the skin of a man is of no use ! Man should spend his body in acts of charity. Man earns majesty and divinity by his benevolent acts.

There was a huge banyan tree in a forest.

Con. on page 8

FAITH, TRUST AND RESTRAINMENT

- Sadhu Bhaktikishordas

The soul roams desperately here and there for his self emancipation in adverse time of kaliyuga. Poor soul fails to ensure self benediction because of his failure in controlling the sense organs. Lord Sahajanand Swami repeats this teaching in his preachings of Shikshapatri :

सर्वेन्द्रियाणि जेयानि रसना तु विशेषतः ।
न द्रव्यसंग्रहः कार्य करणीयो न केनचित् ॥

(They shall control all senses, especially the sense of taste, and shall not accumulate wealth or ask others to do so on their behalf. (Shloka : 189)

It is very difficult to defeat the sense organs, and the organ of taste among them is the most difficult to control and tame. If won the organ of taste, other sense organs shall be defeated along the mind.

How to over power the sense organs ? Eyes can not be defeated by fixing a firm bandage on it. Ears can not be captured by fixing plugs in the socket like ears. Sense organs should be controlled by spiritual wisdom and true knowledge. The sense organs are duty bound to focus themselves towards the objects of their desire. Eye sight shall be focused aitomatically on a view or a sight infront of them. Such a focus can not discriminate between good and bad views. Words and sound attract the ears. Ears attract to them to receive words and sound without any knowledge of good or bad. Man should restrain his sense organs to withraw them within.

We will discuss here about the organ of taste. To control this organ means to control the taste. S.G. Shatanand Swami says : जीतं सर्व जिते रसे One who wins the tastes has won the world. How to win the organ of the tastes ? One can win it by his indifference to the tastes. If he eats and drinks without any like or dislike, he will win the organ of tastes. If he desires or prefers particular kind of taste and sustains such liking by chosing meals and drinks he adds in his laziness and lethargy. Eat less than enough to operate your body and mind, have food at bare minimum. Don't live to eat, but eat to live.

Lord Shri Krishna preaches in Shrimad Bhagwad Gita : "Sense organs become free and detached of desires, if a soul restrains his sense organs consuming sense objects of their desire. This is why the inner power of the sense organs recede in a time of fasting. The sense organs become weak and feeble during a fast. Darshan of God during such sacred fast, helps the soul to defeat sense organs. The souse organs withdraws from the sense objects on realization of glory and majesty of God.

S.G. Nishkulanadd Swami says (Bhakta Chintamani, Ch: 108) :

પંચ ઈન્દ્રિનું પોષણ સ્વાદ,
પંડ્ય પોષતા વધે પ્રમાદ
સ્વાદમાંહિ રહ્યા બહુ શુળ,
સ્વાદ છે સર્વ પ્રમાદનું મૂળ

(Tastes are like nourishment to all five sense organs. If nourished the sense organs by consuming tastes, there shall be no end to such desires and laziness will overpower the soul. Tastes are like thorns. Tastes are the roots of the sins.)

Here is a stanza from Shri Harililamrit (Kalasha : 5, Vishrama : 11) :

રહે રસાસ્વાદની વાસનાય,
તે તો કિડા તે રસના જ થાય

નિઃસ્વાદી પામો સર્વે નરનારી
ભવિષ્યનું દુઃખ દિલે વિચારી

(A desire of any taste spoils the soul and compels him to live like an insect in the sense objects. Therefore, think about the future pains and discard your desires of the senses objects and tastes.)

Shriji Maharaj preaches repeatedly about the ways and means to defeat our sense organs. Shriji Maharaj says (Vachanamrit : G.M. 16) : The organ of the tastes shall be controlled and restrained by a soul if at first he chooses a meal of his tastes and consumes that meal after deluting it in enough water. He should form gradually a steady habit of consuming proper food.

The scriptures and saints have preached repeatedly to not to surrender to the tastes. They ask us repeatedly to not to submit the tastes desired by our tongue ! Shriji Maharaj narrates drawbacks of the tastes in chapter : 99 of Satsangi Jivan and shows us the ways to overcome such desries.

Con. from page 6

Benevolence and Charity

Devastating wild fire devoured whole forest and it's burning flames burned the bunyan leaves. Banyan tree was like a home for the hundreds of birds. Pained by the flames, old banyan tree asks the birds to leave the nests and the tree to save their precious life. He requests them repeatedly, but the birds are not ready to leave him. At last he appeals to them :

દાહ જલે ડુંગર જલે, જલે સબ વનરાઈ,
હમ જલે તુમ કાં જલો હમારે પાંખો નાઈ.

(It is fire every where. Hills and bushes are burning in wild fire. Flames are burning me, because I have no wings to fly. Or Dear birds ! You should not burn yourselves.)

The birds are not selfish. They are spiritually wise. Birds said, 'Oh Banyan tree ! You are like our great grand father. You have shaltered us throughout our life. We were born and brought up in your protective refuge. We have spent our good days in your company. We have shared our happy moments. Now in a time of torments and grief, it is our duty to live toghater and share, the pains. We will die together, as we lived." Merciful God pleased to them and destroyed the wild fire by heavy rain.

TO THE SATSNAGIS

The Tyagis, Shastri Lakshminarayandas (Guru : Swami Lakshmiprakashdas), Swami Ghanshyamprakashdas (Guru : Shastri Lakshminarayandas) and Swami Aksharprakashdasj (Guru : Shastri Lakshminarayandas) who belonged to Muli Swaminarayan Mandir Under Shri Narnarayandev Desh Diocese, have by their behaviour and acts disobeyed to the decorum and the restrictive orders pronounced by H.H. Acharya Maharajshri and the holy scriptures of Shri Swaminarayan sect. Therefore, H.H. Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharajshri has declared them Vimukha.' Both the dioceses of Shri Swaminarayan sect and the temples and the other institutions belonged to Shri Swaminarayan Sect should not shelter them in any cicrcumstances.

- By order, Mahant Swami
Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Kalupur, Ahmedabad.

POINT TO PONDER AND REMEMBER

- Shastri Hari Swami

Shri Swaminarayan Bhagwan graced a seat at the Akshara Oradi. No saint is besides him. A few Haribhaktas are there to serve him. Those Haribhaktas were very dear to Shri Hari. They were liked by Him : "પાસે હરિજન રે બેઠા હોય મનગમતા" God too has two kinds of devotees – some are liked by God and some are not. Check your name in that list of devotees and ensure that it is listed under the 'liked ones'. It should not appear in the list of the devotees who are not liked by Shri Hari.

The devotees of choice – Dada Khahcar, Sura Khachar, Somla Khachar, Matra Dhadhal, Moka Khachar and others were sat before him to listen to nectar like teachings. Shri Hari desired to tell them some very import thing. The senior among the devotees and dearest of Shriji maharaj – Dada Khachar was looking at Shriji Maharaj to receive benedictory orders. Shriji Mahaaj asked him, 'Dada Khachar !' Dada Khachar prayed most attentively, 'Maharaj ! Please order this servent of yours. Please favour me.' Maharaj says, 'Dada Khachar ! There is nothing like that, but tell me, who among the saints is liked most by you to have his holy company ?' Dada Khachar submits, 'Mahaaj ! If I try to be honest to my self, that is Muktanand Swami who is liked most to live in his holy company. I spend most of my time in his holy company.'

Shriji Maharaj then says, 'Sura Khachar ! Tell me. Who among the saints is liked most by you ?' 'Maharaj ! As you know, I like holy company of S.G. Brahmanand Swami. As and when I desire to have enlightening talk, I walk invariably to S.G. Brahmanand Swami and spend hours in his holy company.' Says Sura Khachar in his humble submission. Shriji Maharaj turns to the side of Somla Khachar and Questions him with selfless love, 'Somla Khachar ! Who is liked by you ?' Somla Khachar submits,' Maharaj ! I spend most of my time in holy company of Nityanand Muni.

It was like an interview - a personal interview. Shriji Maharaj had personal dialogue with each his devotee there, and knew about their holy company. He was very happy by the response of his dear devotees. These candidates were passed with full marks in that interview.

Now was the chance of Matra Dhadhal. Shriji Maharaj says to him, 'Matra Dhadhal ! Who among the saints is liked most by you ?' Matra Dhadhal says, 'Maharaj ! I like Nirvikalpanand Swami. I spend most of my time in his holy company.' Shirji Maharaj rejects it outrightly by his sharp reasoning, 'Matra Dhadhal ! Though there many sumptuous dishes to have, you chose a most rejectable item for yourself.' The devotees were shocked by such harsh and confusing statement. They prayed collectively, 'Maharaj ! Why have you said so ? Please help us to understand it.' Shriji Maharaj says, 'Matra Dhadhal has chosen holy company of Nirvikalpand Swami for enlightenment and benediction, but Swami himself has not founded himself in this holy fellowship: He lacks steadiness, faith and trust. How would he preach and enlighten his fellow Satsangis ?'

Shriji Maharaj presents this dialogue to help us in our devotional ways and holy company. Shriji Maharaj preaches us most important thing for the self emancipation. Shriji Maharaj says that the sect is like a universal family. it is good to love and respect all our seniors and saints, but for the self emancipation, live in holy company of a true saints – adhere to a noble soul. Listen to him most obediently. Act on his counsel.

Dear Friends ! It is a beautiful story. Man is known by his company. Live in a good company, live in holy company. Virtous companionship maintains virtuous thinking. Read this story carefully and attach yourself to a virtuous senior. S.G. Ramanand Swami has said, 'If desired to live in this holy fellowship, you will have to hold the pillar tightly in your all enveloping embrace.' Mayaram Bhatt has explained this message by defining words 'pillar' and 'embrace'. To embrace the pillar tightly means adhere to the teachings of Muktanand Swami. This is an appropriate teaching in contemporary context.

Mercy is The Root of The Ethical Duties

• - Sadhu Shrirangdas

This story is from Mahabharata. Ancient kings were organizing great holy fires to please deities and Goddesses. Pandavas too organized a holy fire. It was known as Rajsuya Yagya. Only large kingdoms and emperors were conducting such Rajsuya Yagya. For them too, it was most un affordable and therefore, Rajsuya Yagyas were performed very rarely on the earth. Such expensive holy fires are not possible in modern age.

However, Pandava brothers picked up this challenge and organized Raj Suya Yagya. Virtuous monarchs lead their subjects on the path of virtues. Kaurava brothers joined in this religious service. Lord Shri Krishna desired to be with them and managed the Raj-Suya Yagya. There is nothing to worry about, when God himself takes charge of the responsibilities.

Lord Shri Krishna distributed various responsibilities to suitable persons. Duryodhana too was responsible for certain tasks. Shri Krishna Assigned him the work of distributing Daxina (cash gifts) to the Brahmins at the holy fire. Arjuna was responsible for the place of holy fire. Yudhishthira looked after the residential accomodation offered to the guests and visitors. Bhima was in charge of Kitchen and cooking. Nakul and Sahadeva were engaged in different services. Shri Krishna secured for himself the service of collecting empty dishes, after the meals. He sat a role-model by choosing such service for himself. He preached by his action. Saints have said, "નીચી મળે તો માને ભાગ્ય જો." (lower kind of service is a sign of good fortune.) Those are most fortunate who are engaged in personal service of virtuos souls. Supreme Lord of Universe acted like a humble soul and worked like a servent at the community feast.

Duryodhana tried at his maximum to spoil good image of Pandavas. He donated profusely to empty the treasury of the Raj Suya Yagya, but failed in his bad intentions. Wealth increased in multifold instead of any decrease.' Happy and satisfied brahmins blessed the Pandavas for their generous approach ! Though the emperore of bharat Khanda, king Udhishthira acted like a humble host and took extra care of residential accommodation by escorting the guests to their respective camping place. Arjuna tried at his best to provide different things required at the holy fire of Raj Suya.

Holy fire was about to be concluded and the day of concluding the holy fire was nearing very fast. The Brahmins and the scholar priests of the holy fire were ralishing the hospitality of Pandava brothers. They had grand dinner of concluding ceremonies of Raj Suya Yagya. Priests, Brahmins and guests praised collectively the arragement and rituals of holy fire.

Now was the time to test the perfection of the holy fire. In thouse days holy fires and their perfection were tested by an unsual ritual. They were placing a conch on a wooden seat kept at the place of community meals. The conch was blowing at it's own if the holy fire was perfect and all were satisfied. The sound of the conch was a proof to prove that the rituals and holy fire were accepted by the deities.

They kept the conch, but it made no sound. The conch was silent ! Pandavas reported this to Shri Krishna and said, 'Oh Krishna ! All the Brahmins and guests have had the meals at their satisfaction, but the conch is silent like a stone.' Shri Krishna asked them to check every nook and corner

to findout unsatisfied soul. Shri Krishna believed that there must be some one, some where who is not fully satisfied. Shri Krishna assigned this investigation to Bhima. Bhima checked the entire place of holy fire and went to the town to check the streets and the houses. He went every where inquiring about such hungry or unsatisfied man, but found nothing. At last, he went to the river side. There he saw a beggar near the river. Bhima went to him and asked, 'Man ! Today is the last day of the Raj Suya yagya. Did you had the Prasadi meals ?' Beggar said in a annoying tone, 'I don't care: Pandavas will come to me if they wish to satisfy me. I don't want to go there.' Bhima says angrity, 'You fool ! You don't deserve such lofty meals. Why should we bother ? Pandavas will not come here to please you.' Bhima reported this to Shri Krishna, and criticized ill nature of the beggar. He then added that in the entire area, he found every body praising our service. People were satisfied by our donations and meals. 'Though I requested him repeatedly, that beggar has refused outrightly to visit our place for a meals and cash gift. Egoist beggar is convulsing in hunger but will not come to us to have a meal – he insisted for a meal service at his place. I don't like such egoist beggars. I have left him there.' Shri Krishna says, 'Bhima ! This is not just. The guest, having a meal, is greater than his host. We should go to him. Pray him to forgive us. Offer a sumptuous meal and beg for a pardon.' Bhima goes there with a dish of sumptuous meal, prays for a pardon and serves meals to the beggar. As he did so, Bhima saw Lord Dharmadeva in place of that beggar. Lord Dharm in guise of a beggar, tested the virtues of Pandava-brothers. As he had the meal, the conch at the Yagya made at hundering sound to confirm success of the Raj Suya Yagya.

Dear friends ! This episode teaches us to be extra polite at such grand festivities. Don't forget small people at such big events. Food and meals should be served in plenty to satisfy everybody at the holy fire. That only is the proof of a true holy fire.

Lord Shri Hari has showered his compassion repeatedly by offering his meals to the hungry and starving people. Premanand Swami sings :

"કોઈને દુઃખીયો રે,
દેખી ન ખમાય, દયા આણી રે,
અતિ આકળા થાય, અન્ન ધન વસ્ત્ર રે,
આપીને દુઃખ ટાળે."

(Shri Hari can not tolerate the pains and agonies of the others. He feels uncomfortable and offers meals and cashgifts to make them happy.)

Con. from page 12

Shri Swaminarayan Mandir Surendranagar

exclusively by the Muli Dhaam.

The Satsang is deep rooted in this region. Satsnagis are faithful to Lord Radhakrishandev of Muli Dhaam and Lord Narnarayandev of Ahmedabad temple. They are devout disciple of Shri Narnarayndev Desh Diocese. The Samaiyas and religious festivals of the sect are celebrated most religiously by the resident devotees in this area. Bal Mandal, Yuvak Mandal, Mahila Mandal and other organs of Shri Narnaryandev Desh Diocese are active at this new temple. H.H. Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharajshri graced the installation festivities held on 17th November 2005 and installed by his blessed hands the idols of God in presence of Dharmkul and the saints who were coms from both the Deshas. Thousands of devtees were come to participate in these grand celebrations.

SHRI SWAMINARAYAN MANDIR SURENDRANAGAR

- Shailendrasinh Jhala

Zalawar is a district of Gujarat state and Surendranagar is the district headquarter of Zalawar. Lord Shriji Maharaj has showered hearty pleasure by his blessed religious tour of this region. To fulfil the aspiration of his devotee – King Ramabhai – Shriji Maharaj got built a splendid temple at Muli and Shri Hari himself has installed the idols of Lord Radhakrishnadev. Thakor (King) of Wadhawan State followed this religious tradition in the following years and gifted a huge plot of 4000 sq.m. to Lord Radhakrishandev the plot was located at the main road of Surendrangar – at the heart of city centre.

Surendranagar was not so thi kly populated in those years, thereiore contemporary Mahant Swami built there residential houses, injected life in that area and about one hundred families setlled there in benign of presence Lord Shriji Maharaj. Big Harimandirs were built there separately for the gents and ladies but the Satsang grew very well in size and intensity in the following years and the temples built in ancient time looked very small to accomodate the aspirants for darshan and service of Lord Radhakrishnadev Harikrishna Maharaj.

Late Samkhya Yogi Dholiba – who served Shri Hari at the temple, applied her mind to settle the issue of shortage of space at the temple. She thought to extend the territory of the present building to build a spacious temple with one peak and dome. She conveyed this idea to Shri Jayantibhai Kalidas Parikh and other senior. Haribhaktas who were very close to former Acharya Maharajshri. They consented to her suggestion and convyed the proposal to H.H. Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharajshri. H.H. Acharya Maharajshri graced the temple at Surendrangar to receive first hand information. His holiness inspected the place and conveyed his resolute to construct a splendid temple with three glorious peaks.

H.H. Acharya Maharajshri is the descendant hir and son of Lord Shri Hari. The resolute was made by Shri Hari himself to convey it through His descendant son Acharya Maharajshri. H.H. Acharya Maharajshri summoned Mahant Swami S.G. Swami Premjeevandasji of Muli Dhaam and ordered them go ahead in construction of fulfledge temple.

Mahant Swami Premjeevansadji and a small group of his disciple saints came to Surendrangar to expand the area of the temple. They had lengthy but cordial dialogues with the neightbouring householders, and got possession of the land occupied by those residential buildings. They negotiated with the State Government to secure possession of the land occupied by the staff Quarters. Government agreed to the proposal and transferred the land at the cost of Rupees 17 lakh. Thus the land was purchased at the rate of Rs. 448 per sq.m. A splendid temple with the five peaks was constructed in caryed stones to present cultural and religious heritage of ancient India. Community kitchen, dining hall, Sabha Mandapam and a pilgirm's inn were added in the plan to extend hospitality. This splendid temple and well developed temple complex are under administrative control of Muli Dham. This is first domed temple, managed

Con. on page 11

Infinite Majesty of Lord Narnarayandev

- Prof. Suryakant Bhatt (Bhuj)

We are blessed with the opportunity to listen to the benedictory preachings delivered by H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. H.H. Acharya Maharajshri favours us repeatedly to enlighten us by narrating divine majesty of Lord Narnarayandev Harikrishna Maharaj.

H.H. Acharya Maharajshri is very simple and natural in delivering such subtle lectures. His narrations and word pictures help us to imagine divine image of Lord Narnarayandev. Such mental image dwells at our heart and soul dwells in benign refuge of Lord Narnarayandev.

We know that, H.H. Acharya Maharajshri is the another form of Lord Shriji Maharaj. Lord Shri Hari dwells with His holiness without any break and His holiness feels eternal leelas and eternity of Shriji Maharaj. Our eyes and mind are not capable to experience such divine episodes. As and when H.H. Acharya Maharajshri comes for a darshan of lord Narnarayandev, in each his visit, Lord Shriji Maharaj inquries about spritual progress of the Dharmkul and dioceses. At times, Shriji Maharaj guides his descendant son – H.H. Acharya Maharajshri, by manifesting himself in his dreamstate. Senior devotees are ware of such occasions. The devotees at the Samaiyas and festival have witnessed the fervour of devotional love appearing on the face of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri when His Holiness presents Abhishekam to Lord Shriji Maharaj. His holiness takes personal care while helping Shri Hari to have Abhishekam. This is most amazing view for the devotees and aspirants. The devotees in past five generations have experienced and abserved such devotional fervour in their contemporary Acharya. They have experienced oneness between Acharya and Lord Shriji Maharaj in each such ceremonies. It is quite possible that Former Acharya Maharajshri of five past generations might have maintained a regular diary of their dialogues with their great grand father – Lord Shriji Maharaj. Some divine episodes of such experiences are passed on to following generation by the respective Acharya Maharajshri. Some experiences are not disclosed to public and some are conveyed to mankind for universal good.

A scholar from Madras had recorded the truth based on the study of the religious scriptures : 'God dwells eternally in the idols which are made in wood, stone, metal or picture form and installed most religiously in accordance to religious scriptures. God in the idol, converse directly with the faithful devotees and saints.

To test his point and findings he did pilgrimage to do darshan of God. He made a firm resolute to surrender himself to a God and the temple who demands on his face a gift of five hundred rupees. Also he made a resolute to surrender such amount on a verbal demand. He visited almost all big shrines and temples in India. He was disheartened by his experienc at the temples. there was no response from any idol. In his return journey, he halted at Ahmedabad and came to Lord Narnarayndev dwelling at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Kalupur, Ahmedabasd. As he paid the salute in obeisance, Lord Shri Narnarayandev in front of him called him thrice and said in clear tone, 'Oh Brahmin ! How long are you to roam carring the money belonged to me ? That fund belongs to me. Stop carring it to

else where and surrender it to me.' Brahmin was shocked by such miracle. He realized that Lord Narnarayndev himself was supreme Lord of universe. He realized divinity and majesty of Lord Narnarayandev. He narrated his experience to the Parshadas at the abode of Lord Shri Hari. Parshadas took him to H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. H.H. Acharya Maharajshri initiated him in the sect by granting mantra deeksha and Vrattaman.

Similar is the story of a Marwair householder who belonged to Jain community. He was carring 250 gold coins in his pilgrimage of holy Shrines. Like that Brahmin, this pilgrim too made a firm resolute to gift the gold coins to an idol of God who talks to him about the gift. He too was disheartened due to silence from the idols at various shrines. At last he came to Ahmedabad and saluted to Lord Narnarayandev dwelling at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Kalupur, Ahmedabad. He repeated his resolute and prayed in front of Lord Narnarayandev, 'Oh Lord ! I will believe in you with absolute faith and trust if you confirm verbally my secret resoute and ask me to gift the gold. As he opened his eyes, Lord Narnarayandev in front of him, said with majesty, 'Oh Businessman ! How long are you to loiter with a burden of my Gold ? I myself is God – Supreme Lord. Surrender your wealth at my feet.' Trader was shocked in astonishment. He surrendered instantly and held the feet of God to receive benign refuge of Supreme Lord. Parshadas took him to the senior saints and arranged mantra Deeksha and Vrattman to initiate him in the sect.

There are many episodes glorifying majesty and divinity of Lord Narnarayandev and the Shrine at Ahmedabad.

Con. from page 5

True Happiness Dwells at the Satsnag

of Dada Khachar to admire him and his devotion. We too are devotees of your worthy self. We are serving readily to your orders and will. Even though, no note has been taken of our devotion. Why so ?

Shriji Maharaj said, 'I will clarify your doubts at an appropriate time.' Days and months passed and devotees forgot about the issue.

Shriji Maharaj came to the bank of Ghelo to have refreshing dip in rainy season. Kathi devotees and a retinue of the saints accompanied Shriji Maharaj.

They had water sports in full stream of Ghelo river but when they left the river, it was rained profusely on their way to Gadhada. Shriji Maharaj saw a traveler trying to burn wet logs in cooking fire. He was trayring at his best, but wet fire wood was not catching the fire. He was looking helplessly at the dough, to be cooked as loaves. Maharaj was very sorry for him.

Jiva Khachar was walking besides Shrji Maharaj. Shriji Maharaj looked at him and said in a interrogating mood. 'Isn't it necessary to build a Dharmashala in this area ?' Jiva Khachar respeonded in a irritating tone, 'There are many like him, who come by this place and go. A Dhamashala can not be built for such loiteres....' There was sting of insult for that helpless traveler. Dada Khachar came forward with a plea, when he knew about it, 'Maharaj ! These are rainy days and construction work is not possible during such season. However, we can accomodate such pilgrims and travelers by providing accommodation at my palace. There are many rooms to accommodate such needy people. Maharaj ! if you please, we may look forward to.' Shriji Maharaj pleased to him and looked suggestively at Jiva Khachar to hint him to grasp the essence !

Vachanamrit : Gadhada F-4

- Condensed by : Prof. Mahdev Dhoriani

If want to be jealous, be jealous like Narada. Tumbaru was great in the art of music and singing. Narada desired to be an expert singer like Tumbaru. He spent lots of Time and energy and mastered the art of music and singing. Shrji Maharaj narrates this beautiful episode in his Gadhada (F-4) Vachanmrit.

A true devotee of God should not be jealous of fellow Satsangis and others. If want to be jealous, he should try to be like Narada. Once in ancient time, Narada and Tumbaru went to the abode of Vaikuntha to do darshan of Lord Lakshimnarayana. Tumbaru sang a devotional song in obeisance to Lord Kakshimnarayana. Lord Lakshminarayan and his court were soaked in colour of devotional farvour. Goddess Lakshmiji and Lord Narayana showerd hearty pleasure by gifting precious attires and ornaments to Tumbaru. Supreme Lord and deities at the court admired unaminously the music presented by Tumbaru. This praise, admiration and prized felicitation ignited fire of jealousy in the heart of Narada. Narada was jealous of Tumbaru and his success. He desired to master the art of singing and music to defeat Tumabru. He desired to train himself but not for the self improvement !

He sesired so to harm others – to defeat Tumbaru. However, Narada spent lots of energy and time in rigorous training and practice, and mastered the art of singing and music. A self confident sage, Narada, comes to the divine abode of Viakuntha and presents devotional music to earn pleasure or Lord Lakshminarayana. He submits devotional music at the court of Lord Kakshminarayana.

Bhagwan says, 'Oh Great saint ! Your devotional music is not like that of Tumbaru. Tumbaru is great in devitional music.' Disheartened Narada went to Kailasha, did penance and earned blessed boon from Lord Shiva. He underwent rigorous training and mastered beauty and charms of devotional music. Narada observed that penance is not limited to self purification but it is equally effective for highest achievements-supreme attainment. The actions originated from penance and self discipline become virtuous and benedictory. Gross matter and delusion can not be discarded without penance and endurance. Gross body becomes weak but soul regains power of devotional fervour by such penance. It is well said :

"તન પવિત્ર સેવા કીયે, ધન પવિત્ર કર દાન,
મન પવિત્ર હરિભજન કરે, હોત ત્રિવિધ કલ્યાણ."

(Gross body becomes pure by personal service. Wealth becomes pure by donating it. Mind becomes pure by devotion. These are the ways for the three fold benediction.)

A decrease in the three things and an excess in three things, are most dangerous :

(1) Knowledge is very little, but speaks excess.
(2) Income is very small but spends much more.
(3) Qualification and capacity are very low, but 'ego' is at the highest height.

Saint Narada mastered the art of devotional music by pleasing Lord Shiva, but Lord Lakshiminarayan disapproved his scholarship in devotional music. Lord Lakshiminarayana is not pleased by the devotional music of Narada. Narada goes back seven times and spends one manventara in penance and practice before revisting the court of Lord Lakshminarayan. Thus, great celibate saint Narada, spends seven manvanatras (bilions and trillions of years) to master the art of devotional music, but fails miserably at the court of Lord Lakshminarayan. Narada is firm in his resolute. He intends to please Lord Lakshminarayan, by his devotinal music. He

surrenders to Goddess Lakshmiji and principal queens Like Rukminiji and others and submits himself like an obedient pupil, to learn music from them and Tumbaru. Devout soul Narada revisits divine abode of Vaikuntha and pleases Lord Lakshminarayan by his devotional music. Lord Shri Krishna rises from his throne, comes forward and presents His uttariyam and precious ornaments as a gift of love.

Narada is a true saint. Since then, he never indulged in jealousy of Tumbaru. Here is a point : If want to be jealous act immediately to imbibe those good qualities of your subject which were cause of your jealousy. A true devotee should discard the jealousy that causes friction and conflict with a fellow devotee.

Vachanamrit intends to teach that the politeness and humility are liked by all. Imbibe virtues of the virtuous souls. Purity and holiness shall not be in our heart, if felt insult in paying respect to the elders and seniors. In nutshell, imbibe virtues and discard envy. Don't insult fellow Satsangis.

'A jealous person can not tolerate greatness of the others.' (Vachanamrit S.-8)

Narada learnt from the eight principal queens, that one should distance himself from the self-praise : "स्वश्लाघा स्व मुखेन च ।" (Don't praise yourself).

To please Lord Lakshminarayana, is the ultimate aim of Narada. Eight principal queens of Bhagwan, taught to Narada the ways and means to attain unbound pleasure of lord Lakshminarayan. They advised him to sing without ego, they asked him to live like a slave of supreme Lord. This is the master key to win all enveloping pleasure of God. The virtues and ethical duties in our daily life, attracts pleasure and blessings of Lord Shri Hari. Such pleasure of God, enrich our life with eternal peace, self contentment, purity eternal happiness and ultimate attainment. Selfpraise and jealousy are like termite. It destroys our existence-inner being-by eating into it.

'The ego at the heart generates jealousy and sustains inner enemies like anger, passion and malice. Such a jealous soul can not tolerate the respect and honour extended to a deserving one. This is the truest form of envy. (Vach. : Sa.-8)

Kama, Krodha, Lobha, Moha, Mada, Matsara are the inner enemies and envy is the counter part of them. The people with jealousy, anger, conspiracy or ego, can not adjust themselves in a well balanced society.

Envy indicates smallness of mind. Virtue of gratitude can not survive at the heart of an egoist or envious man. The python named jealousy swallows the virtues cooperation and mutual help. Envy is the root of the sins, and a master host of the destruction. Jealous people are proud and arrogant. They believe themselves as the best.

Envy is like a subtle but destructive frire burning at the heart. Elemental fire may be extinguished gradually at some time, but the fire of envy and jealousy can not be extinguished easily.

Flames of the fire of envy are most destructive. The man under it's attack, loses sharpness of inteligence and wisdom. Kaikei was trapped in the flames of jealousy, and the fire of jealousy and envy was ignited by her maid Manthara. This devastating fire was resulted in exile of Lord Rama instead of a coronation.

The fire of envy ignited at he deepest depth of heart, can be extinguished by sweet water of love. We fortunate souls are not able to recongise the nectar of pure love. This pure love – selfless love – is available to us in the form of Satsang – holy fellowship. Satsang – holy company - removes dirt of our mind. Saint Tulsidas says :

"કંચન તજવો સહજ છે, સહજ પ્રિયા કો સ્નેહ,
માન બડાઈ ઈર્ષા, તુલસી દુર્લભ એહ."

(It is easy to disown wealth and love but it is most difficult to disown ego, envy and self-pride.)

News And Notes From Shri Narnarayandev Desh

AHMEDABAD REGION

Shri Shiksha Patri Bhashya Parayana at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Kalupur

A Parayan Satsang (three days) was organized here at the prasadi Mandapam, with the due blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. These religious events were arranged most effectively under able guidance and consultation of Mahant Swami S.G. Shastri Nirgundasji. The Parayan Satsang was hosted by the family of Shri Babubhai Manilal Shah (Prantij) with due inspiration and encouragement from (Late) Nathjibhai Ichchharam Shukla and Shri Ishwarlalbhai L. Pandya. The seat of the reader preist was graced by Parayan-Purani Ghanshyamcharandasji Swami. The devotees and the aspirants at this Parayan Satsang were favoured with daily darshan of Dev, Acharya and Dharmkul. Parayan Satsang was concluded ceremoniously by H.H. Acharya Maharajshri in benign company of former Acharya, by presenting poojan Aarti to holy scriptrue. A sabha was organized on this occasion. Host family have earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by presenting poojan, Archan, Aarti to duo form of Acharya Maharajshri. Events and celebrations were managed by the Kothari Swami of Kalupur Temple. - *Kothari Sadhu Dharmprakashdas*

Shri Swaminarayan Sanskrit Mahavidyalaya Celebrates Sharadotsava at Jetalpur Dhaam

Sharadotsava was celebrated here at the campus of Shri Swaminarayan Sankrit Mahavidhyalaya to welcome refreshing season of Sharada. Grand celebrations were presented for the four days starting with 9-10-2005.

Blissful views of Himalaya and Giranr were created by the teachers and students to help the aspirants in their spiritual journey.

H.H. Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharajshri graced the celebrations with a large retinue of his saints, parshadas and senior devotees. Devotional music and cultural events were presented by scholar saints and students of this Sanskrit college. The language of God, - Sanskrit – was the main attraction of these celebrations. All the programmes were conducted and presented in Sanskrit by adepting the language as a medium of communication. H.H. Acharya Maharajshri has conveyed his blessings to the principal, lecturers and students of this Mahavidyalaya.

S.G. Mahant Swami Shastri Atmaprakashdasji, S.G. Mahant Swami Shastri Purushottamprakashdasji, Mahant Swami Krishnaprakashdasji and the representative of Mahant Swami of Ahmedabad were present on this occasion with their disciple saints. The vote of thanks was passed by Shastri Swami Hariomprakashdasji.

- *Scholar Sadhu Chaitanyaswaroopdas.*

Lord Ghanshyam Maharaj manifests in the form of H.H. Lalji Maharajshri

Shri Bharatbhai Amrtilal Gandhi and his family (Mansa, Gandhinagar) are faithful followers of Shri Narnarayandev Desh Diocese. Here is an experience narrated by Shri Baharatbhai.

Since ancient time, they are firm and faithful followers of Lord Shriji Maharaj. Family lineage believed firmly in teachings of Vachanamrit and Shikshapatri. They are practicing Shikshapatri in their daily life by rising early in the morning, practicing Nitya

Niyamas, routine rituals and services to Lord Thakorji, Thaal, Aarti and Dharshan of God at the temple of this diocese. Morning and evening sessions are of one hour duration dedicated exclusively to the service of God at home. They are practicing Vratta, Niyam and Ekadashi penance in accordance to teachings of Shikshapatri.

In his early morning dream state of Prabodhini Ekadashi, Shri Bharatbhai saw H.H. Lalji Maharajshri parking his car at the gate of his house. It was raining heavily. Bharatbhai ran to the gate and escorted Lalji Maharajshri to grace his humble dwelling. H.H. Lalji Maharajshri graced the drawing room and sat there to bless his follower. Bharatbhai looked at H.H. Lalji Maharaj 108 Shri Vrajendraprasadji Maharaj to salute his Holiness, but like a divine miracle, he did darshan of Lord Balswaroop Ghanshyam Maharaj manifested in Lalji Maharajshri. This was a pleasant surprise for Shri Bharatbhia. He surrendred absolutely at his duo form and ensured ultimate emancipation for all his predecessors and successors in the linage. He realized absolute oneness between Shri Hari and His descendant heirs.

Tulsi Vivah Celebrations at Gomtipur Temple

Tulsivivah festivities were organized here with the due blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. This religious event was organized in traditional way by the devotees and saints. Devout ladies have ralished the celebrations by singing devotional songs written by Nand-Sants. Lord Harikrishna Maharaj has received special attires and ornaments to please his followers.

-Kotharishri

Shri Swaminarayan Mandir Unava

Annakut and festive decoration were received by Lord Shri Hari on auspicious occasion of Diwali and newyear. Annakut and other celebrations were organized by Mahant Swami with the due blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. A Satsang Dayro was organized in bening presence of Lord Kashtabhanjan Dev. Shri Dhavalbhai Soni and Shri Dineshbhai Vaghasia have earned the pleasure of Shri by their live presentation.

- Mahendra Bhagat

Patotsava of God at Vanzar (Sarkhej) Temple

Lord Thakorji has received here patotsava Abhishekam and annual celebrations to please his devotees. The events were organized on auspicious fifth day of the bright half of Kartika, with the due blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. Maha Pooja, Mahabhishekam, Annakut and festive Aarti were organized on this occasion. The events were organized by the saints and devotees under guidance from Mahant Swami. Devotees Shri Rajubhai, Prakashbhai and Nitinbhai have earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by hosting the Patotsava events in morning session. Kirtans were presented at evening session by the Narnarayndev Yuvak Mandal of Jivrajpark temple.

A large number of devotees have benefited by these religious celebrations.

- Kothari Ramanbhai

Our Bapupura Temple Celebrates Tulsi Vivah

Our Swaminarayan Mandir at Bapupura has celebrated Tulsi Vivah under the blessed orders of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. Marriage party was come from Charada. Groom Thakorji and marriage party were received amidst festive music by the bride side at Bapupura. Festive marriage songs were presented by the female devotees from both the sides. The events were organized by Bapupura village. Bapupura and

neighbouring villages have benefited by this auspicious celebrations. - *Kothari, Jeshangbhai Chaudhari and Bhagabhai Revabhai.*

Shri Swaminarayan Mandir Dangarva

Satsang activities are progressing very well at Talpad and Vata of Dangarva. Shri Swaminarayan Mahamantra Dhoon of 48 hours durations was organized here at both the places. A large number of devotees have benefited by these Dhoon sessions. A Padayatra was organized from Dangarva to do Darshan of Lord Radhakrishnadev at Muli Dhaam. Refreshing Sharada was welcomed at the temple by a colourufl programme of Sharadotsava. *-Dabhi Mafaji Sardarji.*

Installation of the idols of God at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Mahundra

A new Harimandir was built at Mahundra with the due blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharajshri. Shastri Swami Harijivandasji has earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by guiding the Satsangis in construction of Hari Mandir. The land for the mandir was donated by Shri Manubhai M. Patel and his family. the temple was constructed within ane year from the two houses of the devotees.

Shrimad Bhagwat Parayan (five days) was organized on this occasion. The seat of the principal reader priest was graced by S.G. Swami Harijivandasji. Maha Vishnu Yaag was organized for the three days.

H.H. Acharya Maharajshri graced this village to bless his faithful followers. This was the first visit of the Acharya. About five thousand guest devotees were come from the neighbourhood and other places. H.H. Acharya Maharajshri was received warmly by a colourufl procession and devotional music presented by the residents of Mahundra. H.H. Acharya Maharajshri graced the temple and installed the idols of God. Sacred fire was concluded thereafter by His holiness and sacred sacrifice of coconut was presented to the fire God. A special Sabha was organized on this auspicious occasion. H.H. Acharya Maharajshri concluded the Parayan Satsang by presenting Poojan-Aarti to the sacred scripture and graced the Sabha to address entire Satsang. Mahant Swami of Ahmedabad temple and the saints from Sokli, Idar, Jetalpur, Narayanghat, Naranpura, Bhuj and Himatnagar have earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by their enlightening discourses. Elderly saint S.G. Harinarayan Swami (Bhuj Temple) has eanred the pleasure of Shri Hari by inspiring the devotees to install idols of Lord Ganpatiji and Lord Hanumanji. H.H. Acharya Maharajshri honoured his religious services and appreciated his devotional fervour by presenting flower garlands. H.H. Maharajshri blessed the devotees and asked them to practise the preachings of Shikshapatri. Sabha was coducted by Shastri Swami Chandraprakashji (Bilia Temple) and events were managed by S.G. Bhakti Swami (Lei). *-Kothari Babubhai S. Patel*

Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Dahegam

Sumptuous Annakut was presented here to Lord Thakorji to celebrate new year. Smt. Hansaben Harshadbhai Patel and her family have earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by hosting Annkut festivities. H.H. Acharya Maharajshri has blessed the host family and the Satsnagis for their faith and devotional fervour. Hundreds of families have benefited spiritually by this grand religius celebrations.

-Kothari Arvindbhai Amin

MULI REGION

Invocation Ceremonies of God Installed at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir Surendranagar

Lord Narnarayandev Balswaroop

Ghanshyam Maharaj and Shri Radhakrishnadev Shri Harikrishna Maharaj in their idol forms have graced their abode at splendid new temple built in pink Pahadpur (Rajasthan) stones. This majestic shrine belongs to Lord Rhadakrishnadev Harikrishna Maharaj dwelling at Muli Dhaam. New temple at Surendranagar is a historical monument presenting history of incarnations, deities, demi Gods and finer side of Indian culture. It is built in sculptured stones presenting artistic designs in sculptured pillars supporting huge central dome and five smaller domes around the central dome. There are 42 ceilings thickly decorated with intricate stone work. Artists have left no stone unturned in presenting status of Apsaras, Gandharvas and other semi divine entities. Temple structure is 105' long, 70' wide and 78' tall. Idols are casted in Pancha Dhaatu (alloy of five auspicious metal). About 800 and more deities are accomodated in intricate design of the door frame. Door frames are intricately carved in pure white marble. Temple building heralds one principal peak surrounded by five majestic peaks.

Lord Radhakrishnadev Harikrishna Maharaj is installed at the main abode in center, Lord Narnarayandev graces the throne at right hand side and Lord Balswaroop Ghanshyam Maharaj dwells at left hand side. Lord Ganpatiji (Vighna Vinayaka) and Lord Kashtabhanjandev dwell at the respective dome at either sides of indwelling God.

H.H. Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharajshri graced Surendranagar and opened the gate of salvation by installing God at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Surendranagar.

Week long religious festivities were organized on this occasion to sing the praise of Lord Shri Hari. "Shrimad Satsangi Jeevan Saptha Parayan" was organized on this occasion. The seat of the principal reader-priest was graced joinly by S.G. Shastri Swami Shrijiprakashdasji and S.G. Sahstri Swami Satyaswaroopdasji. The feast of the ultimate knowledge was orgnazied in a series of the discourses delivered by S.G. Reader-pirest Swami Ramkrishnadasji. Shri Hari Yaag (Five days) with 51 altars and 175 hosts was conducted on this auspicious occasion.

An exhibition of the drawings, painting and visual projects was organized on this occasion to project talenet, skills and expertise of the growing generations of the devotees. Paintings and articles were made by Satsangi youths. A grand Shobha Yatra was organized on this occasion. Shobha Yatra was led by Lord Thakorji in holy company of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri and H.H. Lalji Maharajshri. A medical diagnostic camp was organized with free service from 40 doctors. About 1450 patients have benefited by this programme. A blood donation camp was conducted and 88 bottles of blood were received from the generous blood-donors.

Open community Kitchen was operating at the ground to sarve oven fresh eatables, delicacies and sweets. About 8 to 10 itmes were served in one dish at satisfaction of the guests. Kitchen was open from 11-11-05 to 17-11-05 (seven days). About 2,35,000 aspirants have benefited by this meal service. Former Acharya Maharaj H.H. Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharaj has conveyed his hearty pleasure for fulfilement of his benedictory resolute. Entire Dharmkul has visited the temple and conveyed their satisfaction for the temple and its services.

The construction of the temple took eight years by using 2800 cubic feet stone in construction and ornamental designing. Invocation festivities were hosted jointly by

Samkhya Yogi Sisters Kamalaba, Kokilaba and Ushaba (S.Y. Disciples of (Late) Samkhya Yogi Shri Dholiba). Beside principal hostship, they have hosted for the idols of Lord Shri Krishna and for one golden throne of God. Shri Kanjibhai Harjibhai Varsani (Samatra) has earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by hosting Satsangi jivan Saptha-Parayan. Devout host has served towards idols of Ganapatiji and main door frame of Lord Ganapatiji-temple.

Hosts Shri Lakshmanbhai Raghvani, Shri Kanjibhai Raghvani and Premjibhai Raghvani (Baldia-Kutch) have earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by hosting idols of Lord Narayan Bhagwan. Idols of Shri Nar Bhagwan were hosted by Shri (Late) Mohanbhai Panachandbhai Gandhi (Dhrangadhra). Idol of Lord Harikrishna Maharaj was hosted by Shri Parbatbhai Kanjibhai Hirani. (Bharasar-Kutch) Idol of Lord Balswroop Ghanshyam Maharaj was hosted by Shri Ranjanben Dholakia on behalf of Devout family of (Late) Shri Anantrai Manilal Dholakia. Idol of Goddess Radhikaji was hosted jointly by Shri Arvindbhai and Santoshbhai Dahyabhai, on behalf of (Late) Shri Gunvantlal Trambaklal Kamdar. Idol of Lord Kashtabhanjandev was hosted by Shri Ravjibhai Meghjibhai Vekaria (Baldia-Kutch). Idols of Lord Shiva-Prarvatiji were hosted jointly by Ranjanben, Ajay and Prashantbhai on behalf of (Late) Shri Chandubhai Odhavjibhai Soni. Idols of Sukh Shayya were hosted by Shri Ravjibhai Govindbhai Varsani (Kera-Kutch) and throne was hosted jointly by the devotees Shri Vasantben Jayantilal Shah (Parle-Mumbai) and Shri Kiritbhai M. Udani.

Shri Moharbhai Bagadia (Kharvawala) and his family members have earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by hosting Shri Hari Yaag. The service of the marble door frames was hosted collectively by Shri Khimjibhai Harjibhai with Shri Bhikhabhai Harjibhai (Mirjapur-Kutch), Shri Narendrabhai Amarabha Khachar (Rajkot), Shri Dalsukhbhai Ramjibhai Parikh (Surendranagar), Shri Dhirajlal Vadilal Parikh (Surendranagar), Shri Amritlal Nanjibhai Khatri (Surendranagar), Shri Manibhai Mohenbhai Patel (Trent), and Shri Lalluji and Sons Ujjain (M.P.).

The service of auspicius gold pot and sacred flag post were hosted collectively by Dr. Bharatbhai Kheradia (Chuda), Satsang Samaj U.S.A. (through Shri Rajeshbhai Parikh), Shri Bhimjibhai Devjibhai Tank (Dubai), (Late) Pranlal Devchandbhai Parikh (Mumbai), (Late) Harikrishnabhai Gordhanbhai (Mumbai) and Shri Jayshriben Thakorbhai Patel.

The service towards the throne of Lord Narnarayandev was hosted by the devout group of (Late) Manilal Lakshmidas Bhalja, through Shri Nandlalbhai Kothari. The service towards the idol of Kashtabhanjandev (small form) was hosted by Shri Amritbhai Patel (Gandhinagar wala) and service towards the throne was extended jointly by Shri Ramjibhai Kanjibhai Hirani and Khimjibhai Kanjibhai Hirani (Bharasar - Kutch).

In this festive week, the meals for the first day were hosted collectively by the group of the disciples of Shastri Swami Vigyandasji (Muli Dhaam). The meals on the second day were hosted by Shri Ashwinbhai Bhikhalal Parikh (Surendrangar). Third day meals were hosted by Shri Hargovindbhai Sundarjibhai Jansari (Surendranagar), Fourthday meals were hosted by Shri Pitambarbhai Arjanbhai Malavia. The meals on the fifth day were hosted by Dr. Kamleshbhai Parikh (Surendranagar). The meals on the sixth day were hosted jointly by Shri Parbatbhai Kanjibhai Hirani and Shri Ravjibhai Govindbhai Varsani. The meal service of the seventh day was hosted by Dhanjibhai Anandjibhai Patel (Macson wala)

Shri Hariyaag was hosted collectively by Shri Chamanlalbhai Ramjibhai Khatri, (Late) Nagardas Chhaganlal Parejia, Shri Dhansukhbhai Damjibhai Poria and Shri Harikrishnabhai K. Gandhi. Mahabhishekam

and Annakut were hosted collectively by Shri Chunilal Govindbhai Soni, Jasubhai Soni, Pravinbhai Soni, Manubhai Soni (Late) Jayantibhai Kalidas Parikh and (Late) Ramjibhai Kanjibhai Soni – through Shri Sanjaybhai Soni (Ahmedabad), Shri Gunventbhai P. Maheta, Vasantbhai Harilal Doshi and Shri Tanukumar Karsanbhai Dobaria.

Group Mahapooja was hosted by Shri Khimjibhai Bhagwandas Patel (Meda wala) – through Shri Govindbhai and Ratibhai, Shri Dalsukhbhai Ramjibhai Parikh and Shri Vasantblal Tribhovandas Tank have earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by presenting Poojan-Archa-Aarti to H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. Shri Mohanbhai Laljibhai Patel and his family have earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by hosting camp of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri and Dharmkul. Shri Ranchhodbhai Dosabhai Patel, (Late) Chaturbhai Chhaganbhai Patel and Shri Chatrubhai Mohanbhai Patel have earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by presenting Poojan-Aarti to the saints. Shri Bipinbhai Kavi (Chicago), Shri Harjibhai Valjibhai (Surendranagar) and Shri Lakshmichandbhai Narayandas Maniar (Surendranagar) have earned the pleasure Shri Hari by hosting collectively the service of Gop-Vesha, Mukuta and Chhatra. The service of lotus seat at the peak of the temple was hosted collectively by (Late) Lavjibhai Bhimdas family (Amedabad), (Late) Kantilal Manilal Soni (Surendranagar), Shri Balvantrai N. Gadani (Surendranagar), Shri Maneklal M. Parikh Secundarabad, Shri Rasiklal Popatlal (Vadodara) and Shri Jayantibhai Fulchandbhia Soni.

The temple in carved stone was planned and designed by Shri Jagdishbhai Sompura (Ambaji). Carving and sculptural work was monitored by Shri Sherkhan Kalukhan. Tents and camping service was supplied collectively by Sadguru Mandap (Idar), Jyoti Mandap (Morvi) and Lalluji and Sons (Ujjain). Light and Electrical service was supplied by Amrit Electrical (Rajkot).

H.H. Acharya Maharajshri graced the temple and installed the idols of God amidst chants of vedic hymns. Scholar Brahmin priest helped His holiness in invocation rituals. Shrimad Satangi Jivan Parayan and Shri Hari Yaag were concluded ceremoniously by presenting sacred sacrifice to the holy fire and Poojan Aarti to the sacred seat of the scriptures.

H.H. Acharya Maharajshri graced the Sabha and blessed his devotees at the end of programme. Mahant Swami Shastri Nirgundasji (Ahmedabad Temple), Swami Harikrishnadasji (Ex-Mahant Swami, Chhapaiya), S.G. Premprakashdasji (Bhuj), Mahant Swami Narendraprasaddasji (Muli Dhaam) and senior saints were come from Muli, Ahmedabad, Vartal, Junagadh, Jetalpur, Gadhda, Dholera and Bhuj etc. places. All the Samkhya Yogi Sisters from Bhuj, Ahmedabad and Muli desha were present at these celebrations.

Samhita was read during the Parayana and cultural programmes were presented daily at late evening. Shastri Swami Harikrishnadasji and Devprakash Swami were come specially from U.S.A. to assist the saints at the temple. Shastri Swami Dharmvallabhdasji has earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by collecting donation from Chicago-USA. Shastri Swami Purnaprakashdasji, S.G. Rajendraprasaddas and S.G. P.P. Swami (junior) have earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by inspiring the devotees for the sevice towards the temple. Kitchen services were managed by S.G. Jishnucharandasji (Mahant Swami) Charadava temple.

S.G. Suryaprakash Swami, S.G. Shantiprakash Swami, Vrajvallabh Swami, Vishwaswaroop Swami, Vrindavan Swami, K.P. Swami, Premvallabh Swami and Kanubhai Bhagat have earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by their selfless service at the events.

The Sabhas of the special events and

celebrations were conducted jointly by Shastri Swami Purnaprakashdasji, S.G. Shastri Premvallabhdasji and Shastri Swami Bhaktinandandasji. Saints and devotees have extended whole hearted support to the service by their active participation. Shri Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandals of entire Muli region were present on this occasion to participate in the events and services.

The events and festivities were co-ordinated effectively by Shastri Swami Premvallabhdasji and Shastri Swami Satyaswaroopdasji by providing vision and leadership to Shri Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal of Surendranagar.- *Shailendrasinh Jhala*

Invocation of God at the birth place of S.G. Devanand Swami

(Swaminarayan Mandir, Balol-Bhal)

Balol is a Prasadi place in region of Bhal. It is birth place of S.G. Devanand Swami. S.G. Devanand Swami had served at lotus feet of Lord Narnarayandev. Two spacious temples – respectively for the gents and ladies were constructed here as Hari mandirs, with the due blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharajshri.

The grand festivities of invocation of God at the temple began with the celebrations spread in five days. S.G. Mahant Swami Shastri Nirgundasji Swami graced this sacred place in early morning of 9-11-05 and lit the lamp to spread eternal knowledge in compnay of S.G. Bhandari Swami Jankivallabhdasji, Swami Balkrishnadasji (Muli), Swami Narnarayandasji and Mahant Swami Jagatprakashdasji (Dholka Mahant).

Shrimad Satsangi Bhushan Parayan (9-11-05 to 13-11-05) was organized on this auspicious occasion. The seat of the principal reader priest was graced by enlightened saint S.G. Swami Shastri Harikeshavdasji (morning sessions) and evening sessions were addressed by S.G. Shastri Swami Gyanvallabhdasji, Shastri Swami Shrijiprakashdasji, Shastri Swami Ghanshyamprakashdasji and Shastri Swami Purushottamprakashdasji. Devotees and aspirants have benefited by this feast of ultimate knowledge. Samhita (text) was read by celibate saint S.G. Suryaprakashanandji. Sabhas were conducted by Shastri Swami Purnaprakashdasji. Tea and meals were served to all the invitees, guests and visiting devotees. Free meal service was hosted by the residents of Balol (Bhal).

The festivities, rituals and events were planned and organized by Mahant Swami Lakshmiprasaddasji (Muli Temple), Hajuri Parsahada Vanraj Bhagat and Mahant Swami Dharmswaroopdasji (Nathdwara Temple) under orders and instruction from H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. Maha Vishnu Yaag, Maha Pooja and Sacred thread ceremonies were organized as a part of invocation ceremonies. Devotional music and cultural programmes were presented at late evening. Shri Khimjibhai Bharvad and other renown artists have earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by presenting devotional music.

H.H. Acharya Maharajshri graced this sacred place on auspicious 13th day of November – 2005. His holiness was received by a Shobha Yatra and welcomed at the Sabha with devotional music and Jai Jaikar of Lord Swaminarayan Bhagwan. His holiness was escorted by a large retinue of enlightened saints, Parshadas and senior Haribhaktas. This was a most memorable event in history of Balol. Almost everyone from the village were involved in service of Lord Shriji Maharaj.

H.H. Acharya Maharajshri graced both the temples and invoked God amidst chants of the vedic hymns. A special Sabha was organizedo on this auspicius occasion. H.H. Acharya Maharajshri graced the Sabha and received poojan Aarti from the hosts and devotees. A prasadi rug (Rajaai) was gifted to Shri Swaminarayan Museum. H.H. Acharya Maharajshri received this precious gift and blessed the Satsang of Balol. Entire Dharmkul led by H.H. Acharya Maharaj Shri

Tejendraprasadji Maharajshri, H.H. Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Koshlendraprasadji Maharajshri and H.H. Lalji Maharaj 108 Shri Vrajendraprasadji Maharajshri, was present on this occasion to favour the faithful devotees by their blissful Darshan.

B.J.P. President Shri Vajubhai Vala, Shri Kiritsinh Rana (Limbdi) and Shri Bhavanbhai Bharvad (M.L.A. Limbdi) were present on this occasion. Thousands of Satsangi families were come from Shri Narnarayandev desh. Mahant Swami Shastri Nirgundasji (Ahmedabad) Swami Shastri Purushottamprakashdasji (Jetalpur), Mahant Swami Jagatprakashdasji (Dholka), Mahant Swami Narendraprasaddasji (Muli), Shaastri Swami Purnaprakashdasji, and Swami Chandraprakashdasji have co-operated extensively by sparing precious time for consultation and guidance needed for the celebrations. H.H. Acharya Maharajshri and Acahrya Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharjashri have conveyed their hearty blessings.

-Karsanbhai Sindhav.

OVERSEAS

Padayatra and Birthday Celebrations at Chicago Temple (ISSO)

An early morning Pada-Yatra was orgnazied here with the chants of Shri Swaminarayan Bhagwan and slogan of H.H. Acharya Maharjshri. Five kilomenter rout was covered by this religious walk and devotees and others were led by Mahant Swami Shastri Dharmvallabhdasji and the saints. Devotional music was arranged by the devotees to spread message of this holy followership. The Pada Yatra was concluded at the temple to do darshan of Shanagar Aarti,

Lord Shri Hari's merge in divine was remembered most religiously by conducting satsang session at our Chicago temple.'

The birthday of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri was celebrated at the temple by presenting poojan – Archan Aarti to the photo image of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. Dhoon, Katha Kirtan and discourses were organized on this occasion. Prasadam was served to the devotees at the end of devotional session.

-Ghanshaybhai Kavi, Vishnubhai Solawala

Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Florida (ISSO)

The Sharadotsava and Birthday of H.H. Acharya Maharjshri were celebrated here by the saints and deovtees. Dhoon Kirtan and Katha Varta were organized and Pooja-Aarti were present to celebrate birthday of H.H. Achaya Maharajshri. Sharadotsava was celebrated by presenting Thaal of Doodh Poha in saffron, to Lord Thakorji. "Raas Panchadhyayi" was recited on this occasion by S.G. Shastri Naravanvallabhdasji. Prasadam of Doodh Poha was distributed at the end of devotional session.

- Nitinbhai Patel

First Annual Patotsava of God at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir Detroit (ISSO USA)

First Annual Patotsava was organized here with the due blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharjshri. S.G. Mahant Swami Shastri Harikrishnadasji and S.G. Swami Devprakashdasji (Ex-member, Scheme Committee) have earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by inspiring devout family for hosting the events. Dr. Manojbhai J. Brahmbhatt, Mother Jasuba and their family members have earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by hosting the festivities. Patotsava Mahabhishekam was served collectively by former Acharya Maharajshri, H.H Acharya Maharjshri and H.H Lalji Maharajshri amidst chants of Vedic hymns. Respected Gadiwalashri (both) were present on this occasion with entire Dharmkul. Mahabhishekam, Maha Pooja and Annkut were hosted by the hosts of Annual Patotsava and precious attires and ornaments were presented to Lord Thakorji. President Dr. Arvindbhai, Himatbhai Kher, Dr. Rashmi Vora, Jagdishbhai, Babubhai and others were present on this occasion. 'Shrimad Bhagwat (five days) parayan' was organized on this occasion. Katha was recited by scholar brhamin presti Yogendrabhai Bhatt. About 1500 devotee have participated in these celebrations. *- Yogi Swami, Detroit*



H.H. Acharya Maharajshri worships holy fire on occasion of invocation of God at our Mahundra Temple. S.G. Mahant Swami, Shastri Swami Harijeevandasji and saints are present at the ceremonies.



H.H. Acharya Maharajshri offers concluding sacrifice to the holy fire of Maruti Yagya. (Kankaria Temple)



H.H. Acharya Maharajshri inaugurates renovation of the prasadi Hanuman temple located at ancient residency of Acharya Maharajshri (Swaminarayan Baugh Gurukul, Asarva, Ahmedabad.)



H.H. Acharya Maharajshri with his faithful devotees a the Prabodhini Ekadashi Sastsang held in benign presence of Lord Narnarayandev at Ahmedabad Temple.





Shri Swaminarayan Museum : a view of construction activities.



H.H. Acharya Maharajshri presents Invocation Aarti at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Balol (Bhal)



Lord Shri Hari's three descendant heirs conveyed hearty blessings to their faithful Satsangis.



Kharsani