SHREE SWAMINARAYAN

श्री स्वामिनारायण

FEBRUARY 2005



AUSTRALIA



NEW ZEALAND

LOS ANGELES

Publisher:-
Shreé Swaminarayan Temple, Ahmedabad-1

પ્રકાશકઃ-
શ્રી સ્વામિનારાયણ મંદિર, અમદાવાદ-૧



Welcome procession to celebrate invocation rituals organized at our Sydney temple.



H.H. Acharya Maharajshri graces Shobha Yatra in Sydney. Chief Host Shri Devrajbhai Halaria is being seen with His Holiness.



The devotees at Maha Pooja and Kirtan Satsang.



H.H. Acharya Maharajshri receives details of the Oakland Temple from Dr. Kantibhai Patel.

Building-plans for the temple in Newzealand.



Official News-letter from Shri Narnarayandevdesh Diocese



SHREE SWAMINARAYAN
श्री स्वामिनारायण

Vol : 7 No : 78 February 2005

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ENGLISH EDITION
TARUN RAVAL

Editorial & Subscription Address
Shri Swaminarayan
(English)
Shri Swaminarayan Temple
Kalupur, AHMEDABAD-1
(INDIA)

Life time Subscription :
One Year : Rs. 50/-
Inland life time : Rs. 501/-
Overseas life time : Rs. 5000/-
India : @ Rs. 5/-

Published Simultaneously in English, Hindi and Gujarati on 11th of every Month.

: PUBLISHERS :

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EDITORIAL

Lord Shriji Maharaj has chosen the season of spring to manifest and idolise the eternal knowledge of his divine form as the sublime scripture Shikshaptri. He had addressed the Shikshapatri to the Satsang and mankind. It appears that most pleasant environment was found most appropriate and suitable by the rishis in the sadhana of Moksha. Lord Shri Krishna has preferred Ekadashi day of Margashirsha - a pleasant day in spring–season-to preach Bhagwad Gita to Arjuna and mankind. Lord Shri Krishna himself has said मासानां मार्गशीर्षोहम् (I am the Margshirsha among the months in a year) Since ancient time, we sing Dhanursmaas Dhoon during auspicious Margshirsha to please Lord Shri Hari by Mahamantra recitation. This soulful devotion enlighens our heart. Lord Swaminarayan Bhagwan fufills our wishes and aspirations. May Lord Shri Hari be with us in our devotional endevour.

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



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

January-2004

7. Installed idols of God at our temples in U.S.A. and Australia, graced Oakland and Perth during overseas religious tour and came back to India.
8. Graced Shakotsava celebrations organized at Dhamasana.
   Graced the house of Shri Lalbhai Shankarbhai Patel (Ex-member).
9. Graced Shakotsav celebrations organized at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Narayanghat, Shahibaugh.
10. Blessed presence at the concluding ceremony of Vachanamrit Parayan, D. K. Patel Hall, Naranpura.
    Blessed presence at the Homa and Maha Pooja held at the residence of Shri Gautambhai S. Patel, Navrangpura.
11. Blessed presence at the concluding ceremony of the parayan-Katha held at our temple at Aslali.
12. Blessed presence at the Shakotsava organized at Lilapar (Muli region, Tal.-Lakhtar).
13. Concluded Dhanurmaas Dhoon Sessions at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Ahmedabad.
    Graced foundation ceremony of the Anuraag Residence Scheme, Memnagar.
    Graced the house of a devotee at Hirabaugh, Ghatlodia, Ahmedabad.
    Graced the residence of the devotee Shri Natvarlal D. Mistri, Dariapur.
14. Attended religious rituals and installed victory pillar on forthcoming occasion of the installation of the idols of God at our Swaminarayan Mandir, Approach-Bapunagar, and celebrated festive event of Shakotsava Bapunagar, Ahmedabad.
    Graced presence at Maha Pooja held at the Gurukulam of Mahadevnagar, Ratanpura.
15. Graced installation ceremony of the idols at our temple at Survadar (Halvad, Muli Desh).
16. Graced Shakotsava at Manekpura (Chaudhari) and blessed the residence of the devotees at Indrapura.

18-20. Graced Installation ceremony of the idols of God in our Temple at Fotdi-Kutch.

21. Graced "Shri Ram Estate" at Odhav.
    Graced "M/s Dharmesh Jewellers", Maninagar.
22. Graced Parayan-Saptah organized at Gurukul in blissful memories of Samkhya Yogi (Late) Gauriba, Dhrangadhra.
    Graced and blessed the new house of Shri Babubhai Shivlal Thakkar, Paldi, Ahmedabad.
23. Graced Shakotsava celebrations held at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Ranip, Ahmedabad.
    Graced and blessed the marriage ceremony held in the family of Shri Kamleshbhai D. Patel, Bapunagar, Ahmedabad.
    Graced and blessed the inauguration ceremony of "Jay Ganesh Traders", Chandkheda, Ahmedabad.
    Graced the residence of Shri Manojbhai D. Patel, Ranip, Ahmedabad.

24. Graced Shakotsava events organized at Shri Swaminarayan Samskardham, Charadava.
25-26. Graced and blessed "Satsang Youth Camp" organized at Hira Lakshmi Saraswati Sadan, Ambaji.
27. Graced Installation rituals of the idols of God at Shri Prabha Hanumanji Mandir, Jamiyatpura.
28. Graced Shakotsava organized at our temple at Samau (Tal.-Mansa).
Graced Maha Pooja rituals at the residence of Shri Ghanshyambhai G. Patel (Vihar Valla), Naroda, Ahmedabad.
29. Graced Invocation celebrations at Shri Swaminarayan Gurukul, Hathijan, Ahmedabad.
Graced and blessed the marriage ceremonies organized in the family of Shri Balvantbhai Bharatbhai, Amaraiwadi, Ahmedabad.
30. Graced the house-worming ceremony held at the house of Shri Pankajbhai D. Thakkar, Ghuma Road, Ahmedabad.
Graced "Satsang" organized at the house of Shri Mohanbhai Amichandbhai Patel, Sapawada, Idar (S.K.).

CREATIVE LIFE

Former Acharya Maharaj – H.H. Acharya Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharajshri has dedicated himself absolutely to the mission of "Shri Swaminarayan Museum." The museum plans are in progress. His holiness graces the office at the following address :

SHRI SWAMINARAYAN MUSEUM

Behind AEC Narayanpura,
Opp. Terf School, Ahmedabad-13.
Ph. : 24719597 Fax : 27499597
Visiting Time and Darshan : 9-00 to 11-00 a.m.

SACRED-THREAD CEREMONY

H.H. Lalji Maharaj 108 Shri Vrajendraprasadji Mahrajshri will receive Holy-threads as per vedic rituals in benign presence of Lord Narnarayandev Harikrishna Maharaj. Enlightening event shall be celebrated on auspicious Akshaya Tritiya (i.e. 11-5-05). Devotees shall be invited in days to come. - Mahant Swami.

KIND ATTENTION

The saints and the householder Satsangis are requested to note that, the invitations and posteres related to the religious celebrations may please be got confirmed in advance through the Mahant Swami of this temple. H.H. Acharya Maharajshri may not find it convenient to grace such programmes where invitation and other materials are not confirmed in advance.

This is a must for the traditional uniformity.

- Mahant Swami
Shri Swaminarayan Temple, Ahmedabad.

DHARMADA - DONATION

निजवृत्युद्यमप्राप्त धनधान्यादितश्च तैः ।
अर्प्यो दशांशः कृष्णाय विंशोंऽशस्त्विह दुर्बलैः ॥

The Satsangi householders shall offer to the Lord one tenth of their earning in terms of money or food-grains, from their own profession or business. Those who are economically weak, shall offer only one twentieth part of their earnings.

(Shikshapatri : 147)

Lord Shri Swaminaayan 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.

- Mahant Swami

APPEAL FOR THE GENEROUS DONATIONS

H.H. Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Koshalnedraprasadji Maharajshri favours his devotees by directing a most expensive translation project to publish Enlgish Translation of the Scriptures of this Samprsadaya.

"Shrimad Sastsangi Jivan" written by S.G. Shatanand Muni, shall be published on Akshaya Tritya (11-5-05), on auspicious sacred-thread ceremony of H.H. Lalji Maharaj 108 Shri Vrajendraprasadji Maharajshri.

It is too difficult these days to publish a volumous scripture with its authentic translation. However, H.H. Acharya Maharjshri has pronounced blessed orders to publish entire scripture in single volume edition befitting an ancient scripture and shall be produced on super fine durable papper with sillk cover and hand stitched durable binding. Cost of a book shall be about 500/- Rupees.

The devotees, aspiring to support this enlightening publication are requested to donate liberally in memory of their loved ones. May Shri Hari bless you.

- Mahant Swami



THIS SANDAL PASTE IS NOT HARD TO CARRY

- Atul B. Pothiwala

The temple of Lord Gopinath was under construction at Gadhpur. The wages of masons and labourers were overdue since long, and Shriji Maharaj was bed ridden due to prolonged ailment. A rajput devotee from Kholadiad – Khengar Bhagat - came to Gadhpur during those days to do darshan of Lord Shri Hari. He knew about the ailment, went to Akshar ordi and paid humble salute to Shriji Maharaj. In his faint voice, Shri Maharaj inquired about the family and convey blessings. He then asked softly, 'Khengar Bhagat ! Are you comfortable to execute your financial responsibilities ?' Khengar Bhagat responsded positively and said that he was spotlesly clean in money metters, and was very comfortable economically. Maharaj then went out to attended some urgent task. S.G. Shuk Muni was there at the room to write the holy scriptures. Khengar Bhagat turned to him and inquired most politely, 'Sad Guru ! Swami ! Why Maharaj asks me repeatedly about my financial condition and transactions ? Is there any hidden meaning in such inquires ? Shoud I be of any help, by my service ?' S.G. Shuk Muni said, "Bhagat ! The wages of mesons and labourers are over due. The shrine is in need of money to pay the dues.' 'Oh ! It is not a problem. I was come here to offer special meals to the saints and Thaal to Lord Shri Hari. I will go back home to bring some more fund to meet the expenses towards over due wages.' Meanwhile. Shri Hari graced the room. Khengar Bhagat prayed humbly, 'Maharaj ! I am clean and comfortable in financial matters. Therefore, please order to me for the service to the shrine and God.' Maharaj said, 'Khengar Bhagat ! We need three hundered rupees to pay the wages 'Maharaj ! I am bringing it just now' said Khengar Bhagat. He went hurridly to Ladha Thakar, and borrowed five hundred rupees. Ladha Thakar sent him to the state exchequer and arranged five hundred rupees for him.

Khengar Bhagat came back and submitted five hundred rupees at the lotus feet of Shriji Maharaj ! `Three hundred rupees are for the pending wages. One hundred rupees for your treatment and medicine and remaining one hundred are far the feast meals for the saints.' 'Bhagat ! The three hundered rupees that you gave for the overdue wages, would serve as the thaal to Thakorji and the saints. No extra money needed now.' Khengar Bhagat prayed, 'Maharaj ! Please accept it to favour this humble servent of yours and serve feast meals to the saints from this hundred rupees.

The feast meals of Laddu and other sumptuous dishes was organized thereafter to please Lord Shri Hari. The saints sat in the rows to have the feast meals and Shriji Maharaj blessed the occasion by his benign presence. Shriji Maharaj graced a charr in

Cont. to Page No. 8

Shri Narnarayandev Himself is Shri Hari

- Prof. Suryakant Bhatt

There is no limit to our blissful pleasure as and when we read the words of Shri Hari in the scriptures of Shikshapatri and Vachanamrit, Each following study, unfolds the vistas of newer spiritual wisdom and better understanding and divine image of Shri Hari appears before our eyes.



Former Acharya Maharajshri Tejendraprasadji Maharaj praises in all his meetings and preachings the glorious majesty of Lord Narnarayandev. Former Acharya Maharajshri has recommanded to us repeatedly the thorough study of the Vachanamrit-7 of Ahmedabad chapter. We should treat ourselves most forturnate for such personal hints from His holiness. Former Acharya Maharajshri has unbroken faith and trust in Lord Shri Narnarayandev.

Shri Tejendprasadji Maharajshri has blessed us eternally by a hand written collection named "વચનામૃતોમાં શ્રી નરનારાયણદેવ" Though it is small in appearance, the collection is like a majestic torch to illuminate innermost of the devotees and aspirants. Even today, Shriji Maharaj dwells among us in the visible form of Shri Narnarayandev. Thus, the Lord of the cosmoses and universe is present among us to fulfill our wishes and resolutes. Former Acharya Maharajshri explains it in the easiest way to help us in our devotion and meditation.

In his spiritual dialogue, delivered at Jetalpur (Vachanamrit : Jtealpur-5), Shriji Maharaj has said : 'Listen to me. I am conveying to day the facts as it is. There is nothing greater than the devotion of God, because God himself is doer of everything, and by grace of God, happen everything at my soevereign resolute and free will. I pervade all three kalas – past, present and future – and the actions in the kalas. This is the core reason why I institute repeatedly the supreme majesty and Lordship of Shri Narnarayandev. Lord Shri Krishna Purushottam – the Lord of Akshardhaam – dwells here in front of you at this assembly, therefore, to re-inforce within his supreme majesty, I had built the splendid temple at Ahmedabad at the cost of millions and had installed there the idols of Lord Narnarayandev. Those in Bharat Khand

a who worship other Gods and ignore majestic supreme Lord Narnarayandev, are like those debauch women who abandon their hasband to statisfy carnal desires with other men. I have manifested my self for the benediction of the saints and other souls. Therefore, I will, take you all to my divine abode, if followed the teachings of mine.' Thus, Shri Hari promises emancipation to we devotees.

'In V.S. 1882, on the seventh day of the dark half of the month falgun, Shriji Maharaj was seated at the upper floor of the building of the main-gate of the temple of Lord Narnarayandev at Ahmedabad. The Vasudeva Mahatmya was being read before him. Shortly after, as evening set in, He came downstairs and sat on the wooden cot underneath the margosa tree near the main gate. Pragji Dave, who was there in the assembly, asked Maharaj, 'Oh Maharaj ! Please tell us how our mind can be firmly established on your divine self that it would not deflect at any time.' Shriji Maharaj replied, 'The mind becomes fixed on the divine form of God, only when one realizes the glory and divine majesty of God.' Shri Hari explained then to them the method and means to realize divine glory and majesty with the realization of image of God, '.... And who I am ? If I shook the toe of my foot, the earth and entire land of universe rock and tramble by a touch of the toe. The millions of suns, moons and stars receive light only from my divine light.... Those Jivas who have sought refuge in me shall be consigned to my divine abode and shall be elevated with my divine power of omniscience. They shall be so elevated spiritually that they will, by their desire evolve millions of macrocosms. However, even with such divine power, they should not experience the ego of their greatness and disregard the greatness of Lord Narnarayandev presently manifesting here. They should always realize that they have their greatness because of the grace of Shri Narnarayandev.'

Former Achaya Maharaj Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharajshri has taken good care of us and had compiled for us with great care the divine words of Lord Shri Hari from the Vachanamrits narrating divine majesty and divine image of Lord Narnarayandev. The devotees should read it meditatively everyday for the self emancipation and universal welfare of mankind.

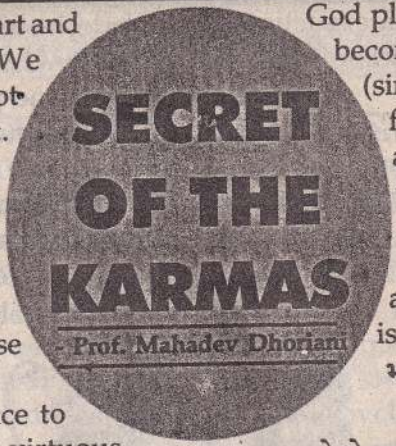
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This Sandal Paste is not Hard to Carry

front of the rows of the saints and asked to Muktanand Swami to serve feast meals to the saints.

Khengat Bhagat came with a large bowl of fragrant sandal paste in saffron and desired to do seva-pooja of Shri Hari by applying Sandal paste on person of Lord Shri Hari. But Muktanand Swami objected to it and said, 'Khengar Bhagat ! Maharaj is not physically well. Therefore, the sandal pase shall not be bearable for Him. It shall be hard to carry it. Do one thing. Smear it in token to his big toes.' But Maharaj intervened, 'Swami ! it is alright. Let him do it in his own way. This sandal paste shall not be hard to bear. Apply the sandal paste on my whole body.

Khengar Bhagar surrendered to Shri Hari and saluted humbly to do seva-pooja of his saviour God. Shriji Maharaj allowed him happily to apply sandal paste on his whole body. Khengar Bhagat did then Aarti and smeared fragrant and cool sandal paste on his whole body. Shriji Maharaj rose than from his seat and in his and saffron sandal-paste covered body, he hugged Khengarji with devotional love. The soulful Fragrance of sandal paste percolated in every molecule of Khengar Bhagat by the hearty embrace of God. The saints were amazed by the emotion filled meeting of God and his devotee.



Instrospection cleans the heart and eradicates vicious instincts. We should try at the best to out root the vices from the innermost. Forsake vices and adopt virtues. Be virtuous. This is the aim of human life. A sinful life grows from the company of the sinful people. Sinful company pollutes our mind and weakens the base and roots of inherent virtues.

The fruits are in accordance to our karmas (action). Good or virtuous actions result in the auspicious rewards and sinful actions bounce back as the ominous fruits. Nobody is spared by this rule :

अवश्यमेव भोक्तव्यं, कृतंकर्म शुभाशुभम् ॥

The thought it self is an action. To think is the real action. Actions or Karmas should be associated well with devotion and knowledge.

कर्मण्ये वाधिकारस्ते मा फलेषु कदाचन ।

Actions are our right and duty, but not the fruits or results. Lafe shall be a glorious life if it is weddes to pure action and virtuous living. Our faith in action inspires us to sacrife the self at the altar of duty. Don't ignore a duty or an action don't expect it's fruit. Life calls for the pure endurance. Fruits are in accordance to the karmas (actions). Saint Tulsidas says :

कर्म प्रधान विश्व करी राखा ।
जो जस करीअ तस फल चाखा ॥

The people, who are unaware of this universel law, say that the criminals have comforts and innocents have to suffer. Those criminal and innocents are having the good fruits of their past-birth. We should understand this well. The soul is supposed to have the fruits of all his actions. No action is fruitless. If grown a mango tree, that action shall be paid in the mango fruits.

The definition of the Punyas and papas, is very short and simple. To do good of the others is Punya and to do bad to the others is papa. God pleases by the acts of Punya and becomes unhappy by the acts of pap (sin). 'I am' or 'I did' is nothing but false ego, it is ignorance, because all living bodies are bound by their own acts. The sin is the result of a sinful act and Punaya (virtue) is the result of a virtuos act. Inaction is death and action is life :

મળે છે દેહ માટીમાં, પણ માનવીનું નામ જીવે છે,
મરે છે માનવી પોતે, પણ માનવીના કામ જીવે છે.

Bhagwan says, '**नियतं कुरुकर्म त्वम् ।**' (do your prescribed duty). The acts performed dutifully are the prescribed duty. 'Oh Arjuna ! Arise to act.' A good equation of devotion, action, knowledge and Yaga result in a face to face darshan of God. To trust in God is the gratefulness and to work for God is the 'yoga in action.' One should learn this great art of yoga.

Man can not live for a second without any action or karma. It is a must to ensure that the actions are not binding him. All our virtuous acts should be directed towards God. The virtiuos acts should be sinfree and selfless. Only virtuous souls hold the capacity of practicing yoga of the actions.

Pleasure loving people act virtuously to get sense objects. Some do so with fear. We should do so for the inner sublimation and the self improvement. All our deeds sould be dedicated absolutely to God. Such deeds shall be the best among the others. This would allow generosity, megnanimity, brillience and compassion to illuminate our life and soul. Gita says : Act like this, but don't be infatuated by your acts. Don't be trapped by your deeds. This is true karm-yoga.

જેવી કરે છે કરણી, તેવી તરત ફળે છે,
બદલો ભલા બૂરાનો, અહીંનો અહીં મળે છે

(Every action has appropriate reaction as a fruit of it. We are paid back accordingly for our virtuous and sinful acts.

There are two obstacles on the path virtuous deeds ardent desires and ego. These two are so powerful that it throws away the man from the path of duty. Pleasure and happiness resides not in material objects, therefore don't desire for it.

Another such hurdle is ego. Modesty is the best means to remove ego. Laziness and lethargy couses disinterest in our duty - desirable actions. A lazy man is inactive and inert. Gita Says :



शरीर यात्रापि च तेन प्रसिद्धयेद कर्मण ॥
(Gite : 3.8)

(Your body can not be sustained without actions.)

Actions and deeds maintain mobility of the body. Actions maintain alertness and agility of mind and intellect. Thus the mobility or action is the duty and main function of this machine called body. Pramada or distraction means to be diverted to the other task than the prescribed one – intended one. Distraction arises from the carelessness. It can be avoided by the means of accuracy and carefulness.

Dutiful actions removes affection and aversions, and heart becomes pure and happy. Action it self becomes the source of eternal happiness.

It is universal law that the actions should be in accordance to the cause. We harvest the fruits of the seeds we saw in the form of actions. The actions with desire of it's fruits are far better than the state of inaction, but the dutiful action are the best among the deeds. The acts are the most precious opportunity to attain eternal pleasure with development of life.

कस्गा फल हेतव: । Those are misers who acts with desire of it's fruits. They are very low and wicked. Act is the only means to express inner strength and power.

'Oh Arjuna ! The act of an individual effects whole society and mankind in general. Therefore transform your acts in an instrument of creation and service for the contemporary society.' If we mature to this ultimate hight, we shall be able to submit like Arjuna : करिष्ये वचनं तव । I shall act as per your orders.

Therefore, as and when you act, act thoughtfully, quickly and in best possible manner. Act personally and complete your action. Virtuous acts should be treated as wealth. There are three kinds of people :

1. Those who speak in volumes but do nothing.
2. Those who act as per their words.
3. Those who act without saying.

Findout your class in these three categories.

Delusion is the prime cause of our pains. Gita says : Act constantly. Act without delusion. Maintain your freedom in your acts. Acquire inner power to retain detachment and asceticism even for your near and dears. A balanced combination of devotion, knowledge, action and yoga helps the soul to attain God. Detachment is a must for ultimate happiness and eternal pleasure.

Foresake desires of the sense objects, ephemeral pleasures and comforts. Aspire for allround development. A loaf and an undergarment should be enough for the sustainance of a happy life, and for a worried life, the fleet of the cars and many bunglows shall not be the wealth we possessed, but exists it in what we enjoy. Live happily and with satisfaction.



Lord Swaminarayan Bhagwan Escorts his devotees to his Akshardham

- Dineshbhai K. Bhagat

Swaminarayan Sampradaya holds prominent position in reformist activities of the nineteenth century.Uddhava Sampradaya was founded in 1755 A.D. by S.G.Ramanand Swami. Shri Nilkanth Varni waited for ten months at Loj and met thereafter Ramanad Swami camping at Piplana. Celibate Shri Nilkanth received Bhagwati Deeksha in 1801 A.D., and became known as Narayan Muni-Sahajanand. As the principal disciple of Ramanand Swami, he was installed thereafter as the supreme Religious Head of this sect. Ramanand Swami ascended to the divine abode in year 1802, and in the following 28 years, Sahajanand Swami led this sect to emancipate millions of souls. He conducted extensive religious tours of Saurashtra, Kutch and Gujarat and visited thousands of towns and villages to bring people in the benign fold of axiomatic religion. The saints of this sect bore pains and agonies inflicted by the sinners and opponents and did satsang with the people of all the classes without any discrimination.They made them ideal citizens and ideal deveotees through knowledge, devotion, detachment and faith. Britishers observed this positive changes and new awakening in Indian society. They praised the divine powers of Sahajanand Swami and admired him as a great social reformer. The wave of awakening and consciousness covered this region in the following thirty years. Lord Swaminarayan Bhagwan went to the palaces, villas, houses and huts of the people residing in towns and villages. He graced their dwellings and took them in the benign fold of the Sampraday. This included kings, princes, land lords, businessmen, traders, farmers and labourers without any discrimination and irrespective of their social position or status.

The saints of Lord Sahajanand were such great that their words rewrote destiny, and their blessings turned fruitful. Lord Sahajanand Swami himself escortea his satsangi followers to the divine abode of Akshardham.

S.G. Gopalanand Swamai caught fever at Umreth. He, therefore, requested Acharya Shri Raghuvirji Maharajshri for his travel back to Vartal. On the next day, they came to Vartal and resided there for a day and asked the saints to have meals. The saints had the meal and came back to S.G. Gopaland Swami to attend to his services. S.G. Gopalanand Swami did divine darshan of Shriji Maharaj, prayed to him and relieved himself from the elemental body. It was a divine occasion displaying opulence of Shri Hari. S. G. Gopalanand Swami in his divine body ascended to Akshardham in blessed company of Lord Shri Hari and his divine convoy.

Shriji Maharaj came with hundreds of divine vimanas and took him to his divine abode of Akshardham when Dada Khachar left his elemental body. Sandal paste was sprayed on the earth at the time of his ascend to the Akshardham. Hundreds of devotees were blessed with this divine view. They did Darshan of Shri Hari and His divine convoy.

It was promised earlier by S.G. Krishnanand Swami that Bhaktipriyadasji shall be beside him at the time of his final

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HE HAD PLAYED THE TRICK

- Amrit K. Modi



In Vs. 1886 - the years of his final departure - Shriji Maharaj knew very well that Brahmanand Swami will not allow him to leave elemental body, if he continued to live with Him at Gadhpur Dhaam. Therefore, Shri Hari desired at his free will to send Brahmanand Swami else where. By his divine powers he inspired Gunatit Swami who dwelled at Junagadh. Gunatitanand Swami wrote a letter to Shri Hari, and sent it through a special messenger. He desired help of Shri Hari in construction of the temple at Junagadh. He requested Shri Hari to send S.G. Brahmanand Swami to sortout hurdles in construction work. The construction was held up and there was no way to restart it if Brahmanand Swami was not there. Shri Hari asked Brahmanand Swami to take the charge of Junagadh Temple and desired expressly to resume constrctuion work of the temple buildings. S.G. Brahmanand Swami, though awere of Shri Hari's ailment, obeyed to the order of Shri Hari.

હૈડાનો હાર હરિ રે, મારે રંગભીનો હૈડાનો હાર હરિ
મંદિરમાં પધરાવી મોહનને ભેટું હું અંક ભરી રે,
જગના જીવનને હું નહીં જાવા દઉં, રાખીશ જતન કરી રે.

(Shri Hari is like an ornament of my heart. He is my pleasure and life. I am installing him at the temple of my heart with soulful embrace. He is life and soul of all living beings. I will not allow him to leave us. I will take good care of him.)

Thus he thought at his mind and remembered on life saving herb available in mountain range of Mt. Girnar. He went swiftly to Girnar and found out the rare herb from a vally near Damodar Kund. He plucked the herb most tenderly, brought it to the Darbar of Dada Khachar and served that elixir panancea in milk to Lord Shri Hari. He gave the bowl to Muktanand Swami and said this is the panancea to save life and an effective remedy to remove every kind of desease. Shri Hari shall be alright by a dose of this elixir. These three saints prayed collectively to Shri Hari to have the herbal medicine in milk. The elixir was recognized and plucked persoanally by Brahmanand Swami himself. Shriji Maharaj consented to their submission and took the bowl by both his hands. Pretending to have it, he touched the rim of bowl by his lips, wiped his wet lisp, and kept the bowl under his bedstead. But by minute observation, Brahamand Muni assumed that Shri Hari was not to allow for long his elemental life. Tears of pain and seperation appeared in his eyes. But he was helpless. He has to leave him. It was Shri Hari's order. It can not be disobeyed. Brahmanand Muni saluted to Shri Hari and left for Junagadh. As he crossed the out skirts of Gaddda, a herd of deers crassed his path. It was an ominon sign for him Brahmanand Swami said :

"હરણ એજ સુખના હરણ, હરણ બુદ્ધિ બળ હરણ,
હરણ તેજ હિંમત હરણ, હરણ પ્રાણ તન હરણ."

(These are the signs of losing pleasure, power and wisdom. These are ominous sign of the loss of courage life and body. These deers are not an auspicious sign).

Brahmanand Swami sang the couplet and came back to Akshar-Ordi to do darshan of Shri Hari. Shriji Maharaj thought convulsed in severe ailment, he hugged Brahmanand Muni in His hearty embrace and hugged him close to his heart. He consoled him by removing his doubts and impreassed his foot prints on the chest of his dear disciple. He took out flower garland of rose flowers from his neck and bedecked him with love by garlanding swami by his blessed hands. Shriji Maharaj asked Swami to shed off anxiety and grief. Shri Hari assured constant presence of him among the saints and satsang. He then asked him to move swiftly to restart construction of the temple buildings at Junagadh. Construction of the compound wall of the temple was stopped by some mischief mongers.

Brahmanand Swami came to Junagadh and got the wall constructed at the night. The rancorous people knew about the presence of Brahmanand Swami. They thought that any objectionable move from their side was to invite a stern action and punishmant from the Nawab of Junagadh. They knew that Brahmanand Muni has excellent relation with the Nawab of Junagadh. In case of any uncalled for move there was hundred percent possibility of their banishment from the princely state of Junagadh. They, therefore, wound up their destructive plans.

Shriji Maharaj forsook his elemental body and ascended to his divine abode of Aksharham on the tenth day of the bright half, Maha in V.S. 1886. Swami was for away at Junagadh to execute the order of his Lord and Guru. Funeral rites were concluded at Gadhpur by the Paramhasas, saints and devotees and Bhaguji was sent thereafter, on a camel to escort Brahmanand Swami back to Gadhpur.

Bhaguji came hurridly to Junagadh to inform Brahmanand Swami about sad emise of Shriji Maharaj. Brahmanand Swami was at the terrace of the new temple to guide the masons to fix carved stones of the temple dome. Stood there at the terrance, he was inspectivng the design and uniformity of the structure under construction. At such crucial moment he saw Bhaguji on a swift ride of the camel. he assumed some omious. Bhaguji came near the temple and saluted humbly to Swami. He then disclosed the most sorrowful happening – final departure of Lord Shri Hari. Swami, while listening impatitnely to this painful message, screamed in anxiety to the mesons, 'Oh Ratna ! Now drop the stone down. The cheater has played his trick.'

He took Devanand Swami with him on a camel and came to Gadhada with Bhajuji. As he ascended at Gadhada, S.G. Brahmanand Sawmi cried helplessly like a child crying for his deceased father. He then rebuked to the saints and asked, 'Why you did the funeral rites of his holy body ? We were not to leave any stone unturned to call back Maharaj from his divine abode of Akshardham. But there is no way to so, when body is merged in five gross elements by the funeral rites.

પાતળીયા સંગાથે બંધાણી મારે પ્રીતડી રે,
એ વિના ઘડી રહ્યું નવ જાય રે,
બેની થવા દીઠે વધે છે ઉર વેદના રે,
દીઠાથી તનડું ટાઢું થાય રે ..... પાતલીયા

(I am tied to God by a knot of devotional love. I can not live without him. His seperation pains my heart, but tranquil peace and divine pleasure surrounds me on doing his Darshan)

S.G. Gopalanand Swami took Brahmanand Swami to do Darshan o Gopinathji Maharaj dwelling in Gadhpu

Temple. Brahmanand Swami stood in front of Lord Gopinathji Maharaj and prayed.

"પ્રાણ સ્નેહી ધરૂ આવો, પિયરા,
હિયરા ધીર ધરત નહિ મેરા."

(Oh My Lord ! Oh my Dearest one ! I am submitting my life and soul at your service. Please come soon. I can not survive without you.)

As was seen by everybody, Shriji Maharaj manifested himself from the idol of Lord Gopinathji, came to Brahmanand Muni and bedecked him with a fragrant garland from his neck. Eternal pleasure and happiness appeared on the face of Swami and the next moment Shriji Maharaj merged himself in the idols of Lord Gopinathji. Swami prayed :

તારુ છોગું આવી મારા ચિત્તમાં રહ્યું
જગના જીવન રૂડું છોગું જોઈને
અંતરમાં અજવાળું થયુ.
સુંદર શ્યામ સોહાગી તારુ
મુખ નીરખીને દુઃખ દૂર ગયું.
આનંદ સહિત થયું સુખ અંતર
એક જીભે નવ જાય કહ્યું.
બ્રહ્માનંદ કહે એ છોગા સારૂ
લોકડીયાનું અમે મેણું સહ્યું.

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Lord Swaminarayan Bhagwan Escorts his devotees to his Akshardham

departure. They both were moving place to place in their separate groups. In course of time, Krishnand Swami was bed ridden at Shri Swaminarayan Temple of Ahmedabad, and S.G. Bhaktipriyadasji was on religious tour of interio regions. After some days when Bhaktipriyadasji came to Ahmedabad, Swami reminded him about the earlier promise and said, "Look.My words are true. I will leave my body today in your presence." Swami then did the Darshan of the divine image of Shri Hari and Shriji Maharaj took him to divine abode of Akshardhaam.

In last breathes of Amulakh Tarvadi of Vyara, Shriji Maharaj came to him to escort him to Akshardhaam. Amulakh in his divine body, went to Akshardham in benig presence of Shriji Maharaj, but his sister Manbai doubted about his baser instincts. Shriji Maharaj took a note of it during his samadhi state and escorted him up to the divine abode of Akshardham to ensure his emancipation.

Brahmanand Swami desired to leave his elemental body during the month of Jyeshtha. He sent words for H. H. Acharya Maharajshri and senior saints and conveyed his counsel to them when they came to him. He then ensured that saints who were associated to him in his religious activities in Kutch Region were beside him and forsook his elemental body, wore a divine body and went to Akshardham in holy company of Shriji Maharaj and His divine convoy. The land of Muli Dham was illuminated by the celestial light of the thousands of divine Vimans and the Devotees saw them ascending to eternal abode.

Shriji Maharaj came at night by his divine chariot to emancipate his female devotee from Prantij. He got opened the gate of the house, took her in his divine chariot, and the security guard saw them travelling to the village outskirtas, and thereafter in the space. In early morning light, he observed on the village road the marks of the chariot wheels laid up to village outskirts.

A bard's maid servent at Talsana was used to give cowden cakes to the saints to cook the meals.Maharaj manifested himself before her, at the time of her death. Maharaj said to her, "You have served my Satsang by offering cowden cakes to my saints. I will take you to my ;divine abode. And took her to the divine abode of Akshardhaam.

Swaminarayan Bhagwan fulfills the wishes of his faithful devotees by escorting him to Akshardham. Be a faithful devotee and surrender absolutely at the lotus feet of Lord Shri Hari.

FRAGRANCE OF SATSANG

• - Atul B. Pothiwala

A grand samaiya of Vasant Panchmi was organized by Lord Shri Hari at Gadhpur. The saints and devotees from various regions were come to Gadhpur to celebrate the festive events.

Vagha Khachar and Amra Khachar of Sarangpur were faithful followers of Lord Shri Hari. They desired to attend samaiya, but both were very weak economically. It was necessary to buy a gift for Bhagwan. After much thinking and deliberations they bought two bales of white cotton clothe. They stiched with love the attires of Lord Shreeji Maharaj and one bale they kept uncut, for the turban of Lord Shri Hari.

They both came to Gadhpur with that gift of love. A majestic satsang sabha was organized at the royal court of Dada Khachar. Lord Shri Hari was gracing the assembly. Thousands of devotees and aspirants were arrived from the far flung places to do Poojan of Shri Hari. Shriji Maharaj consented to begin poojan-archan. Up-country devotees came forward with the precious gifts of ornaments and silken attires. One after another, they were presenting most valuable gifts to Lord Shri Hari. These botheres compared their cheap gift with those precious items and felt very sorry for their poor choice. It was too ordinary to give. They dropped the idea of pooja and service and took a back seat to hide themselves. They stood at a far corner of the courtyard, feeling very sorry for themselves.

Meanwhile, Lord Shri Hari took a note of it and called them loudly, ' Vagha Khachar ! Amra Khachar ! Do come to me. Give me my attires. I do wish to inspect your gift. Please come forward.'

Both the brothers went hesitantly to Lord Shri Hari. They saluted to Shri Hari and submitted the gift. Shri Hari conveyed his hearty pleasure for the selection of raw white cotton attires. Shri Hari said, 'Vagha Khachar ! Amara Khachar ! You are perfect in your choice. I need raw white attires for this colour festival. Colourful attires are not suitable for this festivity.' Maharaj wore that set of attires with the turban; and played with his devotees and saints by sprinkling colours on them. Maharaj favoured his devotees and threw Gulal (pink powder) on them.

Lord Shriji Maharaj and devotees went to river Ghelo on conclusion of colour festival.Maharaj bathed with full dress in cool water of Ghelo, and gifted those prasadi attires to Vagha and Amara Khachar. Lord Shri Hari wore simple and white cotton attires presented with devotional love by his devotees. The precious attires in silk and silver embroidery were set aside by Shri Hari to appriciate devotional love of his poor devotees. Not only that, Shri Hari gave those gift of love back to his devout followers by blessing it as a personal Prasadi of him. Both the brothers were very happy to receive personal Prasadi attires from Lord Shri Hari.

At midnight, when they were in deep sleep, they heard some voices admiring devotional service of them. When they woke from deep sleep, they felt the voices coming from the Prasadi attires. They inquired in astonishment, 'Who are you ?' "We are the souls dwelling in cotton fibres. We praise and thank you for your devotional service Thank you for emancitating us by the holy touch of supreme Lord. Thank you once again. We are ascending to the divine abode of Akshardham."

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Sundariyana is a small village. Mula Patel lived at village Sundariala. He was a farmer

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SHRIMAD SHIKSHAPATRI : AN ELIXIR

- Shastri Hari Swami, Gandhinagar.

Dear Friends !

Lord Swaminarayan Bhagwan resides eternally with us. Have you heard his talk here ? If you desire to listen, there is a talking form of him. He preaches us, if we desire to listen. He answers to our questions if we approach him for a solution. Shikshapatri is talking form of Shri Hari. It is verbal form of Shri Hari. Salute daily to the scripture of Shikshapatri and have a hearty dialogue with Maharaj ! Lord Shri Hari walks beside us and talks to us if we desire to listen. Lord Swaminarayan Bhagwan talks to us happily, but we at times, turn our face without paying had to his wise words. Shikshapatri is the word form-Verbal form – of Shriji Maharaj. Spare some time and have a heart to heart dialogue with Shriji Maharaj. But for it what should be a suitable time ? When should we talk to Lord Shri Hari ? Should we talk at evening ? No. That is not a proper time. A photo shall not be a pin-point image, if hands are not steady in clicking an image. Here below is a story suggesting a proper time for such a dialogue.

There is one episode in the scripture of Ramayana. It is a war time story, describing war of Lanka faught between Rama and Ravana. Lakshmana was injured fatally at the battle field near Lanka and was thrown unconscious by the attack of a lethal missile - shakti. Lord Rama lemanted helplessly for the life of his brother – Lakshmana. The vaidya who was an expert in herbal medicine, suggested a herb to cure Lakshmana from the poison of the missile. The herb was to be brought from a mountain located at a far and medicinal herb was to be administrated before day break. There was very little time to find out the herb. The distance was too much and mountain was too tall to scale. It was midnightr and there was no light to recognize the peak and the herb. However, there was a clue to recognize the herb. The herb was emitting natural light glittering like a star. It was a challenging task. Survival of Lakshmana depended solely on the timely administration of the medicinal herb. Great devotee Hanuman took up the challenge and by his divine powers, he went swiftly to the mountain of medicinal herb.

But there at the mountain, entire forest was emitting light,due to demonic magic of Ravana. Trees, plants leaves were glittering like stars. Lord Hanuman is spiritually wise. He took entire mountain on his shoulder and came back to the battle field. He left it to vaidya to choose a proper medicinal herb. Any and everything is possible to accomplish if you are doing it for your God, and a true devotee is always ready to do at his best for his God. Faithful Hanumanji brought the mountain well before the time. Vaidya chose the right specimen of the life saving herb-and prepared elixir for Lakshmana. Lord Rama administrated the prescribed medicine well before sun rise and saved the life of Lakshmana. Lakshmana returned to the conscious state with vigour and bravery.

Dear Readers ! Have you seen this life saving medicine ? It is with you, but you are not knowing about it. A child may get a philosopher's stone, but he can not recognize it's immense power. He will play with it like playing with a pebble. He may treat it like an attractive marble. He is not aware of it's majesty. "Shikshapatri" is always there at the pooja-place in your house. The Shikshapatri is the life saving medicine for the mankind. If you are wounded by the unbearable attack of Maya, or injured by the demonic company of a Ravana, there shall be no means on the earth

to relieve you from them. Shikshapatri-the verbal form of Lord Shri Hari – is the failure-proof means to save you in such adverse time. But there is only one condition, Shikshapatri needs to be administrated in early hours, before sun rise. Get up early in the morning-during last quarter of the night, conclude early morning rituals of washing and bathing and have a sizable doze of Shikshapatri to cure your inner self. Dirt of sinful-company and other ills shall be washed out by this effective medicine. Shikshapatri instills self-discipline, inner strength, power and majesty. We are weak and vulnerable at our innermost, because we are late in leaving our bed. We are not early riser, If woke up early, before sunrise, we conclude morning ritual well in time but waste our time by hiding our face in ugly news of – the newspapers, instead of reading Shikshapatri.

Lord Sahajanand Swami preaches and directs us in his Shikshapatri to get up early – in the Brahm Muhurta (during last quarter of night). If woke up in time there shall be enough of time to read and digest the teachings of Shikshapatri.

Get up early in the Brahm Muhurta, conclude morning rituals well in time do pooja and read Shikshapatri before the day-break. It is not compulsory to read whole Shikshapatri everyday. You may read ten or more shlokes each day to complete reading of holy book with in couple of days. Think at your mind that Lord Shreeji Maharaj talks to you – preache you and get the answers of all your problems. Our saints have said that a devotee will not be sorry for his acts, if he acts so by consulting Shikshapatri.

Friends ! Now you know about the appropriate time to have a dialogue with Bhagwan. Remember this Gujarati Saying :

"રાત્રે વહેલા જે સૂએ વહેલા ઉઠે વીર,
બાળ, બુદ્ધિને ધન વધે સુખમાં રહે શરીર."

(The braves who sleep early at night, rise always early in the morning. With more strength, wisdom, wealth and health.)

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FRAGRANCE OF SATSANG

and his fields were being harvested by a large group of labourers.

Lord Shriji Maharaj was to grace the outskirts of Sundariala in his religious tour of Vartal. The labourers saw the dust raising in the sky at a far distance. It was retinue of Shriji Maharaj passing by a parallel road at some distance from the field. The labourers desired to do Darshan of Lord Shriji Maharaj. They requested to the Land-lord to permit them to leave the field for some time to go for the Darshan of Shriji Maharaj, "Please allow us to go for the Darshan of Shriji Maharaj." "Are you here to pick up cotton or for a sight seeing ? How can you leave the field ? Maharaj will come here at his own if your aspirations are strong."

Here in his religious tour, Shriji Maharaj took the diversion from the main road riding swiftly his mare Manki, crossed innumerable fields and farms, came to the field of Mula Patel and said, "Mula Patel ! Oh Mula Patel ! show me the path of Vagad-region." Mula Patel prayed, 'Maharaj ! My Lord ! The road, where the horses stood waiting for you, is the road to Vagad region. But I know, why you have come here. It is my fault, that I taunted the labourers when they came to me for a short leave to do your Darshan at the road side.Oh God ! You are all knower. You have listened to the prayer of your devotees and had fulfilled their aspiration by gracing my field.' Mula Patel cried ;in tears of repentance and submission. Labourers came there and saluted humbly to Shri Hari.

Mula Patel and the laboureres prayed humbly to initiate them Mantra Diksha and Vartamaan. They stood in fron of Lord Shri Hari and received Mantra Deeksha and Vartmaan at the field

Lord Shri Hari fulfills the wishes of his faithful devotees.

News And Notes From Shri Narnarayandev Desh

AHMEDABAD REGION

Dhoon at Shri Ahmedabad Temple to pray for eternal peace to the deceased souls of Tsunami

Dhoon session was organized here in bening presence of Lord Narnarayandev. Shri Swaminrayan Maha Mantra Dhoon was presented to earn the pleasure of Shri Hari with eternal peace for the deceased souls of the Tsunami disaster. The dhoon session was led by Former Acharya Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharajshri. Thousands of human beings and animals were killed by disasterous Tsunami wave distructing coastal line of India, Shri Lanka and many countries of Indian ocean. Dhoon session was conducted for one hour duration on 1-1-05 at 5-30 and collective prayer was addressed to Lord Shri Hari to favour the deceased soul with eternal peace of the divine abode.

(Kothari Dharmprakash Swami)

Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Kankaria

Dhanurmaas Dhoon sessions were organized here in benign presence of Lord Bal Swaroop Kastha Bhanjan Dev, with the due blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. Former Achary Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharaj and H.H. Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharajshri have favoured this Satsang by their presence at the dhoon sessions.

A large number of devotees were encouraged by Mahant Swami Guruprasaddasji and Kothari Anand Swami to donate liberally towards the dhoon sessions. The donars have earned the blessings of Lord Radhakrishnadev Harikrishna Maharaj and Kashtabhanjandev. *(Paresh Patel)*

Dhanurmaas Dhoon at Dholka Temple

Dhanurmaas Dhoon sessions were organized here in benign presence of Lord Morli Manohardev Hari Kirshan Maharaj. The events were blessed duely by former Acharya Maharajshri H.H. Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharajshri and respected Lalji Maharajshri. The month long religious events were inspired and encouraged by Mahant Swami Jagatprakashdasji and Mahant Swami Vishnuprasaddasji of this temple. Hundreds of devotees from Dholka and nearby villages have earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by attending early morning Dhoon sessions. Dhoon sessions were hosted by local unit of Shri Narnaraydnev Yuvak Mandal and local devotees.

(Shri Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal)

Shakotsava at Narayanghat Temple

Shakotsava was celebrated here on 9-1-05 (Sunday) with the due blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. The devotees were encouraged and inspired by Mahant Swami Ghanshyamprakashdasji and Mahant Swami Devprasaddasji for this grand celebration.

H.H. Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharajshri graced the occasion and flavoured cooked conventional vegetable as per ancient tradition to favour his Satsanngis. Thousands of devotees were benefitted by this divine view of traditional shakotsava. The devotees and hosts were blessed by H.H. Acharya Mahrajshri and the Mahaprasad of the Shakotsava was distributed to the aspirants.

(Gordhanbhai Sitapara)

Siddhpur Temple

Dhanurmaas Dhoon sessions were conducted here for the whole month, with the due blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. Special attires were adored by Lord Thakorji and thaals of different kinds were received by God, on each day of the Dhanurmaas.

Mahant Swami Bhaktipriyadasji and poojari Swami Chandraprakashdasji have earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by their dedicated service.

(Shastri Shrirangdas)

Shakotsava at Mehsana Temple

H.H. Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharajshri graced the temple on 4-2-05 and celebrated this tradition event by flavouring the vegetable as per grand tradition.

H.H. Acharya Maharajshri was received by the Satsangis in a colourful procession across the main roads of Mehsana. A special Satsang was conducted on this occasion to receive blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. The Sabha was addressed by S.G. Shastri Swami

Purushottamprakashdasji and other saints to explain glory and majesty of God, scriptures, Dharmvanshi Acahraya and saints of this Sampradaya. Mahant Sami Uttampriyadasji and Narayanprasad Swami have earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by conducting this religious event. The host devotees were blessed heartily by H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. Thousands of the devotees from Mehsana and nearyby villages have been benefitted by this religious event. *(G.K. Patel, Vimal Group, Scheme Committee Member)*

Shri Swaminarayan Mandir (Approach) Bapunagar

The religious event of installing Vijay Sthambha (Victory pillar), was organized here with devotional fervour, with the due orders and blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. The grand celebrations were a prelude to forthcoming Installation ceremony of the idols of God at the new temple buildings of Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Approach Road, Bapunagar, Ahmedabad.

The religious events of Vijay Sthambha poojan and Shakotsava were organized on 15-1-05 and a colourful religius procession was passed through the main roads of Bapunagar area to receive and garland H.H. Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharajshri. H.H. Acharya Maharajshri graced the temple and presented poojan Archan to the Vijay Sthambha. His holiness pleased than to his followers and flavoured most ceremoniously the conventional vegetable cooked for the festive event of Shakotsava. Shri Pareshbhai Devshibhai Dobaria and his family have earned the pleasure of Shri Hari and hearty blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri by hosting rituals of the Vijaya Sthambha. A grand Satsang Sabha was organized on this occasion. H.H. Acharya Maharajshri graced the Sabha and blessed the devotees for their devotional fervour.

Note : There are minor changes in venue of Murti Pratishata Mahoatsava. Devotees are requested to take a note it :

Dates : 11-2-05 to 15-2-05
Palace :
Shri Swaminarayan Nagar, Opposite : Octroi Point, Near Jeevan Twin Bunglows, Nikol Road, Ahmedabad.

(Gordhanbah Sitapara)

Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Vadnagar

Dhanurmaas Dhoon was organized here and new dresses were presented everyday to Lord Thakorji to please Lord Shri Hari. The events were organized with the due blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. Dhoon, Kirtans and Katha-Varta discourses were presented by Shastri Swami Narayanvallabhdasji. The devotees were inspired and encouraged by Mahant Swami Harisevadasji for the month long events organized at the temple. A large number of devotees have been benefitted by this programme. *(Shastri Vishwaprakashdas)*

Visnagar

A Kite-flying competetion was organized here jointly by Shri Sahajanand Kirshor Mandal and Shri Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal. The events were organized on 9-1-05 at our institution – Shri Sahajanand Samskar Dhaam. About one hundred players have participated in this event. The winners were appreciated by symbolic gift and formal appriciation. A satsang Sabha was organized on this occasion to sing the praises of Shri Hari. *(Sahajanand Kishor Mandal)*

Shakotsava at Dhamasana Temple

The first Shaktosaha festival as the Acharya of this diocese, was celebrated by H.H. Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharajshri by flavouring conventional vegetable cooked for the Shakotsava at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir Dhamasana.

The devotees were encouraged and inspired by Swami Vishnuprasaddasji for this magnificent celebration of the Shakotsava. Shri Viskrambhai Bhagabhai Patel, Shri Mukeshbhai Ramanbhai Patel and their families have earned the pleasure of Shri Hari and the blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri by hosting this religious festival. H.H. Acharya Maharajshri has graced the dwelling of Shri Lalbhai Shankarbhai Patel (Ex. Member, Scheme Committee) during his halt at Dhamasana.

Rampura – Bhakoda

Rampura is a prasadi village of Shri Hari, Lord Swaminarayan Bhagwan had sanctified this land and had bajari loaves in Butter and spices, by sitting on a stone. The holy stone has become a holy shrine for the Satsangis and aspirants. Dhanurmaas Dhoon sessions were organized daily to sing the praise of Lord Shri Hari. A large

number of devotees have been benefited by the Dhoon and Katha-Varta sessions.

(Arjanbhai G. Mori)

Ridrol and Modasa Satsang

Dhanurmaas Dhoon and Katha – Varta sessions were organized at Ridrol with the due guidance and participation of Swami Devprasaddasji.

The Dhoon sessions of Dhanurmaas were conducted at Modasa temple by S.G. Chhapiyaprasaddasji and Katha of Shri Harililamrit was presented to Shri Hari to benefit the Satsangis. A large number of devotees were present regularly at both the place to earn the pleasure of Shri Hari.

(Rameshbhai V. Patel, Modasa)

MULI REGION

Shakotsava at Lilapur Temple

A festive Shakotsava was organized here on 12-1-05 with the due blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri.

H.H. Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharajshri graced this place to give devotional pleasure to his devout followers and flavoured most ceremoniously the conventional vegetable of brinjols. A huge Satsang Sabha was organized on this occasion. The saints from Ahmedabad, Muli, Surendranagar, Charadva and other places were present on this occasion. The Sabha and thecelebrations were conducted by S.G. Swami Krishnavallabhdasji.*(Shailendra Jhala)*

Shakotsva at Prasadi Gyan-Vaav

The Shakotsava was organized here at the Prasadi Gyan Vaav near Muli. Since many years, the Shakotsava is organized here by the Satsang Mandal of Surendranagar. The event was celebrated on auspicious last day of Margshirsha. Many devotees from Muli, Surendrangar and near by villages have been benefited by this religious celebration. The events were organized by Shastri Swami Premavallabhdasji. *(Shailendra Jhala)*

Shrimad Bhagwat- Saptah at Lakhtar

Shrimad Bhagwat Saptah was organized here with the due blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. The seat of the reader-priest was graced by S.G. Shastri Swami Ramkrishnadasji and Parayan Satsang was hosted by Shri Tribhovanbhai Parshottambhai Taviwala and his family. Host family was inspired and couraged by S.G. P.P. Swami - Junior (Koteshwar Gurukul) for this feast of devotional knowledge. Pothi Yatra, Krsihan Janma and other events were celebrated with devotional fervour. Enlightening discourses were delivered by the saints from Muli and Surendranagar.

A Satsang – Dayro was organized on 15-11-04 and artists Shri Dinesh Waghasia, Mayank Modi, Purav Patel and Dhaval Soni were invited to stage devotional music and cultural programmes. The Kirtans of the Nand Sants were recited in original and ancient tunes to enthrall devout audience. The devotional discourse was delivered by S.G. P.P. Swami (Junior) to explain glory and majesty of Shri Hari and Dharmvanshi Acharya. The events were hosted by Shri Laljibhai Shamjibhai and his family. Shri Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal has earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by their service at the venue.

(Amrutlal H. Patel)

Satsang and Dayaro at Nana Ankevalia

A splendid Satsang Sabha was organized here with a Dayaro to please Lord Shri Hari. The events were organized by Shri Narnarayndev Yuvak Mandal with the due blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. Prominent Dayara artists – Shri Purav Patel, Dhaval Soni Mayank Modi and Dinesh Modi were present at the stage with their teams, to sing Kirtans of the Nand Sants. Enlightening discourse was delivered by S.G. Shastri Swami Ramkrishnadasji. The events were organized under the guidance from S.G. P.P. Swami (Junior). *(Amritlal Patel, Lakhtar)*

Shakotsava at Halvad

Quartely Satang Sabhas are being organized here as per schedule. Shakotsava was organized during recent Quartely Satsang to stengthen Dhanurmaas devotion. Shakotsava was hosted by the devotees from Halvad, on encouraging inspiration from S.G. Shriji Swami and the saints. The devotees were benefittied extensively by this religious celebration. *(Ramesh Tarbundia)*

Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Limbdi

Lord Shri Radhakrishnadev Harikrishna Maharaj at our Limbdi temple have received festive feast Thaal of Shaktosava on auspicious

27th of December- 2004. The festive event of Shakotsava was arranged here with the due blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharajshri. The event was hosted jointly by Shri Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal of this place and local devotees on devotional inspiration from Mahant Swami Balswaroopdasji. The Dhoon of the six hours duration was organized on this occasion and a special Satsang Sabha was organized to sing the praises of Lord Shri Hari. S.G. Swami Krishnavallabhdasji and S.G. Shastri Premvallabhdasji were come from Surendranagar to enlightened the devotees by their devotional discourses. A special Satsang was organized separately for the female – devotees. The Sabha was addressed by Samkhya Yogis Ushaba and Kamalaba. The large number of devotees have been benefited by this devotional event.

(Kothari Swami, Limbdi and Manekbhai Soni)

Shri Swaminarayan Bal Dhoon Mandal, Metpur

Shri Swaminarayan Bal Dhoon Mandal of Metpur has become instrumental in conducting examinations of Dharmik Shiksha Vibhag at the thirty two examination centers. The examinations were conducted on 12-12-2004 and its general results, as declared by S.G. Shastri Swami Devprakashdasji (Vartal Dhaam), are as under :

Total Canditates	:	1158
Appared in examination	:	938
Successful	:	819
Pass %	:	87.31

(Amrit Patel)

H.H. Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharajshri and H.H. Lalji 108 Shri Vrajendraprasadji Maharajshri have conveyed their hearty blessings to the youth of Metpur, for their faith and devotional fervour.

(Editor)

Welcome to Vasantotsava of Muli Dhaam (Samaiya)

Lord Swaminarayan Bhagwan himself has installed the idols of Lord Shri Radhakrishnadev Harikrishna Maharaj dwelling at Muli Dhaam.

Lord Shri Radhakrishandev Harikrishna Maharaj pleases to invite his faithful devotees at the colourful Samaiya celebrations. The event shall be held at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir Muli on festive day of Vasant Panchmi (13-2-2005).

Former Acharya Maharaj Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharajshri and H.H. Lalji Maharaj 108 Shri Vrajendraprasadji Maharajshri have consented to grace Muli with their retinue consisted of the saints and Parshadas to present festive Abhishekam to Lord Shri Radhakrishnadev Harikrishna Maharaj early in the morning at 6-30 a.m. Dharmkul will grace special assembly thereafter to present ceremonious Poojan Archan to the word-form of Shri Hari – the sacred scripture of Shikshaptri. The satsangis of Jhalawad region and visiting aspirants shall be blessed by H.H. Acharay Maharajshri and H.H. Lalji Maharajshri.

H.H. Lalji Maharajshri has consented to grace the courtyard of the temple with his satsangis to celebrate festival of colours – Rang Panchmi, by sprinklings colour. All are invited to join this festive celebration.

Swami Lakshmiprasaddasji
Swami Narendraprasaddasji
Mahant Swamis
Shri Swaminarayan Mandir,
Muli (Surendranagar)

New Appointment of the Mahant Shri at the Swaminarayan Mandir, Muli

H.H. Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Koshalendrapradsadji Maharajshri of Shri Narnarayandev Desh Diocese, pleases to appoint S.G. Swami Lakshmiprasadji (Disciple of S.G. Purani Swami Purushottamcharandasji) and S.G. Swami Narendraprasaddasji (Disciple of S.G. Swami Lakshmiprasaddasji) as the Mahant Swamis of Shri Swamianrayan Mandir, Muli. The appointment is in force effective 17 1-2005.

H.H. Acharya Maharajshri conveys his hearty pleasure to Mahant Swami Mukundprasaddasji for his dedicated service towards the temple and the sect.

(By Order)

OVERSEAS

Chicago Satsang displays devotional love by a Grand welcome of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri

Our axiomatic Satsang at Chicago has expressed devotional love and hearty pleasure by a majestic reception of H.H. Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharajshri –the seventh descendant and heir of Lord Shriji Maharaj.

His holiness visits this land of prospecrity as the first visit of U.S.A. after his anointment as the Acharya Maharajshri of Shri Narnarayndev Desh Diocese. Thousands of Satsangis walked forward forming a splendid procession constisted of dancing children, Raas Kirtans of youth and devotional music, to welcome and receive their supreme preceptor.

H.H. Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharajshri graced the temple with his retinue of the saintly scholars and Parshadas. The majestic temple buildings were bedecked with colourful lights and decorative itmes to receive seventh descendent son of Shri Hari. His holiness graced the inner temple and presented poojan Aarti to Lord Thakorji.

A Satsang Sabha was organized on this special occasion. H.H. Acharya Maharajshri graced the Sabha to please his devotees, and favoured the satsang by receiving honoured flower garlands from the Mahant Swami, Shri Jagdishbhai (President), and representatives of Shri Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal. Enlightening discourses were delivered by Mahant Swami Shastri Nirgundasji (Ahmedabad), S.G. Swami Purushottamprakashdasji, Temple priest Harinandandasji, Shri Jagdishbhai, Shri Vivek and Shri Happy. H.H. Acharya Maharajshri blessed his devotees for their faith and devotion. The Sabha was ended with a vote of thanks and devotees in an endless quene received hearty pleasure of their Guru by touching lotus feet of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri.

The Katha of the Bhakti Nidhi was conducted during Dharnurmaas. The Katha was recited by S.G. Shastri Swami, The thaals and attires of Various kind were presented daily to please Lord Thakorji. *(Poojari Shantiprakashdas)*

H.H. Acharya Maharajshri graces our Temple at Huston

H.H. Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharajshri graced this land first time as the Acharya Maharasjrhi of Shri Narnarayandev Desh Diocese, when thousands of Satsangis received him at Huston Airport. A grand welcome procession was organized on the next day (i.e. 21-12-04) at afternoon to favour the residents of Huston by the darshan of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. Music, dance and devotional songs filled the atmosphere with devotional fervour.

H.H. Acharya Maharajshri graced the temple and presented festive Aarti to Lord Thakorji. A Sabha was organized on this special occasion. H.H. Acharya Maharajsrhi graced the Sabha and received Aarti Poojan from Shri Dhruwalbhai Shah and Shri Devendrabhai. The Sabha was addressed by S.G. Mahant Swami Shastri Nirgundasji and S.G. Shastri Swami Purushottamprakashdasji. The devotees were blessed by H.H. Acharya Maharajshri for their faith and devotion.

(Rameshbhai Patel, Secretary)

A News Report from Sydney

Invocation of God at Shree Swaminarayan Temple – (ISSO), Sydney, Australia.

The Invocation rituals were celebrated here at Sydney with great devotional fervour and Satsang Bhusna Katha-Parayn, Maha Pooja and Maha Vishnu Yaag (Hawan) were organized on this grand occasion. With the Grace of Purna Purushottam Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan and with the blessings of former Acharya Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharaj and H.H. Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Koshalendraprsadji Maharajshri of Shri Narnarayndev Desh Diocese – the 7th descendent heir of Lord Shree Swaminarayan and Supreme spiritual head of Swaminarayan Sampradaya – the Murti Pratishta Mahotsav was held from 29th December 2004 to 2nd of January 2005.

H.H. Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharajshri graced Sydeny on 28th December with the retinue of the saints to grace the Opening ceremonies of the First Swaminarayan Temple in Australia. Mahotsava started with the Katha of the Holy Scriptrue "Satsangi Bhusan" by Mahant Shastri Swami Nirgundasji (Ahmedabad) describing the cause of the incarnation of Lord Shree Swaminarayan on the earth with the mission of restoring Bhagwat Dharma, pristine purity, profound depth, integral intensity and univesrsal catholicity. The Scripture also describes the miracles and opulence of Lord Shree Swaminarayan.

Satsangi Bhusan is one of the Holy Scriptrues approved by Lord Shree Swaminarayan and

written by one of the well known saint Vasudevanandji Swami. The daily discourses were blessed by H.H. Acharya Maharajshri by his personal presence and followed by Aarti, Bhajan Kirtan, Speeches and Mahaprasad. H.H. Acharya Maharajshri presented Gold plated idol of Lord Shree Swaminarayan in order to honour everyone who gave their service to build the temple and also to volunteers who gave their services during the five days of Mahotsava, and to the invited guests from Brisbane, Perth and Melbourne and also to the overseas guests from INDIA, U.S.A. U.K., Afirca etc.

Shree Swaminarayan Temple (ISSO) – Blacktown launched a Bhajan CD "Mara Mandire Padharya Shyam", (compossed and compiled by Shri Avijit Sarkar) on Thurday the 30-12-04 in the presence of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri, Chief Guest Mr. Madhusudan Ganapathi – Consulate General of India and fellow Satsangis. H.H. Acharya Maharajshri inaugurated his autographed CD for the public and auctioned it for a very high amount to an overseas guest. This CD contains Bhajans written and sung by Nand Sants in praise of the Lord Shree Swaminarayan. It is available to public from the temple. Shri Avijit Sarkar performed bhajans from the CD and some of his own at the temple before H.H. Acharya Maharajshri, Saints, chief guests and satsangi Audience and earned blessings and honour from H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. Each bhajan was applauded by hundreds of Male and female satsangis.

Group Mahapooja was performed at the Temple on Thursday 31-12-2004 by Swami Hariwaroopdasji. Many male and female satangis participated in this event. Mahapooja Aarti was presented by H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. Many people invited H.H. Acharya Maharajshri to their homes and businesses for the Padhramnis during the five festive days of the Mahotsav. During the padhramnis H.H. Acharya Maharajshri himself did the Aartis at all the homes and businesses, blessing everyone. Mahapooja was alos performed separately at the homes of the devotees.

New year 01-01-2005 started with Maha Vishnu Yaag (Hawan) for the Installation of the Idols in New Temple. The 21 couples sat for the Hawan which was performed by five Brahmins and with the chants of vedic hymns and the shlokas from the scriptures. Shobha Yatra was performed on 01-01-2005 and a splendid and well decorated Shajanand Cruise was prepared by the devotees for Lord Shri Swaminarayan, H.H. Acharya Maharajshri and the Saints. Shoba Yatra was by a Band of 50 male satsangis followed by Bhajan mandali and a large satsangi audience. Shoba Yatra took nearly 2 hours for the 1.5 km journey to the Temple. Female Satsnagis followed the Sahajanand Cruise singing Bhajans and Kirtans in the praise of Lord Shri Swaminarayan. At the end of Shobha Yatra, Main Gate and the 3 Flags of the temple were auctioned for a amount.

On 02-01-2005 the most important day of the Purnahuti of the Maha Vishnu Yaag (Hawan), was followed by the Maha Abhishek of Shree Hari Krishna Maharaj (Lord Shree Swaminarayan) and then performed Pran Pratishtha, gracing of shrine and Installation Arti of all the Idols in the Temple all was done Personally by H.H. Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj. The Temple is installed with the Idols of Shree Hari Kirshna Maharaj (Bal Swaroop), Shree Ghanshyam Maharaj (Lord Shree Swaminarayan) and Shree Radhakrishna in the Centre, Shree Nar Narayandev on the left, Shree Laxminarayan Dev on the right of the Main Sinhasna. Temple also has Idols of Shree Ganapatiji, Shri, Parvati, Nandi, Shivlinga, Tortoise and on the right of the main Sinhasana and on the left of the main Sinhansan idols of Shree Suryanarayanadev, Shree Gayatir Devi and Shree Hanumanji. Pujan for H.H. Acharya Maharajshri was performed and then H.H. Acharya Maharajshri blessed the assembly of about 600 people and blessed the Satsang and conveyed hearty thanks to all the devotees. Annakut was presented to God and Annkaut Aarti was performed which was also auctioned for a high amount. Mahant Swami Hariswaroopdasji addressed the assembly and explained to the devotees the glory and majesty of Shri Hari, Swaminarayan Sampraday, Dharma Vansha and the Acharyas and asked the devotees to adhere to the orders given by Shri Hari in his own hand writeen scripture of Shikshapatri. The Devotees are required to adhere to the orders

given by H.H. Acharya Maharajshri.

Now Shree Swaminarayan Temple (ISSO) at 1/44 Bessemer Street Blacktown, remains open for the Public daily in the morning 7-00 to 8-30 AM and 7-00 to 8-00 PM in the evening (Monday to Friday) and on Saturday and Sunday it is open from 8-00 to 10-30 AM and 5-00 to 8-00 PM for the Darshan on preliminary basis. Aartis will be done both the times in morning and evening along with the Nitya Niyams as per Shree Swaminarayan Sampradya as advised by Lord Shree Swaminarayan Satsang Sabhas which are open to the public and followed by the Mahaprasad shall be held on eyery Sunday.

This is the First Temple in Australia under Shree Swaminarayan Sampradaya by H.H. Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharajshri of the Narnarayandev Desh Diocese – the 7th descendent heir of Lord Shree Swaminarayan and Spiritual leader of Swaminarayan Sampradaya.

Any one who wants to particpate in the Temple services by the means like sponsoring a Sabha or want to give any kind of Sewa / Donation to the Temple or wants to celebrate personal functions like Birthdays, Anniversaries, Babri (Birth Hair Remova) etc. in the Temple under the temple guidelines may contact any of the following :

Mr. Khimji Vaghjiani : 9634 6670, Mr. Mahendra Amin : 9862 8538, Mr. Vimal Amin : 0425 240 211, Mr. Biren Desai : 9625 5443, Mr. Dilip Darji : 9621 8928, Mr. Mukesh Amin : 9836 3015, Mr. Kiran Amin : 9836 3015.– *Biren J. Desai*

AKSHARVAAS

Ahmedabad Temple : Devout Saint S.G. Shastri Swami Bhagwatprasaddasji (Disciple of Vaidya Swami Narnarayandasji) passed away (on 11th day of the dark half of Margashrsha) to Akshardham with chants of Shri Hari's blissful names.

Balol : Sarpanch Shri Balvantsinh Valjibhai Parmar (grand son of Mohanbha) passed away to Akshardham amidst chants of Shriji's names.

Sapawada : Smt. Reviben Mohanbhai Patel (mother of Shri Ishwarbhai M. Patel, Accountant, Ahmedabad Temple) passed away to Akshardham (on 12-1-2005) amidst chants of Shri Hari's blissful names.

Ahmedabad (Tatanagar) : Shri Gandabhai Ukabhai Patel passed away (on 1-1-05) to Akshardham amidst the chants of Shri Hari's divine names.

Vadnagar : Faithful devotees Ranchhoddas Jivramdas Patel, Subodhchandra Ganpatlal Bhavsar, Rasiklal Vanmalidas Bhavsar, Chandulal Dahyalal Bhavsar and Tribhovandas Kuberdas Modi have left for heavenly abode of Lord Shri Hari. May Shri Hari bless them blissful peace of Akshardham.

Prantij : Hiraben Babaldas Modi passed away to Akshardham amidst the chants of Shri Hari's divine names. Rohit-Rasiklal modi (member, Shri N.N.D.Y.M.) passed away (on 27-12-04) to Akshardham amidst the chants of Shri Hari's divine names.

Ahmedabad : Devout lady Diwaliba (mother of Shri Mohanbhai Rajput, Manager of Swaminarayan Mandir Mudranalaya) passed away (on 17-12-04) to divine abode of Shri Hari amidst the chants of Shri Hari's blissful names.

Morvi : Devout lady Ratanben Veljibhai Kacha passed away (on 14-1-05) to Akshardham with the chants of Shri Hari's divine names.

H.H. Acharya Maharajshri invokes God at our Jamiyatpura Temple.



H.H. Acharya Maharajshri blesses his devotees at the Satsang Camp held at Ambaji.





H.H. Acharya Maharajshri concludes the Holy-fire with the devout host-Shri Dashrathbhai Patel.

H.H. Acharya Maharajshri at Ambaji camp, received Poojan Aarti from his devotee Shri Harikishanbhai Thakkar and family.





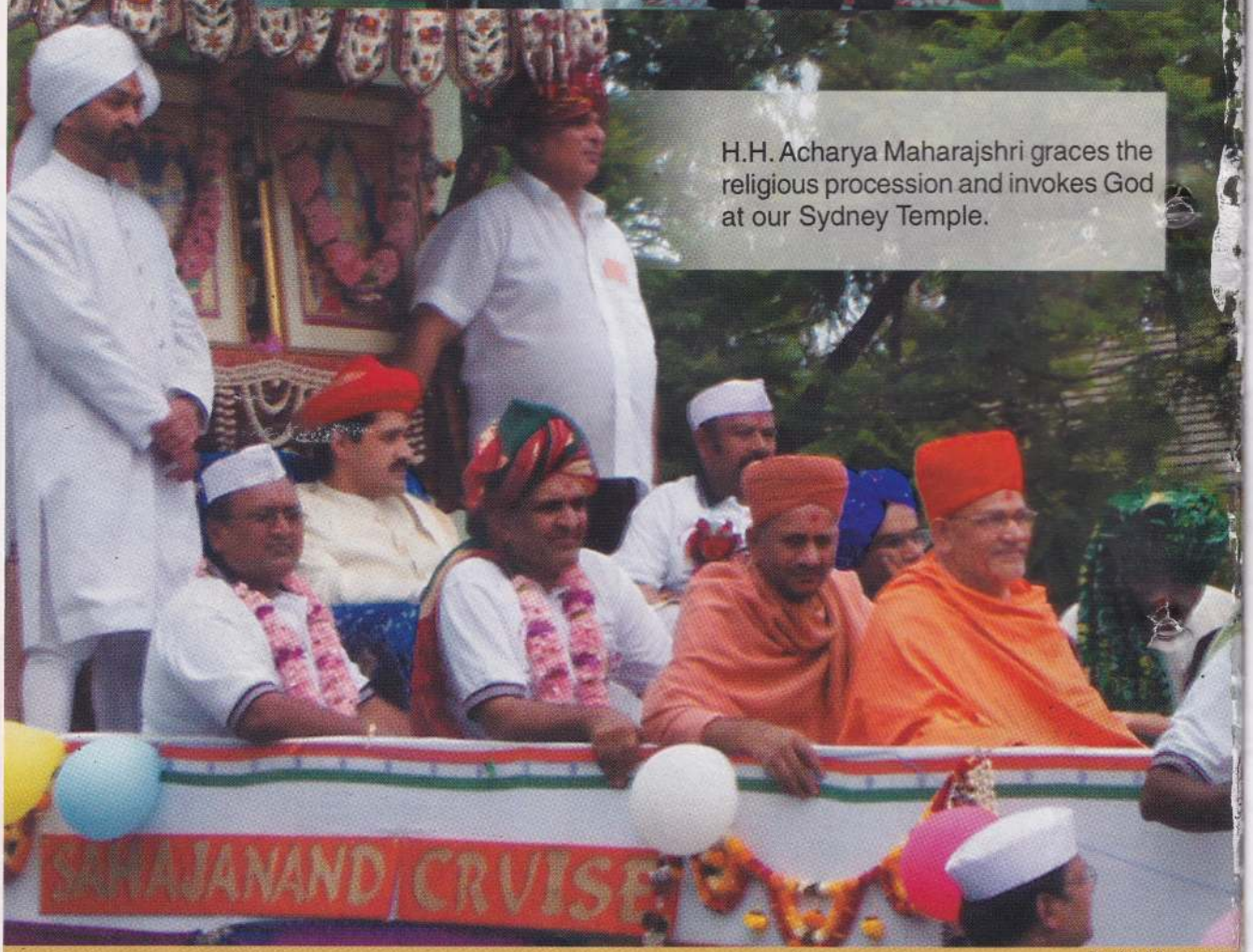
H.H. Acharya Maharajshri flavours the vegetable for the Shakotsava at

H.H. Acharya Maharajshri flavours the vegetabls for th
Shakotsava at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Banip, Celibat

H.H. Acharya laharajshri presents Poojan-Aarti to the Parayan-Katha-scripture at our dney temple. Hosts Shri Devrajbhai Halaria and Shri Khimjibhai aghajiyani are seen the service of Lord Shri Hari and His descendent heir.



H.H. Acharya Maharajshri graces the religious procession and invokes God at our Sydney Temple.



Praful Kharsani