SHREE SWAMINARAYAN
श्री स्वामिनारायण

MAY 2005



H.H. Lalji Maharajshri presents Kirtan-Bhakti on auspicious 61st Birthday. H.H. Acharya Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharajshri receives "Prasadi gifts" from the saints, for Shri Swaminarayan Museum.

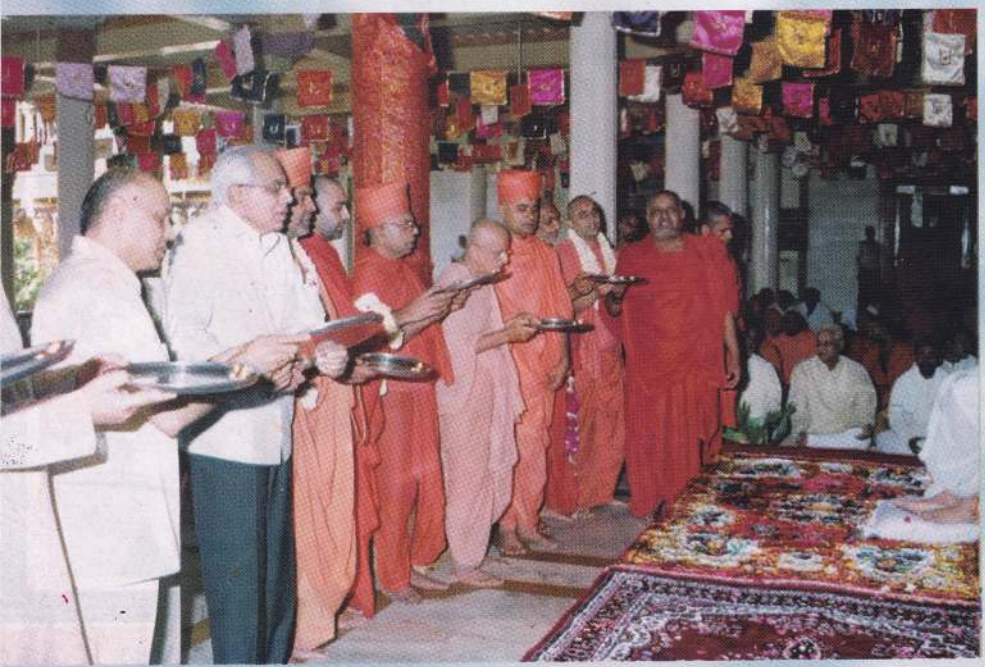
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Lord Shri Harikrishna Maharaj at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Sydney (ISSO, Australia). The devotees absorbed in Kirtan Bhakti.





H.H. Acharya Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharajshri receives Birthday Aarti-Poojan from the saints and the devotees.



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श्री स्वामिनारायण

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CONTENTS

1. Editorial 4
2. Appointment Diary of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri 5
3. History of Shri Swaminarayan Mandir at Bamroli (M.P.) 5
4. Devotee and Devotion 7
5. Satsang is the Truest relative : One who trusts Shri Hari, Acts at the will of God (Vachan. : Loya-3) 9
6. Proper use of holidays 13
7. Shriji Maharaj Belonged to Children 15
8. Lord Shri Hari receives sacred-threads 17
9. News And Notes 19

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EDITORIAL

An aspirant who has attained and realized his personal God by his firm faith and dedicated devotion has to do nothing else in the world. The shruti literature of the Vedas have reaffirmed this truth :

एक विज्ञातेन सर्व विज्ञातं भवति ।

The knowledge of the divine image of God is the eternal inspiring source of cognitive knowledge

A soul attains ultimate knowledge of the image of God, when sattva Guna prevails in absolute at his inner most. Rajas and Tamas can not be eradicated in presence of Raga-Dwesha (affection and malice), and the Sattva Guna shall not be established steadily, unless the Rajas and Tamas (ephemeral affection and malice) are eradicated. Aspirants are established in blissful domain of Sattava Guna by the sacred chants of vedic hymns that eradicate and destroy inner enemies. This vedic ritual is known as 'Upanayana' and an aspirant receives sacred-threads as a symbol of Upanayana. Upanayana ritual empowers and authorizes him to speak holy vedic hymn of Gayatri, and entitles him to study the vedas. Thus the Upanayana Samskara is cardinal among the sixteen samskara. Indian society celebrates this ritual in most colourful way befitting the celebrations of a marriage ceremony where welwishers express their hearty feelings by gifting token gifts and money. In like manner, Upanayana Samskara (sacred-threads ceremony) are celebrated here by presenting token gifts and cash gifts to the Upanita. We are celebrating today the grand ceremony of Upanayan Samskara where in H.H. Lalji 108 Shri Vrajendraprasadji Maharajshri shall be initiated Upanayana Samskara and Yagyopavita.

- Shastri Swami Nirgundas
Editor
Shri Swaminarayan.

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

April - 2005



6 Graced Patotsava Rituals at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Balasinor.

10 Initiated Maha Deeksha (sainthood) to the new saints at the temple. • Graced Maha Pooja rituals hosted by Shri Girdharlalbhai at Naranpura.

11 Graced Patotsava of God dwelling at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Kothamba. • Graced the house of Shri Rakeshbhai Kachhiya.

13 Graced the house of Shri Kiritbhai B. Patel, Lavarpur (Gandhinagar)

15 **16** Graced Silver Jubilee Celebrations at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Rohishala (Tankara, Muli Region)

17 Graced Silver Jubilee Celebrations Sabalwad (S.K.) Group Service Co-Operative Society, Sabalwad, Sabarkantha.

18 Celebrated Shri Hari Jayanti and presented patotsava and manifestation Aarti to Lord Balswaroop Ghanshyam Maharaj.

19 Presented Patotsava - Abhishekam to Lord Thakorji dwelling at Kankarai (Ram Baugh) temple. • Graced the house of Shri Dharamshibhai N. Patel, Memnagar, Ahmedabad.

20 Inaugurated 'Tulsi Jewellers' (Prop. Arvindbhai Laljibhai), Vastrapur. • Graced the hosue of Shri Punambhai Maganbhai Patel, Elisbridge Ahmedabad.

21 Laid foundation for the new temple at Halvad (Muli Region).

22 Graced Installation ceremony of the idols of God at our temple at Gujarvadi (Dhrangadhra).

23 Graced "Shrimad Bhagvat Parayan" sessions organized at Varia Prajapati Milan-Mandir, Odhav, Ahmedabad.

24 Graced Maruti-Yagya Organized at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Kankaria, Ahmedabad.

25 Graced Patotsava and Parayan organized at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Lei (S.K.) Idar. • Graced the residence of Shri Mukeshbhai Chaudhari, Gandhinagar, Ahmedabad. • Graced Mandvi (Kutch) at late night to celebrate Patotsava of God.

26 Blessed Present at portcity of Mandvi (Kutch). Did Annual Patotsava Abhishekam of the idols of God dwelling at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir Mandvi.

27 Benigu presence and grand celebration of the 61st birthday of senior Acharya Maharaj H.H. Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharaj.

29 **30** Graced Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Rampar Vekra, Bhuj-Kutch.

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

HISTORY OF SHRI SWAMINARAYAN MANDIR AT BAMROLI (M.P.)

The first Acharya of Shri Narnarayandev diocese – H.H. Acharya Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj and his retinue of the saint and Parshadas were on pilgrimage of Chhapaiya Dhaam. Riding horses and elephants, with a huge stock of camping equipments they travelled from Ahmedabad, and came to the hilly area of chambal region in Madhyapradesh state. Hills, vallies and dense forests were very ferarful the devotees and to add in their fear, they saw at distance a large group of nomadic tribals holding spears and arrows. They looked at the saints and walked hesitantly toward them with an inquisitive eye.



The dusk was fading in the darkness of night obstructing vision and clarity. Ayodhyaprasadji Maharajshri too felt some what strange and anusual about the place and found no way aross the hills and bushy forest.

Those weapon holders were impressed by holy personality of Maharajshri, when came nearer to the retinue. They found Alimighty God in blissful image of Maharajshri. They saluted humbly and surrendered themselves at the lotus feet of Ayodhyaprasadji Maharajshri. They submitted, with due decorum, we are residents of Bamroli. You are our Lord. We are humble slaves of yours. Please don't hasitate to order us. We are most fortunate to serve at your lotus feet.' Maharaj felt their subtle and sublime feelings. His holiness admired their devotional love and graced Bamroli to favour his aspirants. H.H. Acharya Maharajshri had with them devotional session to preach them divine majesty of Lord Swaminarayan Bhagwan. Late evening Satsang lasted till midnight. Local residents found themselves most fortunate by joining late night satsang sessions.

H.H. Ayodhyaprasadji Maharajshri and the retinue of His holiness graced Bamroli for the four consecutive days. Bamroli Satsang hosted them with great devotional love and offered sumptuous meals, feast meals and comfortable boarding facilities.

The devotees were very sad when H.H. Acharya Maharajshri desired to further his pilgrimage. They insisted in devotional fervour to extend the camp for few more days. However, Maharajshri explained to them the urgency of a onward journey and thanked them heartily for their devotional love.

H.H. Ayodhyaprasadji Maharajshri favoured them by an idol of Lord Shri Hari from his personal pooja. His holiness asked them to do daily poojan worship and prayer to Lord Shri Hari, and assured to them eternal pleasure and happiness. Village people got the idol installed at a decent place and began to worship it. His holiness asked them to bring large milk pots, containing milk, curd, sugar and butter oil. He invoked divinity and majesty in Panchamrit by holy touch of his blessed hands and poured a fine stream of Panchamrit in and around Bamroli. H.H.

Acharya Maharajshri said, during the sacred rituals, 'The residents of this place, whether a pious soul or a sinner, when died due to his destinity, the soul of him shall be consigned to divine abode of God. The Yama dootas shall not be able to seize them. The souls shall be consigned gracefully to the abode of God.' The promise is still true these days. The person at the death bed, sees Lord Shri Hari and Shri Hari's saint before his death. He leaves his gross body after a darshan of Shri Hari and the saints.

As the time passed, H.H. Acharya Maharaj Keshavprasadji Maharajshri desired to construct a domed temple at Bamroli. His holiness passed an order to S.G. Reader priest Nandkishordasji and ordered him to get construct a beautiful temple for Lord Shri Hari. S.G. Nandkishordasji took in consideration the capacity of the town and the prevailent circumstances. He found it most difficult to construct a temple in such a poor locality. He himself was not so happy for his conclusions, therefore, he prayed to Maharaj to guide and support him in construction of the temple.

The Scindia king of Gwalior was deprived of male child, and was longing for a heir of scindia dynasty. Royal family was in search of a true saint and enlightened ascetic. In extensive search they came to Barmoli and per chance, they had a meeting with S.G. Swami. They were highly impressed by divine luminosity and majestic personality of Swami. They submitted to him their problem and desired progeny to continuen the dynasty. Swami helped them in their devotional service to Lord Shri Hari and explained to them the glory, majesty and divine powers of Lord Shri Hari and Dharmkul. Swami asked them to do japa of Shri Swaminarayan Maha Manstra and tied a Kanthi around their neck. Lord Shriji Maharaj showered his divine pleasure and royal dynasty of scindia got the heir and prince. The king of Gwalior extended his full support and co-operation in construction of the splendid temple at Barmoli. H.H. Acharyashri Keshavprasadji Maharajshri graced this peaceful town and installed the idols of Lord Shri Radhakrishnadev Harikrishna Maharaj. Thus long conceived wish of the Bamroli people was fulfilled miraculously at an appropriate time. This temple at the interior of the region caters to the spirituals needs of local residents, and helps the aspirants on their path of devotion and evedom.

The pilgrims and the devotees desiring to do darshan of Lord Radhakrishnadev Harikrishna Maharaj dwelling at Bamroli temple may come to this place by their own vehicles or by public trasport via Jaipur, Agra – Morena (Bombay-Agra Road_ - Tekri Hanumaji – Bicholla. Bamroli is three k.m. away from Bichola, and 110 k.m. away from Agra. Another rout is via Gwalior – Tekri Hanuman – Malampur cross road - Rithoda – Bamroli.

The pilgrims from Chhapaiya may come via : Kanpur - Lucknow – Itava – Bhind (highway) – Malampur – Rithoda – Bamroli.

Shri Swaminarayan Mandir Bamroli
Phone : (07532) 242285
Purani Swami Lakshminarayandasji
Swami Chaitanyadasji
Mahant Swami

EVENING THAALS OF LORD NARNARAYANDEV

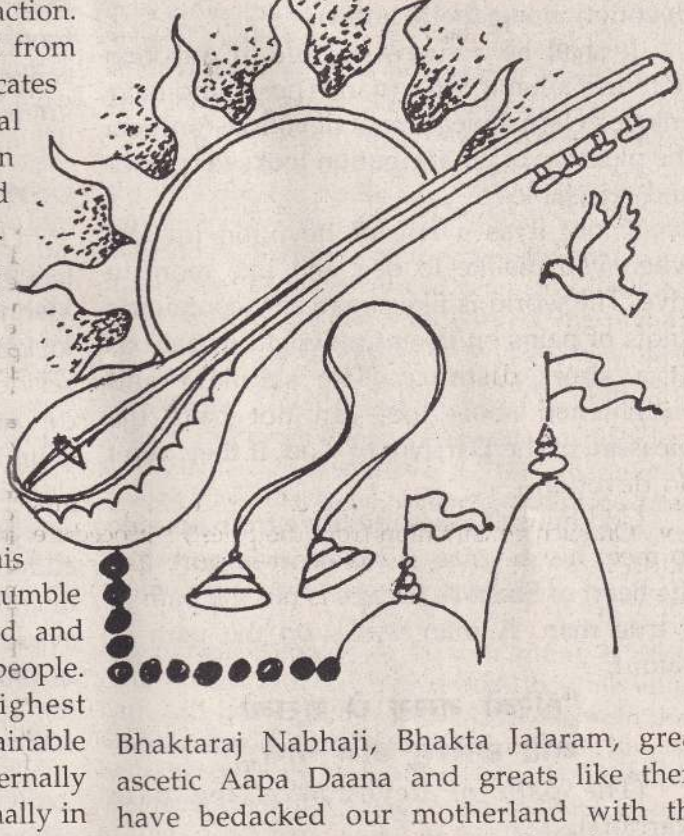
The service of full evening thaal of Lord Narnarayandev is available for the devotees if they desire to present full evening thaal to Lord Narnarayandev.

Devotees are requested to deposit Rs. 500/- at the Kothar office for presenting evening thaal to Lord Lord Narnarayandev. Prasadi is not distributed for an evening thaal.

- Kathri Swami

Devotee and Devotion

- Prof. Mahadev Dhoriani



A true devotee speaks through his action. Devotion or devotional love streamed from the devotional songs of a devotee, indicates penance, meditation and devotional affection of an aspiring soul. Devotion believes in a meaningful life – dedicated life. It believes in absolute emancipation. Each sentence and every verse of a devotional song stand in support of detachment and knowledge. It entertains our heart. There is soulful satisfaction and eternal bliss in such devotional music.

God has introduced the enlightened devotees as his own image - as an image of God, in his scripture of Bhagva Gita. A polite and humble devotee becomes more effective. God and the world like the humble and polite people. Humbleness-politeness is the highest attainmeant. Nothing shall be unattainable for a humble soul. Greatness resides eternally in a humble soul and ego dwells eternally in a shallow minded person. Holiness or purity can not rise, if soul felt himself small in bearing or respecting great people. Knowledge always sits on the seat of politeness. The speech, thought, acts and inclination (or tendency) are the four foundational pillars of the personality. These are changing rapidly. One becomes an enlightened soul, by creating oneness and harmony among these four.

The secret of devotion can not be understood without faith, service and trust. Devotee is a lover of God, he is also a slave of him. Narsinh Maheta, Bhakta Kubhandas, Bhaktaraj Nabhaji, Bhakta Jalaram, great ascetic Aapa Daana and greats like them have bedacked our motherland with the charms of colourful culture. To wipe tears from the eyes of the others is a kind of devotion. Service of mankind is the service of the country and humble service of supreme Lord. To attain God, is the highest aim of human life. Learning is the wealth of a scholar, personal gain is the wealth of a householder, knowledge is the wealth of an enlightened ascetic, art is the wealth of an artist and God is the wealth of a devotee.

Mankind has gifted many devotees – great released souls – to mother earth. The saints and devotees are the precious wealth of mankind. They are born to give. They are

born to favor others. They are born to sacrifice themselves for the ultimate good of the others.

"હોઠ પર હરિનામ અને હાથમાં કામ,
તેવા ભક્તો પર પ્રસન્ન થાય શ્રી રામ."

(God pleases to the devotees who do devotion along their duties).

It shall be a successful life, if devotion becomes a habit for a man. Those who have enjoyed eternal pleasure of devotion, for them the pleasure of emancipation looks very poor and rejectable.

Know it as a rise of devotion in you, when you dislike to beg and like more to give. The world is like sugarcane, containing knots of pains on its entire length to pain us at a short distance. The scholars and enlightened souls too, can not have the pleasure of the Darshan of God, if they don't do devotion.

God himself takes initiative from his side to meet his devotee, if his heart is pure like the heart of Shabari. Escape is not the path of a true man. A man walks on the path of valour.

"હરિનો મારગ છે શૂરાનો,
નહિ કાયરનું કામ જોને."

(The path of devotion is the path warriors).

Poverty is not a curse in life of a devotee, but a blissful boon. It is duty of a devotee to desire for auspicious things, and it is duty of God to fulfill such auspicious wishes. God fulfills the wishes of his devotee and manifests himself in the form that was being worshipped by his devotee. A true devotee of God must inculcate deep and firm love far God.

Three devotees of God, never aspire for emancipation, they aspire for devotion. Devotion is a linking loop between God and his devotee. God pleases to his devotee and favours him by a Darshal of his blissful image. God is attainable by Karma (action) Gyan (knowledge) and Bhakti (devotion).

The path of devotion is the best among the ways of meditation. The glory and majesty of devotion is being praised world wide, since time immemorial. Devotion is superior than acquisition of knowledge. The saints have chosen the path of devotion. The scriptures have put more weight on the nine kinds of devotion :

"श्रवणं कीर्तनं विष्णोः स्मरणं पादसेवनम् ।
वंदनं अर्चनं दास्यं, सख्यं आत्मनिवेदनम् ॥"

(There are nine ways of devotion : listening to and singing praises of Lord Vishnu. Remembering and serving personally to Lord Shri Hari. Doing Darshan, poojan, service and friendship are the ways of devotion. Total surrender or absolute submission is a kind of devotion).

These devotional ways are very easily acceptable by an aspirant. Some people have added one more kind of devotion in those devotional ways – Premlaakshana Bhakti – evedom. Shri Vallabhacharyaji has defined it as follows :

"माहात्म्यज्ञान पूर्वस्तु सुदृढः ।
सर्वतोऽधिक स्नेहो भक्ति प्रोकतः ॥"

(Greater devotional love for God. Such selfless love is firm and steadfast. It rises from the knowledge of God's majesty and divinity. Such supreme love is called devotion).

Try to see God dwelling at the inner most of the inanimate and living bodies. Try to be one among them and feel oneness with them. Submit yourself absolutely at lotus feet of God. God removes the sins of his devotee. Meditation and devotion of God takes the soul to the supreme plane of sublime love. It expands spiritual life of a devotee and emancipates the soul.

A partnership with God, enables a

Con. on Page 12

SATSANG IS THE TRUEST RELATIVE : ONE WHO TRUSTS SHRI HARI, ACTS AT THE WILL OF GOD (VACHAN. : LOYA-3)

- Patel Gandabhai Mohanlal

One who has realized glory and majesty of God, overlooks and ignores worldly pleasures. he enjoys eternal pleasure in blissful darshan of the image of God. he likes the pleasure - sublime pleasure – available in holy company of the saints. he is detached and non-aligned to the respects and insults, heat and cold, honour and insults love and hate. He believes only in God. God is his destiny. He lives at the will God. Those who have attained sublime refuge in God can not be deprived of it by any body. This is a confirmed fact.

Sundarjibhai Suthar - the state minister of Kutch, was a true devotee of Shri Hari. The people in Gujarat and Kathiawar were tormented by the groups of the vairagi Sadhus, but region of Kutch was safe and peaceful due to Sundarjibhai Suthar and his able adminstration. The saints of Lord Swaminarayan Bhagwan were known in Kutch as the saints of Sundarjibhai Diwan. Sunderjibhai Diwan was used to treat them like representatives of Lord Shri Hari and was serving them personally at his best.

He obeyed invariably to the orders of Shriji Maharaj. Once he was returning back with a marriage party and his stately cavalcade. When they came to Bandhiya (a small village by that name), he knew that Shriji Maharaj was camping at that place to grace the dwelling of Dosabhai Vania. He halted his cavalcade at the outskirts of village and went to the house of Dosabhai to do darshan of Shriji Maharaj.

Shriji Maharaj looked at him and asked, 'Who are you ?' 'I am your humble servent,' said Sundarjibhai. Maharaj said 'What are the attributes of a servent ?' Sunderjibhai said, 'To obey to the orders of the master.' Shriji Maharaj paused for a second and ordered immediately, 'Remove your royal attires and ornaments. Shave off your head, beard and moustache. Be an ascetic and go away to Kashi (Benaras).' Sundarjibhjai Surrendered to the will of God, disowned the householder ship and sent back his royal cavalcade. He walked away to Kashi to follow the orders of Lord Shri Hari.

The course of the events offered no time for reconsideration or consultation. Muktanand Swami and others were witness to this. Shriji Maharaj looked at Muktanand Swami and asked, 'Am I right in decision or not ?' Muktanand Swami said, 'Maharaj ! What ever you did is perfectly alight. We have been at peace in this region of Kutch. People were safe and secured. Now there will be unrest and troubles caused by the vairagis.' Shri Hari got the core of dialogue and called back Sundarji to ask him to execute his ministrial duties as the Diwan of Kutch. Saintly soul Sundarjibhai received orders from Shri Hari and came back to follow the orders. Looking at him with eternal pleasure, Shriji Maharaj asked him, 'Who are you ?' 'I am your humble servent.' 'Then put on your royal attires and do your duty as duty Diwan of Kutch State.' Shriji Maharaj hugged him with love and praised his servitude.'

Shriji Maharaj dwelled at Bandhia at the house of Dosabhai when he favoured his

devotee Sundarjibhai Suthar by his divine Darshan. Dosabhai too was a faithful and most trustworthy devotee of Shri Hari. He lived liked a slave of Lord Shri Hari. Shriji Maharaj summoned him to his room and asked him to collect all his wealth, ornaments, jewellery and cash, and asked him to pack it tight in the sacks. Obedient devotee Dosabhai followed the orders without any hasitation and packed his wealth in a large bundle. Maharaj ordered him again to carry the bundle on his head. He carried it without any doubt. Maharaj then asked him to follow him and took him to the deep interior of the forest. They came to an abandoned well. Maharaj stood near the well and asked Dosabhai to throw away the bundle in the deep well. Dosabhai threw it away without any doubt.

Shriji Maharaj and Dosabhai went from there to a far flung village. They camped at the village. Shriji Maharaj asked him after a while, 'Dosabhai ! Do you want to ask anything about this ? Are you happy about it ?' Dosabhai said, 'Maharaj ! Why should I feel or ask ? I am a humble servent. There was nothing belonged to me. The wealth was all yours. You are my lord and master. I have acted as a servent. I have followed the orders of my master. I am quite happy.'

They spent two days together and on the third day, Maharaj asked him to go back to his home town. Shriji Maharaj said, 'Dosabhai ! Go back and get back the bundle from the well.'

After a long journey of full day, Dosabhai came back to home. He knew from the villagers that the whole village was robbed by a large gang of the robbers. Dosabhais' house too was ransacked by the robbers. The cupboards, almirahs and chests they broke to get the money and ornaments. Dosabhai gave thought to the obliging favour of Shri Hari and trusted more in Shri Hari.

Some fellow Satsangis from Bandhiya did pilgrimage of Dwarika Dhaam and in return journey, they came to Gadhada to do darshan of Lord Shri Hari. They did darshan of Shriji Maharaj and had a satsang session to receive preachings from Shriji Maharaj. Shriji Maharaj received them with love and took good care of them. They had heart to heart dialoge with Shri Hari. Shriji Maharaj praised devotional fervour of Dosabhai and admired his faith and trust. The pilgriamgs than submitted to Maharaj that Dosabhai was not a kind of man as was assumed by Maharaj. But Maharaj disagreed to them and asked them to believe in his opinion about him. Maharaj said in confidence, 'Believe in me. Don't think otherwise. I am giving you a letter for him. He will act as per my words.' Shriji Maharaj wrote a note for him and handed over to pilgrim, to pass it on to Dosabhai.

Pilgrims came back to Bandhia and handed over the letter to Dosabhai. There was rush of the customers and Dosabhai was attending to them at his shop. While weighing Gur for a customer, he took the letter and instead of weighing treacle, he read the letter. While folding it carefully he came down from his seat, left his shop ajar and customers in wait there, he came to Gadhada and received Deeksha as a saint. The devoutees and aspirants received readily the orders of Maharaj and acted instantly with faith and trust. They were humble servents of Shri Shri Hari.

True devotees live in eternal intoxication of devotional love. Great devout soul Mayaram Bhatt of Manavadar was a faithful devotee of Lord Shriji Maharaj. He was a single minded devotee. Lord Shriji Maharaj has mentioned his name in the Shikshapatri to represent all his devotees. He was a

detached soul and spent his whole life in devotion of Shri Hari.

Bhattji was going somewhere by riding his horse. On his way, he found a mother with her wiling daughter. They too were travelling to same direction. Old lady spoke to Bhattji and requested him to favour them by allowing her daughter to ride the horse for a little comfort in her journey. She expeained to him about her ailment. Bhattji consented to the request and allowed ailing girl to ride the horse. He himself held the rein and walked besides the horse. Someone saw this at way side. He asked with curiosity, 'Oh Old Man ! You are walking, despite you oldage and that youthful lady rides a horse ! Why ?' She retorted in a sarcastic manner, 'Time has changed. Everyone likes to help an youthful lady. Who would like to accompany an old lady ?'

Bhattji was very sad for such unthankful response. She has passed cheap remarks instead of being thankful to me. He disliked the worldly ways and made up his mind to not to have any kind of relations with a woman, not even a conversation. He made this resolute and practiced it for whole of his life.

Shriji Maharaj graced once the town of Manavadar with his retinue of the saints and senior devotees. When they came to the country side of Manavadar, they found all the fields empty as the crops were harwested, but among those fields there was one large field with the crop standing and waiting for a harvest ! It was bit surprising, because, harvesting time was over long before. Shriji Maharaj looked at the field and inquired about it. One Haribhakta said, 'Maharaj ! Field belongs to Mayaram Bhatt. Bhattji dwells in constant devotional meditation. The job is neglected due to his spirivual endearour.' Shriji Maharaj invited his entire retinue to harvest the field. They harvested the crop, cleaned the field and graced the town Manavadar.

The devotee of Shri Hari are brave and fearless. Kesar Mian was a brave and fearless devotee of Lord Shri Hari. He was employed as a sepoy at the ministry of Wadhwan state. Though a sepoy of the state government, Kesar Miyan served this Satsang very well by guarding Samaiyas and celebrations held by Lord Shri Hari. He was always present for protection and defence of fellow sastsangis. He served as body guards of Lord Shriji Maharaj. Shriji Maharaj and entire satsang were pleased to his selfless service. Bhanji Maheta - chief secretary to wadhwan state – was an opponent of Shriji Maharaj and Kesar Miyan was appointed under him to attend to his duties as sepoy. Bhanji Maheta disliked Kesar Miyan and tried at his best to harass him by passing insulting remarkes about the sect, satsangis and Shri Hari.

Once a Brahmin came to the office of the state Karbhari, and desired a donation of Rupees twenty to do pilgrimage of Dwarika. Bhaji Maheta agreed to donate more than the desired amount, but placed a condition for it, 'I am ready to donate much more than what you need, but you will have to hurl dirty words to Swaminarayan.' Brahmin hasitated for a moment, but agreed next moment to satisfy his want of money. Kesar Miyan was present there when they arrived to an agreement in regard to conditional donation. Kesar Miyan Challenged them both and drew his sword from the sheath and roared angrily 'I will kill you, if spoke bad about my God.' Poor brahmin trembled in fear by ferocious roar and anger of Kesar Miyan. Bhanji Maheta instrigated him and encouraged him to hurl bad words. Bhanji Kamdar said, 'Oh Brahmin !

Don't be afraid of him. He is my servent. He can not act against my orders.' Encouraged by supportive mood of Maheta, Brahmin put himself together, and tried to utter a bad word to Lord Shriji Maharaj, but as soon he opened his month and tried to speak bad word, the sword of Miyan fell like a lighting and killed him on the spot. Bhanji Karbhari initiated punitive steps and dismissed him instantly from the service of the state. Miyan Rebuked, 'To hell with your service. My Maharaj will give me heaven. I don't want to serve you.'

Kasar Miyan vacated his offical quarter and loaded a hired cart to shift elsewhere. He then went to the queen and saught permission from her majesty to leave the state. Her majesty knew the facts from her trustworthy employee Kesar Muyan, and asked him not to leave service and the state. Here majesty issued a special order and dimissed the state Karbhari Bhanji Maheta with immediate effect. Those who favour Shri Hari, shall be favoured by the whole world.

Shriji Maharaj took him in his benign refuge, hugged him with blissful pleasure and showered his pleasure by removing golden Kanthi from his neck and tieing it happily around the neck of Kesari Mian. Shri Hari hugged him happily and granted boon that the family members and he himself shall be consigned to divine abode of God. He himself will escort them to Akshardham. Shriji Maharaj had fulfilled both these promises.

Faithful and trustworty devotees are very dear to Shri Hari. They receive divine abode of God when they concluded their life on the earth. Those who insult or oppose God are destined to pains of hell after their life on the earth. There are thousands of episodes of true and and faithful devotees. they have dedicated their life for the service of Lord Shri Hari. We should receive them as our ideal by following their devotional ways. May Shri Hari bless us with devotional pleasure.

Con. from Page 8 **Devotee and Devotion**

devotee to discard wants and needs of lifetime. Unselfish devotion results into majestic attainments. Those who have tasted the nectar like taste of devotion, would not like tastes of the sense objects. They shall be detached from the world of elements.

Devotion means disintegration of the ego. Devotion means absolute submission of the soul. Devotion means to live forever at the lotus feet of God. The heart of a devotee should be clear like a crystal and pure like water. God dwells at such heart. Gyan (knowledge), Dhyan (meditation) and Sanyama (restraint) with devotion consign a soul to the supreme state of self emancipation..

"ભૂતળ ભક્તિ પદારથ મોટું,
બ્રહ્મલોકમાં નાહીં રે."

- Narsinh Maheta

(The place like this earth, is not available in Brahmloka to do devotion of God.)

Great devotee Shri Narsinh Maheta has said, the earth is the only place in the Lokas to do devotion of God.

SHRI SAHAJANAND SCHOOL-HOSTEL
(Managed and owned by Shri Narnarayandev Diocese)
Bikaner House, Delwada Road, Mt. Abu (Rajasthan), India.
Phone : (02974) 238921, 235133

નવા એડમિશન

આબુ પર્વતની રમણીય ગિરિમાળા અને પ્રદૂષણ મુક્ત વાતાવરણ વચ્ચે સુરક્ષિત ક્ષેત્રમાં ધોરણ ૧ થી ૧૦ની શ્રી નરનારાયણદેવ તાબાની રેસીડેન્શ્યલ સ્કૂલમાં નિવાસી વિભાગને વિકસાવીને હોસ્ટેલ વિભાગમાં અને શાળામાં નવા પ્રવેશ અપાઈ રહ્યા છે.

અંગ્રેજી માધ્યમ, માધ્યમ બદલવાની વ્યવસ્થા, આધુનિક શિક્ષણ પદ્ધતિ, વ્યક્તિત્વ વિકાસની પ્રવૃત્તિઓ અને જીવન સાથે જોડતા શૈક્ષણિક અનુભવો. નાની શાળાની સંકલ્પના વડે પ્રત્યેક વિદ્યાર્થીની વ્યક્તિગત સંભાળ NRI માટે પોતીકી વ્યવસ્થા.

પ્રોસ્પેકટસ અને પ્રવેશ માટે નજદીકનો સંપર્ક : Mobile : 98246 46008

PROPER USE OF HOLIDAYS

- By Atul B. Pothiwala

Dear Friends !

Examination and tests are ended on arrival of summer and summer vacation.

Hot sun of summer days confine us in coolness of our houses, and surround us with the riddle of passing time in solitude and confinement. We should find out the activities to learn and know more about our selves and the world about us. We should enhance our personality by such creative activities.

The first and the foremost is the knowledge and recognition of the self - we as an individual. Whose children are we ? What should be the attributes of a lion's cub? It walks and roams fearless in the dense forest. Though brave and fearless, the cub is not proud or egoist for it.

Friends ! We too are the children of the Sahajanandi lions. We are some what different than the children in the world. Lord Shri Swamainarayan is personal God. Our God is supreme. He is like a Principal of the faculty consisted of teachers teaching various disciplines.

Rise before sunrise, say Jai Swaminarayan to your parents and elders, conclude your morning rituals and do pooja of Shri Hari. Bhagwan says, "Do pooja of Shri Narayanan Day in beginning of the day and attend thereafter, uour routine assignments.

It is good if you have in your family a prasadi pooja-peti received from H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. Lord Narnarayandev Harikrishna Maharaj dwells eternally there at the image, that is received in a prasadi peti. H. H. Acharya Maharajshri blesses us with the prasadi pooja peti. If it is not available at your home, receive a prasadi pooja peti from H. H. Acharya Maharajshri. Asssign top priority and receive a prasadi pooja peti and a kanthi from H. H. Acharya Maharajshri.

The kanthi and the pooja received from H. H. Acharya Maharajshri are the visas of the Akshardham- divine abode of God. The kanthi received from elsewhere are nothing but a string.

There may be shortage of time to visit the temple when sessions are on, but there should be no problem during holidays and vacation to pay daily salute to God at the temple. Form a healthy habit of visiting temple everyday for a early morning darshan of God. You may visit the temple located at your neighbourhood. The temple where idols of God are installed by H. H. Acharya Maharajshri are the eternal abode of Shri Hari.

The T.V. and computers have become easily accessible media to explore at your home the whole world and the knowledge of universe. There should be no harm in watching T.V. at home. There are wholesome and rich programms on channels like Discovery, Animal planet, National Geographic and History Channel. These channels are helpful in expansion of knowledge and information.

But there shall be definite harm if watched it form whole day. It will harm your eye sight and brain. As a student, you are at the beginning of your career. We can not afford such high risks. Don't roam aimlessly in the jungle of the channels, on the buttons of your remote control. This will pollute your mind and thoughts. Therefore, act wisely, choose meaningful programs and view it at a fixed time and for a limited time.

I.T. vendors these days are available almost everywhere and in our neighbour hood. They manage short term and vacation courses to teach computer operations. Modern life is not a complete life without computer and it's applications. Learn Microsoft window, excel, Graphic design and other

short term courses. If, internet and computer are available at your home devout at least one to two hours everyday to access pool of knowledge.

One can acquire a huge data in knowledge and information if one applies his mind properly in search of knowledge via Internet. As a student, you need to be extra disciplined in selection of web site.

Shikshapatri presents the standard of our life. It is our life style. Our life shall be a sound and solid life, if practiced on solid and sound tenets of the Shikshaptri. Practise the tenets. Develop good sense of judgment to discriminate between right and wrong. Seek guidance from your parents to solve your problems. As a responsible citizen, you shall be needed to act wisely and with due decorum. Good sense and wisdom must prevail up on the time and circumstances. At the school, teachers are our Guru. They lead us to the light of knowledge. We should respect them.

If you are on a vacation tour, enjoy the diversity of culture and gather the knowledge about the place. Enjoy every minute of your tour.

June shall be the beginning of new academic year. Spare one or two hours regularly everyday and read your text books. This will help you to adjust yourself in class room learning.

Sports and games are a must for a healthy student life. Play with your friends and enjoy innocent joys of out-door and indoor games. Desi games are equally enjoyable, besides western counterpart. Gilli-danda, Nagochar, Kho-kho, Kabaddi, Ambali-Pipli are a few from those most popular Desi games. Lord Bal Ghanshyam Maharaj had relished Ambli-Pipli with His peer group and had injured himself by a broken branch of tree. The injury had left permant mark on his person. Bhagwan has narrated this episode in his Vachanamrits. Such games are perennial source of physical exercise.

We have forgotten these Deshi Games with our progress in time. However, chess, carrom and other indoor-games are good enough to pass the time. "श्री सत्शास्त्र व्यसनाय नमः" "I bow to the one, who has habit of reading wholesome books). This is one from the many names of Lord Shri Hari. What a nice habit ! Habit of reading wholesome books ! Addicted to wholesome reading ! Be careful and stay away from the addition of Pan, Masala or Gutkha. Renounce those friends, who are in habit of consuming tobacco, pan or gutkha.

Most of the Gujarati families are lazy of reading the books. Students are at the beginning of their life, and whole life is still to be availed. Therefore, read good novels, story-books, biographies, autobiographies and form a healthy habit of wholesome reading. Public libraries and circulating libraries are available in planty. We should procure books from them to invest our time in happy reading. At least one hours should to allotted to the newspaper and periodicals.

The books like Ghanshyam Bal Charitra, Shri Nilkanth Charitra, Shri Swaminarayan Vachan Mala are the books narrating divine episodes of Bhagwan Shri Sahajanand. These books are available at our Sahitya Kendra and at the Maha Mandirs of this sect. Students should get those books for their personal library and should read it during holidays.

Divine leelas and episodes of Lord Shri Hari help us to think and meditate with concentration.. Visit the temple every day and practise most religiously the tenets of the Shikshapatri. Do daily pooja of Shri Hari. Lord Shri Hari will help you to practise the Nityaniyamas.

Lord Shriji Maharaj is with us. We belong to Lord Shriji Maharaj. Lord Shriji Maharaj is our saviour God. Invest every minute of your vacation to acquire sacred knowledge and wholesome experiences.

SHRIJI MAHARAJ BELONGED TO CHILDREN

- Sadhu Priyovrattdasji

Shriji Maharaj and children means a world of their own – unique and unparalled. Innocent children have relished holy company and divine love of Shriji Maharaj. The episodes of Lord Shriji Maharaj and the children in his benign refuge are most relishing. It narates selfless love, motherly care, fatherly protection, wholesome preaching and devotional fervour prevoiled about it. Those episodes are most enjoyable.

There was a child of Raval community at Gadhda. The boy was used to come to Maharaj to present songs. He was good at singing. Shriji Maharaj was used to praise his devotional songs, by presenting occasional gifts.

Shriji Maharaj said to him, 'To day, you are not to get anything from me.' Boy saluted to him with folded hands and said, 'Maharaj ! I need nothing. I am singing for your pleasure. Your pleasure shall be the greatest gift for me.'

Shriji Maharaj pleased by his spiritual wisdom and showered his hearty pleasure by gifting to him His gold embroidered side cloth from His person. Thus the child got a priceless prasadi gift from Shri Hari.

Shriji Maharaj and his retinue of the horse riders were on a religious tour of Rojka. They came to the outskirts of Rojaka. Some children, who were playing there, stopped play to and came to Shriji Maharaj when they saw them. They ran to Shriji Maharaj chanting "Saints have come..... saints have come."

Shriji Maharaj was very happy by seeing a large group of innocent children. He called them near him by waving his hand and said, 'come here, I will tell you a nice story. Come and sit here with us.' Children sat about Shriji Maharaj to listen to the stories and episodes. They listened to Shriji Maharaj most attentively. Shriji Maharaj told them interesting stories of their liking, and preached through it the virtues and values advocated by the sect.

Shriji Maharaj asked them at the end of story time, 'How many from you would like to renounce onion and garlic ?'

The son of Devayat Gadhvi agreed to then on the spot renounce onion and garlic. Shriji Maharaj pleased to him for his renouncement. Other children too received happily the Niyamas of Tilaka Chandala etc. when they found in it the pleasure of Shriji Maharaj.

Shriji Maharaj was gracing the royal court at Loya. Sura Khachar and other devotees were engaged in satsang. Meanwhile, Valuba the daughter of Sura Khacahr - came there and said "Jai Sachchidanand," in a style befitting a saint.

Shriji Maharaj listened to it and asked inquisitively, 'Who has said so ?'

Young child valuba came to him and said 'That was me.'

'But, why have you said 'Jai Sachchidanand ?' said Maharaj.

'Maharaj ! Whenever hungry, I request for a meal by saying Jai Sachidanand. They know my way of requesting a meal and serve me accordingly.' Said innocent child valuba.

The saints of Shriji Maharaj were begging Bhiksha by pronouncing 'Jai Sachchidanand' at the doors of the householders. Shriji Maharaj liked her saintly ways. Shri Hari himself rose from the seat, took meals from the kitchen and served it to her by his blessed hands. Valuba's mother – Shantaba and the guests at the court were elated by Shriji Maharaj's love for the children.

Shriji Maharaj and his retinue of the saints and the kathi-devotees were on a religious tour from Sarangpur to Kundal. The sound of the fleet of the swift hourses and the view of the riders holding weapons, scared the villager women who were plucking sweet barriers from the thorny trees at the country side. They thought them as robbers and ran away to save themselves. But a small girl stood there like a statue trembling in extreme fear.

Shriji Maharaj looked at her and asked, 'What are you doing here ?' unable to speakout anything, she stood there like a statue and like a doll she showed the barriers collected in her side cloth. Shriji Maharaj saw it with a smile and asked 'My child ! Will you please give me a few ?' She walked forward and submitted her whole collection. Shriji Maharaj took four from the barriers and blessed her the boon of all four Purusharthas (four ultimate attainments) of human life; Dharm (religion), Artha (wealth), Kama (fulfillment of desires) and Moksha (ultimate benediction). Shriji Maharaj freed her from fears, instilled self confidence and in a forward journey they came to Kundal.

Shriji Maharaj loves children. There was strong bond of selfless love between Shriji Maharaj and the innocent children. He has showered motherly love for all round development of children. Children belongs to Maharaj and Maharaj belonged forever to the children.

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.

For The Donors to Shri Swaminarayan Museum

The devotees who have consented donations towards the Shri Swaminarayan Museum of the Prasadi items of Lord Shri Hari, are requested to release their donation. The project is in progress with full force. The devotees are requested to submit their donations at the Kothar Officer of Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Kalupur, Ahmedabad.

SHRI SAHAJANAND GURUKUL, ASARVA

(Sponsored and owned by Shri Narnarayandev Diocese)

The Gurukulam with fulfledged High school operates from the old residecne of the Acharya Maharajshri - a prasadi place of Lord Shri Hari - Swaminarayan Wadi, Asarava.

Admissions are available in Class 1 to 10 in Gujarati Medium with boarding service for class 5 to 10. Homely care, wholesome meals, follow up of academic progress and all round development of pupil, are the plus points of this Gurukulam.

For Admissions contact :

Samchalaka
Shri Sahajanand Gurukul, Asarva, Ahmedabad-16.

LORD SHRI HARI RECEIVES SACRED-THREADS

- Narrated by S.G. Shatanand Muni

SATSANGI JIVAN VOLUME : 1, CHAPTER : 30

Suvrata Muni Said :

Oh King ! Dharmadev was greatly enthusiastic in regard to sacred-thread ceremony of his son. He procured different things required for the celebrations by ordering it from the other countries. Then he invited his family priest and honoured him by offering Kumkum, flowers, fruits, attires and cash gift, then placing in front of him a coconut with gems, he inquired with him about the auspicious day and time for the ceremony of sacred threads. Then the priest said with due respect, 'Oh Dharmadev ! Your son is in eighth year of his age, and as per calendar, present month is Falgun an auspicious month, therefore, it is good and most welcome if we do sacred thread rituals on the tenth day of this month, during Pushya Nakshatra and Mesh Lagna (sun's entrance in to sign of that zodiac), that would be the most appropriate time for sacred thread ceremony'. On such consultation from the priest, Dharmadev fixed that Muhurta (auspiciuos time) for the sacred thread ceremony and wrote invitations. His well wishers along their dependants, were anxious to do darshan of Shri Hari Krishna and for that they came to Dharmadev's house by travelling by carts, chariots and horses, as soon they received the invitation. Dharmadev received them warmly and honoured them by presenting precious attires and ornaments. (1-6) Dharmadev sent his best messengers to different places and invited with great honour the poets and the scholars of the Vedas from the different countries. Then at appropriate time these brahmin scholars who were bright like sun and were expert in Vedic scriptures, began sacred thread rituals under leadership of Dharmadev's family priest and befitting the procedure prescribed by Gobhilmuni in his Guhyasutra (a scripture by that name related to religious rituals.) In these auspicious days, the musical instruments played auspicious music day and night at the place of Dharmadev, and the various groups of married women sang devotional songs. Oh King ! To confirm his authority in sacred thread ceremony, Dharmadev gave donation of three cows as a symbol of three kruchha Vratts. The son too needs to undergo the acts related to three kruchha Vratts for an ablution of indisciplined acts, indisciplined consumption and indisciplined speech committed if any. Dharmadev did this ablutive act in advance by donating wealth in the form of three cows. Some integral parts of the sacred thread ceremony, namely, the worship of mother, the rites of manes for the growth, Grah shanti (a ritual to please and pacify planets) of the sun and other planets and offered sumptuous meals to the Brahmins on the day precedent to the main ritual of sacred thread ceremony. Then on the following day-the tenth day of the month, Dharmadev got arranged and properly sanctified the land and the ground for placing altar of the sacred fire. Then placed the altar with proper rituals and worshipped ceremoniously the fire God named Samudbhava. (7-13) Dharmadev though was well versed in ceremonies, procedures and rituals of his Vedic branch he did the procedure and rituals as were shown by the Brahmin priests who knew in detail the rituals of sacred thread ceremony. He performed appropriate Sanskars to his son sitting besides him. When his son (HariKrishna) took morning bath and had food, his father helped him in the tonsure rituals of his head and then made him to bath thereafter by his mother's help. He adorned ornaments befitting the occasion and took a seat at the right hand side of his father. Father Dharmadeva arranged thus the sacred thread rituals for his son. He had tied a waist thread and had worn a Kaupin (undergarment) on it. Acharya then gave him a sacred thread set of nine plys possessing three attributes and made from sanctified cotton. And with proper sacrifice of butter oil to the sacred fire, the Acharya touched his neval etcetera limbs while chanting sacred hymns. They then pronounced 'To day onward you have become an absolute celibrate,' and told him the scriptural duties of a celibrate. Oh King ! Shri Dharmadev explained to his son the ethical duties by advising him to do sacrefice of Samidha (sacred offerings) to fire God everyday in morning and evening, (Dharmadev) advised his son to consume everyday Aposhan (water) with sacred hymns, prior to a meal and on finishing such a

meal. Do not sleep at day time. Serve attentively to your preceptor. Oh King ! The son who was addressed so by his father, agreed readily to the advice of his father and consented to it loudly. Dharmadev, his wife and relatives were happy on such response from their son. (14-20) Then the Acharya (main priest) who knew well the procedure tied around Harikrishna's waist a thin rope made of sacred shrub of Munja and bearing three knots befitting Pravara of Dharmadeva. Then Dharmadev who was sitting at the northern direction of sacred fire, preached Brahm Mantra (Gayatri Hymn) to his son sitting beside him. Auspicious musical instruments played occasional music and priest and brahmins sang sacred hymns, besides auspicious songs from the women present at the place. Then chief priest of the ceremony gave a stick tall equal to Harikrishna's full height, which he held in his right hand. His side cloth was replaced by a deer skin and the sandhya ritual was taught to him. A controversy took place among the brahmins on the issue of performing sandhya. Which sandhya was to be performed first ! Noon sandhya or evening sandhya? When arguments became louder, Dharmadev concluded the issue by saying that 'Noon sandhya should be attended initially.' As was done earlier, the ethical duties which were preached by the priest of this special occasion were repeated and addressed again to his son by Shri Dharmadev, to make it clear for his son, who was enthusiastic to practise it : Oh My Son ! You always obey to the words of Guru if those are sinfree and practise it non stop by all the means. Forsake anger and lies. Keep distance from the eight types of forbided copulation. (21-27) Oh My Son ! You stop singing rustic songs, stop dancing, stop listening to musical instruments, stop applying sandal paste on your person, don't put in your eyes, don't do oil massage on your person, don't scrub your body, don't wash your feet by rubbing with each other. Oh Son ! Don't sit on a higher seat in front of your preceptor, Don't brush your teeth hardly. Don't do your hair by a comb, don't scrach the land and don't cut your hair without any reason. Oh Son ! Don't touch meat and wine in any circumstances. Don't ride a bullock cart. Don't wear chappals made of leather. Don't look at the mirror. Don't react limitlessly. Don't criticise others and don't use an umbrella. Oh My Son ! Don't be cruel to any animal even through your speech. Don't commit suicide even for the emancipation. Don't live in the company of inferior people and never consume any food from a bronz utensil. Quit the game of dice, tobacco, Bhang and other non consumable things. Discard and forsake non-eatables like garlic. Never speak bad about a cow, a brahmin, a shrine, a deity, a virtuous man, a saintly woman and a scripture. Oh My Son ! Always hold a Kaupin, a Manjibandh, a Kati Sutra, a Dand, a Yagyopavita, a Kamandala, a Mrigcharma, (deer-skin) and a Bhiksha Patra (begging bowl). Do always after your morning bath, the Sandhya worship, Japa (chanting holy names), Homa (sacrifice), Swadhyaya (study of the scripute), Deva Tarpana (offerings to manes and deities) and do as per capacity the worship and Poojan of Lord Vishnu with utmost devotion. (28-34) Oh King ! Shri Hari who was addressed well by his father and had held human body at his free will, said to Dharmadev 'It is alright,' and then raising upward both the hands did worship of Sun God and did Pradakshina (prayer by walking around the God) of sacred-fire. Then Oh King ! 'Please, Give me the alm' said celibate Shri Hari to his mother; and Bhaktimata gave alm to Shri Hari. Suvasini and other women followed the act of Bhaktimata and gave alm to celibate Shri Hari. Then celibate Shri Hari submitted such alm to his Guru - Acharya - and requested him to accept it. Acharya took from Shri Hari the alm as, meal, saved some for the self and gave rest of it to Shri Hari to have it as alm. Shri Hari received alm-meal-from his Guru. Then Dharmadev as was knowing well the ritual part of the religion, got the rituals concluded most religiously by the Acharya of the rituals. Thereafter, Shri Hari graced the assembly of the Brahmins. He among them looked like the sun in his divine brightness - a perfect idol form of celibacy. Dharmadev then donated cows, gold-coins, attires, ornaments and vehicles to the Brahmins and gave such other gifts to his dependants and relatives. Dharmadev, then offered sumptuous meals to all the villagers who were arrived at the place of him. Befitting a great King, Dharmadev gave cash gifts (Dakshina) to all the guests and sent them to their homes. He then taught Sam-Veda with it's meaning to explain the scripture to his son Shri Hari.

News And Notes From Shri Narnarayandev Desh

AHMEDABAD REGION

Festive Celebrations of Lord Shri Hari's Manifestation Day

Ahmedabad temple has celebrated grand event of Lord Shri Hari's manifestation auspicious Ram Navami Day in benig presence of Lord Shri Hari's seventh and eighth descendant sons.

H. H. Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharajshri graced the celebrations in holy company of H.H. Lalji 108 Shri Vrajendraprasadji Maharajshri and senior saints. His holiness graced the Akshar Bhavan early in the morning and presented Patotsava Abhishekam to Lord Ghanshyam Maharaj. The ritual part was conducted most religiously by the Brahmins and the chief priest of the temple amidst soulful chants of vedic hymns. Thousands of devotees were come from various places to do darshan of this grand celebrations. The temple complex was fully occupied by the devotees and aspirants arrived from Ahmedabad and other places. The devotees were blessed with the divine darshan of Shri Hari receiving Aarti from the three descendant forms of Himself. The volunteers of Shri Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal and devotees have earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by presenting admirable services under guidance from Mahant Swami. - *Vinod Patel*

The 61st birthday of Senior Acharya Maharajshri

The sixty first birthday of H. H. Acharya Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharajshri was celebrated here at the cosmic court of Lord Narnarayandev. The celebrations and samaiyas are the core of our activities at the court of Lord Narnarayandev. The great trio – Dharmvanshi Acharya, saints and devotees – are a well knit team by the grace of Lord Narnarayandev Hari Krishna Maharaj. The saints from Ahmedabad, Muli and Bhuj regions are always present at the celebrations organized anywhere in Shri Narnarayandev Desh. This is our good fortune.

The third day of the dark half of Chaitra is most memorable day for we devotees. Infants to aged seniors – all the devotees – remember it as birthday of H. H. Acharya Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharajshri. The satsang of Shri Narnarayandevdesh is most fortunate to have blissful darshan of three successive heirs of Lord Shri Hari. The soul has to appriciate this unique spiritual height for his own emancipation. The devotees have unimaginable honour, respect and devotional love for H. H. Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharajshri.

The grand event of 61st Birthday was celebrated here at Shri Swaminarayan Temple. The celebrations were chaired by H. H. Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharajshri benign presence of H. H. Lalji 108 Shri Vrajendraprasadji Maharajshri. Though the day was a working day, there at the temple was no room to step in. Hundreds of devotees were come from far flung places to salute their senior spiritual head on his 61st birthday. A special assembly was organized on this occasion to falicitate Acharya Maharajshri for his dedicated services. The assembly was conducted by S. G. Mahant Swami Shastri Nirgundasji. He recalled most memorable events and admired pious life of His holiness. H. H. Acharya Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharajshri has rededicated himself towards the cause of Swaminarayan Museum. Senior celibate saint Shastri Jagatprakashdasji has earned the pleasure of Shri Hari and hearty blessings of H. H. Acharya Maharajshri by gifting precious ancient scriptures maintained in lineage of his Guru. Enlightening speeches

and hearty felicitations were conveyed by S. G. Shastri Swami Purushottamprakashdasji, Mahant Swami Premswaroopdasji, Shastri Swami Keshavprasaddasji and Shastri Swami Narayanvallabhdasji. Swami Krishnavallabhdasji has earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by conveying hearty salute and gratitude on his personal behalf and on behalf of the saints from Muli temple. Shastri Narayanmunidasji and other saints were come from Bhuj to convey their hearty feelings. Greater Acharya Maharajshri shall be revered heartily by the present generations and the generations in future. His holiness is like an ocean of mercy, kindness and compassion. Felicitations and prayers were concluded with the Kirtan "હૈડાનો હાર હરિ મારે રંગ ભીનો" presented by H. H. Lalji 108 Shri Vrajendraprasadji Maharajshri.

Respected Maharajshri blessed the devotees on this auspicious occasion and wished them faith and trust in image of Shri Hari. 'These are holidays and happy time. Pleaseurable vacation! Those are enjoying vacation who have fared well in written examination, but those are much worried who have not done well in their exam-papers. They are worried for their final results. The exam papers of my the 36 years, are presented very well by me. Therefore, I am very happy these days and enjoying my leasurely assignment.' While mentioning vacation activities of Shri Lalji Maharajshri His holiness added, 'There are many jasmine plants at our garden. Lalji Maharajshri desires to the parshadas to collect jasmine flowers and he himself weaves flower garland from them. Once I stood before him to see him forming a garland. The flowers were kept on a cloth spread on the floor and corner of the cloth was pressed unknowingly under my big toe. Lalji Maharaj looked at me with a gesture of regret and said politely, 'Dada ! Your foot is on the cloth. This flower garland is for Lord Narnarayandev.' I regretted for my innocent behavior and said sorry to him. This shows value oriented samskara.'

Dharamvansh and Dharmvanshi Acharya Are descendant heir and sons of Lord Shri Hari. They always stand for the supreme virtues. We humble aspirants, are desired to imbibe afew from those virtues and values. They play the role of a human being to guide and help us on the path of ultimate benediction. - *Kothari Dharmprakashdas*

Kankaria Temple Celebrates Annual Patotsava of Lord Radhakrishnadev Harikrishna Maharaj

The annual Patotsava of Lord Radhakrishnadev Harikrishna Maharaj was celebrated here at Kankaria Temple on auspicious tenth day of the bright half of Chaitra. H. H. Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharajshri graced the temple and presented Mahabhishekam to Lord Thakorji.

The events were hosted by the devotees Shri Narsinhbhai Lallubhai Patel and Jayeshbhai Narsinhbhai Patel with their families. S. G. Mahant Swami Guruprasaddasji and Poojari Swami Devkrishnadasji have earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by inspiring and encouraging the host families for this devotional service. S. G. Mahant Swami Shastri Nirgundasji, S. G. Shastri Swami Purushottamprakashdasji and saints from various temples were present on this occasion. They have earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by participation in Maha pooja rituals.

A satsang sabha was organized on this occasion to sing praises of Lord Shri Hari. H. H. Acharya Maharajshri graced the Sabha to bless his devotees. Host families have earned the pleasure of Dharmkul by presenting poojan Archan Aarti to H. H. Acharya Maharajshri. The history of Kankaria Temple and the glory and majesty of this prasadi place was narrated

by the saints to enlighten the devotees by. The sabha was concluded with the blessing of H. H. Acharya Maharajshri. H. H. Acharya Maharajshri blessed the devotees and asked them to be firmer and most trust worthy in upasana and devotion of Lord Shri Hari.

- Gaurang Patel

Maruti – Yagya at Kankaria Temple

Lord Bal Swaroop Kashtabhanjandev has received here prayers and worship from his devotees. The devotees have celebrated Hanuman Jayanti and presented here Mahabhishekam, Annakut and Maruti Yagya to please Lord Kashtabhanjandev. The events were organized on auspicious 24.4.05 with the due blessings of H. H. Acharya Maharajshri. The events were organized with due encouragement from Mahant Swami Guruprasaddasji.

Host Shri Jaiminbhai Parikh and Shri N. K. Upadhyaya have earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by hosting Maruti Yagya. A large number of devotees have participated in rituals of Maruti Yagya. The holy fire was concluded by H. H. Acharya Maharajshri by presenting concluding sacrifice to fire-God. A special satsang was organized on this occasion to sing praises of Lord Kashtabhanjandev. The glory and majesty of Hanuman Jayanti was narrated to the devotees by Mahant Swamai Shastri Nirgundasji. The Sabha and celebrations were concluded with the blessings by H. H. Acharya Maharajshri.

Respected Gadiwalashri was present on this occasion to Savour her female devotees. Her holiness was accompanied by Senior Gadiwalashri to enhance devotional pleasure of their female devotees. Maha prasadam was distributed at evening after the programmes. Kothari Swami and Narottam Bhagat have earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by taking good car of visiting devotees. Ochchhavia Mandal have pleased Lord Kashtabhanjandev by presenting Ochchhava, Hanuman Chalisa and Sundarkand recitation at late evening. The devotees have been benefitted by these devotional.

- Gaurang Patel

Late evening Satsang of Three-days at Shri Narayanghat Temple (161.4.05 to 18.4.05)

Late evening Satsang was organized here for the three days to please Lord Shri Hari. The devotees and Shri Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal were inspired and encouraged by Mahant Swami, Sadhu Devprasaddasji and Mahant Sadhu Ghanshyam Prakashdasji to organize evening sessions at Narayanghat Temple. Narayanghat is a sacred prasadi place of Lord Shri Hari. Enlightening discourses were delivered by Mahant Swami Shastri Nirgundasji, S. G. Shastri Swami Purushottamprakashdasji, Shastri Siddheshwardasji and other saints. Stage artists Shri Hasmukhbhai Patadia, Jayesh Soni, Purav Patel and Dineshbhai Vaghashia have earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by presenting devotion filled music at the sessions. H. H. Acharya Maharajshri graced the session dated 17.4.05 and blessed his devotees. A large number of devotees have been benefitted by the feast of ultimate knowledge.

- Gordhanbhai V. Sitapara

Hanuman Jayanti Celebrations at Jamiyatpura Temple

Maruti Yagya, Hanuman Chalisa Session and Sunder Kanda recitation were organized here with the due blessings of H. H. Acharya Maharajshri. The events were organized to celebrate Hanuman Jayanti. About four hundred devotees have participated in Yagya and sacred recitation. The history of this temple and glory and majesty of Lord Hanumanji were narrated by Mahant Swami Ghanshyamprakashdasji.

Mathura Temple

The devotees have celebrated Fullototsava to please Lord Thakorji dwelling at this temple. A large number of devotees have benefitted by this devotional event.

- Mahant Swami.

Kanjari Kampa (S.K.)

Lord Thakorji dwelling at this temple has received Annual Patotsava Abhishekam to give devotional pleasure to the Satsangis. Annual patotsava was celebrated in most colourful way with the due blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri S. G. Swami Haricharandasji (Kalol Temple) has earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by presenting Aarti, Nityaniyam and Thaal to Lord Thakorji. Kothari Dahyabhai and senior devotees have earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by their services at the temple. A large number of devotees have benefitted by this festive devotional event. - *Kothariss*

Satsang Sabha At Karsanpura (Mehsana)

A late evening Satsang was organized here with the due blessings of H. H. Acharya Maharajshri. Shri Udayanbhai Maharaja (Visnagar) and saints from Mehsana temple were come to this place to sing praises of Shri Hari, Satsang, Dharamkul and Dharmvanshi Acharya. Enlightening speeches were delivered to explain glory and majesty of Shri Hari and devotees were encouraged to renounce intoxicants. - *Patel Bhanubhai.*

Shri Hari Jayanti Celebrations at Dangarva (Vanto) Temple

The 224th incarnation day of Lord Shri Hari was celebrated here by rocking cradle of Lord Shri Harikrishna Maharaj. Late evening session was conducted on this occasion to present Dhoon Kirtans and devotional songs. Hundreds of devotees were benefitted by darshan of incarnation – Aarti presented at night. - *Dabhi Mafaji Sardarji.*

Kothamba (Panchmahals) Temple

The tenth Annual Patotsaaaava of Lord Shri Hari was celebrated here by organizing Bhagwat Parayan (five days) Vishnu Yaag (three days), Maha Pooja and Mahabhishekam.

The seat of the reader priest was graced by S. G. Ishwarajivandasji (Mahant Swami, Dhariawad) and rituals of Maha Vishnu Yaag were conducted most religiously by learned braahmin priest Shri Rajubhai Shukla.

H.H. Acharya Maharajshri graced the events (11.4.05) and presented Mahabhishekam to Lord Thakorji. His holiness graced thereafter the Yagya-shala and concluded holy-fire by presenting concluding sacrifice to fire-God. His holiness installed Kalasha for the main dome by presenting poojan-archan to the auspicious pot. Devotee Shri Vasudevbhai M. Joshi has authored "Vachanamrit Saar Sarita"- a book abaout Vachanamrits. H. H. Acharya Maharajshri released the book and blessed the writer and the readers. The book is to be gifted to the temples of the Sampradaya. H. H. Lalji Maharajshri was present at the celebrations to give devotional pleasure to his devotees.

Female devotees of this place were favoured with the presence of Respected Gadiwalashri. Dhaarmkul has blessed the satsang of this area. -*Ashwinbhai Kachhiya.*

Nava Vadaj

A Maha Pooja was organized here at 7.30 a.m. on date 10.4.05 with the blessed permission from H. H. Acharya Maharajshri. The events were hosted by the devotees Shri Anilbhai Ratilal Soni and his family. The rituals of Maha Pooja were conducted by Brahmin priest Shri Gopalbhai Shastri. A large number of devotees have benefitted by this religious programme. - *Shambhubhai H. Patel*

Approach (Bapunagar) Temple

Ramnavami Shri Hari Jayanti was celebratedhere at our new temple by presenting manifestation Aarti to Lord Bal Swaroop Ghanshyam Maharaj. Thousands of devotees were present at this late evening special devotion. Assembly hall and temple were fully occupied the aspirants and devotees. Ramnavami special Aarti was presented in after noon to celebrate incarnation of Lord Rama. A special assembly was conducted at evening to sing praises of Loard

Shri Hari. Mahant Swami Lakshmanjivandasji and the group of the saints have earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by inspiring the devotees for this grand celebration. Shri Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal has extended laudable services on this occasion. - *Gordhanbhai Sitapara*

MULI REGION

Silver Jubilee Celebrations at Rohishala (Halar)

The saints from Muli Dhaam have strengthened the satsang activities in Halar region by visiting villages and towns. Our temple at Rohishala has celebrated Silver Jubilee, with the due blessings of ;H. H. Acharya Maharajshri and H. H. Lalji Maharajshri.

The devotees were encouraged and inspired by S.G. Balkrishnadasji Swami, Swami Baldevprasaddasji and Swami Ramswaroopdasji, to celebrate Silver Jubilee of this Temples.

The events were hosted by the family members of (the devotees (Late) Shri Ravjibhai Jivrajbhai and (Late) Manjibhai Jivrajbhai Tank, in devotional memory of deceased souls.

Shrimad Bhagwat Parayan (seven days) was recited on this occasion. The seat of the main reader priest was graced jointly by S.G.Shastri Swami Mukundprasadadasji (Muli Dhaam) and S. G. Shastri Swami Gyanvallabhdasji (Muli Dhaam).The text was read by Shastri Vasudevprasadji Shukla (Muli). The vedic rituals of the Mahavishnu Yaag (three days) were conducted most religiously by Shastri Jitendrabhai Amritlal Bapa (Muli).

Respected Gadiwalashri and H. H. Lalji Maharajshri were present at the celerbrations dated 13.4.05. Respected Gadiwalashri and respected senior Gadiwalashri have favoured their female devotees by their blissful Darshan.

H. H. Acharya Maharajshri 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharajshri graced this place for 15th and 16th of April and led the Silver Jubilee Celebration. His holiness concluded Parayana most ceremoniously and presented Aarti to the holy scripture and the reader priest. His holiness graced thereafter the Yagya-shala and concluded holy fire with sacrifice to Lord Fire-God.

A special assembly was organized on this occasion. H. H. Acharya Maharajshri graced the assembly and received poojan-aarti from the host families. The saints were come from various temples to celebrate the events. The saints and Mahant Swami of Muli Dham have enlightened the listeners by their scholarly discourse and speeches. The hosts and devotees were blessed by H. H. Acharya Maharajshri. The Sabha was conducted jointly by S. G. Chhapaiyaprasadji Swami and S. G. Krishnaprasaddasji Swami. Shri Babubhai Tank has encouraged a large number of devotees for a life time membership of Shri Swaminarayan Magazine. Shri Gyan Swami, Shriprakash Swami, Aniruddha Swami and Parshada Chandu Bhagat have participated extensively in various services on this occasion.

- *Babubhai Tank, Mira Road*

The Satsang – Sessions held in Halvad area

Sapakda (Dhrangadhara)	:	20-3-05
Ghanshyam (New Dhanala)	:	8-4-05
Haripar (Dhrangadhra)	:	23-4-05

The Satsang Sabhas were organized at the places mentioned above and Dhoon, Kirtan and Katha-Varta sastsang was conducted to please Lord Shri Hari. S.g. Shriji Swaroop Swami Mahant Swami Charadva, Vishwavihari Swami, Nilkanth Swami and other saints have visited these places to conduct Satsang sessions. Besides Dhoon and Kirtan sessions, the discourses were delivered to enlighten the devotees about subtle topics of this sect, Lord Shri Hari and Dharmkul. They have explained divinity and majesty of the original Sampradaya. Local units of Shri Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal have co-

operated extensively at each place. Devotees have benefited by these devotional sessions.

- Shri N.N.D.Y.M.

Foundation Ceremony of New Temple at Halvad

H.H. Acharya Maharajshri has blessed the Satsang of Halvad town by laying foundation of the new temple. The foundation was laid most ceremoniously by H.H. Acharya Maharajshri himself amidst the chants of vedic hymns. The saints from Ahmedabad, Muli, Surendranagar, Charadva and Dhrangdhra were present on this occasion. They have appealed to the entire Satsang to come forward and share the seruices at various level. The event was concluded with the hearty blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri.

Limbdi Tapovan

Ramnavami and Shri Hari Jayanti were celebrated here with the consent from H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. A large number of devotees have participated in both the events. Sadhu Bhaktavatsaldas and saints have enlightened the devotees by their scholarly discourses.

- Kothari Maneklal

OVERSEAS

Shri Hari Jayanti Celebrations at Stredhem (ISSO) Temple

Shri Hari's incarnation day was celebrated here with the due blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri and Ramnavami celebrations were concluded with the festive manifestation Aarti presented to Lord Rama at 12-00 O'clock noon. The grand event of Lord Shri Hari Jayanti was celebrated at evening by presenting incarnation Aarti to Lord Balswaroop Ghanshyam Maharaj. The sumptuous annakut of various sweet dishes was received thereafter by Lord Ghanshyam Maharaj to give devotional pleasure to his devotees. Dhoon, Kirtans and devotional music was presented to please Lord Shri Hari. The events were hosted by Shri Yashbhai Dave. Hundreds of devotees have participated in both the events.

- Ajaybhai Patel

Return of Undelivered mail

There are thousands of subscribers residing abroad. The temple has to pay very high postal charges towards air-mail of this magazine.

A large number of undelivered issues are coming back with a note of "not found." As and when you shift or change your residence, please let us know well in time about your new address. This will save our postal expenses and wastage of printed matter.

E-mail number has been indicated on the first page of the magazine. Subscribers are requested to inform us at that number, with your latest postal address and your subscriber number.

Please inform your friends and neighbours about this serious problem and remind them about their new address.

-Editor

AKSHARVAAS

Muli Temple : 18-4-05. Senior saint S.G. Govindprasaddasji (Guru : Swami Gopivallabhdasji) passed away to Akshardham amidst the chants of Mahamantra.

Ahmedabad Temple : 13-2-05. Senior saint Shastri Swami Ramcharandasji (Guru : Swami Ramswaroopdasji) passed away to Akshardham amidst the chants of Shri Hari's blissful names.

Mumbai (Mulund) : Devout soul Devjibhai Narayanji Tanna passed away to Aksharhdam amidst the chants of Mahamantra.

Balol (Bhal) : 2-4-05. Devout lady Jiviba (W/o. Jivabhai Vajabha Chavda) passed away to Akshardham amidst chants of Shri Hari blissful names.



H.H. Acharya Maharajshri concludes sacred-fire at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir Kankaria, Ahmedabad.



H.H. Acharya Maharajshri blesses Satsang o occasion of Maruti-Yagya at Kankaria Temple.



H.H. Acharya Maharajshri blesses host family on occasion of annual Patotsava of God at Kankaria Temple.



H.H. Acharya Maharajshri serves feast-meals to th saints at Kankaria Temple.

H.H. Acharya Maharajshri receives poojan-archan from his devotees at Kothamba Temple.

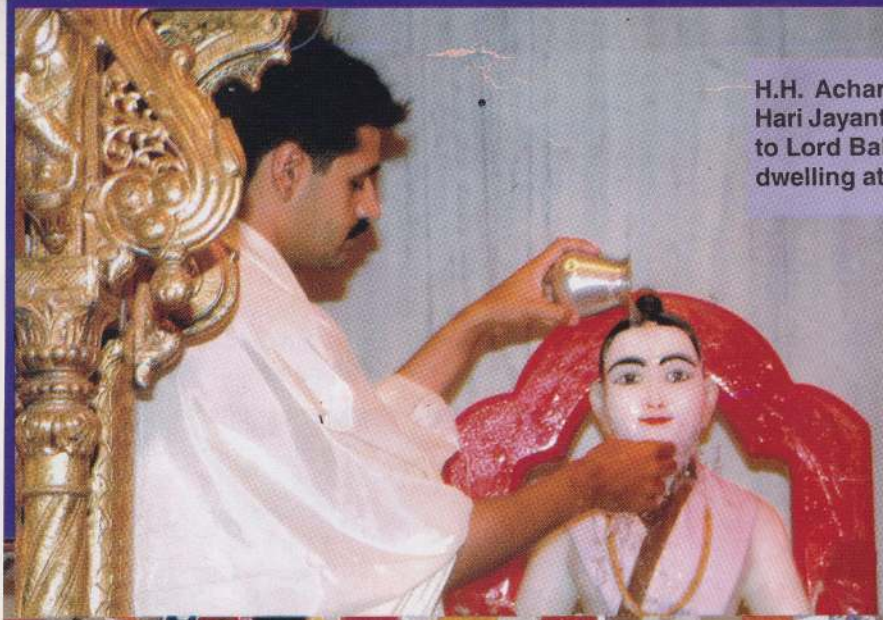




H.H. Acharya Maharajshri concludes holy-fire at Kothamba Temple.



.H. Acharya Maharajshri presents tenth annual Mahabhishekam to Lord Shri Harikrishna Maharaj.



H.H. Acharya Maharajshri presents Shri Hari Jayanti-Ramnavami Mahabhishekam to Lord Balswaroop Ghanshyam Maharaj dwelling at Ahmedabad Temple.

H.H. Acharya Maharajshri at Shri Hari Jayanti - Samaiya receives Aarti-poojan from the members of the scheme committee during.



Praful