SHREE SWAMINARAYAN
શ્રી સ્વામિનારાયણ

SEPT. 2005

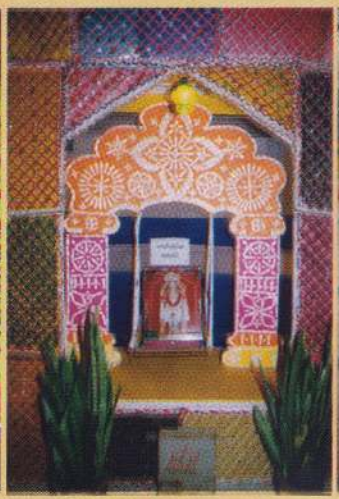


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Lord Narnarayandev Harikrishna Maharaj received 'Hindola Service' at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Kalupur, Ahmedabad.




The Hindolas presented at Jivrajpark, Jetalpur, Dholka and Mehsana Temple.






Charmful silk-Hindolas exhibited at Jetalpur Dhaam.

Official News-letter from Shri Narnarayandevdesh Diocese

SHREE SWAMINARAYAN

श्री स्वामिनारायण

Vol : 8 No : 85 September 2005



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EDITORIAL

"कृष्णसेवा मुक्तिश्च गम्यताम् ।"

This is the cardinal principle of Lord Swaminarayan Bhagwan. Lord Swaminarayan Bhagwan propounds the theory of Vishishtadwait (specific dualism). "Krishna-seva" means service of Lord Shri Krishna.Such service should be in the form devotion with the true knowledge of Shri Hari acquired by reading the sacred scriptures or by listening to the holy books, written about glory and divine majesty of Him.

श्रवणं मननं विष्णुं
अर्चनं पाद सेवनं ।
वंदनं दास्यं सख्यं
सेव्यम् आत्मनिवेदनम् ॥

To listen and read the episodes of Bhagwan with due contemplation, to do poojan of Bhagwan with mental worship, to do service at the lotus feet of God, to pay hearty obeisance and salute to God, total submission like Hanuman as a servent of God submission to God like a friend of God as was practiced by Arjuna, or total submission and dedicated service of God as pure consciousness as was practised by Ambarisha. These are the ways of devotion.

According to Vachanamrita, temples stand for reinforcement and reaffirmation of the Upasana by a devotee.

Poojan of the God's image by the sixteen sacred objects, Mahabhishekam, submission of attires and ornaments, sandal wood paste, flowers, tulsi leaves, Maha Naivedyam, Arti, Vandanam, Pradakshina, Mantra Japa, festivals and celebrations, katha–Parayan sessions are the devotional ways to please God.

Let there be reinforced rise in our devotional fervour. May Lord Shri Hari please to us. I submit this collective prayer at the lotus feet of Lord Narnarayandev.

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



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

August-2005

2. Graced Unjha and inaugurated Hindola festival at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir Unjha. Graced the houses of the devotees.
6. Inaugurated Hindoal-Darshan at Jetalpur dhaam.
7. Graced presence at the inauratation ceremonies of 'Bansari Heart and Medical Hosptial] (Dr. Rakeshbhai Goswami) Mansa.
8. Laid Foundation of the temple buildings of Swaminarayan Mandir at Ghatlodia (near Nilkhant Mahadev), Ahmedabad.

10-11. Graced Patotsava Parayana at Narsipara temple, Dhrangadhra.
Graced late evening Parayan Session held at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Jivrajpark Ahmedabad.

12-8-05 to 12-9-05
Graced Patotsava of God dwelling at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Steadhem (U.K., I.S.S.O.). Graced our temples in U.K. and held Satsang sessions to initiate Mantra Deeksha to aspiring followers. Installed indols of God at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, New Jersey, Colonia during his religious tour of U.S.A. and addressed there assemblies to guide his global satsang.

DHARMADA - DONATION

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

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

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

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

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

Renunciation - to Work Harder

- Prof. Hitendrabhai Patel

The blissful name of Lord Swaminarayan Bhagwan echoes every where in the world through the untiring efforts of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharajshri is the perennial source of spiritual enlightenment and acts like a beacon for mankind and the continents.

Bhagwan Swaminarayan

Lord Swaminarayan Bhagwan has manifested himself some 225 years ago and dwelled on the earth as a human being by disguising his divine attributes and majesty. Lord Swaminarayan Bhagwan has enforced the devotion of Lord Shri Krishna and rescued the human society from the murky mud of ill traditions, ignorance, superstitions and blind faith. He preached to them that "service of mankind is service of God", and preached it by practising it through out His life. Those were the days when it was most unimaginable to banish the bad traditions of human society, but due to whole hearted efforts of Shri Swaminarayan Bhagwan the society was freed from the ills of unjust traditions, violence, superstitions and blind faith. The "Panchvratmaan" and the non-violence preached by Shri Swaminarayan Bhagwan have, in those days, impressed the scholars, kings, landlords, and religious heads in such a manner that they renounced and walked to Shri Hari to receive initiation in the Sampradaya. Lord Swaminarayan Bhagwan never discriminated between a king or a pauper. He has graced the palace of Gaikwar and the hut of Sagram Vaghari with equal love and affection. His follower saints stayed away from women and wealth. Lord Swaminarayan Bhagwan had advocated for a virtuous life and sustained Hindu religion – without any discrimination of caste or colour. He has asked his followers to win the opponents not by violence but by selfless love.

Acharyas and Diocese

He expanded and reorganized the entire sect and grouped them in to two distinct but uniform dioceses : namely, Shri Narnarayandev Desh Diocese, Ahmedabad and Shri Lakshminarayandev Desh Diocese, Vartal. To manage the organization as per His tenets, Lord Shriji Maharaj Himself chose two of His Dharmkul (lineage of Shri Dharma) and installed one from each of them as the Acharya (supreme spiritual Head – preceptor) of the respective diocese. Thus, a complete system came into being and it maintained decorum and distance of his ascetic followers and householder devotees in occasion with any female or money. Acharyas are the Guru (preceptor - Acharya) of all the devotees – ascetics and householders. Shri Hari has created this highest seat of Acharya to protect axiomatic religion.

Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharajshri withdraws himself and dedicates his efforts for Swaminarayan Museum

The Sixth Descendant Son of the Dharmkul H.H. Acharya Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharajshi had graced the supreme seat of the Acharya of Shri Narnarayandev Diocese on the auspicious second day of the bright half of Ashwin in V.S. 2025 and since then he has led this axiomatic and orginal sect for thirty five years.

The sect has expanded its geographical boundaries and spiritual profoundity by founding temples, free inns Gurukuls, and centres for social service under his spirited leadership. He is the spiritual guide, head and preceptor of those billions of his followers who are paying obeisance at thousands of temples and Hari mandirs across the world. Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharajshri is the motivating force behind such expansion, progress and enlightenment in the sect. At his free will, H.H. Acharya Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharajshri has withdrawn himself from the centre and height of spiritual leadership and has opted for retirement to undertake the untiring workload of the historical project of our time : Shri Swaminarayan Museum. The seventh descendant son - H.H. Acharya Shri Koshalendraprasadji has been installed ceremoniously by Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharajshri as the Acharya of Shri Narnarayandev Diocese.

This is the first incident in the entire sect when an Acharya withdraws himself from this supreme position to serve mankind. Through his action, he has preached to his followers and mankind to renounce power and position to serve wholeheartedly. This unique act of his has touched the hearts of the Mahants, preceptors, preachers and the religious leaders.

Divine Gifts of God

Lord Shri Hari has favoured His devotees and showered His pleasure by gifting to them His holy foot prints and has said to them expressly that He himself is present there in the form of the foot prints. Lord of the universe has incarnated Himself as a human being and had dwelled on the earth for 49 years, to gift to mankind thousands of His prasadi items. There are thousands of "Prasadi" items in the form of clothes, carving artefacts paintings, drawings, attires, vehicles and utensils maintained and preserved in an 'as it is' condition in this sect to relish the sacred touch and the blissful memories of Swaminarayan Bhagwan. These "prasadi" items have served Shri Swaminarayan Bhagwan personally, and they have become Prasadi by the holy touch of Shri Hari. Lord Shri Hari's presence is felt in the Darshan of those "prasadi" items. Those are great works of art, craft, literature and scripture. Dharmvanshi Acharyas have unbroken faith and trust in the blessed "prasadi" items of Lord Swaminarayan Bhagwan. They have received these prasadi items as a precious heritage from the predecessors.

Why a Museum

These sacred objects, though they are the eternal heritage and most valuable wealth of the sampradaya, are preserved and maintained individually by the householder devotees and the saints who at times, due to their personal limitations, may not be able to maintain it properly. Contemporary generation passes through adverse times where religion has become a business to sell fictitious items under the name of God's "prasadi". So called guards and promoters of various sects have began to eradicate original doctrines, tenets and culture of axiomatic ethical duties. Many of the householder devotees have the "prasadi" items handed over to them from their predecessors, but times are so adverse that it has become most difficult to maintain sanctity of our Kitchen than what should one expect in relation to those "Prasadi" items ? Though, devout and faithful to the sect and Shri Hari, they can

not maintain those high standards of sanctity and decorum, needed in relation to those divine gifts. Differences and division in the family, have divided the divine "prasadi" in those divided families ! H.H. Acharya Maharajshri is pained at heart by such painful incidents. Such incidents have compelled him to think and ponder on the major issue of the sanctity and safety of the divine gifts distributed with pleasure by Swaminarayan Bhagwan. Time may draw deep dividing lines on the map of a family, but such divisive lines should not encroach upon the divine gifts of Shri Hari. Many temples of this diocese have maintained these prasadi items with the due decorum, but the items kept at such places are in a state of storage. Hundreds of householder devotees and a large number of saints have personally prayed to H.H. Acharya Maharajshri to create a most modern system to take good care of these "prasadi" items with its proper exposition to mankind. H.H. Acharya Maharajshri has consented to their prayer with a firm resolute to create Shri Swaminarayan Museum to install and display those "prasadi" items.

The concept of Prasadi Museum

It shall be most appropriate if we pronounce that the museum of these "prasadi" items shall not be a storehouse of the relics of history but shall be an illuminated window to peep in to our glorious and majestic past. It shall be a live demonstration of the glorious past of this sect. It will present to the visitors the tranquil atmophere to live in and experience the blissful presence of Lord Swaminarayan Bhagwan. Here at this place, a visitor will stop imagning about God and will perceive Him directly without any obstruction. This is the eternal abode protecting our cultural and traditional heritage.

Acharya Maharajshri, who wields divine powers superseding time and space, works here day and night discussing tge aspects of the Shri Swaminarayan Museum at his office on the land of the upcoming Museum. His Holiness guides, directs and leads here a well organized team of architects, curators, archaeologists, artists, sculptors and landscape designers to realize his concept of the Museum.

H.H. Acharya Tejendraprasadji has served mankind by gifting his treasure of the divine prasadi to the world community. H.H. Acharya (Late) Shri Devendraprasadji Maharaj had gifted earlier the prasadi items to Shri Swaminarayan Mandir and those items have been displayed permanently at the Akshar Bhuwan of Swaminarayan Mandir, Ahmedabad. The Museum has a well organized system to display the items in full with a short historical legend of the individual item. Beside those divine gifts, there shall be on display the nails, teeth and hair of Lord Swaminarayan Bhagwan. This will satisfy everyone's thirst of knowledge and majesty.

Lord Swaminarayan Bhagwan Himself has signed a document which is in possession of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. No other signature of Shri Hari is available any where in the univere. The document drawn and signed on a stamp paper of erstwhile Baroda State, is duely authenticated by a seal and signature of a British officer to prove the originality of the document and the signature. This unique "prasadi" item shall be the heart of the museum and made available to mankind by its display at the center of the Museum.

Lord Swaminarayan Bhagwan used to conduct the sessions of instant meditational

trance. The aspirants while sitting at the assembly, were gracing the Akshardhaam abode of Shri Hari in their state of instant trance and Shri Hari at Akshardhaam used to favour them by gifting them with a Kanthi, rosary, rosary bag or a string of the large beads to calculate number of the chantings. The aspirants were bringing those items with them from the Akshardhaam. These celestial prasadi items shall be displayed at the Museum.

There the majesty of the prasadi items has not receded, but H.H. Acharya Maharajshri has conceived this perfect system of Shri Swaminarayan Museum to maintain it well in our changed times.

Shri Swaminarayan Museum

Acharyas have procured long back, a very large piece of land in Narayanpura area, costing rupees thirty crore or more and handed it over to Shri Swaminarayan Mandir Kalupur, Ahmedabad. A splendid Museum spread over an area of 3100 sq. yd. shall be constructed there with built up area of 1,75,000 sq. ft. and the well developed landscape would be surrounding tge museum galleries, conference room, a.v. room, reference library and research center. The museum shall be a perennial source of ultimate knowledge and enlightenment. It will open up new horizons of knowledge and enlightenment. Each article shall be preserved here most scientifically, with a well spelled legend about the article. The wealth of knowledge and enlightenment treasured since a century under lock-and-key, shall be opened up now to the public for enhancement of knowledge and perception.

Support the Cause

It is our prime duty to protect and take good care of our national heritage. If this chance to serve the cause, is missed this wealth too shall be lost like the sword of Tipu Sultan, Kohinoor and Mayurasana of the ancient times.

The heritage discussed above, belongs not only to the sect or the Hindu religion, but is the heritage beloging solely to the world community – mankind. Human beings are much concerned about their family heritage and the governments take great care of the national heritage. The heritage mentioned here belongs to the whole world and we all human beings are concerned about it. To share and participate in this most memorable experience shall be a good fortune for us. Come and submit yourself to the cause.

H.H. Acharya Maharajshri has not desired any thing from his devotees or the state. He is a desire free soul. He lives in the state of pure consciousness not attached to sense objects. His holiness quotes a thought from the nectar like preachings of Shri Hari, '..... therefore, don't inspire or encourage, if not firm in faith or good intention..... And it shall be alright if carried out in its natural course, but don't recommend it with force. It is most welcome if at their free will they donate land, farms, village or assets to Lord Narnarayandev, let them donate it at their pleasure, but force them not for such a donation.' This is his motto and personal philosophy. His holiness insists for one thing and says that his efforts shall be fruitful if we a visit to the museum.

Wealth and prosperity are not steady or permanent Goddess Lakshimi is unsteady and agile, but Lord Narayan is steadfast and firm. Allow your wealth to support the cause. Come forward and join us in this great service of mankind.

SPIRITUAL WISDOM OF JIVUBA AND LADUBA

- Prof. Mahadev Dhoriani (Rajkot)

Ebhal Khachar was a famous Kathi Darbar of Gadhada region. Uttam Kumar is worthy son of him. This sublime soul - Uttamkumar became known as Dada Khachar by holy company of Shriji Maharaj. Ebhal Khachar has two daughters - Jivuba and Laduba. both the sisters were enlightened souls. Ebhal Khachar was used to visit the graced places of Shri Hari to attend to satsang of Shriji Maharaj. He was used to discuss at home the preachings and teachings of Shriji Maharaj.

Shriji Maharaj graced once the princely state of Kariyani. Ebhal Khachar broke this news at home and declared pilgrimage with family to visit Kariyani. Family members were very happy to receive such auspicious news and looked forward to do Darshan of Shriji Maharaj. Ehal Khachar came to Kariyani with his family. Macha Khachar at the Sabha, walked forward to welcome him and introduce Ebhal Khachar to Shriji Maharaj. Shriji Maharaj smiled at both of them and said, "Oh Macha Khachar ! I know Ebhal Khachar personally as I knew him very well since before his birth."

Jivuba and Laduba were thrilled in astonishment by such surprising statement of Shriji Maharaj. They looked at Shriji Maharaj by their unwinked eyes - steadily and constantly - to receive divine image of Lord at the seat of heart. Both the sisters realized that Shriji Maharaj is God himself. The seeds of detachment and renuniciation were planted at their heart on that auspicious occasion.

At the time of his departure, Ebhal Khachar requested to Shriji Maharaj, "Maharaj ! Please grace our Gadhada." Shriji Maharaj said, "Sure. I will come to Gadhada. Gadhada is my own town." All were very happy by such hearty response of Shriji Maharaj.

Shriji Maharaj came to Gadhada. Ebhal Khachar and his family surrendered absolutely at the service of Shriji Maharaj. They attended Satsang Sabhas of Shriji Maharaj. Jivuba and Laduba practised absolute celibacy by their thoughts, speech and action and therefore, veiled the face during satsang sessions. They looked at any male and adhered to the personal resolute. "Simple living and high thinking" was the way of their life. Both the sisters practiced regimental discipline of a true celibate, by self control in food and behaviour.

Both the sisters were matured to step in householdership of a married life. Maharaj knew about the worries of Ebhal Khachar and said once to him, "Ebhal Khachar ! I am aware of your worries. Both your daughters are matured enough. You are worried for their marriage. Charan Ladudan Bhagat is a scholar poet. He will be able to explain them the importance of a married life." Shriji Maharaj sent this celibate poet to preach importance of married life.

Ebhal Khachar and Ladudan Bhagat sat together at one side of the curtain and devout sisters sat on other side to veil themselves. They did "Jai Swaminarayan" to each other and Ladudan Bhagat started with a dialogue :

"Merciful God has favoured you by granting your birth in this noble lineage . As I know, you both are virtuous, charmful and intelligent. You should begin householder life by a timely marriage, before it is too late."

Laduba said, "Devout lady Loyan was not married." Ladudan said, " A householder

can do devotion with his householdership. Mirabai was a married lady but she did devotion and merged herself in devotion of Lord Shri Krishna."

Jivuba countered it, "Oh worthy son of Goddens Saraswati ! Your example is not supporting your argument. She was a married woman but marriage was not consumated.

Dialogue between them lasted for a long time. He admired mentally their spiritual wisdom, but continued to argue to avoid personal defeat. Ladudan furthered his argument, "Creator God has created men and women to continue creation and cycle of living beings. We can not act against the will of creator God."

"For us, every thing is pure consciousness. We are pure consciousness. You are pure consciousness. Pure consciousness is every where on the earth and space.Addition, subtraction or division in pure consciousness, result again in pure consciousness !"

Instead of preaching them, Ladudan Poet received subtle teachings and spiritual guidance from the enlightened sisters. He thought at his mind – A statue of salt dived in the ocean to measure its depth, but merged it self in waters of sea !"

She said, "Ladudanji! Drawn by a desire of touch, words, charms, tastes or smell,many souls like deer, elephant, butterfly, fish and humble bee lose their life pitiably. Human beings are wise and they possess intelligence to discriminate between right and wrong. We have earned such spiritual wisdom by darshan of Shriji Maharaj and by nectar like speeches of him. We have discussed with you our personal experiences. Therefore, we feel that you are still a Rajarshi. Now rise to Your brahmic state and experience divine pleasures of brahmic state."

Jivuba dwelled eternally in pure state of सर्व खलु इदं ब्रह्म and ब्रह्मविद् ब्रह्मैव भवति । She now removed the curtain between them and looked at Yogiraj.

Ladudan was stunned by what he saw. The pool of eternal light appeared from the eyes of Jivuba and rushed steadily towards him. He did Jai Swaminarayan under this divine spell and came back to Maharaj.

Maharaj asked him, "Oh Great Poet ! Have you fixed any auspicious time to engagent both the sisters ?" Ladudanji prayed, "Maharaj! You are omniscient Lord, I learnt today from them the true meaning of a marriage. Oh Maharaj ! Please initiate Bhagwati deeksha to me. Please receive me as a humble disciple of yours ! Ladudanji forsook his precious ornaments and royal attires, wore a saffron robe befitting a humble sadhu and received Bhagwati Deeksha with new name "Brahmanand".

Shriji Maharaj acts for benediction of worldly souls. Shri Hari desired to benedict a noble soul and for that he got Jivuba married to Amarabhai of Kundal. Detached soul dislikes worldly pleasures. Such noble souls can not be tied in ropes of worldly life. Enlightened soul Jivuba helped her husband to realize divine majesty of God and brought him on the path of devotion and meditation. Amarabhai grasped the majesty and divinity of Bhagwan Swaminarayan and became a true devotee of Shri Hari. Thereafter, she expressed her devotional fervour to her mother-in-law.Wise lady Raiba took Jivuba as an Yogi of past birth. She permitted her to live at her father's house in Gadhada. Jivuba travelled to Gadhda by a Chariot.

On way to Gadhda, chariot driver stopped the chariot midway. A saint was sleeping right in middle of the narrow path. They knew from the companion saint that the senior saint laid on the road was a patient

(Cont. on page 12)

GOOD FORTUNE !

- Jaidip H. Patel (Viratnagar, Ahmedabad)

Shriji Maharaj graced once a village and comped at the princely court of kathi Darbar.Villagers went to the princely residence for a darshan and blessings of Shriji Maharaj. Among the visitors, there was a devout farmer family – Devout lady Kavalbai and her husband. They were came there to quench thirst of a Darshan. Devout couple stayed there for a long time in front of Lord Shriji Maharaj. Kavalbai thought at heart to invite Shri Hari to grace her house, but the thought of her poverty compelled her to suppress devotional fervour. They concluded silent prayer after a long time and returned to their house.

Early next morning,Shriji Maharaj led his retinue of the saints and knocked the door of the poor farmer and when he opened the door, he saw Shri Hari with the retinue of his saints. Inner room was dark and dingy, therefore, he spread a charpoy at the small corridor of the house. He spread quickly a cotton quilt to offer a seat to Shriji Maharaj. Shriji Maharaj smiled at them and admired the seat.

Farmer's wife rushed to the kitchen to serve some milk to Shriji Maharaj and came back hurridly with an earthen milk-pot. She served happily a bowl of milk. Shriji Maharaj had the milk and admired taste of it, "Oh great ! What a wonderful taste ! Have you put any sugar in the milk or what ? It's flavour and taste are wonderful. I like it." Shriji Maharaj had it happily and had it repeatedly. Kavalbai knew no limits of her selfless pleasure. She continued to pour milk in bowl of Maharaj and submitted, "Maharaj ! It is of our own buffalo. I take personal care of them for a good quality of milk. Milk is fresh and rich." Shriji Maharaj admired it again and in repeated course he emptied her milk container.

Kavalbai then said to her husband, "Maharaj has showered his benedictory pleasure. We are most fortunate souls. God has granted our undisclosed wish by his graced presence with his saintly retinue. Now we should offer some thing to the saints. The milk is all over, but the buttermilk is still there in our kitchen." Saying so to her husband, Kavalbai ran back to the kitchen. When she picked up the container, she found that it contained milk. She felt the warmth of freshly drawn milk. Now she realized her blunder. The pot he emptied in bowl of Maharaj was not the milk but butter milk ! She was very sorry for her carelessness. Repenting and weeping for her blunder, she came back to Maharaj and prayed with folded hands, "Maharaj ! I have committed a serious mistake. Please forgive me for my blunder. I have offered you buttermilk instead of fresh whole milk. The pot of milk is still there and I have emptied in your bowl the butter milk. I am realy mad and careless. Maharaj ! Please be kind to me." Maharaj smiled at her and said, "I knew just now from you that it was butter milk. In fact, it tasted like milk to me. It was tastier than fresh whole milk."

This shows sublime attributes of Shriji Maharaj. Shriji Maharaj looks at the devotional fervour of his devotee irrespective of social, economic or political status of a devotee. He is hungry of love and sublime affection.He comes to us without any formal invitation, if our love for him is pure and selfless. He bestows divine pleasure by his graced presence at the house and heart of his devotees. There is one episode in Mahabharat.

(Cont. on page 17)

'DON'T WORRY I AM WITH YOU'

- Atulbhai B. Pothiwala

The world first temple of the Sampradaya was constructed at Ahmedabad by Shriji Maharaj himself. Shriji Maharaj was banned by the Governor of Peshwa regime to enter the territory of Ahmedabad, but Peshwai Government it self was over thrown within six months of this proclamation. Peshwai was replaced with the British Governance.

Britishers knew to impose and consolidate political power. They knew how to run a government. They were equally careful in regard to cultural heritage, social texture and social harmony. Shriji Maharaj himself was working at grass root level to bring constructive changes in backward community of Kathi – Koli and other backward classes. It was a peaceful social revolution. British officers were aware of this constructive services. Mr. Dunlop, Magistrate of Ahmedabad was an admirer of Shriji Maharaj. He respected Shri Hari.

Shri Maharaj was searching for a good piece of land to build a temple in Ahmedabad.British Magistrate – Sir Dunlop came forward at his own and requested to Shriji Maharaj, " You build a temple at Ahmedabad, and build an inn for your saints and satsangis. I am ready to allot to you a piece of land at the place of your choice."

Shriji Maharaj chose the land of Pathkawadi located in Kalupur area. As per state laws, Sir Dunlop drew the documents on a copper sheet and handed over the land forever to Shriji Maharaj.

Shriji Maharaj built there the first temple of this Sampradaya. The temple was constructed under expert supervision of Anandanand Swami.The satsangis and aspirants from entire region were come to Ahmedabad to celebrate invocation ceremonies of Lords Narnarayandev. Festive procession was organized on that occasion to bless the land and inhabitants of Ahmedabad and events were celebrated with colour and rejoicement.

Shriji Maharaj desired then to offer sumptuous feast meals to all eighty four subcastes of Brahmin community, but the funds were not enough to host the feast for such a large number of people. There was nobody in vicinity to lend such a large amount. Some one from the core group suggested the name of Laldas Gora. Shriji Maharaj said," Laldasbhai ! We want to arrange a Choryashi feast for all the Brahmins in this region. Can you arrange seven thousand rupees ?' Lalbhai was a seasoned businessman. He gave a good thought to it, "Money is there to lend, but it shall be consumed as Laddus and eatables by the Brahmin community invited on that occasion. Is it possible to get back my money from those digested laddus ?' With such thoughts in his mind, he came back at home.

His wife asked him, "Why were you called there by Mararaj ? What has happened ?' Lalbhai told her about lending money. His wife said, "Why should you think ? Maharaj asks for money. If he asks for all our belongings inclusive of this house, we should give it away without a second thought. Wealth and pleasures are mortal and temporary. It can not last forever. Grab this opportunity and give money to Bhagwan.

She was a spiritually wise woman. We should not turn away our face, when God desires something from us. Laldas Gora went hurriedly and submitted seven thousand

rupees at the lolus feet of Shriji Maharaj.

A grand community feast was organized at the lake side of Kankaria. Thousand of Brahmin families belonging to this region were received warmly by Shriji Maharaj and the saints to have sumptuous feast meals. Thousands of guest devotees followed them in following sessions and had prasadi feast meals.

A grand sabha was organized after the feast to present Poojan Archan to Shriji Maharaj. Hundreds of devout followers earned the pleasure of Lord Narnarayandev by presenting Poojan – Archan and gifts to Shriji Maharaj. The gifts were counted on the spot by the Kotharis of these celebrations. When they counted money, it tellied exactly – Rupees seven thousand and a half rupee. Maharaj said, "These seven thousand rupees are of Laldas. Give it back to him." Then pointing to the half rupee coin, Kothari said in amusement, "Then to whom belongs this half rupee coin?"

Maharaj smiled at him and said, "Take it as balance in our account." Kothari said, "Maharaj ! How such a big temple shall be managed by an insignificant balance of a half-rupee coin ?" Maharaj said with a smile, "Why you worry ? I am with you."

These words echoed at the sabha in multitude of millions. Entire satsang felt presence of Shri Hari at their heart. Since then, Shri Hari dwells with us in our life. God is with us, why should we worry ?

Through out the decades and the century since then, we have celebrated every year and on each occasion the festivals and celebrations to please Lord Naranarayandev Harikrishna Maharaj present at the temple. We have spent billions of rupees in such celebrations and services. God has assured us by his firm promise : "I am with you," and with His due blessings, we have never worried for anything. Lord Shriji Maharaj manages our celebrations and commitments. "Patotsava may be organized at times by spending thousands of rupees and at times by presenting a leaf of Tulsi, but in no case a devotee should be put under pressure." This order and these inspiring words are still in force today at this temple and in this sect.

Form a habit to be with God. Live in company of God. Worry or tension can not exist in presence of God.

Kalpataru (wish fulfilling tree) is such a tree, who can not wish at his own, it becomes fruitful and delivers the fruits when a person beneath it desires so. Shriji Maharaj fulfils our wishes like a Kalpataru, whether desired it or not – only submission is needed. Surrender absolutely at the lotus feet of Maharaj.

(Cont. from page 9)

SPIRITUAL WISDOM OF JIVUBA AND LADUBA

of colic and diarrhoea. He was too weak to travel. Jivuba veiled her face and came down from the chariot. She said to the driver, "Take this chariot for the ailing saint. Gadhada is not so far from here, I will go walking."

Satsang has respected Jivuba as mother. Her husband Amarabhai was used to chant "Swaminarayan. Swaminarayan in each his breath. Shriji Maharaj appeared in front of him at midnight and filled the room by his divine light. Amarabhai prayed, "Maharaj ! I have not called you at such odd hours. I can not put you in such inconvenience". Maharaj said, "You are remembering me constantly in each your breath. I am here therefore, to meet you." Devout soul Amarabhai had enlightening dialogue with Shri Hari. Lord Shri Hari lives with his faithful devotee and fulfils his life.

THOSE ARE DEMONS

- Shastri Hari Swami

Monsoon is the best among the seasons. Monsoon and it's four months are treated as Sattvika period. Our saints and poets have admired monsoon season. Asahda is most charmful month of rainy season. Dark rainy clouds, rain, showers lightening and thundering roars of the clouds are the charms and adornments of Ashadha. Lord Shri Hari swings in the cradles at the temples. Poet says :

"ઝરમર ઝરમર મેહુલો વરસે,
ગરજે ગંભીર રે... નાથજીને ઝુલાવુ ધીરે."

(Dark clouds are raining. I am swinging the cradle of my Bhagwan.)

A farmer and his son were on way to their field. It was monsson and school was closed for the holdidays. Pupil Gaurava was on a trip to the farm with his father. Gaurava was an intelligent and aspiring boy. He liked to know more about the things around him. Farmer loved his heartily. He too liked to help his son in acquiring knowledge and information. Gaurava saw a huge and leafy tree. He pointed at it and asked, 'Papa ! Tell me what is that ?' 'It is mango tree. In summer days we enjoy mango juice. Mango juice is sweet and tasteful. This tree gives mangos,' said father to his son. The son then asked, 'But I can't see any mango on that tree !' 'Mango tree bears mangos during summer. Gaurava then knew about various trees like Banyan tree, pipul, temerind, palm, lemon and plantain.

Gaurava then heard cooing of a bird. He saw the bird sat on a branch of mango. Though the colour it wore was black, bird looked most charmful ! Gaurava looked at his father and said, 'Papa ! Tell me what that bird is ? It's cooing is so pleasant, among chirping of the brids ! I love its singing !' Boy tried to copy cooing of the black bird but failed to copy it. His father said, 'My child ! My son ! It's name is cuckoo. It's chirping in melodious and sweetest among chirping of the birds. For such sweetness and melody, you will have to learn and practice music.'

Father and son strolled leasurely at lush green country side. Everywhere on the earth were lush green plants, shrub, trees, flower plants and growing crops. Entire land was covered by green carpet. The birds of different kinds were flying tree to tree, colourful butterflies and bumble bees were visiting flowers and buds. Fish of various size were playing quietly in streams and ponds. Deers, rabbits and other herbivorous animals were munching and playing here and there.

As they walked visiting trees, plants and various kind of shrubs, Gaurava saw a dull and dried plant at a grove. All were looking green and cheerful inclusive grass and shrub, but this plant was dried dispite water, air and sunlight available to it. Gaurava thought of some desease and asked to his father, 'Papa ! This plant is sick. It is dieing. Please give some, medicine and treatment to cure it.' Father said to him, 'My son ! It is true that the plant is dieing but it is not sick. That herb is known as Javaso (a thorny medicinal herb). It's inherent nature is quite strange and it is quite opposite to the nature of other green vegetation. Green vegetation thrive and grow tremendously by receiving sunlight, water and rain. But Javasa is such a vegetable, who dry and die by the rain and water. Here water is not at fault, there is no fault in water. Water gives life and energy to all living beings inclusive of vegetation, but the fault is with the plant of Javasa.' Gaurava thanked his father for such enlightening

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ABODES OF GOD

- Sadhu Bhaktavatsaldas.

It was a small village. A teen age boy was living there with his elder brother. Boy's name was Hari. Hari was a small child when his parents expired. He was brought up by his elder brother. There was stong bond of love between two brothers, but love and affection receded after the marriage of his elder brother. Hari was not liked by his Bhabhi. She was playing tricks to throw him out from their house.

Hari was simple and innocent. He was peaceful like a dove. He spoke very less. Like a devotee, he loved and liked devotion. He disliked loitering and gossiping. He liked to listen Katha Varta. He was helpful to his family. He was manning the cows and was tilling farm land with his elder brother. Beside his share in routine labour, he was attending Katha and Satsang sessions to sing praise of God. While manning cows at country side, he was used to sit beneath the tree to think meditatively on preachings of saints and scholars. He trusted in God. He was a firm and trustworthy devotee of God.

But his Bhabhi disliked such attitude of Hari. She misguided her husband and instigated him against his younger brother. She told him that his younger brother Hari was indulging in black magic with the help from evil spirits to kill his elder brother and family. He wants to get hold of the property and wealth. She incited her husband to drive away his younger bother from the house. At evening when Hari came back home, his elder brother burst in anger, 'Hari ! Don't step in. Leave this house. You are free to practise black magic, but not from my house. Not as a member of my family. I disown you as my younger brother. Go away quickly.' Hari was a small boy. He was not able to grasp core of the problem. He was not able to understand what his brother desired to convey. He gathered that his elder brother has asked him to leave the house. He held a walking stick and left the threshold of the gate. Walking through the street he asked a few men, 'My brother has expelled me from the house. Will you please tell me, where should I go ?'

Some one tried to fool him and said to Hari, 'You are a devotee of God. You are sincere listener of Katha Satsang. Now Bhagwan should take care of you. Bhagwan will bless you with a shelter and sustainance.' Where would I get him ?' the man said, 'Gokul, Mathura, Vrindavan' and pointed to the direction of that place. Innocent Hari began his pilgrimage and walked towards Gokul-Mathura-Vrindavan. Hungry and thirsty he spent days and nights in his pilgrimage to the abode of God. Hari walked on, with faith and trust in God. After a fortnight he saw at far a sacred flag and peak of a temple. Though the temple was far away, the idea of visiting the abode of God encouraged Hari to go on walking. His feet were swollen and bruised, body was sweating, hunger and thrist choked his throat but view of the temple flag pleased his mind and soul. Devout soul Hari lost himself in memory of God. He thinks that God shall be very happy on seeing him at his abode. God will be very happy to meet and hug him. He was God's son, he was devotee of his God.

Hari stumbles in weakness of hunger, thirst and weariness. He is much closer to the temple, but each step becomes like a long walk. He is not able to lift his foot to walk one step forward. Temple stairway is very close to him – just at a distence of forty steps ! But he is not aboe to lift his foot to walk one step forward. He drags himself weakly on support of his stick. He spent whole day to finish the distance of forty steps and came to the temple steps. The sun

was about to sat. He looks at the ascending series of the fifty rungs and loses hope of ascending it. It was too difficult to climb these fifty steps. He can not pull his foot to an upper rung. Helpless Hari collapsed like a loose sack at the first rung of the steps. Tinkling of the temple bells and Aarti music tempted him to try it again. Aspiration and impatience gripped him firmly. He was aspiring darshan of God, he was impatient to see his God ! Hari laid himself like an young one of an animal and dragged himself forward on the rungs by support of his elbows. Exhousted boy reaches the court yard and back of the temple. the temple doors are on opposite side. Exhausted Hari can not walk any further to reach front side of the temple. Looking like a loose sack, he lies facing back of the temple. He listenes sounds of locking doors. The temple gate and doors are now closed. Temple priest sees him from the front courtyard and asks him loudly, 'Oh Boy ! Why are you lying there ?' Boy Hari says, 'I am here to meet my God.'

Priest comments in an insulting tone, 'Your God is sleeping. Now come in the morning when he rises. We have shut the doors' Poojari too left the courtyard. Innocent boy Hari prayed :

બાળ તમારો કરે વિનંતી સાંભળજો મહારાજ રે,
મુંજ અંતરમાં વાસ કરોને..... નરનારાયણ દેવ રે.....
અમી.

(Oh Lord Narnarayandev ! Please listen to my prayer and grace my heart)

'Oh Merciful Lord ! Oh Bhagwan ! I have come here from a far off place for your darshan. I remember you constantly by chanting your name in pilgrimage of this holy place. You are ocean of mercy and kindness. Oh God ! I am not able to stand or walk. Your gates are on opposite direction and the doors of your temple are locked. Please hold my hand and take me to your abode. I am at your refuge.'

As Hari prays so, a resounding voice rises from the inner temple, 'Oh Hari ! Oh My Dear child ! Come to me. My doors are always open for you. Hari says, 'Who are you ?' The voice responded, 'I am God, your dear Good. Come to me. I am here at the inner temple.' Hari prays, 'Oh Bhagwan ! Oh Merciful Lord ! Your child Hari is wounded and weak. I have no capacity to walk any further. I am lying like a sack at the back of the temple. I can not stand up on my feet.' As Hari prays so, the temple building turns clock wise right from its foundation and main doors stand open in front of Hari. God walks forward to Hari from the inner temple and huggs him heartily. God lives forever with Hari.

Inculcate faith, trust and dedication. Do devotion and attain sublime pleasures of God.

(Cont. from page 13)

THOSE ARE DEMONS

dialogue. He was very happy and proud of his new found knowledge.

S.G. Nishkulanand Swami has known this "Javaso" for its strange behaviour. Swami sings :

"જવાસો જેમ જળ મળે, જાય સમુળો સુકાઈને,
તેમ અભાગી આ કથાથી, દુષ્ટ જાશે દુઃખાઈને."

(Medicinal herb of Javasa dies on receiving water of life. Demonic souls – sinful people are like Javasa, they cunvulse in pain and grief if read or listened nectar like Hari Katha.)

Dear Friends ! Who else shall not be happy by listening Hari Katha and Bhajan Kirtan ? Only those who are like "Javasa" shall not be happy in holy company. A true devotee enjoys Katha-Satsang. He likes Doon Kirtans. Don't be like a Javasa. Be a true devotee and live in holy company.

DEVOTEES ARE RESPECTABLE

- Sadhu Shrirangdas

This is a story about a traveller –a tourist. Man likes to travel, likes to visit places, likes to experience the changes. Some are solitary tourists and some travel in a group. A man desired to travel all alone. He prepared himself for his solitary tour. In ancient times, comforts like free inns, hotels and restaurants were not easily available. Travellers were used to manage it at their own by carring a well equipped travel kit with them. Shelter, bedding, cooking material and other equipments were an integral part of their travel kit. Though a novice, this man too organized his travel kit by adding a carpet to sleep and a brass bowl to have meals.

In ancient time, people were to travel by the vehicles pulled by bullocks or horse and those who can not afford such luxury, were travelling by foot. Our tourist friend was not a rich man. He carried his kit on his back and travelled on foot. Though carried a sizable travel kit, he was not carring any tiffin or water for his long journey.

He travelled on foot for the whole day and by evening he came to a tree near a small village. He was tired of his day long journey and sun was about to sat. He was hungry and thirsty in lack of food and water. Miserable traveller thought it fit to spend night beneath a tree near a village. He placed his heavy kit there supported to the stem of the tree and looked here and there in search of a water body. He saw a well at a little distance. Pushed by thrist, hunger and fatigue, traveller walked to the well and refreshed himself with cool fresh water, quenched his thrist and thought then to do some thing to satisfy hunger.

He was very near to the village, but the village was too small and the inhabitants were too poor to afford meal service to an unknown visitor like him. He thought of self help, but he was not accustomed to cooking, moreover, his travel kit was not equipped with kitchen ware. However, forced by hunger and weariness, he borrowed handful grains of Khichadi, collected three stones and arranged them on the ground in shape of a triangle to make a temporany stove. He took out bowl from his kit and thought to cook a simple dish – Khichadi. He placed the bowl on the triangular stove and ignited fire to cook his meal. Being a novice in cooking, he never knew how long is it to take in cooking Khichadi. Constant fire and heat burnt his Khichadi and bad smell of burning spread everywhere. He brought it down hastily, but food and taste were spoiled. He had some Khichadi from that burnt content and left much of it at the botteom of the bowl. Burnt Khichadi was stuck hard like a black carbon to the bottom of the bowl. He threw away the bowl in anger and had some water to change taste of his mouth. Being a lazy man he avoided cleaning the bowl and retired for the night rest.

He got up in the morning with the first rays of sun, refreshed himself at the well and concluded morning rituals thereafter. Now he thought about his cooking bowl, because that was the only means to cook the meals. He searched for the bowl and found it there near that makeshift stove. It was all black – inside and outside. He took it to the well and with handful of sandy soil he started to rub it to clean. Burnt rice were stuck firmly to the inner surface of the bowl and outer surface of the bowl was burnt by the fire of the stove ! He rubbed it again and again, and rinsed it thoroughly several times but charcol like burnt

Khichadi was stuck everywhere, it was become unremovable. He injured his finger tips by constant rubbing and cleaning. Angered by pain and labour, he hit hard the bowl with the log and stone. Crumbled bowl bore many cracks and holes on its surface. He threw it there and napped beneath the tree.

The poor soul in torments of anger and hunger, failed to nap, sleep or rest. It was noon. Hungry traveller got up in haste and inspected his bowl. Bowl was in very bad shape, broken and stained. It was good for nothing. He thought to borrow it from the villagers. He want to the village and prayed to the residents. Nobody helped him. He showed his broken bowl and narrated his story. People laughed at him for his madness, 'Look at this fool. He himself damaged his useful bowl, and now requests others to help him by lending a bowl. Who will believe in his story and assurance ? He is a mad. Now repents for his stupidity.

જેથી સ્વારથ આપણો જરીએ રે, સુણો સાહેલિયો
તેની ઉપર ક્રોધ ન કરીએ રે, સુણો સાહેલિયો
લાત દુઝતી ગાયની ખમીએ રે, સુણો સાહેલિયો
તેને તજીએ તો દૂધ ક્યાં જમીએ રે, સુણો સાહેલિયો
કોઈની સાથે ટૂંકારે લડીયે રે, સુણો સાહેલિયો
એમાં આપણે હલકાં પડીએ રે, સુણો સાહેલિયો
સાંખી ચાલે તે માણસ મોટું રે, સુણો સાહેલિયો
દલપત કહે નથી ખોટું રે, સુણો સાહેલિયો

- Kavi Dalpatram

(We should not domage the sources of our interest. We should not be angry with them. We should tolerate the kicks of a milk giving cow. By insulting others, we insult ourselves. Tolerance is supreme among the virtues. These are the truths narrated by Dalpatram Kavi).

If a small utensil like a bowl proves itself as most indespensible, then what about our fellow satsangis ? Right from the siniormost to the youngest one, all fellow satsangis are equally important and most indespensible. Take good care of them with due honour and respect. Shriji Maharaj has said in Vachanamrit, 'One who desires to progress in holy fellowship, should look at the plus points of the others and at the draw backs of himself. Such a satsangi ascends in holy fellowship.'

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GOOD FORTUNE !

Lord Krishna comes to the royal palace of Duryodhana to discuss the issues between Pandava and Kaurava. As soon ends the dialogue, Lord Shri Krishna leaves the royal comforts of the palace and goes uninvited to the cottage of Vidura to receive unselfish love and sublime affection. Vidura's wife receives Shri Krishna and offers to him ripe bananas. She herself peels banana to do personal service of Lord Shri Krishna. She is so engrossed in love of Shri Krishna that she throws away the nourishing pulp of the fruit and serves skin of it to Shri Krishna. Lord Shri Krishna eats it happily ! Shri Hari took happlily the buttermilk, that served as milk by his faithful devotees. Shri Hari had the butter milk and belived it as fresh wholesome and tasty milk.

Lord Shri Hari is hungry of love. He is Lord of our heart. He himself had buttermilk and offered milk to his saintly disciples.

Dear Devotees ! This shows love and compassion of Shriji Maharaj.Maharaj loves his followers and admires their devotional fervour.Similar love and compassion are visible in his sixth and seventh descendant sons – H.H.Acharya Maharajshri. A darshan of Acharya Maharaj. is like living in divine presence of Shriji Maharaj. Shriji Maharaj blesses us by his presence in Acharya Maharajshri.

News And Notes From Shri Narnarayandev Desh

AHMEDABAD REGION

Ahmedabad Temple Celebrates birthday of Shri Krishna

The birthday of Lord Shri Krishna was celebrated here at Shri Swaminarayan Temple Kalupur on auspicious eighth day of the dark half of Shravana. Thousands of devotees have earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by presenting obesance to Lord Shri Krishna. The temple was kept open for the whole day to help the aspirants in devotion and meditation. Kirtan session was organized at night by the singer group of Shri Narnarayandev Ochchhava mandal in benign presence of Lord Narnarayandev and Dhoon-Kirtans were presented to Please Lord Thakorji. Grand birthday Aarti was presented at 12-00 o'clock night to announce manifestation of Lord Shri Krishna. Thousands of devotees were present at Aarti Mahotsava. The events were organized by Kothari Swami Dharmaprakdashdasji on behelf of Mahant Swami Nirgundasji. Kothar staff and saints have earned the blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri by their dedicated service at the events. *- Vinod Patel*

Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Kankaria

Kankaria lake at Ahmedabad is a sacred prasadi of Lord Shri Hari. Lord Shri Hari has graced this place to serve sumptuous meals to the thousands of Brahmins belonged to eighty four subcastes. Lord Radhakrishnadev Harikrishna Maharaj dwell here at the temple to bless, devotees and aspirants. Hindola festival was organized here for the whole month to present artistic hindolas to Lord Thakorji. The events were organized with the due blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri.

H.H. Acharya Maharajshri graced the shrine on sacred first day of the bright half of Shravana and did Abhishekam of milk and water to please Lord Mahadeva. Aarti Poojan were presented to indwelling Lord Balswaroop Kashtabhanjandev. H.H. Achaya Maharajshri graced then inner temple of Lord Radhakrishna and rocked the cradle of Lord Thakorji.

A special Sabha was organized on this occasion. H.H. Acharya Maharajshri graced the Sabha and blessed his devotees. His Holiness favoured this Satsang by presenting evening Aarti at the temple. S.G. Mahant Swami Shastri Nirgundasji and saints were present on this occasion. The events were organized by the saints and devotees under guidance from Mahant Swami Guruprasaddasji and Kothari Anand Swami. Poojari Swami Devkrishnadasji has earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by helping Lord Thakorji to receive attractive attires and ornaments. *- Kothari Anand Swami*

Installation Ceremonies of the idols of Lord Narnaraynadev at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Vali (Rajasthan)

Installation and invocation ceremonies were organized here in colour of devotion. Marwar – Rajashtran is the sacred land of devotion and evedom. Lord Narnarayandev was invoked most ceremoniously at our temple at Vali with the due blessed orders of H.H. Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharajshri.

H.H. Acharya Maharajshri graced this place on auspicious fifteenth day of June and favoured his satsang by invoking idols of Lord Narnarayndev installed at Vali Temple.

Lord Radhkrishnadev Harikrishna Maharaj at this temple were invoked long

ago in V.S. 1985 by H.H. Acharya Shri Vasudevprasadji Maharajshri. The Satsnag has progressed very well since then. Devotee Shri Diwaliben Vithaldas Karsandas Pepalia and her family from Unjha have earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by hosting idols of Lord Narnarayandev and the Satsang of Vali temple have earned the pleasure of Lord Swaminarayan Bhagwan by hosting throne of indwelling God. Parayan Satsang was hosted by Varjangram Sonaji Mali (through Shri Merabhai from Vali.) The devotees were inspired by Mahant Swami Nirmaldasji, Kothari Swami Hariprasadasji and Swami Ghanshyamjivandasji, to host these religious events.- *Bramvarlal Khetaji Purohit, Jodhavaas.*

Devotional Music to be Presented at Satellite Vastrapur

Devotional Music and Kirtan session shall be organized at satellite, Vastrapur Ahmedabad to sing praise of Lord Shri Hari. H.H. Acharya Maharjashri 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasdji Maharajshri has consented to grace this evening session. The events are to be organized by Shri Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal.

Date and day : 25-9-2005, Sunday
Time : 6-00 to 8-30 (Late evening)
Place : Saptapadi Hall
Near Jodhpur Chaar Rasta,
Goldcoin Complex,
Satellite, Ahmedabad.

The devotees from Satellite, Vastrapur, Jodhpur and Navrangpura are requested to attend this programme. - *Shri N.N.D.Y.M.*

Gurupurnima Celebrations at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Mathura (U.P.)

Guru Purnima was celebrated here at the temple in presence of Lord Radhakrishnadev Harikrishna Maharaj. A special Sabha was organized on this auspicious day and poojan-Archan and gifts were presented to the photo image of H.H. Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji. The glory and majesty of Guru and Guru Poojan were explained to the devotees by Mahant Swami Akhileshwardasji. Bhandara meals were organized on this occasion.

- *Poojari Sarveshwardasji*

Shri Swaminarayan Mandir Mehsana

Lord Thakorji dwelled at the abode in the temple under construction, has blessed local satsang by receiving Hindola Mahotsava. Charmful hindolas were presented everyday during the month of Hindola Mahotsava. Mahjant Swami Narayanprasadasji and Mahant Swami Shastri Uttmpritadasji have earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by presenting group Mahapoojas on ekadashi days of chaturmaas. A "Sulekhan" contest was organized (dt. 1-8-05) for the children by the local branch of Shri Narnarayndev Yuvak Mandal and a contest of Kirtans and national songs was organized on 14-8-05. Prizes were awarded to the successful children. Devotees have benefited by these devotion and national events.

On being inspired by S.G. Swami Shastri Purushottamprakashdasji and Mahant Swami Shastri Atmaprakashdasji, the devotees from Mehsana have organized Shravana-Parayan Katha-Satsang. The seat of the reader priest of Shrimad Bhagwat Parayan was graced by Shastri Narayanprasadasji. Thousands of devotees have benefited by this feast of sacred knowledge. - *Narayan Swami Mehsana.*

Lord Ghanshyam Maharat at New Delhi Temple receives 13th Patotsava Abhishekam

Lord Balswaroop Ghanshyam Maharaj, dwelling at Shri Swamianrayan Mandir (Gujarat Vihar, Vikas Marg), New Delhi has received 13th Annual Patotsava Abhishekam, to give devotional pleasure to his faithful

devotees. The events were organized most religiously with the due blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. Mahant Swami was assisted by scholar Brahmin priests to present luxurious Abhishekam of the sixteen sacred objects. Mahabhishekam poojan was hosted jointly by the devotees Dr. Urjaben, Dr. Trilokbhai, Shri Sharadbhai, Janakbhai Tank and others. Satsang Sabha was organized on this special occasion. S.G. Mahant Swami Shastri Jagatprakashdasji (Dholka Temple) and S.G. Swami Shastri Purnaprakashdasji (Narayanghat) have earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by delivering enlightening discoures narrating glory and majesty of Lord Balwaroop Ghanshyam Maharaj, Dharmkul and Shri Narnarayandev dioces. A large number of devotees were present on this occasion. Madhav Swami, Uttam Swami and Kothari Bhupat Bhagat have earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by their service at the celebrations. *- Jayantibhai L. Patel*

Foundation Laying Ceremonies of the temple buildings at Ghatlodia, Ahmedabad

The Satsangis residing at Ghatlodia - Rannapark are the faithful devotees of Shri Hari. Since last ten years, they were conducting satsang at a school in this area. This well organized satsang activity has ignited lamp of eternal knowledge and reinforced faith in this local satsang. Senior devotees Shri Somabhai Patel, Pravinbhai Patel, Kantibhai (Dhoon session), Nagarbhai Patel Amritbhai Patel, Manubhai Patel and Prabhudasbhai Patel have invoked devotional fervour in satsangis of this area, which was resulted in construction of a temple for the local satsangis. H.H. Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharajshri had nurtured their devotional feelings, when His holiness graced this area some four years back, as H.H. Lalji Maharajshri of this sect. His holiness graced in those days the 175 houses of his faithful devotees. H.H. Acharya Maharajshri and H.H. Lalji Maharajshri made at that time a firm resolute to create a temple for their devotees at Ghatlodia Rannapark.

The land near the temple of Nilkanth Mahadev was procured in following days at the will of Lord Shri Hari and on name of Shri Narnarayandev Ahmedabad Mandir.

H.H. Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharajshri consented to the prayer of the local sating and graced the land on 8-8-2005 at 8-30 am with the retinue of his saints. H.H. Acharya Maharajshri laid the foundation of the temple building and showered his hearty blessings.

A special Sabha was organized on this auspicious occasion. Enlightening discourses were delivered by S.G. Mahant Swami Shastri Nirgundasji, Mahant Swami Shastri Premswaroopdasji and Swami Swayamprakashdasji. H.H. Acharya Maharajshri blessed the Sabha and prayed to Lord Narnarayandev for an early construction of this temple. His holiness wishes growth and progress of this Satsang and welcomes aspirants in benign fold of this sect.

Hosts of these events Shri Mafatlal Hargovandas and Shri Pravinbhai Naranadas (Gulabpura wala) have earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by presenting poojan Aarti to H.H. Acharya Maharjshri. Guests and all devotees were favoured with sumptuous thaal-Meals. Sabha was conducted by Shri Ghanshyambhai S. Patel.- *Prof. Shanbhai Patel and Prahladbhai Patel*

Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Vadnagar

Hindola Festival was organized here and charmful Hindola of Various objects were presented to Lord Harikrishna Maharaj, with the due blessings of H.H. Acharya

Maharjashri. The saints and devotees were inspired and guided by enlightened Mahant Swami Harisevadasji. Shastri Swami Vishwaprakashdasji had earned the plesure of Shri Hari by reciting Shrimad Satsangi Jivan Parayan Katha during sacred month of Hindola festival. Katha sessions were conducted in a split schedule – morning and evening. Shri Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal conducts here Ekdashi Satsang of the Chaturmaas to help the devotees in their devotional ways. A large number of devotees have benefited by these events.

- Shastri Narayanvallabhdasji, Vadnagar.

Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Lunawada

The fourteenth annual day was celebrated collectively by Shri Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal, saints, devotees and aspirants with the due blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. H.H. Lalji 108 Shri Vrajendraprasadji Maharaj's birthday was celebrated in grand way at the temple by the saints and devotees and poojan-Aarti and gifts were presented to the photo image of Lalji Maharajshri. *- S.N.N.D.Y.M. Lunawada*

Madhavgadh (Prantij Area)

Tiny but most attractive Hindola of Various objects were constructed here by the saints and devotees to please Lord Shri Hari. Harikrishna Maharaj graced new Hindola everyday during festive days of Hindola Mahaotsava. The devotees from Prantij and Talod-Bajar area have earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by rocking Hindolas of Lord Shri Thakorji. *- Bhalabhai*

Shri Swaminarayan Mandir Chaloda (Dholka)

Devout Lady Jitba had been a faithful devotee, contemporary to Lord Shriji Maharaj. Our Swaminarayan Temple at Jitba's Chaloda has celebrated a month long festival of Hindolas by presenting attractive Hindola to Lord Thakorji. Mahant Swami Shastri Jagatprakashdasji (Dholka Temple) has earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by inspiring devotees and saints for the Hindola service. Hindolas were constructed by male and female devotees to swing the cradle of Lord Thakorji. Dhoon Kirtan sessions were conducted at late evening to sing praises of Lord Shri Hari.

- Jayantibhai Patel

Dasham Skandh Parayan sessions (seven days) at Shri Swaminarayan Temple, Mithakhali, Ahmedabad

Shrimad Bhagwat (Dashamskandha) Parayan was conducted here in late evening satsang at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Mithakhali. The events were organized between 7th and 13th day of the bright half of Shravana. The seat of the reader priest was graced by Shastri Swami Brahmviharidasji (Muli Temple). Mahant Swami Shastri Nirgundasji and Kothari Swami Shastri Satyaprakashdasji have earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by inspiring and guiding this grand feast of sacred knowledge.

Concluding session of Dashamaskandha parayan was attended by Mahant Swami Ghanshyam Swami (Narayan Ghat temple), Mahant Swami of Mansa Temple and their saints. *- Shri Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal, Mithakhali*

Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Jivrajpark, Ahmedabad

Dhirajakhyan Parayan (11-8-05 to 19-8-05) was organized here to sing devotional songs of S.G. Nishkulanand Swami. The events were organized with the due blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. The seat of the reader priest was graced by Swami Shastri Ramkrishnadasji (Koteshwar Gurukul). A large number of devotees have benefited by these late evening Khata Session. H.H. Lalji Maharaj 108 Shri Vrajendraprasadji

Maharajshri graced the occasion and gave away medals and prizes to the students for their academic achievements.

Hindola Mahotsava (23-7-05 to 21-8-05) was celebrated at the temple and silk-Hindola were presented to Lord Thakorji. Hindola Mahotsava was inaugurated by Dharmkul and devotees were blessed with the darshan of Dharmkul. *-Dhananjay Thakkar*

"Shri Purushottam Prakash" Parayan

Shri Purushottamprakash Parayana was organized here in the first week of Shravan to sing praises of Lord Shri Hari. These late evening Katha sessions were organized at D.K. Patel Hall, Narayanpura Ahmedabad, with the due blessings of H.H. Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharajshri. The seat of the reader priest was graced by S.G. Shastri Swami Purushottamprakashdasji (Jetalpur Gurukul). About 1200 devout souls have benefitted everyday by this feast of sacred knowledge. The Katha was recited by the saints on blissful tunes of instrumental music. The three descendant heirs of Lord Shri Hari have favoured the Satsang by their blissful pleasure. Satsang activities are progressing well in this area with the due blessings of Dharmkul. *- Shastri Vishwaprakashdas*

Shrimad Bhagwat Saptah at Jetalpur Dhaam

Shrimad Bhagwat Parayan was organized here in benign presence of Lord Revti Baldevji Harikrsihna Maharaj. The feast of sacred knowledge was inspired and organized by S.G. Mahant Swami Shastri Atamprakashdasji and Mahant Swami Krishnaprakashdasji with the due blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. The seat of the reader priest was graced by Swami Shastri Harivallabhdasji (Kothari, Mehsana Temple). Devotees from Jetalpur and nearby villages have benefitted by this feast of eternal knowledge.

- Shastri Bhaktinandandas.

Hindola Mahotsava at Dehgam Temple

Hindola Mahotsava was celebrated here by presenting attractive Hindolas to Lord Thakorji. Month long events were organized with the due blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. Hundreds of devotees have benefitted by their Hindola service. Kothari Shri Arvindbhai, Fulvadanbhai Brahmbhatt, Shri Rathod, Shri Khanna and Shri Hasmukhbhai Patel have earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by their service at the Hindola festival. *- Harshad Kaka Patel, Stroe Keeper*

Dholka Temple celebrates birthday of Lord Shri Krishna

The birthday of Lord Shri Krishna was celebrated here in devotional fervour by the saints and devotees with the due blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. Lord Morli Manohardev Harikrishna Maharaj dwell here at the temple. A well decorated majestic cradle was submitted to Lord Thakorji in front of Lord Morli Manohardev Harikrishna Maharaj and Dhoon-Kirtan were presented at night by the Ochchhav Mandal and devotees on sweet tunes of Musical instruments. The events were organized under guidance of S.G. Mahant Swami Shastri Jagatprakashdasji and S.G. Mahant Swami Vishnuprasaddasji. Thousands of devotees from Dholka and nearby areas were gathered at the temple to pay obesance to Lord Balkrishna. Senior devotees and Shri Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal have earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by their devotional services. Janmashtami and manifestation of Lord Shri Krishna were celebrated with devotional fervour at our temple at Gandhiwada. Poojari Bachu Bhagat (Gandhivada Mandir) has earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by celebrating this religious event. *- Rakeshbhai*

MULI REGION

Grand Janmashtami Samaiya at Muli Temple

Janmashtami Samaiya was organized here in a grand way in benign presence of Lord Radhakrishnadev Harikrishna Maharaj. The events were organized under the blessed orders of H.H. Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharajshri. The samaiya festivities were attended by thousand of devotees arrived from various places in Zalawar and Gujarat. Birthday Aarti was presented at midnight and manifestation of Lord Shri Krishna was announced to the devotees. The events were organized by Mahant Swami Narendraprasaddasji with the due guidance and counsel from Mahant Swami Lakshmiprasaddasji and S.G. Swami Balkrishnadasji. Kothari Shri Jayprakashdasji, Aniruddha Swami, Chandu Bhagat and Bharat Bhagat have earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by their devotional services at the Samaiya celebrations.

- Shri Lakshminarayandasji, Charadava

OVERSEAS

Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Midwest (ISSO), Chicago, Celebrates 7th Annual Patotsava of God

The 7th Annual Patotsava of God dwelling at Midwest Chicago Temple was celebrated in devotional fervour by the devotees with inspiration and guidance from Mahant Swami Shastri Dharmvallabhdasji Majestic events of Patotsava Abhishekam and Parayan Satsang were organized on this occasion with the due blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharajshri.

Shrimad Satsangi Bhushan Parayan was organized on this occasion (26-7-05 to 30-7-05) to sing praise of Lord Shriji Maharaj. The main seat of the reader priest was graced by S.G. Mahant Swami Shastri Dharmavallabhdasji. Devotees Shri Joitarambhai Atmaram Patel and Shri Jasvantbhai Atmarambhai Patel (Mokhasanwala) with their family have earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by hosting Parayan-Katha to pay obeisance to the devout life style of their mother – Ambaben. Lord Shri Krishna's birthday – Krishna Janmostsava –was celebrated with colour and grandeour by the saints and devotees during the parayan session. Shri Hari Yaag was organized on this occasion. The rituals and Poojan Archan were conducted by Scholar Brahmin – priest Shri Dineshbhai Joshi. H.H. Lalji Maharajshri's birthday was celebrated at the temple amidst such devotional fervour. Patotsava Mahabhishekam of sixteen sacred ingredients was presented to indwelling God in presence of hundreds of devotees. The devotees from Chicago and other states of America were come to the temple to do darshan of Mahabhishekam and Annakut.

Occasional Satsang Sabha was addressed by S.G. Shastri Swami Suryaprakashdasji, Poojari S.G. Harinanadandas and devotee Shri Vivek Brahmbhatt. Annakut service was organized and managed by satsangi ladies. Vote of thanks was passed by Shri Jagdishbhai (President). *- Dhirubhai Bhungalia*

Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Huston (ISSO)

Guru Purnima (Sunday dated 24-7-05) was celebrated here by the saints and devotees with the due inspiration from Mahant Swami Muni Swami and Gyan Swami and Poojan-Archan and gifts were presented to H.H. Acharya Maharajshri present here in his photo image at the Sabha Mandapam. Hundreds of devotees were come to the temple to celebrate the event by presenting poojan-Aarti to our Guru – H.H. Acharya Maharajshri.

The temple was decorated on 30-7-05 to

celebrate H.H. Lalji Maharaj 108 Shri Vrajndraprasadji Maharaj's birthday. Besides decoration of the temple building, events like satsang session, devotional music and cultural programmes were organized on this auspicious occasion with due guidance and inspiration from S.G. Swami Gyanprakashdasji. Birthday was celebrated by younger Satsangis by slicing birthday cake in presence of hundreds of Satsangis.

Hindola Mahotsava was celebrated for the whole month by presenting designer's Hindola to swing Shri Thakorji in beautiful cradles. Devotees were benefited by these blissful darshan. Birthday celebrations were treated as "FUNDAY' with the due guidance and support from Muni Swami, Gyanprakash Swami, Committee-members and S.N.N.D.Y.M. - *Rameshbhai Patel*

Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Sydney (ISSO, Australia)

The Satsang Sabhas were organized in following order to celebrate religious events and rituals. The events were organized with the due blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri.

11-7-05 Hosted by Shri Sureshbahi Patel and Varshaben Patel.

31-7-05 Ekadashi Satsang, hosted by Vinodbhai Kerai.

6-8-05 Hindola of Icecream cones were presented to Lord Thakorji. Bhagwat Gita-Path was delivered by Amritbhai.

7-8-05 and 14-8-05 Hindolas were presented to Lord Thakorji.

Enlightening discourses were delivered in these Sabha besides Dhoon-Kirtan and Aarti. - *Tejas B. Patel*

Washington D.C. (ISSO Chapter) Buwie Merriland

A Satsang Sabha was organized on 30-7-05 at evening and Dhoon, Bhajan Kirtans were presented to please Lord Thakorji. H.H. Lalji Maharaj's birthday was celebrated by presenting poojan, Archan, gifts and birthday Aarti to the photo-image of H.H. Lalji Maharajshri. Dhoon and Kirtan session was organized on this auspicious occasion to earn blessings of Lalji Maharajshri.

A large number of devotees have participated in both the events. Satsang is progressing steadily with the due blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Koshalednraprasadji Maharajshri.

- *Kanubhai Patel*

AKSHARVAAS

Ahmedabad, Temple, Haveli : Devout servent of Lord Shriji Maharaj, Samkhya Yogi Ranjaba (Guru Samkhyayogi Maniba) passed away to Akshardham (on dt. 17-8-05) with the chants of Shri Hari's blissful names.

Ahmedabad : Devout soul Tribhovanbhai Jethabhai Patel (Methanwala) passed away to Akshadham amidst chants of Shri Hari's divine names.

Ahmedabad : Mathuraben Ratilal Thakkar (Patadi wala) passed away to Akshardham amidst chants of Shri Hari's blissful names.

Bavla : Mother Samajuba (Mother of Shri Mavjibhai Prajapati) passed away to Akshardham amidst chants of Shri Hari's blissful names.

Vehlal : Smt. Kokilaben Rameshbhai Patel passed away to Akshardham amidst chants of Maha Mantra.



H.H. Acharya Maharajshri presents special Aarti to Lord Thakorji gracing Hindola at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Kankaria, Ahmedabad.



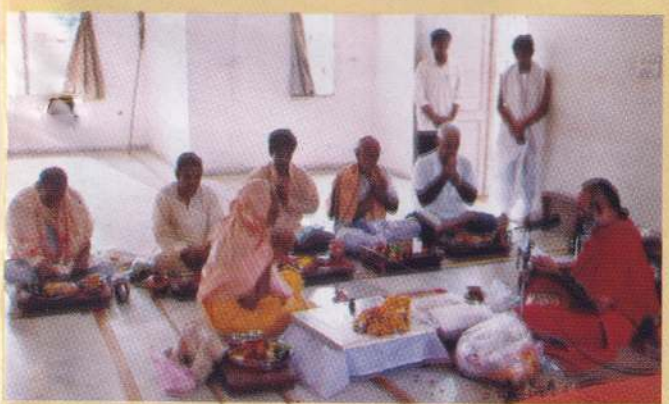
H.H. Acharya Maharajshri serves Abhishekam to Lor Siddheswar Mahadev at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir Kankaria.



H.H. Lalji Maharajshri gave away prizes to the meritorious students.



H.H. Acharya Maharajshri blesses the Sabha organized by Ochchhav Mandal, Swaminarayan Mandir Kankaria.



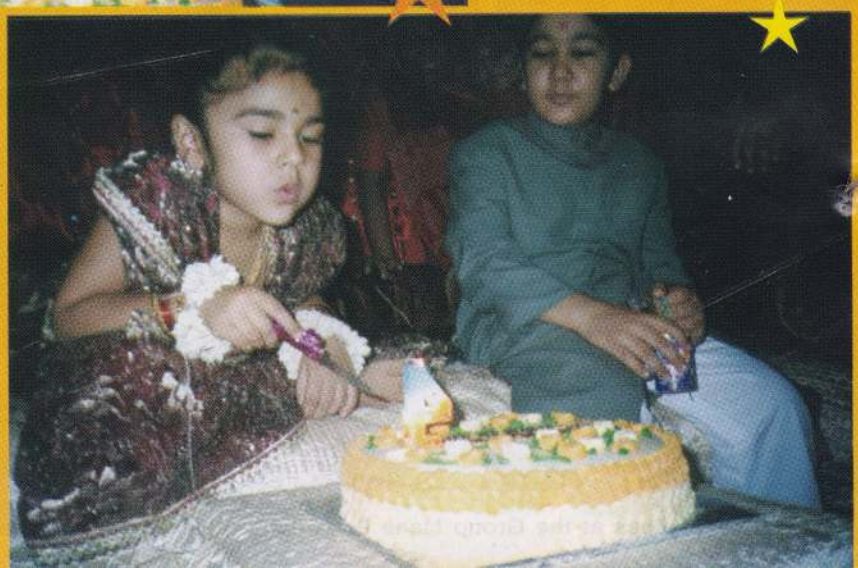


Devotees at the Group Maha Pooja held at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Mehsana.



H.H. Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharajshri, accompanied by the host, laid the foundation for the Swaminarayan Temple at Ghatlodia.





Respected ShrirRja's birthday is being celebrated in presence of her brother - H.H. Lalji Maharajshri, by slicing birthday cake at Shri Swaminarayan Temple (Haveli).

Praful Kharsani