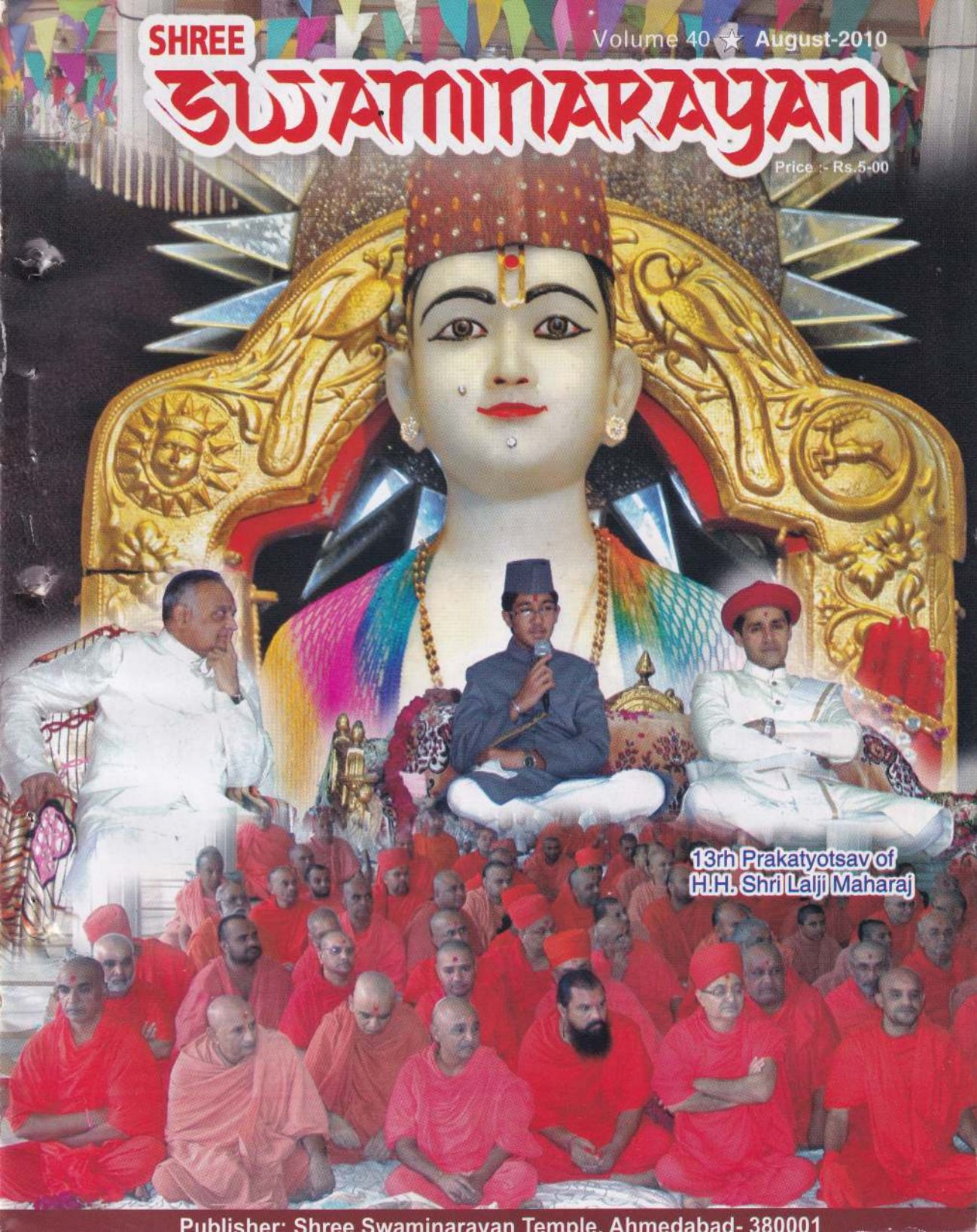
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13rh Prakatyotsav of
H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj

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1. Grand Hindola Darsahn to Shree Narnarayandev, Ahmedabad Temple.
2. H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj & H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj granting Darshan in Sabha on occasion of Guru Purnima.
3. Shri Dhyani Swami explaining importance of Guru on the occasion of 'Guru Purnima' in Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Ahmedabad in the pions compnay of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj, H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj & H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj.
4. H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj performed 'Shilanyas' ritud of VIP residence in Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Kalupur, Ahmedabad in the pions company of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj.
5. Hribhaktas offering the doors of Prasadi of Uvarsad temple of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj for Shree Swaminarayan Museum.



Founded By H.H. Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharajshri, Shri Narnarayandev Diocese.

Shri Swaminarayan Museum
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Phone : 27499597 - 9825309597
Fax : 27419597
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MAHANT
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Fax : 22176992.
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SHREE SWAMINARAYAN

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EDITORIAL EDITORIAL EDITORIAL

अस्मदीयम

It is the time of the Rainy season in the whole country. The farmer – *who is popularly known as the Father of the World in the Indian traditional Economics* – is busy in the activity of sowing the seeds in his farms and fields. Our country India is an agrarian country and its 80% of the economics is dependant upon the agricultural activity. The good monsoon would yield good crops and life of common people continues with reasonable standard of living. A man must do some activity. For a person it is very difficult to lead a social life with a number of responsibilities and duties and therefore he keeps on struggling till the end of his life. There is no end to the desires and wishes and expectations of the people. It is very difficult for a person to have a small house for his family. His whole life is spent in achieving from small house to big house or flat then a bunglow with all the facilities, in achieving a cycle then moped then motorcycle and then a costly car. He is found busy in achieving status and position with fame in the society and in this way his whole life is spent behind all these worldly flowers.

Though we know all this things and understand them and yet we remain at the same state of our mind. Therefore, if we become alert today itself and be busy for emancipation of our life, in worship of Almighty Lord then we need not have to wonder in this world birth after birth. We are really very fortunate as we have got Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan in this world. We also have got the deities invoked by Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan Himself, the scriptures and the saints and Dharmvanshi Acharya Maharaj- all these are very easily available to us.

Other people of the world do not know anything about *Moksha* (emancipation), *Bhakti* (worship), *Gyan* (Knowledge) etc. Even such words are not found in the dictionaries of their language. But it is not so with us because we have got our Satsang which is very precious. Therefore, we should perform Bhakti as much as we can. Presently in all our Shree Swaminarayan temples of our Sampradaya, *Hindola Darshan* are being performed. So all of us must perform divine *Darshan* of *Hindola* during this pious *Chatur Maas*. It is an humble prayer at the lotus like feet of the Lord Shree Narnaryandev that, all the devotees may ardently worship Almighty Shree Hari.

Editor
Mahant Swami
Shastri Swami Harikrishnadas

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

(JULY-2010)



1. Graced the house of the devotee Shri Gordhanbhai Patel at Itadra village
   Graced the house of the devotee Shri Isharwarbhai Patel at Mansa.
4. Graced the house of the devotee Shri Dasrhrathbhai Nayak, Chandlodiya on the occasion of Mahappoja.
6. Graced the house of the devotee Shri Hemalbhai Ravjibhai Patel, Nava Vadaj.
9. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple Vadnagar on the occasion of *Patotsav*.
10. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Khokhra, Mahemdabad on the occasion of *Patotsav*.
13. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Dangarva on the occasion of *Parayan* organized by the devotee Shri Kantibhai patel (Dalal).
    Graced the inauguration function of Suvarna Srushti Jewellers of the devotee Shri Natubhai Soni, Navrangpura.
23. Graced the house of the devotee Shri Madhavlal Somdas Patel on the occasion of *Mahapooja*.
25. Guru Poojan of Guru by the saints and Haribhaktas at Shree Swaminarayan temple, Ahmedabad on the occasion of *Gurupurnima*.
26. Performed *Saint Mahadiksha* ritual.
28. Graced the house of the devotee Shri Ambalal Dahyabhai Patel, Kadi village
    Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Jamiyatpura on the occasion of *Hindola*.

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Time (India) of Aarti : Mangala Aarti : 5.30 hours • **Shangaar Aarti :** 8.05 hours • **Rajbhog Aarti** : 10.10 hours • **Sandhya Aarti** : 19.15 hours • **Sayan Aarti** : 20.30 hours

Importance of Shree Narnarayandev

- Shastri Swami Divyaprakashdasji
Guru Mahant Shasri Swami
Harikrishnadasji



The Almighty Lord Shree Narnarayandev Himself performs *Tapa* in Badrikashram and makes all the devotees of *Bharatkhand* very happy. This whole world is created by the Lord Himself. The Lord is the cause of this whole Universe. The water and all other elements of Nature are also created by the Lord Himself. The goddess Laxmiji renders Her services to the Lord Naranayan on '*Shesh-saiya*'. This incident is very ancient and hence the Lord is also known as Aadi-Narayan.

Under the directions of Shreeji Maharaj Shatanand Swami has created pious scripture *'Satsangi Jivan'*. In this scripture, the meaning of this pious word *'Narayan'* is explained beautifully. When Almighty Lord incarnated along with *Murti Devi*, Brahmaji expressed the Divine Lord as *'Narayan'* Who is benevolent and merciful to all. Since the Lord has been performing *Tapa* in Badrikashram for the welfare of all the human beings *(Nar)* of this world, Brahmaji expressed the Divine Lord as *'Nar'* and also as *'Hari'* and *'Krishna'*.

Thus, there is much importance of the name of the Lord Shree Narnarayandev as explained in our scriptures. The Lord is an independent incarnation of Purna Purushottam Bhagwan Swaminarayan. This is stated by Bhagwan Swaminarayan Himself in Vachnamrit 4 of Ahmedabad Chapter.

"શ્રી પુરૂષોત્તમનારાયણ તે પ્રથમધર્મદેવ થકી મૂર્તિને વિષે શ્રી નરનારાયણરૂપે પ્રગટ થઈને બદરિકાશ્રમને વિષે તપ કરે છે. અને વળી તે નરનારાયણ તે પૃથ્વીને વિષે કોઈના કાર્યને અર્થે મત્સ્ય, કચ્છ, વરાહ, વામન, રામકૃષ્ણાદિક જે દેહ તેને ગ્રહણ કરીને નટની પેઠે ત્યાગ કરે છે. અને તે શ્રી નરનારાયણ સર્વે અવતારના કારણ છે." (વચ. અમદાવાદ-૪)

In this way the Lord Purushottam Narayan incarnated as Narnarayandev. Lord Purushottam Narayan also incarnated as Bhagwan Swaminarayan. The importance of Narnarayandev is explained by Shreeji Maharaj Himself in Vachanamrit-6 of Ahmedabad Chapter:

"માટે આ શ્રી નરનારાયણને અમે અમારૂ રૂપ જાણીને અતિ આગ્રહ કરીને સર્વથી પ્રથમઆ શ્રીનગર (અમદાવાદને) વિષે પધરાવ્યા છે."

Therefore, all the devotees and *Satsangis* should perform ardent *Bhakti* and devotion to the Almighty Lord Shree Narnarayandev. At number of places in our scriptures, Shreeji Maharaj has narrated the importance of the Almighty Narnarayandev. It is also stated that ardent worship of the Lord Shree Narnarayandev opens the gates of *Akshardham* for the devotees. However, devotees should worship the Lord without waiting for suitable time, because the time which is gone cannot be regained. By remembering and chanting the name of Almighty Lord Shree Narnarayandev, one gets eternal peace and happiness in his life, as it is observed by many devotees.

BIRTHDAY TRIBUTE TO HIS HOLINESS BHAVI ACHARYA 108 SHREE VRAJENDRAPRASADJI MAHARAJ

Ashad Vad 10 marks an auspicious day in the Swaminarayan Sampraday- it is the birthday of our very own Lalji Maharaj Bhavi Acharya 108 Shree Vrajendraprasadji Maharaj- the eighth direct descendent of heir ofAlmighty Lord Shree Swaminarayan.

'Swabhaav Che Swamino Prdukh harire...



Vari Bahunamino Koine Dukhiyo Re...

Dekhi Na Khamay Daya Aani Re...'

Our Bal Swarup Lalji Maharaj (he is lovingly addressed by this name) is extremely kind at heart- when He sees a poor person, he gets very upset deep within. He thinks about ways to try to minimize the poverty and often offers them money or food to make them happy.

Once on the way to a programme, Lalji Maharaj noticed a boy on a cycle selling *'Buddi na Bal'* (sugar candy) so he asked the driver to stop the car. Seeing the poor condition of this little boy, Lalji Maharaj bought all the packets from him and also gave him extra money, which made the boy very happy. The little boy was astonished to know that he had sold what he would have normally sold in 5-6 days in just a few minutes. His kindness is not merely just for us humans but also towards plants and animals and He is often seen planting and watering the plants in their garden.

Often, Lalji Maharj picks flowers from the garden and personally makes garlands which are offered to Shri NarNarayan Dev and Rangmahol Ghanshyam Maharaj at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Kalupur. Divine *Darshan* of Bhagwan carrying these Garlands is truly unique! When he comes to the *Mandir* for *Darshan*, he pays close attention to *Bhagwan's Murti*.

He would notice and show *Bhagat* the garland which He had made the night before being worn by *Bhagwan*.

Lalji Maharaj likes to wake up very early in the morning, whether He is attending school or not. He finishes his *pooja* and comes downstairs to play with His friends and fellow *satsangis* mirroring our beloved Ghanshyam Maharaj.

During the winter season, Lalji Maharaj personally organizes *'Shaak Utsav'* in the garden of Shree Swaminarayan Baug. For the *Shaak Utsav*, He orders and decides all the ingredients including *aubergines*, ghee, oil- right down to the individual spices and personally prepares the food with His friends. He makes the *aubergine shaak* just the way Shreeji Maharaj used to and offers it to friends and family along with *rotla* and *makhan*/butter. Those who have attended know how tasty the food is and the atmosphere being totally divine.

Similarly to the *Shaak Utsav*, Lalji Maharaj also organizes a *Pratishtha Utsav* at Swaminarayan Baug along with His friends. It involves making a *Mandir* with small stones and sand. Thereafter, He places a *murti* of *Bhagwan* and performs a *Yagna* with relevant *Samgri* (Sacred Ingredients). To end the celebration He does *aarti* and offers Prasad to all present. These are just some of the many *Bal Leelas* of His Holiness Lalji Maharaj.

Even at this very young age, Lalji Maharaj attends *Satsang Sabha* on His own both in India and abroad and sits for hours for the pleasure of our fellow *satsangis*. His *aashirvachan* are brief and straight to the point, but often there is a deep message attached! On one such occasion He gave an example of a pair of scissors and a pin, explaining that though both these apparatus are made from the same alloy but have very different uses! Scissors are good for 'cutting' whilst the pin is used to 'tie' two things together. The message was clear for those who understood it. He was delivering updesh about our *satsang* and how we should all stick together as one, indicating that we should be performing the work of a pin. His broad thinking and the perception of the world is far superior to that of anyone else at His age. He has a profound knowledge of what He is and what He represents. There is no doubt He will accomplish anything and everything He desires in life.

"Maate sahu Dharmakul maanjo,
sahu karjo eni seva...
Aya jan jeva eh nahi, e chhe jaanjo
mota dev"

In Pushottamprakash, Sadguru Nishkulanand Swami enlightens us with the true meaning of this verse: ***"Hence all shall believe in the Dharmakul, all shall serve it; they are not like ordinary beings, think of them as a great Dev."***

Let us all hail to the Bhavi Acharya of Shree NarNarayan Dev Gadi, a majestic and supreme form of Almighty Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan Himself. Lalji Maharaj has already become a role model for many youths and is destined to take our satsang to gret heights !

Abstaining from eating Meat

- Shastri Abhayprakashdasji
Guru Swami Devprakashdasji
(Naranghat)

Sadguru Premanand Swami has prescribed the third rule of ***abstaining from eating meat***. This rule is prescribed in almost all the scriptures of all the religious of the world, being it Hindu, Chrisitian or Islam. Each of these religions has prohibited eating meat. In *Shloka-15* of '*Shiksha Patri*' Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan has stated: "न भक्ष्यं सर्वथा मांसं, यज्ञशिष्टमपिकूचित"

"One shall never eat meat even in a moment of extreme necessity, be it the remains of a sacrifice.

During the times of Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan, people used to offer sacrifice of the animals and they also used to eat the meat. Even the people used to insist other noble persons for eating meat in the name of *Prasad*. In order to protect the ardent devotees, Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan has directed in *Shloka*-31:

"One shall never take medicine which contains alcohol or meat, Nor take medicine from an unknown physician."

There are two types of animals in this world- herbivorous and carnivorous. The cow, buffalo, sheep, goat, horse, donkey, elephant and camel etc. animals are herbivorous animals because they never eat meat. Whereas the wild animals like tiger, lion, leopard, fox are carnivorous animals and all of them eat meat. One human being is such an animal, who is both herbivorous as well as carnivorous. Observing this, a question arose in the minds of the scientists whether a human being is in fact herbivorous animal or carnivorous animal? A research was undertaken in this regard by the scientists and discovered the differences between the herbivorous and carnivorous animals.



These differences are as under:

1. ***Eyes at the time of birth***: eyes of carnivorous animals are opened after some time of the birth. Whereas eyes of herbivorous animals are opened immediately after the birth.
2. ***Structure of Teeth***: teeth of the carnivorous animals are sharp and pointed whereas those of the herbivorous animals are blunt.
3. ***Nails:*** Nails of the carnivorous animals are long, sharp and pointed and the nails of the herbivorous animals are short and blunt.
4. ***Eyes:*** The carnivorous animals can see at night whereas the herbivorous animals can see less at night.
5. ***Ways of drinking water:*** the carnivorous drink water with their tongue whereas the herbivorous animals drink water while sucking.

These are external differences between the two. The internal differences are as under:

1. ***Intestines***: length of intestines of carnivorous animals is comparatively short whereas the length of intestines of herbivorous animals is 3 to 4 times of the length of their body.
2. ***Kidney& Lever***: Kidney &

Lever of carnivorous animals is very big whereas those of herbivorous animals are small.

3. Tyline : the liquid called tyline is not found in the mouth of the carnivorous animals and it is found in herbivorous animals.

Thus, on the basis of these differences, the scientists have discovered that, human body is very close to the herbivorous animals and therefore human being is also herbivorous animal. This fact is well described by Dr.Warnil in his book.

A man who is carnivorous is found with the diseases such as cancer of intestines, heart attack and diseases related to kidney. There is more cholesterol in his body, which obstructs the smooth flow of blood into every part of the body leading to heart attack. When a person who is herbivorous takes meat in his meals, it becomes very heavy for his kidney to digest it promptly and therefore it remains lying in the intestines for a very long period of time. This leads to diseases related to both kidney and intestine.

Many people are found arguing that, eggs give us more calorie. But the scientists have discovered that 100 gm. Eggs give us 160 calorie whereas 100 gm groundnut give us 450 calorie and we get 350 calorie from butter, milk etc. we get 13% protein from 100 gm eggs and 22% from fish whereas from all milk products we get 24% protein.

Thus from all angles, our regular non-vegetarian food is far better than the meat, eggs, fish and other non-vegetarian meals. Therefore, now even the scientists recommend for non-vegetarianism. Even Nishkulanand Swami has stated:

"માંસ ખાઈ પશુ મનુષ્યનું થાય નર નારી પ્રસન્ન।
તેહ જાય જમપુરીએ, પડે રક્ષોગણ ભોજન॥
મર્યા નરપશુ અવતરી, ત્યાં રાક્ષસના ગણ થાય।
જેમખાધુતું માંસ તેહનું, તેમતેનું તેમજ ખાય॥"

Shikshapatri

The Epistle of Precepts

(based on Shatanand's Shikshapatri Arthadipika)

By Pravin S. Varsani

Text 38

My Disciples shall never wear clothes, which are likely to cause any indecent exposure of the body.

One must not wear clothing that is revealing as it degrades a person. Wearing such clothes can bring lustful thoughts to an onlooker. It brings unnecessary and inappropriate attention to oneself and shame to oneself.

Shatanand explains that clothing is primarily to cover the body and so those clothes worn, which reveal the body, do not serve their purpose. Indeed by wearing such clothes, one is considered naked.

Sadachardipika explains, "Clothing which is small (or short), torn so that it reveals the body, faint or see-through or even clothing which is dirty should never be worn," Similarly, it is written that clothing which is too expensive or too cheap should not be used, as their respective qualities will surely change a person.

Clothing has a lot to answer for with regards to impression. Those who wear clothing that is revealing, dirty etc. give the wrong impression. Therefore it is always important to maintain a sensible dress decorum which is respectful.

It has to be said though that many youths born in the west do feel pressure to dress in such a way which is sometimes more revealing than appropriate.

Om Shree Gyanine Namah:

- Sadhu Ghanshyamprakashdas,
Jamiyatpura (Mahant Swami, Mansa)

'Gyan' means 'to know', 'to assess and evaluate after knowing', 'to learn to have an essence of every matter', 'to know the world and also to understand our own behaviour and conduct'. What is the use of there is no profit in our conduct and behaviour. If we can save or earn some profit then it is called intelligence and real understanding. But one can not get the butter out of milk without any efforts. Mere talks would not prove to be fruitful.

"કરે વાતો ને ફાડે બ્રહ્માંડ રે, તોય ટાળે નહી યમદંડ રે"

We come in this world with empty handed but if we leave this world with empty hands, then it is futile and worthless. It is better that we keep on performing the noble deeds in our life and absolve off the sins. The doctors and advocates are very intelligent and intellectual but such an intelligence and intellectuality are of no use for eternal and inner peace. There are great devotees like Nath Bhakta, Sagram Vaghri of village Limli, brothers Bhagu & Mula of village Pithwadi; all of them are illiterate but they are ardent devotees. They worshiped Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan like anything and thereby they have become famous devotees in our *Sampradaya*. These devotees in fact do not know anything about science and technology and about the modern world. Children of illiterate *Rabari* community people, who do their ancient occupation of animal husbandry, drink the milk of cows and buffaloes but they do not know anything about the qualities that we get from the milk. They simply know and understand that, the milk is good for our



health and therefore they enjoy all the benefits of the milk because of their such belief and faith. On the contrary the scientists, engaged in the research of finding out the qualities of milk, pass their day with bread and other light breakfast and they remain deprived of the good qualities of milk, which in fact they need for their health. It is very difficult to have the devotees like Dada Khachar, who transformed their very nature and temperament on directions of Shreeji Maharaj.

In fact, all the devotees and *Haribhaktas* should surrender their mind and heart at the lotus like feet of the Almighty Lord Shree Narnarayandev. Ardent faith and worship are the key to eternal happiness and blessings of the Lord in life. And therefore Shreeji Maharaj stated in Vachnamrit-56 of Gadhada Madhya Chapter

Con. from page 13.....

Real Method of offering our Seva to Shree Thakorji

- Gordhanbhai V. Sitapara (Hirawadi-Bapunagar)

When Almighty Lord incarnates on this earth as human being then we worship Him so ardently and devoutly. Same should be the feelings and intensity of our worship to *Murti* of Thakorji. As directed by Shree Hari Himself, the Lord is present in *Murti* of Thakorji and therefore as per the directions in Shloka-64 of the pious '*Shiksha Patri*', those forms of the Lord Shree Krishna, which are either invoked by Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan Himself or by Dharmvanshi Acharya Maharaj then we should offer our worship and services such form of *Murti.*

Dharmvanshi Acharya is our Guru and He reins the whole *Sampradaya* as Other Form of Shree Hari. They know much better how to perform *Seva-pooja* to Thakorji and we cannot perform *seva-pooja* to Thakorji at that level and therefore *Dharmvanshi Acharya Maharaj* has given directions for such *seva-pooja.* With the divine aim of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and the directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, a beautiful booklet on this subject of Method of offering our *Seva-Pooja* to Thakorji is published by our Shree Swaminarayan temple, Kalupur, Ahmedabad and it is available in all our Shree Swaminarayan temples of both Desh. This little booklet is very useful because in it is described the method and manner in which we should perform our seva-pooja to Thakorji.

When Thakorji is performing *Van-Vicharan* on this earth, then we should not offer garland of artificial flowers. Today we find in our many temples and *Hari Mandirs*, devotees offering garland of artificial flowers. We should never do that because it is not pious. In the scriptures, Ganpatiji is referred to as the incarnation of the Lord Shri Krishna; moreover the whole world knows about the importance of Shri Hanumanji Maharaj. Therefore, we should not offer the garlands of artificial flowers to Ganpatiji as well as to Hanumanji Maharaj. We should offer the real flowers.

Similarly, we should never offer pant, shirt, belt etc. clothes and things nor any modern costume or dress or apparel to Thakorji. We cannot offer any thing made of leather to Thakorji. We should offer those things and clothes, which are prescribed for the purpose. While using any scent or spray while rendering our services or *poojan-archan* to Thakorji, we should ensure that the material used for the scent or spray is of standard quality. Various types of chemicals are used in the spray and scent, it is also heard that, in some type of scent or spray, alcohol is also used. Therefore, we should ensure all these things before using them in our *pooja.* We should also not offer the toys to Thakorji, which are bought from the hawkers.

We should offer our services to Thakorji considering the season in mind. We should offer *Chandan Vagha* to Thakorji with pure cotton cloth. Good quality *Chandan*, which is available in Mysore, should be used to in our *Pooja* because it is pious and it is very cold.

We should offer our *poojan-seva* to Thakorji only after taking bath and after completing our daily chores. The throne for the seat of Thakorji also indicate about the understanding, *Satsang*, *Shraddha* and faith of the devotees. Moreover, H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj has directed that, after offering our *Niyam-Chesta*, we should offer *Shayan-aarti* to Thakorji.

At last, we should offer our *seva-poojan* to Thakorji as per the directions of Shree Hari and our Guru *Dharmvanshi Acharya Maharaj.* It is our ardent and pious duty to offer our *seva pooja* to Thakorji as prescribed and described above.

Why 'His Highness' and '1008 Shri' are spoken or written before our Acharya ?

- Vinod P. Patel (Vahelal-Ahmedabad)

It is necessary that all the ardent devotees and *Satsangis* of our Sampradaya know the importance of this essential aspect of our Shree Swaminarayan Sampradaya. Shree Hari has insisted that, all the devotees should know about *Guru-Parampara* [Tradition of Guru (teacher)] of *Uddhav Sampradaya*. Uddhavji was in the form of Ramanand Swami and had obtained *Vaishnavi Diksha* in the divine place called Shri Rang by Shree Ramanujacharya and therefore being a disciple of Guru Ramanujacharya his disciple became Ramanand Swami. By accepting the basic principles of *Vaishnav Sampradaya*, Sadguru Ramanand Swami, spread and propagated *Uddhav Sampradaya*. The first ever meeting of Shri Ramanand Swami and Dharmdev was at Prayag- the famous place of pilgrimage of Bharatkhand. In this regard, Shree Nishkulanand Swami has observed as under:

"કહે જ્યોં મંત્ર પ્રથમતો તેને રે,
ભવસાગર તરવા સૌને રે,
એહ મંત્ર નિત્ય જપે રે,
થાય અધિકારી નર આખરે."
(ભ.ચિ. પ્ર. ૧૩)

Thereafter Sadguru Ramanand Swami handed over the reins of *Uddhav Sampradaya* in the hands of Shree Hari (Nilkanthvarni) :

"આમમારો મનોરથ સર્વે સારો રે,
કહું વચન તે હૃદયે ધારો રે,
તમવિના ધર્મધૂરા જેહ રે,
બીજા થકી નવ ઉપડે રે"

Shree Hari not only took care of *Sampradaya* which was entrusted to Him, but also developed and propagated it all over the world. Furthermore with a view that *Shraddha* (ardent faith) and *Bhakti* (worship) of all the devotees and *Haribhaktas* is nourished and strengthened, Shree Hari Himself established two seats of *Acharya* of *Dharmkul* on the pious day of *Kartik Sud-12 Samvat* 1882. The Northern Desh in Ahmedabad and the Southern Desh in Vadtal. With this *Acharya* of *Dharmkul* got right to shoulder dual responsibility of their own *Dharmkul* as well as of the whole *Sampradaya*. Thus, *Acharya* of both Desh- Shri Narnarayandev Desh Gadi of Ahmedabad and Shri Laxminarayandev Desh Gadi of Vadtal- were appointed by Shree Hari Purushottam Narayan Himself. *Acharyas* of both Desh have always with them the blessings of Almighty Shree Hari Purushottam Narayan- and this is experienced and witnessed by many of our saints and devotees. As stated in Vachanamrit-16 of Gadhada Madhya Chapter:

"Almighty Lord Himself is His Highness and therefore Shree Hari Himself has appointed established the pious seat of Acharya and appointment thereon from Dharmkul with a noble aim of protection of Dharma and that all the devotees and Haribhaktas may always remember this directions of Shree Hari, an adjective 'His Highness' is used before the pious name of Shri Acharya Maharaj."

The title of '1008 Shri' is also used before the pious name of Shri Acharya Maharaj. Why? As per the Hindu scriptures, there is a tradition of using the pious figure 1008 and the word 'Shri' suggests Laxmi (Wealth). This indicates that the name of Shri Acharya Maharaj is 1008 times pious coupled with Shri (Laxmi-wealth). The total of all the digits of 'the figure 1008' is '9' which is considered to be very pious digit in the Hindu scriptures and therefore while referring to or addressing the name of our Shri Acharya Maharaj we say and use the words:

'His Highness (H.H. in abbreviated form) 1008 Shri Acharya'

This pious and noble tradition has continued till day and it is beyond any doubt that it will continue forever.

SATSANG SURBHI

"પણ અમે તો જીવને નથી ભૂલતા !"

અતુલ ભાનુપ્રસાદ પોથીવાલા (ન્યુજર્સી-અમેરિકા)

At village Meghpur Shreeji Maharaj had organized *Chorasi* of Brahmins of six months. Many people had got together. Many *Kathi Darbar* alongwith their horses used to accompany Shreeji Maharaj. During this *Chorasi*, one thief named Mulji came along with his companions.

Mulji had decided to take away good quality horses of *Kathi Darbar*, but when he attempted at night, he found Shreeji Maharaj as security guard of each horse in the stable! Mulji and his companions were surprised!!! Then Mulji and company changed their plan and decided to take away the belongings of the visitors of *Chorasi*, but that also could not be done by them. This experience transformed the heart of Mulji and he became an ardent devotee of Shreeji Maharaj.

The next day, Mulji came to Maharaj and fell at His feet and begged His pardon. He requested Maharaj to accept him as His companion otherwise he would continue with his wrong doings. Maharaj knew him and smiled. When Mulji requested ardently Maharaj told him that, till date he had been in the company of wrong people and now he was habituated with such people then how would he get rid of them. When Mulji assured Maharaj that, now he would not look at such persons in his life, Maharaj asked him to observe all the directions of the scriptures. Thereafter Mulji adopted Kanthi and became an ardent devotee in the course of time. Now he became famous as Mulji Bhagat.

One day two ladies devotees of the village came to perform *Darshan* of Shreeji Maharaj. They had brought money and ornaments in two boxes which they offered at the feet of Maharaj. Maharaj asked them to keep the boxes with them; as and when required He would ask them to offer the boxes. Mulji Bhagat was listening to this conversation. When the ladies devotees came out of the house, Mulji Bhagat called them and inquired about their address and village.

After two days, Shreeji Maharaj graced the village Dabhan. Mulji Bhagat also accompanies Maharaj; but his mind was there in those two boxes of money and the ornaments. From Dabhan, Mulji Bhagat went to the village of the ladies devotees, reached to their residence and asked for those boxes of money and ornaments. Both the ladies devotees warmly welcomed Mulji Bhagat- as a devotee rendering services to Maharaj!!! They made beautiful meals and offered it to Mulji Bhagat.

Here Mulji Bhagat forgot that now Maharaj Himself was the owner of these boxes were as both these ladies devotees had willingly offered them to Maharaj and as per the instructions of Maharaj they had preserved the boxes as trustees. But now Mulji Bhagat again remembered his past as a thief and wanted to take away those boxes. At night when all were sleeping, he took out the boxes from the place they were kept and ran away. In the morning, the ladies devotees did not find either Mulji Bhagat or the boxes but they were not in a position to complain about it to anybody.

Here on his way, Mulji Bhagat took rest at the bank of a river. Suddenly he heard the voice of the horse riders; he saw Shreeji Maharaj and Kathi Darbar coming towards him on the horses. Now Mulji Bhagat got

frightened and started running away from the place leaving his shoes. Maharaj saw him, smiled and shouted at him asking where he was going. But now Mulji wanted to run away so he refused to identify who Maharaj was!!! And told that he did not know him!!! Maharaj smiled, snatched away the boxes saying that he wanted the meals ; while opening the boxes Maharaj did not find anything to eat and therefore returned the boxes to Mulji Bhagat. Maharaj also offered him sweets of *Prasadi*.

In this way, the benevolent Maharaj showed generosity towards His devotee so that he can again come back to the pious and righteous path. At this Mulji Bhagat repented. He realized his mistake. He was moved from within when he found that, Maharaj did not look at the money or ornaments of the boxes and simply returned the boxes to him. not only this, Maharaj also did not rebuke him for not observing the principles of the scriptures for which he himself had given assurance to Maharaj.

Thus, Mulji Bhagat repented a lot. He returned to the village of the ladies devotees and returned the boxes to them and begged their pardon. While returning the boxes, Mulji Bhagat rushed to the village Dabhan where Shreeji Maharaj was sitting in a *Satsang Sabha*. The omniscient Maharaj knew that, His ardent devotee was coming to Him so He asked the devotees to keep a seat for Mulji Bhagat. When Mulji Bhagat came in the *Sabha*, Maharaj called him and offered him a garland of honour. This shows that Maharaj never forgets His ardent devotees even if the devotees may forget Him. Let Almighty Shreeji Maharaj keep such mercy and blessings upon all the devotees.

Con. on page 9

Om Shree Gyanine Namah:

"Persons with Knowledge and Prudence very well know about the Form of Shree Hari and for them nothing else has any importance except the form of Shree Hari."

We find many people talking excellently but sometimes what they lack is ardent faith and worship in Almighty Lord. And this is the essence of all the scriptures and all the religions. In *Vachnamrit*-15 of Gadhda Madhya Chapter, Shreeji Maharaj has stated that, "Those win in life, who fight against their mind and temperament. And in ***'Bhagwat Gita'*** the Lord Shree Krishna has talked about such *Gyani Bhakta*.

Once during *Vanvicharan* Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan asks a question to Mahants and saints but no one could answer the question. Getting offended some of them questioned, "What is the purpose for asking such questions?" But Shree Hari maintained their respected and diverted the issue praising the saints. In short from *Vanvicharan* till *Vachanamrit*, we have wonderful and divine *Darshan* of Trust and *Gyan*. And therefore Sadguru Shatanand Swami has referred to a number of names of Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan and one of them is "ॐ श्री ज्ञानिने नमः" *(Om Gyanine Namah:)*

સત્સંગ બાલવાટિકા

SATSANG BALVATIKA

- Compiler Shastri Harikehsavdasji (Gandhinagar)

DON'T SPEAK WITHOUT UNDERSTANDING

-Shastri Haripriyadas (Gandhinagar)

Tongue is very strange organ of our body. Brahmaji made all other organs of the body and at last made tongue. It was placed in the mouth and therefore it was made very soft. There is no bone in it. Perhaps Brahmaji might have thought that this tongue very delicate and smooth and soft cannot commit any sin as it has no bone in it like hand and leg. Later on Brahmaji realized that this tongue commits more sins than all other organs. Therefore in order to control its movement, Brahmaji placed it behind thirty two sharp teeth. Yet this tongue is very agile, it deceives all these thirty two watch-guards and continues committing sins.

One can forget a wound of a sword or a slap, but one cannot forget a wound of a tongue. One cannot forget the foul or ill words spoken by this tongue and it results in animosity. Sometimes it brings very bad results. Words spoken hastily and without any thought cause dire consequences.

Words spoken by Draupadi without any thought over them, caused the great war of Mahabharat. Even Arjun spoke the words during the battle without giving a thought when he declared that, he would kill Jaydrath before the sunset. His enemies became alert at such a declaration of Arjun and were successful in protecting Jaydrath till sunset and compelled Arjun to sit on a burning-pyre. Jaydrath had also come to watch the great warrior getting burnt himself; but the great warrior as the Lord Krishna was, dispelled the confusion explaining that the darkness was not due to sunset but due to the dark clouds in the sky. Then Lord Krishna ordered Arjun to take up his bow called Gandiv and kill Jaydrath. Arjun shot an arrow from the burning-pyre and Jaydrath was killed. But what is to be learnt from this famous incident of Maharabharat is that, Arjun invited troubles for himself by his own tongue through which he made declaration without giving a thought. Therefore one should be very cautious before speaking any words.

Therefore, Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan has directed in the pious *'Shiksha Patri'* that no one should make any futile allegations against any person nor any person should speak ill or foul words with his tongue. There is a beautiful saying in this regard:

"બોલી બોલ વિચારીયે, બિન સમજે મત બોલ,
પહેલે ભીતર તોલ કે, બાહિર પી છે બોલ."

To speak carelessly and hastily at each and every place without giving any thought to it is a sign of an illiterate person. Just we take food and meals keeping our heath in mind, we should use our tongue while keeping our relations at various places in the society be it our home, family, school, neighbourhood, friends and *Satsang* so that we can maintain our cordial relations everywhere.

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LEST GOD IS NOT FORGOTTEN

- Sadhu Shrirang Maharaj (Gandhinagar)

Almighty Lord desires ardent faith and

sheer pure feelings from His devotees. And therefore when an ardent devotee calls Him from the bottom of his heat, the Almighty Lord is always there to help him. When a devotee sacrifices his body, mind and wealth and surrenders himself to Almighty Lord, then the Lord embraces them and sometimes offers them gifts in the form of ornaments, clothes etc. and makes them happy.

For devotees this is the happiness of Akshardham and they are found busy in devising new ways to please the Almighty Lord. Let us relish an incident about one such devotee Bhagwandas.

Once Bhagwandas thought: there has been long, he has not performed Darshan of Maharaj, nor any Prasang of the saints is organized. He cherished an ardent desire to perform Darshan of Maharaj and to render services to the saints. At that time it was the time of summer season. Bhagwandas was in his farm. In the noon there was no much work for him. There were many mangoes hanging from the mango tree of his farm. He thought to offer the mangoes to Maharaj and the saints in his service. With this noble thought, Bhagwandas prepared a big basket full of mangoes and started walking lifting the basket. During the journey he was chanting the name of Shree Hari:

"હું તો જાઈશ ગીરીધર જોવા રે, મા મુને વારીશમાં,
મારા ઉરમાં છબીલાજીને પોવારે, મેણલે મારીશમાં."

He reached to Maharaj after a journey of three days and offered the basket at the lotus like feet of Shreeji Maharaj. Shreeji Maharaj welcomed him warmly and blessed him. The devotee Bhagwandas stated that, since he wanted to perform divine Darshan of Maharaj and to render his services to the saints, he had come there.

Thereafter the devotee Bhagwandas attended the *Satsang Sabha* wherein he saw a scene. Natha Khachar- the son of Sura Khachar - was very young. The young child saw the mangoes and he was tempted to taste the mangoes. The omniscient Shreeji Maharaj knew this and therefore He held one mango in the hand and showed it to the young Natha Khachar. Maharaj gave the young child the mango in exchange of the golden necklace which he had worn. The child happily exchanged the mango with the golden necklace. All the devotees and saints were surprised at this. Then Maharaj explained that, this young child exchanged his golden necklace with the mango fruit because he does not know the value of the necklace; if he would have understood the value of the necklace he would not have exchanged it with the fruit.

Similarly the Almighty Lord is like the golden necklace and the worldly matters are like the mango fruit. The people exchange them because they do not know the value and importance of Almighty Lord in their lives; they are tempted towards the worldly matters. Therefore, the devotees should always seek shelter of Almighty Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan then they will get eternal peace and happiness..

OUR SHRI NARNARAYAN DEV

-Priya Patel (London)

Bharat Khand is the holy birthplace of God and many revered sages. It takes about 100 births' *Punya* to be born as a human being in *Bharat Khand*. Even Indra and many devtas wish that they could be born in these holy lands and attain *Moksha*.

Who is the king of *Bharat khand*? It is our own Shri Nar Narayan Dev! Not many are aware of how Nar Narayan Dev was incarnated. When nothing but Purshottam Narayan (Shriji Maharaj) existed, He decided to initiate the creation. During the Cosmic evolution, Shriji Maharaj looked at *Akshar Purush* and as a result of this Shri Dharmdev and Brahmvidya emerged from *Akshar Purush's* heart. Shriji Maharaj asked Dharmdev and his wife to reside in each of the infinite Universes so that those who serve *Dharm* would attain happiness. Naturally, Dharmadev wanted to stay with Bhagwan and leave His side. Hearing this Shriji Maharaj replied, *"I will be where you both are, for now reside in each Universe as well as your Dham Vishnupur and later I will incarnate Myself as your son."*

Many years passed and Dharmadev became restless for need of Bhagwan's *Darshan*. Both husband and wife came to earth and began *tappascharya's* (penance) on the banks of Dev Nadi (Sabarmati), now known as Narayan Ghat in the city of Ahmedabad. Their *tapp* was extreme with every second spent in intense devotion of Bhagwan. They endured many atrocities, but maintained their focus and motivation by remembering their ultimate goal-the divine *Darshan* of Shriji Maharaj. After many years, Dharmadev experienced divine *Darshan* of Bhagwan in his heart and son their bodies emitted an enormous amount of *Tej* /light. Immediately all the

भक्तिसुधा

BHAKTI-SUDHA

Devtas appeared as they realized Bhagwan had finally incarnated on the earth. Shriji Maharaj had assumed four forms: *Hari, Krishna, Nar* and *Narayan*. On this occasion, the divine *pramodnaad* was heard on the river, where the Lords resided for the countless souls that were present to experience the divine *Darshan* and perform *pujan*. Once the *devtas* had had finished their rituals, the devis and *apsaras* came forth. However, Lord *Nar* requested that they should only perform *pujan* of Lord Hari and Krishna, as He and Lord *Narayan* wished to practice the oath of *brahmcharya*, which forbade them from all contact with females. Shri Narayan declared His and Bhagwan's desire to leave for Bardrikashram where they would reside and perform *tapp*. Lord Nar and Narayan perform *tappascharya* in Badrikasharm under a banyan tree. They have taken births in many forms to free earth from Demons. In Satyuga during the *Nakshatra* of *Uttara Falguni* Lord Shree Narayan was incarnated.

They were born as *batuk-brahmchairs*, not as baby toddlers. The dual child from of Bhagwan was enchanting. The birth was rejoiced and celebrated by all 3.3 million *devatas*. By the wish of Dharmdev, the *devatas* made a swing decorated with fragrant and colourful flowers. In *Kaliyuga* due to the curse of Rushi Durvasa, *Sarvopari* Bhagwan Shri Swaminarayan took birth through Narnarayan Dev.

Swaminarayan Bhagwan has given

Shri NarNarayan Dev a place of prominent importance in our *Sampraday* as noted in many episode of *Vachnamrut*." Listen to me attentively. I am telling you as it is: there is nothing greater than the devotion of God, as God is the doer of everything. And at this moment this *Sabha* is the doer. And with the grace of God, I can do any thing as per my wish as I am the Nar Naryana Rishi.....

I am the real form of Shri NarNarayan Rishi. Lord Shri Purshottm of Akshardham descended on this earth as Shri NarNaryana Rishi through Shri Dharm Dev and Bhakti devi and has performed penance in the Badrikashram. This Shri NarNarayan Rishi has incarnated in this age of kali through Dharma dev and Bhaktidevi to discard atheist and irrligion and strengthen the dynasty of Dharma and the devotion enriched with attributes of *Dharm, Gyan, Vairagya* on this earth as Narayan Muni and exists before you in this present *sabha*....

Again and again, I am bringing the greatness of Shri NarNarayan dev in my discourse, with a reason that Krishna Purshottam. Lord of Akshardham who is Shri NarNarayan sits here every day in this *sabha* and considering it the form of mine"(J.5)

Frequently asked questions!!

Although we all know the history of Shri NarNarayan Dev, the youth often ask questions. Here is an effort to articulate what has been experienced and learnt through *satsang*.

Why is it a must to keep Murti of Shri Narayana Dev in our daily pooja?

In Vachanamrut, the Supreme Almighty Lord Shree Swaminarayan has declared that the *murtis* of shri NarNarayan Dev, which He installed in Ahmedabad is Himself and there is no difference what so ever. In G.P.P 48, Shriji Maharaj has commanded that every Hari Bhakta should keep a murti of Shri NarNarayan Dev in their *pooja*....and if obeyed then He will tell Shri Nar Narayan Dev to always reside in the *murti* as Bhagwan and NarNarayan Dev are one of the same. One must think that the *murti* is Shri NarNarayan Dev Pande and must not let it go without *pooja* even for a single day. **It is important to note that this applies to Hari Bhaktos of both Ahmedabad and Vadtal Gadi.** Nitya *pooja* without the *murti* of Shri NarNarayan Dev is not considered to be complete.

What is our duty towards NarNarayan Dev?

Shriji Maharaj has also declared that we are Shri NarNarayan Dev's *sevaks* hence we should be happy with what pleases Him. The increase or decrease in *satsang* will be as per His wish. On this occasion, Shriji Maharaj uses the significance and status of an elephant and a donkey – we should be content regardless of which we are seated on, meaning be happy with good and bad times in life. One must only keep pure love for Shri NarNarayan Dev and serve His feet with full heart. (G.P.P 74)

Why does NarNarayan Dev appear in two forms?

To a naked eye NarNarayan Dev seems like two forms but if seen with divine vision they are one. Nishkulanand Swami explains this magical secret in Bhakta Chintamani, *"Cho Toh ek ne diso cho doy"* He proclaims that even though You are one You are diving *darshan* in two forms and there are very few who can distinguish this difference. Bhagwan took birth in four forms via Dharmadev and Murtidevi but all four are one *Swaroop*. Bhagwan takes different forms as per His devotee's desires

so at times it seems He has one form and at other time it seems there is more than one form. So if NarNarayan seems like two forms then that is only due to Bhagwan's wish and nothing else but they are one form. Shri NarNarayan Bhagwan has taken many births on this earth. *Nar* means Arjun is true in only some forms (Shikshapatri Shloka 110). It is important to understand the *Shastras* which explain that when Bhagwan took birth as Lord Krishna it was as per His wish Nar Bhagwan resided in Arjun. Once Krishna Bhagwan left, Nar Bhagwan's presence also left Arjun's body and he became an ordinary human being.

Why is NarNarayan Dev our Swaminarayan Bhagwan's favourite and is it a must to visit Badrikashram where He is present?

Shri NarNarayan Dev is one of the Avatar's of Shri Swaminarayan Bhagwan. Out of all His Avatar's, this one is very close to His heart hence, Shriji Maharaj built the very first temple in Ahmedabad and Installed the *Murtis* of Shri NarNarayn Dev Himself and said We are one of the same and *Haribhaktas* should not consider any difference between the two (A.6). he also stated that Shri NarNarayan Dev resides in Brahm Dham. Also Shriji Maharaj is very fond of this temple. Shriji Maharaj has named Shri NarNarayan Dev as our Ista Dev and He is present in the *Sabha* through NarNaryan Dev. Nishkulanand Swami has claimed that Badrikashram where Shri Narnarayan Dev is present is very difficult to get to so toss ho come to Ahmedabad temple and to *Darshan* of Shri NarNarayan Dev will get the same benefit as visiting Badrikashram.

What can we offer Him?

Murti of Shri NarNarayan Dev is totally calm and powerful. He is far from the influence of anger and ego. As His *Ashrit* we should get rid of our Anger and ego to be close to Him and to please Him.

Swaminarayan Bhagwan through NarNarayan Dev is omnipresent is our *Satsang*. He helps His devotees in all aspects whether business, health or marital related. As many of use are aware NarNarayan Dev at Kalupur Temple is always fulfilling desires of the devotees. Three of the recent miracles under Shri NarNarayan Dev Gadi which includes Shriji Maharaj'a *Pagla* at Siddhpur Mandir and *Prasadi Pagla* from Khushali Baa's house in Mahesana and Sweating of our very own Balswaroop Ghanshyam Maharaj at Kalupur Mandir reinforce the fact that Shriji Maharaj is always present in *Satsang* through NarNarayan Dev. To this day Shri NarNarayan Dev is performing *Tapp* in Badrikashram for our welfare. We are extremely lucky to be able to serve Him and cannot thank Him enough in this lifetime. NarNarayan Dev tamari Jay Jay ho!!!.

For Information of Whole Satsang

Sadhu Narayanjivandasji (Muni Swami) Guru Swami Mukundjivandasji of Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Kalupur, Ahmedabad, has not been remaining & behaving under the directions of Shreeji Maharaj and therefore he has been banished from Shree Narnarayandev Desh. All the Haribhaktas are therefore (all the devotees are) requested that no fund or contribution of any kind be given to him.

Kothari Swami
Shree Swaminarayan Temple,
Kalupur,

सत्संग समाचार

Celebration of *Guru Purnima Mahotsav* in our Ahmedabad Temple

Ashad Sud Poonam is the day of *Guru Purnima*. Guru of all Tyagi-Gruhi devotees of Shree Swaminarayan Sampradaya is Dharmvanshi Acharya Maharaj. *Guru Purnima Mahotsav* of *poojan* of the other Form of Shree Hari was celebrated with great enthusiasm and fervour in the pious company of the Almighty Lord Shree Narnarayandev.

All the Three Other Forms of Shree Hari performed Shangar Aarti of the deities of the temple and graced *Sabha Mandap*. Despite the rains, thousands of devotees and Haribhaktas from the nearby villages had thronged together in the premises of the temple and the whole *Sabha Mandap* was crowded with devotees. First of all Bhudev and the learned Pandits performed Swasti Vachan, Poojan-archan-aarti. Thereafter the elder saints, leading Haribhaktas and the host family performed Guru Poojan, aarti and offered the garlands. The devotee Shri Navinbhai Mandliya of Morbi offered to H.H. Shri Mota Mahara, H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj the garlands of the dry fruits of 11 kg, 5 kg and 2.5 kg, respectively. And the wife of the devotee offered to H.H. Shri Laxmiswaroop Gadiwala, the garland of the dry fruits of 5 kg. The chief host the devotee Shri Kaushikbhai Patdiya availed the benefit of divine *poojan*. The flower Mandli of Ahmedabad temple offered 37 feet long garland to H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj. On this occasion H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj honoured the bright students of our Satsangis of Ahmedabad city area. The ardent devotees rendered their services for Shree Swaminarayan Museum and all of them were honoured.

On this occasion, Mahant Sadguru Shastri Swami Harikrishnadasji of Ahmedabad temple, Sadguru Shatri Swami Nirgundasji and Sadguru Dhyani Swami had delivered speeches wherein they had explained the importance and requirement of Dharmvanshi Acharya Maharaj in our life. H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj blessed all the devotees. The silence of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj conveyed the message very suggestively to all that, His blessings were already included in the blessings of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj.

At last all the saints and devotees offered the valuable gifts at the feet ofH.H.Shri Acharya Maharaj and performed poojan of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj as well. On this occasion *Auchhaviya Mandal* performed hilarious *Kirtan Bhakti* before the Lord Shree Narnarayandev.

(Narayanmuni Swami)

Patotsav in Vadnagar temple

With the directions of H.H. Shri Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj and under the guidance of Mahant Swami Harisevadasji and Mahant Shastri Swami Narayanvallabhdasji, 49th Patotsav of Shri Ghanshyam Maharaj of our ancient Shree Swaminarayan temple of Vadnagar was celebrated on Jeth Vad-12 with great enthusiasm and fervour. This Patotsav was organized by the devotee Modi Kantaben Dwarkadas, his son devotee Shri Modi Rameshbhai Dwarkadas and devotee Modi Yashodharaben Rameshbhai family. On this occasion *Abhishek Darshan, Annakut Darshan* etc. were also performed whose benefit was availed by the devotees. On this occasion Mahant Shastri Swami Harikrishnadasji of Ahmedabad temple, Shastri Swami Anandjivandasji and Shastri Swami Vishwarswaroopdasji and the devotees Shri Somabhai D. Modi, Navinchandra Manilal Modi and Prafulbhai Modi had delivered their speeches. The *Sabha* was conducted by Mahant Shastri Swami Narayanvallabhdasji. Poojari Shastri Abishekprasaddasji had made all the preparations on this occasion.

H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj had directed and blessed all the devotees to celebrate the Suvarna Jayanti Mahotsav of Shree Ghanshyam Maharaj. H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj also honoured the President of

Sarvodaya Seva Trust, devotee Shri Somabhai D. Modi and Chief Officer of Vadnagar Shri Satishbhai Patel with garlands.

(Shastri Abhishekprasaddasji)

Patotsav of Shree Swaminarayan temple Idar

With the directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and with the inspiration of Mahant Swami Jagdishprasaddasji, 164th Patotsav of Shri Gopinathji Harikrishna Maharaj was celebrated in our Shree Swaminarayan temple, Idar. Early in the morning, H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj performed Shodasopchar Mahabhishek in Vedic tradition.

On this occasion of Sabha was organized wherein large number of devotees of Sabarkantha district had remained present. The host devotees Shri Bhaichandbhai Chaturbhai Patel (Martoliwala) performed *pooja-aarti* of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and thereafter saints of various places delivered inspiration speeches. At last H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj blessed the Sabha.

On this occasion Homatmak Mahapooja and Annakut Utsav were also performed. Kothari Satyasankalpdasji had rendered beautiful services. The Sabha was conducted by Sadguru Shastri Swami Vasudevcharandasji. (Mahant Shastri Harijivandasji, Himatnagar)

Blood Donation Camp in Approch Bapunagar temple

With the directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and with the inspiration of Mahant Swami Laxmanjivandasji, one Blood Donation Camp was organized on Sunday 04/07/2010 in collaboration with the Red Cross Society and for the benefit of the patients of Civil Hospital. About more than 52 devotees donated their blood and rendered their beautiful services.

(Gordhanbhai Sitapara)

Shrimad Satsangibhusan Panchanh Parayan at Dangarva

With the directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and with the inspiration of Mahant Shastri Swami Purushottamprakashdasji, Shri mad Satsangibhusan Panchanh Parayan was organized at village Dangarva of Prasadi from 09/07/2010 to 13/07/2010. Sadguru Shastri Swami Ramkrishnadasji (Koteshwar Gurukul) was the spokesperson of the Parayan.

With the noble aim of the devotee Shri Jivtiben Kalidas Somdas Patel, Akshar Nivasi Jadiba Somdas Motidas Patel family [Patel Kantilal Somdas (Dalal)] rendered their services as the Chief Host of the Parayan whose benefit was availed by a large number of devotees of the nearby villages.

On 11/07/2010 H.H. Shri Gadiwala, our future Acharya H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj and H.H. Shri Raja had graced the occasion and granted divine *Darshan* to all the devotees. H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj along with the saints graced the concluding ritual of the Mahotsav which was performed on 13/07/2010. In the *Sabha* organized on the occasion, Mahant Shastri Swami Harikrishnadasji of Ahmedabad temple, Mahant Sadguru Swami Devprasaddasji of Naranghat temple, Brahmchari Swami Rajeswaranandji and poojari of the Lord Shri Narnarayandev and many other saints from many other places had also arrived on this occasion and delivered their inspirational speeches. At last H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj blessed the host family and all the devotees.

On this occasion Sundar Kand Path, Satsang Diaro, Ghanshyam Janmotsav and Raas Garba etc. programmes were organized. The Sabha was conducted by Naranghat Mahant Shastri Nana P.P. Swami and Shastri Chaitanyaswaroopdasji (Koteshwar Gurukul).

(Jaivallabhdas)

Offering of the Doors of Prasadi of Uvarsad temple to Shree Swaminarayan Museum

With the divine aim of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj, work of Shree Swaminarayan Museum is going on in full swing. Really a number of unique and rarest of the rare Things of *Prasadi* would be displayed in our Museum for divine *Darshan* of all the devotes and *Haribhaktas*. Many of our saints and devotees have been offering Things of Prasadi to H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and H.H. Shri Acharya

Maharaj for our Shree Swaminarayan Museum, which they received from their Guru.

Doors of Shree Narnarayandev of our Shree Swaminarayan temple, Ahmedabad were brought to village Uvarsad by Akshar Nivasi Swami Gopivallabhdasji Swami and his Guru Dhyandasji Swami and these doors were used in Shree Swaminarayan temple of the village Uvarsad. This temple is completing 111 years. On this occasion, all the devotees of the village have offered these doors of Prasadi to H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj for our Shree Swaminarayan Museum. H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj has blessed all the devotees and Haribhaktas of the village. Many other saints and devotees are going to offer Things of Prasadi, which are still lying with them, for our Shree Swaminarayan Museum.

(Ghanshymabhai Patel)

Divine Hindola Darshan in Unjha

From 01/08/2010 to 30/08/2010, Hindola Darshan would be performed before Thakorji in our Shree Swaminarayan temple, Brahmin Street in Unjha. This divine Hindola Darshan would be inaugurated by our H.H. Shri Laxmiswaroop Gadiwala, H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj and H.H. Shri Raja. All the devotees may avail the benefit of divine Darshan of Hindola Darshan. (Shastri Swami Keshavprasaddasji, Ahmedabad)

Shree Narnarayandev Religious Examination

Under the direct supervision and guidance of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj 'Shree Narnarayandev Religious Education Section' has been functioning very well. All the concerned supervisors of the examination centers are hereby informed that, the next Religious Examination would be conducted on Sunday 26/12/2010 at respective Centres. This year, the examination would be conducted only of two parts i.e.Bal Satsang and Kishor Satsang, the details of the same would be intimated as soon as the same are got ready. List of the students/ candidates appearing in these examinations may be prepared and sent at the earliest. H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj has recommended to start new centres in the temples of all our cities and villages. (Devani Ranchhodbhai B. Patel, Centre In-charge, Shree Swaminarayan temple, Ahmedabad)

Shree Swaminarayan temple, Kaliyana

On the pious day of Jeth Sud-10, 21/06/2010 reading of *Vachanamrit* was performed at the residence of the devotee Shri Dahyabhai Chelabhai Butiya. On 22/06/2010, *Ekadashi Satsang Mandal*, had performed reading of Gadhada Chapter-1 of *Vachanamrit*. Importance of Shree Narnarayandev, Dharmvanshi Acharya Maharaj was also explained to the participant devotees. They were also explained the importance of ardent worship and Bhakti with illustrations of our leading devotees, such as devotee Nandubhai of Umreth. All the devotees were also offered the booklet *'Shree Narnarayandev in Vachanamrit'*. All the devotees were also warned that, they should worship only those deities and saints, which are recognized and approved by our Dharmvanshi Acharya Maharaj and in our Sampradaya. (Shree Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal, Kaliyana)

Shree Swaminarayan temple, Ilol

With the directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, a Satsang Sabha was conducted on 20/06/2010 in our Shree Swaminarayan temple, Ilol. Mahant Shastri Swami Harijivandasji of Himatnagar temple and Poojari Jasu Bhagat of Karjisan temple had performed Katha-Varta-Kirtan and Bhakti. Devotees Shri Jasubhai of Himatnagar Satsang Mandal, the Collector Shri Kanubhai and Kantibhai and the devotee and Kothari of Ilol devotee Shri Kiritbhai etc. Haribhaktas had rendered their inspirational services in this Sabha. (Natvarsinh D. Solanki)

Invocation of the idol images in Shree Swaminarayan temple, Khavad

With the blessings of Shree Hari and with the blessings and directions of Shree Narnarayandev Pithadhipati H.H. Shri Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj and with the inspiration and support of Purani Narayancharandasji and the saints as also with the beautiful services and support of the devotees Kothari Ratibhai Narandas Patel and

Ghanshyamprasad Swami and many other saints and devotees, Shrimad Bhagwat Dasm Skanda Tridinatmak Parayan was organized from 04/06/2010 to 06/06/2010 on completion of construction of Hari-temple. Sadguru Shatri Swami Narayanvallabhdasji was the spokesperson of the Katha. On this occasion, Mahavishnu Yaag, Annakut etc, were also organized. On the pious day of 06/06/2010, H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj performed the ritual of invocation of the idol images in Vedic tradition. In the Sabha organized on the occasion, Mahant Sadguru Shastri Swami Harikrishnadasji of Ahmedabad temple and many other saints from various places had delivered their inspirational speeches. At last H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj blessed all the saints, devotees and Haribhakats who rendered their beautiful services. (Kothari, Khavad)

MULI DESH

Shree Swaminarayan temple, Muli

With the blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and in the pious company of Shree Radhakrishnadev Harikrishna Maharaj, on the pious day of Jeth Sud-10, Shree Swaminarayan Akhand Dhoon was performed in Brahmanand Sabha Mandap from 9.00 at night of Jeth Sud-9 till 10.00 hours of Jeth Sud-10. All the saints and devotees performed Dhoon ardently and became very much happy. All the arrangements were made Mahant Shastri Swami Narayanprasaddasji and Kothari Swami Atmprakashdasji. (Navaldan Gadhvi)

Shree Swaminarayan temple, Khevadiya (tal. Morbi)

With the directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj and with the divine inspiration of Akshar Nivasi Sadguru Shastri Swami Gopalcharandasji and with the co-operation of Shastri Swami Suryaprakashdasjia nd Kothari Bharatbhai and all other satsangis, on completion of the construction work of the temple, a grand invocation ceremony of the idol images was performed. During this ceremony, Tridinatmak Bhagwat Katha, Shree Hari Yaag etc. were perform from 01/06/2010 to 03/06/2010. Sadguru Shastri Swami Suryaprakashdasji narrated beautiful Katha of Shrmad Bhagwat Dasmskanda. Pothi-yatra was also performed on this occasion. On 03/06/2010, H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaqj graced the occasion and performed the invocation of the idol images in Vedic tradition and thereafter performed Annakut Aarti and concluding ritual of the Yagna and also graced the Sabha organized on the occasion. Thereafter all the host families Akshar Nivasi Damjibhai J. Kacha family, Mohanbhai, Shri Chandubhai Ranpara, Kishor Manji Khevadia, Bharatbhai D. Chaudhary, Lavji Karswhan Khevadiya, Ratubhai, Jayantibhai, Chetankumar, Vireshbhai, Rajeshbhai, Pravinbhai Khimjibhai Mistry and on behalf of Sankhya Yogi Rajkunvarba and SSankhya Yogi Ushaba of Morbi Darbar Haribhaktas of the village performed aarti of H.H. Shri Acharya Mharaj and obtained the blessings. at last H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj blessed Shastri Swami Suryaprakashdaji and the host family and the whole Sabha.

On this occasion Dev Swami of Naranghat, Ahmedabad, J.K. Swami, Mahant Swami of Muli, Balu Swami, Prabhu Swami, and other saints of Morbi and Dhrangadhra and Purushotam Swami from Bhat etc. had come. Services of J.K. Swami and Kothri and Ranchhodbhai were very inspirational.

OVERSEAS NEWS

Shree Swaminarayan temple, New Jersey

With the blessings and directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj, Gavaiya Swami Chandraprakashdasji Guru Shastri Swami Ghanshyamprakashdasji performed Dhirajakhyan in our Shree Swaminarayan temple, New Jersey during the pious Adhik Maas. This occasion was graced by H.H. Shri Bindu Raja and Shri Suvratkumar and Shri Saumyakumar. Group Mahapooja was also organized on this occasion. Shree Narnarayandev Yuvak and Mandal and the devoree Shri Pankajbhai (Gamdiwala) had rendered their beautiful services.

On Saturday 01/06/2010 in the evening Bhajan Sandhya programme was organized wherein Gavaiya Swami and the devotee Vinod Patel had performed Kirtan of Nand saints. On this occasion the devotee Shri Prahladbhai Pateo, Bhaktibhai Patel and Yuvak Mandal had rendered their services. On every Saturday from 8.30 to 10.00 hours at night Yuvak Mandal organizes Katha of Vachanmrit-273. Swami Chandraprakashdasji explain it in a very simple and easy to understand language.

Here Patotsav ritual was celebrated with great fervour and enthusiasm in Saturday 5th June. Chandraprakashdas Swami had performed Shodasopchar Abhishek of Thakorji in the company of Shri Suvratkumar and Shri Saumyakumar. On this occasion Kalash-Yatra, Annakut Darshan and Katha Varta were also performed. Shri Binduraja had also graced the occasion and had granted divine Darshan to all the ladies devotees. the host and the devotee Shri Ishwarbhai Shukla had performed poojan ritual.

On this occasion Shastri Swami Vishwaprakashdasji from Cherry Hill, Swami Harinandandasji from Colonia and Gavaiya Chandraprakash Swami from Vihokan temple had preached the importance of Shreeji Maharaj to all the devotees. A beautiful drama- suitable to the occasion- was also performed by the young children. At the end of the programme all the participants were offered the prizes of encouragement by Shri Binduraja.

(Pravinbhai Patel and Mehul Thakkar)

Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Colonia

Wit the blessings and directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj, on the pious day of Vaisakh Sud-3, Parsuram Jayanti was celebrated with great fervour and enthusiasm in our Shree Swaminarayan temple, Colonia. On this occasion Shastri Swami Dharmvallabhdasji and Shastri swami Harinandandasji narrated beautiful Katha to the Haribhaktas. On the pious day of Akshay Tritiya, the Lord Shree Parsuram was born and on this day Katha of the Lord was narrated. All the devotees and Haribhaktas availed the benefit of divine Darshan and Katha of the saints.

(Pravinbhai)

Washington, D.C. Chapter

With the blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj a beautiful Satsang Sabha was conducted in Buvi Merry Land on Saturday 11thJune 2010 in the evening from 7.15 to 10.15 hours in the evening wherein Katha of Leela of Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan, Kirtan-Bhakti, Nitya Niyam, Thaal and Aarti were performed in group. Shastri Swami Dharmkishordasji of our Los Angeles temple had narrated a wonderful Katha of importance of Shree Hari and Dharmvanshi Acharya Maharaj on cell-phone along with incidents of miracle of Muktaraj Kashiba of Mahesana and miracle of Bal Swaroop Ghanshyam Maharaj of Shree Swaminarayan temple, Ahmedabad. (Kanubhai Patel)

ISSO SEVA HAITIAN & CHILEAN EARTHQUAKE RELIEF-2010

A catastrophic magnitude 7.0 earthquake, with an epicenter near the town of Leogane, approximately 16 miles west of Port-au-Prince, Haiti's capital occurred on Tuesday, 12 January 2010. by 24 January, at least 52 aftershocks measuring 4.5 or greater had been recorded.

An estimated three million people were affected by the quake; the Haitian Government reported that an estimated 230,000 people had died, 300,000 had been injured and 1,000,000

made homeless. They also estimated that 250,000 residences and 30,000 commercial buildings had collapsed or were severely damaged.

A month later, the Chilean earthquake occurred off the coast of the Maule Region of Chile on February 27,2010, a magnitude of 8.8 lasting 90 seconds. It was strongly felt in six Chilean regions (from Valparaiso in the North to Araucania in the South), that together make up 80 per cent of the country's population. The earthquake triggered a tsunami which devastated several coastal towns in south-central Chile and damaged the port at Talcahuano. The earthquake also generated a blackout that affected 93 percent of the country's population and which went on for several days in some locations. The latest death toll as of May 15, 2010 is 521 victims.

Many countries responded to appeals for humanitarian aid, pledging funds and dispatching rescue and medical teams, engineers and support personnel. IISO Seva under the direction of Nar Narayan Dev Gadi united with Mercy Corps and Habitat for Humanity to aid in the rescue efforts. Dr. Maya Raghuwanshi and Mr.Raghuwanshi initiated the idea of fundraisers throughout the ISSO Temples. There were first to make contributions of the disaster relief.

ISSO SEVA Chapters of Michigan, California, Massachusetts, Illinois, Texas, New Jersey held charity drives and fundraisers for the victims of Haiti and Chile. Fundraisers were kept in the ISSO Shree Swaminarayan Mandirs of Detroit, Michigan; Los Angeles, California; Lowell, Massachusetts; Chicago, Illinois; Houston, Texas; Colonia, New Jersey; and Cherry Hill, New Jersey.

A total of $6,550.00 was collected. 100% of the collections were allocated to Mercy Corps and Habitat for Humanity.

ISSO Seva's contribution of $3275 to Habitat for Humanity will support long-term shelter solutions for low-income families that are affected. Habitat's affordable, no-profit house payments free up money for food, child care, medicine and other necessitites.

ISSO Seva's contribution of $3275 to Mercy Corps will focus on securing clean water and proper sanitation for survivors, creating jobs for residents, clearing rubble and debris from their neighborhoods, and alleviating post-quake trauma in children. Seva's Contribution will also help the 'Comfort for Kids' program in Chile.

In response to the valuable help of ISSO Seva, Mr.Connie Barker, the Development Officer of Mercy Corp addressed a letter to our devotee Shri Jigneshbhai Shah, who is the Executive Director of Board of Trustees of ISSO Seva, Colonia, NJ. An abstract of the said letter, dated 28th June 2010, reads as under:

"Dear Jignesh,

On behalf of all of us at Mercy Corps, thank you so very much for ISSO Seva'a amazing support of Haiti! While the January 12th earthquake tragedy has fallen off of the international community's radar screen, there is still a tremendous amount of work to be done. Fortunately your members' generosity is allowing Mercy Corps to make the long term commitment necessary to help the Haitian people to recover and rebuild their lives.

With your support we are focusing our efforts on providing clean water and access to latrines to camps in Port-au-Prince, providing psycho-social support to young earthquake survivors and jump starting the local economy by providing daily wages to families in Haiti's Central Plateaus through our cash-for-work program.

Than you again so much for your compassion and your trust in us to bring aid to Haiti in the most efficient and effective way possible. We couldn't do any of this without you!"

Best Wishes

(Connie Barker), Development Officer, Mercy Corps.

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1.H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj performing Patotsav Abhishek of Shree Ghanshyam Mahraj in Vadnagar temple &blessing devotee Shri Somabhai Modi & Poojari Abhishekprasaddasji in the Sabha

2. H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj perfroming Patotsav Aarti in Prantij Temple and also blessing the Sabha. Shastri Swami Ghanshyamprakashdasji & P.P. Swami along with other saints.

3. H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj performing aarti of invocation ritual of idol images of new temple at Khavad & blessing Sabha.

4. Haribhaktas performing poojan of photo-image of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj in Chhapaiyadham on the occasion of Gurupurnima.

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1. Haribhaktas availing the benefit of Group Mahapooja in Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Sydney.
2. Shreeji Prakashdasji Swami & Shri J.P. Swami performing ritual of Group Mahapooja after offering Annakut to Thakorji on the occasion of 3rd Patotsav of Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Atlanta.
3. Gavaiya Chandraprakash Swami, Shastri V.P. Swami & Haribhaktas performing Kirthan-Bhakti in Kritan Sandhya programme in Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Sine Mension on the occasion of Guru-Poornima.

Museum Year
March 2010 - March 2011

shree swaminarayan museum

Year 2010-11 "MUSEUM YEAR"

With the directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj the year from March-2010 to March-2011 is declared as *Museum Year.*

Inauguration on 8th March 2011

Samvat 2067 Fagan Sud 3, Patotsav of Shree Narnarayandev

www.swaminarayanmuseum.com/org

GADISH OFFSET

Prafull Kharsani