

SHREE SWAMINARAYAN

MONTHLY



H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj performing aarti in Mahesana temple on the occasion of Patotsav and blessing the devotees on the occasion of Patotsav of Bhimpura temple.



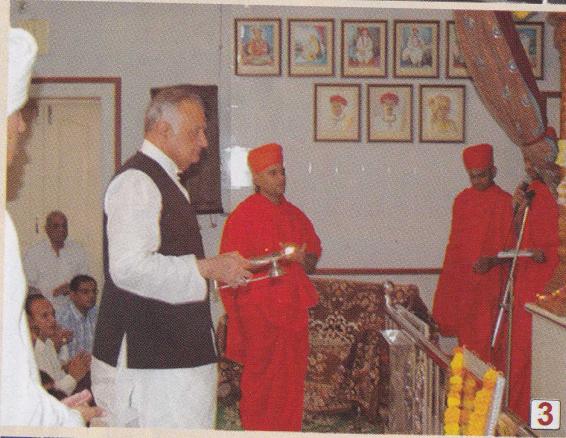
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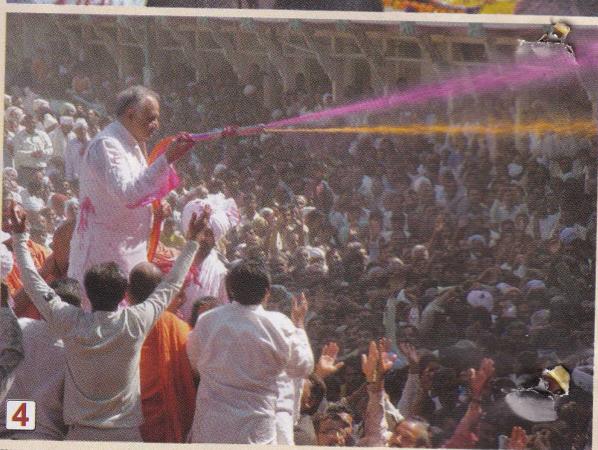
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(1) H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj performing *Annakut Aarti* in Narayanghat temple on the occasion of *Patotsav*. (2) H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj performing *aarti* of Thakorji in our Shree Swaminarayan temple, Bhimpura on the occasion of *Patotsav*. (3) H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj performing *aarti* of Thakorji in Ghatlodiya temple on the occasion of *Purnahuti of Shri Janmangal Path*. (4) H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj performing *Rangotsav* in Muli temple on the occasion of *Samaiya of Vasant Panchmi*. (5) The Host family along with Yogi Swami and Brahmchari Vasudevanandji Swami performing *aarti* of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj on the occasion of *Patotsav* in Dhariyavad temple, Rajasthan (6) H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj granting *Darshan* and Shri P.P. Swami delivering inspiration speech on the occasion of *Gunanuvad Sabha* of Gopinath Swami in our Prantij temple.



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

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સર્વમદ્દેશ

EDITORIAL

With the noble idea of our H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj Shri Tejendrraprasadji Maharja and with the blessings and guidance of our H.H. Shri Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj and with the co-operation and services our devotees all over the world, the Shree Swaminarayan Museum has been completed- which preserves many rare Things of *Prasadi* of Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan.

Lacs of devotees and *Haribhaktas* have started availing the divine benefit of *Darshan* of Shree Swaminarayan Museum. There are many museums in this world, but only lucky persons get such benefit of divine *Darshan* of Shree Swaminarayan Museum.

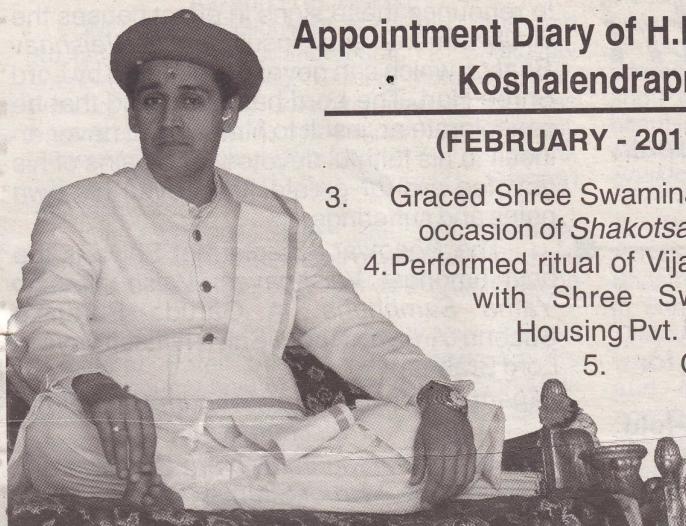
On the pious day of *Fagan Sud-15 Ful Dolotsav* and Shree Narnarayandev Jayanti will be celebrated with great fervour and enthusiasm in Shree Narnarayandev temple. Our tradition of celebrating festivals will continue and so we must avail as much benefit as we can and it is an humble prayer at the lotus like feet of Almighty Shri Narnarayandev that all the devotees may avail the benefit of this divine occasion.

Editor
 Mahant Swami
 Shastri Swami Harikrishnadas

SHREE SWAMINARAYAN

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

(FEBRUARY - 2011)



3. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Dungri (Idar) on the occasion of *Shakotsav*.
4. Performed ritual of Vijay-Stambha Sthapan in connection with Shree Swaminarayan Museum, Ganesh Housing Pvt. Ltd., Thaltej.
5. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Bhimpura, on the occasion of *Shakotsav*.
6. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Laloda on the occasion of

Katha.

Graced the house of the devotee Shri Ghanshyamsinh Pratapsinh Vaghela, Gandhinagar.

- 7-8 Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Bhuj (Kachchh) on the occasion of *Rangotsav*.
11. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Torda on the occasion of *Patotsav*.
12. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Visnatar, on the occasion of *Patotsav*.
13. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Naranpura, on the occasion of *Patotsav*.
Graced the village Karsanpura, on the occasion of *Patotsav*.
16. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Mokhasan and Kalol (Shrinagar) on the occasion of *Patotsav*.
17. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Vasna, Ahmedabad on the occasion of *Patotsav*.
18. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Vadu.
19. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Mahesana, on the occasion of *Patotsav*.
20. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Bhimpura, on the occasion of *Patotsav*.
21. Graced the M.P.Pandya High School, Jetalpur, on the occasion of *Sabha*.
22. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Naranghat, on the occasion of *Patotsav*.
23. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Vihar, on the occasion of *Patotsav*.
24. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Morbi, on the occasion of *Patotsav*.
25. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Bhavpura, on the occasion of *Patotsav*.
26. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Kankaria, on the occasion of *Maruti Yagna*.
Graced the house of the devotee Shri Jagdishbhai Atmarambhai Patel (America, Chicago), Khanpur.

Appointment Diary of H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj

6. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Ghatlodiya, on the occasion of *Janmangal Stotra*.

Shikshapatri

The Epistle of Precepts
(based on Shatanand's Shikshapatri
Arthadipika)
By Pravin S. Varsani

Text 46

Brahmins and others who have for generations marked their forehead with *Tripundra* (a three-fold horizontal mark) and worn a necklace of *Rudraksha* beads on account of family traditions and customs, shall continue to do so even after becoming my devotee.

*Tripundrarudrakshadrutiryesham Syat
Svakulagta |
Taistuvipradibhiha Kapi Na Tyajya Sa
Madashritauha ||46||*

This *Shloka* really extols the greatness of Lord Swaminarayan, who accepted the two great *Sampradais* – *Vaishnavism* and *Shaivism*. He himself preached that both are of significance and equal. No one *Sampradai* should be slandered in any way. The Lord accepted the worship of Lord Shiva as a means to salvation. He taught the greatness of Lord Mahadev and himself often performed *Poojan* of *Shiva-Linga*. Therefore none should criticize Lord Shiva or the *Shaiva Sampradai*.

Shatanand explains that the *Tripundra* and *Rudraksha* are worn in order to receive the fruits of worship of Lord Shiva. *Linga Purana* explains, 'The *Tripundra* on a forehead and the *Rudraksha Mala* should never be renounced. Those that do, loose their fruits of worship (*Pooja*) of Lord Mahadev.' Shatanand Muni says, *Vaishnavrajashrishankaralingatvacheti Bhava*: 'This is the sign of King of *Vaishnavas* – Lord Shankara.' (In reference to the *Tripundra* and *Rudraksha*). Therefore

to renounce these signs in effect causes the diminishment and insult of a *Vaishnav Bhakta*, which can never be tolerated by Lord Shree Hari. The Lord has often said that he can tolerate an insult to himself, but never an insult to his faithful devotee. The pains of his devotee are far greater than even his own pains and sufferings.

The *Bhagwat* accepts that Shiva is the best amongst *Vaishnavas*: *Vaishnavanam Yatha Sambhuha*. In *Garuda Purana*'s Second *Adhyaya*, Lord Shiva himself says to Lord Brahma:

*Aham Dhyayami Tam Vishnum Paramatma
Naischaram |
Sarvadam Sarvagam Sarvam SARavaprani
Hrudi Sitam ||*

'I meditate upon Lord Vishnu *Paramatma*. He is the all-giver (*Sarvadam*), the source of all (*Sarvagam*) and the in-dweller of all hearts.'

*Bhasmodhmulitdehastu
Jatarudrakshamaridhta |
Vishnoradaradhanartham Mae Vratmetat
Pitamaha ||*

'O Grandfather! Marking the body with ash or dust, adorning a matted lock of hair (*Jata*) and *Rudraksha* are merely a ritual of worshipping Lord Vishnu.' ?Shiva is therefore respected as the greatest of *Vaishnavas* – *Vaishnavashreshtatva*. To serve and worship Shiva is to serve and worship Vishnu. Shiva is one of only a few who fully understand *Vaishnav Dharma* and for such reason he is truly great. *Yama Raja* explains:

*Swayambhurnarada Shambhuha
Kumaraha Kapilo Manuha |
Pahlado Janako Bhishmo
Balirvaiyaskrivayam ||*

'*Brahma, Narad, Shankar, Sanakadik Rishis, Kapil, Manu, Prahlad, Janak, Bhishma, Baliraj, Sukdevji* and *Yamaraja* understand *Bhagwat Dharma*. Such *Dharma* is reticent, pure and understood only through plight. By understanding this *Dharma*, one can attain *Paramatma*.' Thus these are the

(Con. from page 14)

Aarartikam Nirajanam

- Sadhu Purushottamprakashdas
(Jetalpurdham)

There is great importance of performing *aarti* in our Bharatiya Vedic and Puranic ritual of *Pooja*. The occasion may be *Mahapooja*, *Hariyag*, *Vishnu Yag*, *Rudra Yag*. There is difference in method of worship and *poojan* of deity in each of this *Yagna*. But *aarti* has to be performed in each of this religious occasion. *Aarti* is considered one of the *Shodasopchar* rituals of the deity. *Poojan* which is performed with *aarti* does not yield any fruit.

If it is not possible to perform *pooja* under certain circumstances then *Sankalp* of *poojan* is performed followed by *aarti*, which will yield appropriate fruits.

मंत्रहीनं क्रिया हीनं यत्कृतं पूजनं हरे: ।

सर्वं सम्पूर्णतामेतिकृते निराजने शिवे स्कन्दपुराण ॥

That means, if any *poojan* is performed with any mistake then it is corrected by performing *Nirajan* (*aarti*).

In any special kind of *pooja*, three or five winks should be kept. *Swastik* of red *Kumkum* should be made, *Akshat* and *Kapur* should be kept and then *aarti* should be performed. It is stated in '*Kalotirtanta*', '*Panch Nirajanam Kuryat*'. *Aarti* should not be lighted with another *Deep*.

After lighting *Aarti*, *Akshat-pushp* should be held and with folded hands following *Mantra* should be chanted: - ज्वालामालीन्यैनमोनमः अथवा महारत्नैश्वर्यै नमोः नमः

Thereafter *Pradakshina* of the deities should be performed in clock-wise direction while chanting *Mantra* and performing *Kirtan*. *Aarti* should be performed seven times upon every organ

of the idol image of the deity. Thereafter *aarti* with *Jal-Dhoop*, *Pushpa* and *Ghanti* should be performed.

In *Vaishanavi* tradition there are main five *poojan* rituals. *Mangala*, *Shangar*, *Rajbhog*, *Sandhya* and *Sayan*. In our Hari temples and temples of our home, there is tradition of performing *aarti* two times i.e. *Pratah Sandhya* and *Sayam Sandhya*. It is also suggestive to perform *aarti* in the beginning of the day and the night.

When any dishonour to any deity is committed unknowingly then by performing *aarti* to the deities, the divine *Tej* can be restored in the idol images. Thus, there is great importance of *aarti*. And therefore, whenever H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj graces any temple or house of any devotee or *Haribhakta* of our *Sampradaya*, then there is tradition of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj performing *aarti*. When *aarti* is performed, all evil spirits run away and the divinity is spread in the whole house. Those houses are like temples where *aarti* is performed twice a day. When *aarti* is being performed, one should invariably perform its *Darshan*. It is stated in the scriptures that, by performing *Darshan* of *aarti*, sins of seven births are burnt. And those who perform divine *Darshan* of *Mangala Aarti*, they get fruit of *Darshan* of *aarti* of five times. Performing *Darshan* of the deities at the time of *aarti* is considered to be complete *Darshan*. It is stated in *Varah Purana*:

धूं पंचारातिं पश्येह कराभ्याम् च वन्दते । कुल
कोटी सपुद्धत्य याति विष्णोः परं पदम् दीपं स्पृष्टा तु य

Tenth Patotsav of ISSO Temple in Los Angeles Celebrated

By BHARTI KUMAR
Special to India-West

NORWALK, Calif. — A week-long ceremony from Dec. 12-19 to commemorate the tenth Patotsav

of the ISSO Shri Swaminarayan Temple-Los Angeles was organized by the International Swaminarayan Satsang Organization and blessed by H.H. Shree Tejendraprasadji Maharaj and Mota Gadhwala.

The celebrations began on the evening of Dec. 12 with a "Poti Yatra" followed by "Deep Pragatya and Mangala Pravachan" the following day. "Maruti Yagna" was held on Dec. 14.

देवि मम कर्मणि कारयेत् । तस्यापराधादेवै मेंः पार्प प्राप्नाति
मानवः ॥

Those who perform *Dhoop-dip Aarti*, they get place in *Akshardham*. *Aarti* means to express our heart and soul honestly and completely before the deities. By performing *aarti* one gets rids of all miseries and the cycle of birth and death. It is the only effective solution.

When Muktanand Swami was reprimanded in Kalvani by Ramand Swami in divine form, the Saint begged pardon honestly and performed *Aartip-Pada* "Jay Sadguru Swami Sahjanand Merciful..." and his honest submission was accepted by Shree Hari. One should not come out of temple when *aarti* is being performed. One should complete *aarti* and then one should go.

Appointment of new Mahant Swami in Siddhpur Temple

H. H. Shri Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj has been pleased to appoint Sadguru Swami Chandraprakashdasji (Guru Sadguru Swami Ghanshyamjivandasji) of Biliya temple as the Mahant of Shree Swaminarayan temple, Siddhpur (Highway)



The procession carried out on the occasion of the tenth Patotsav of the ISSO Shri Swaminarayan Temple-Los Angeles. (Bharti Kumar photo)



Shree Tejendraprasadji Maharaj during one of the pujas at the temple.

Attendance was high each day, and more so on the weekend despite heavy rain.

A "Vishnu Yagna" was also held at the temple, with "Jai Yatra" and "Shobha Yatra" continuing in the afternoon.

Most of the women wore color-coordinated purple or yellow saris while men wore red turbans. Many of them carried water in a "kalash," which was poured during the "Abhishek" the following day.

The crowd, donning raincoats and umbrellas, participated in an hour-long procession from Cerritos College to the temple, while Acharya Maharajshri enjoyed a chariot ride under a colorful canopy.

"Kathas" were held in the evenings each day with celebrations of "Ram Janmotsav," "Krishna Janmotsav" and "Rukshemani Vivah."

During a cultural program in the evening and the following morning, everyone admired the "Purnahuti," "Abhishekam" and 212 varieties of food for the "Annakut Darshan." Natoobhai Patel offered India-West a brief history of the temple.

"We had bought the land with a house in 1991. There were so many

problems, like getting permits to differences of opinion amongst the donors, that by 1996 the entire work was discouraging," he noted.

"However, around that time Acharya Maharajshri gave such words of encouragement that I took it up as a personal challenge to build this temple. I took early retirement and, along with a few people, took care of legal problems and started building the foundation in 1996."

The "Pranpratishta" was held in December of 2000.

"Today, these 75 volunteers have gone beyond their responsibilities to bring the event together," Patel told India-West. "The heavy rainfall has not dampened their spirits, and we have well-wishers from out of state also."

In his address to the gathering, Maharajshri told the devotees to keep their faith in God at all times, and though rituals may be modified, they should stick to the principles of the Bhagavadgita and other scriptures.

His wife Mota Gadhwala told the women to support the divine place in every way they can.

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(અલ. એ. મંદિર દશાખ્ટી મહોત્સવના
પ્રસંગે ત્યાંના દેનિક પેપરમાં આવેલ ન્યુઝ)

TEMPTATION

- Shastri Swami Vishwaprakashdasji (Cherry Hill temple)

Manav was a very common man. He was simple, generous and hardworking. He had knowledge not only of the books but also of the seasons, animals, birds. He was religious and did not believe in blindly following *Karm-Kand*. He knew how to cure the diseased person and therefore he used to render services to the needy and the poor. He cherished the feeling of one family (*Vasuddheiv Kutumbakam*) and therefore, he used to respect all. His brothers were wealthy, respect and trust and they used to preserve happiness and peace in his life.

Once Manav went out and he saw something in the forest on his way. The birds of the forest were chirping loudly at this thing. When Manav went close, he found that it was a baby girl with golden hair. He took up the baby and brought her home and started taking care of the baby. Now from that moment onwards his mind got diverted toward the baby. He left interest towards everything else and so he left his activities of service. He neglected his occupation and got more interested towards the baby. Gradually he became cunning. This baby was greedy and selfish by nature. She used to neglect and disregard all other members of the family and tried to pass orders on everybody. It is courtesy to respect the guests at home. But this baby spoilt the whole atmosphere of the house and therefore nobody respected her. Everyone fled with her arrival.

One day *Vaibhav* (wealth) left Manav. When Manav asked where he was going? *Vaibhav* (wealth) said that, now it is not possible for him to stay together and especially with that baby. And *Vaibhav* (wealth) left home. With his departure, all flowers withered. Due to strange disease which spread all around, cattle like buffalos and cows died. Crops were

washed away and ruined due to heavy floods. It was great disaster in the life of Manav.

One day 'Respect' left Manav. When asked the reason. 'Respect' told that, it was due to that little baby. Now she cannot stay in the house even for a moment. With the departure of 'Respect', people started abusing Manav. Earlier people used to praise Manav, now the same people started abusing him.

Then 'Trust' came to Manav and told him that, he is going to leave the house before he is driven out. Now Manav was very much confused. With great pain he told 'Trust', "If all of you leave me in this way, how can I live along? Now what is left in my life?" and Manav started crying. 'Trust' was generous by nature; so he gave an opportunity to Manav for some time so that he can improve. 'Trust' called 'Respect' and requested her to stay for some time. As she was invited with respect, she returned. Then both Trust and Respect both ardently requested 'Vaibhav' (wealth) to return; and he returned hesitantly. With the arrival of 'Vaibhav' (wealth), the fields and farms were full of crops. There were beautiful flowers. The milky animals started giving milk in abundance and people again started giving respect to Manav.

When the baby saw that, there was no place for her in the house. So she started abusing Manav. Now Manav sent a message to 'Mayadevi' that her daughter was in great difficulty and she may be called back. Maya called her daughter back very silently and there was again happiness and peace in the house and life of Manav.

Do you know the name of the little baby? Her name is 'Temptation'. So beware of this baby!!!

Balbhadra Revtiji

- Chandrakant Mohanlal Pathak (Gandhinagar)

Bhagwan Shree Krishna asked Balramji, "Dauji! Do you know that, all our efforts to make comprise between Kauravas and Pandavas have failed? Now when both of them are going to fight against each other, then whom would you accompany?"

Balramji replied, "Both Kauravas and Pandavas are our relatives. There would be great loss in the war, many people will be killed, the properties would be damage beyond repair, difficulties of the subject of both the states will increase and I cannot see all this. So I will go away to perform pilgrimage."

There was statesmanship in the question of Bhagwan Shree Krishna and there was innocence in the answer of Balramji. Devkinandan believed that, Balramji is very strong and very accurate in has war-skills and therefore his impact would be decisive in the war.

Balramji had two mothers- Devkiji and Rohini. First he took birth in the womb of Devkiji but later on he was attracted towards Rohini and so later on he entered in the womb of Rohini. Some people argued based on logic that, as the king Kamsa used to kill all the babies born to Devkiji, Balram took birth in the womb of Rohini. But this statement has no support of any scripture. He was beloved of all and therefore people used to call him 'Ram'; but he was very strong and therefore he became famous as 'Balram'. Both Krishna and Balram were brought up in Gokul.

The main weapon of Shree Krishna is Sudarsan Chakra and that of Balram is Hala. Both these brothers had divine weapons with them. Once Shree Krishna

and Balram were performing Vihar with Gop and Gopis in Vrindavan. The waters of the river Yamuna were flowing very strongly. Balram thought, "If the direction of the stream of the river Yamuna is changed then it can be beneficial to the villagers of Gokul." So he changed the direction of the stream of the river with the help of his weapon Hala.

It is an interesting history as to how Shree Krishna and Balram obtained their weapons. When Shree Krishna killed his maternal uncle Kamsa, the king Jarasandh directed his army to attack Mathura. Now in order to save the people of Mathura from this undesirable attack, Shree Krishna and Balram left Mathura and went to Bhagwan Parsuram who asked them to reach Gomantak peak of Sahyadri mountain range. And it is from this place that, both of them obtained the weapons like Chakra, Hala, Kaumudiki Gada, Mushal etc. all these facts are found well narrated in Vishnu Parva of Harivansha. It is presumed that this place of Gaumantak peak is situated near Goa.

Balramji was an expert in the war-skills; so was Jarasandh and yet Balramji defeated Jarasandh seven times. Balramji had also taught the skill of Gada-Yuddha, to both Bhima and Duryodhana. Shree Krishna respected his elder brother Balramji and yet he used to get the things done from him. It is stated in certain Puranas that, Laxman and Balram are incarnations of Shesh but Shrimad Bhagwat states that, Balramji was the Other Form of Shree Krishna Bhagwan Himself.

Balramji was very innocent and honest but at the same time he was very short tempered. He could not tolerate any lie. He had very attractive personality and he liked to wear dark coloured clothes. Balramji was married with Suryavanshi Revtiji. History about Revtiji is also very interesting. A king called Anart was born in the family of Vaivasvat Manu. He had a son

named Revat. And this Revat had established a city called Kush-sthasli in the western region of Bharat. This *Kush-sthali* is Dwarika of present time. Like Dhritrastra, the king Revat had one hundred sons. His eldest son was Rev who was also known as Kukudin and this Rev had one daughter called Revati. When Revati attained mature age of marriage, the father thought about getting the daughter married with a person who is very strong, intelligent, intellectual and possessing very attractive personality. He went to Brahm Lok and Satya Lok in search of a suitable husband for his daughter but could not find out. Much time was passed in his search and it was the beginning of *Dwapar Yuga*. Then he went to Brahmaji and sought his guidance.

Brahmaji told him that, his daughter was very lucky and she should be married with Balramji the elder brother of Bhagwan Shree Krishna. As per the advice of Brahmaji, the king Rev got his daughter Revti married with Balram and then he went away to Badrikashram to perform *Tapa* in the pious company of the Lord Shree Nar Narayandev. Balram and Revtiji had one daughter named Vatsala.

At present Balramji resides with Revtiji in Jetalpurdham which is situated very near to Ahmedabad and fulfills all desires and wishes of *Haribhaktas* who perform divine *Darshan*. Baldevji is very innocent so whosoever comes with noble feelings and ardent worship, their desires and wishes are fulfilled.

When Shree Hari performed grand *Maha Rudra Yagna* in Jetalpur, then aahuti of Ghee was offered to the deities for eighteen days through *Vedic* Brahmins. Innumerable Brahmins, devotees relished the sweets and meals for so many days. Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan has praised Jetalpurdham calling it '*Dev-Bhumi*'. Shreeji Maharaj has stated, "We have graced each and every house of this Jetalpurdham. We have taken bath

in *Dev Sarovar* (lake) many times. We have performed many *Yagna*, *Samiaya* and *Leela*. All pious places of pilgrimage such as Pushkar, Prayag, Kashi, Dwarika, Ganga, Yamuna, Godavari, Gaya, Narmada, Tapi reside here. And therefore Jetalpur is as pious place as Gokul and Mathura. It is a place which is capable of granting *Moksha* (emancipation). It is one of the best places of pilgrimage. Therefore, all *Haribhaktas* and devotees should visit this pious place of *Jetalpurdham*, *Vadi* and *Dev Sarovar* ardently. This is a place which is sanctified by *Charanarvind* of saints. Moreover, we have performed *Sankalp* that in future Balbhadraji and Revtiji will reside in this *Hari-Kshetra*. All *Haribhaktas* who would come to this place and perform divine *Darshan* of the deities, their all desires and wishes will be fulfilled. We shall always remain present in this pious place of pilgrimage in the Divine form."

OUR FUTURE FESTIVALS

Fagan Vad -8 : Saturday 26/03/2011

Patotsav in Jetalpur

27/03/2011 to 31/03/2011 Suvarna

Jayanti Mahotsav in Shree Swaminarayan temple, Vadnagar.

31/03/2011 to 04/04/2011 Raja

Jayanti Mahotsav in Shree Swaminarayan temple, Khan (Rajasthan).

Chaitra Sud-5 : Friday 8/04/2011

Patotsav of Shree Ghanshyam Maharaj in Anjar temple (Kachchh)

Chaitra Sud-9 : Tuesday 12/04/2011

Ramnavmi, Pragatyotsav of Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan. *Samaiyo* in Ahmedabad Patotsav of Akshar Bhavan Balswaroop Shree Ghanshyam Maharaj

Chaitra Vad-2 : Tuesday 19/04/2011

Patotsav of Mandvi temple (Kachchh)

Chaitra Vad-3 : Wednesday 20/04/2011

Prakatyotsav of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharaj

One identification of *Dharmguru*

(H.H. Shri Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj)

- Natubhai Patel (Rajpurwala- at present Canada)

In this modern world, a man is engulfed in the cob-web of *Maya* (worldly pleasures). He cannot grasp the real understanding of life. Though he makes innumerable efforts but the result is zero. He gets nothing except uneasiness, indecisiveness and lack of peace in his life.

Have you ever thought why all these things are happening? The whole system is on the verge of collapse in this Mechanical Age. Though we may not admit but it is certain that all this happens due to lack of some definite power. It needs some uncommon spiritual nourishment to restore stability. If we guide our practical and social understanding with this spiritual power then we can get this nourishment. Now what is this spiritual power? Is it possible with regulation and control of the direction of thinking of our mind?

Study of the pious scripture '*Shiksha Patri*' granted by the Almighty Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan is the only remedy of all these problems. It is the only option available with us. What is *Dharma*? What is *Gyan*? What is *Bhakti-Vairagya*? If a human soul lead a life in company of all these then he can get freedom from this cob-web of *Maya* and get real happiness. But just as one cannot get cured of any disease without proper medication; similarly without in depth study of the scripture '*Shiksha Patri*', one can get freedom.

There are four Forms of Bhagwan. *Murti* (idol), *Acharya*, *Saint* and *Shastra* (scripture). There should be faith in idol, obedience towards *Acharya*, *Samagam* with Saints and study of *Shastra*. If our

faith is not strengthened even after performing *Darshan* of the idol image, if we did not inculcate noble qualities in us despite *Saint-Samagam* and if we do not get anything worthy despite reading the scriptures then something is lacking in. now what is lacking in? it is lack of *Dharmguru* – *Dharmacharya*. Without *Dharmguru*, we cannot associate our soul with the idol images, saints or scriptures. The soul keeps on wandering behind the worldly pleasures and one cannot get rid of unhappiness, desolation, indecisiveness and lack of peace in his life.

Therefore, it is essential to have real *Dharmguru* to make our life worth living. Now who is *Dharmguru*? It is very difficult to find out real *Dharmguru*. But it is easy also. As Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan has stated, "*I reside in Acharya established by me. For the emancipation of all, we have directed that our devotees and Haibhaktas be granted emancipation.*"

When Almighty Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan has gave these directions, and when Bhagwan Himself has established the seat of *Acharya* and one who belongs to *Dharmkul* and has continued the tradition of *Acharya*. We can recognize, identify and accept such *Acharya* as our *Dharmguru*. Then our *Dharmguru* is our H.H. Shri Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj, who incarnated in *Dharmkul* on the pious day of *Samvat 2028* on the pious day of *Vijayadashmi*. Our *Acharya* is unique personality. A bright child right from early childhood is educated in English Medium School of St. Xavier's School of

Ahmedabad. From childhood, he has performed *Vicharan* along with his father (H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj) and has strengthened our *Sampradaya*. He has celebrated many *Patotsav*, *Samaiya* and blessed many *Sabhas*, organized many *Padyatra*, established *Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal* as H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj. On the pious day of *Vikram Samvat 2060 Aasu Sud-215/10/2004*, the reins of Shree Narnarayandev Desh Ahmedabad *Gadi* were handed over to him and he was established as *Acharya of Sampradaya*. Following the foot-steps of his father, today every breathe of his life is spent for nourishment of *Sampradaya* and he has been performing *Vicharan* day and night for the same purpose.

There are some uncommon divine qualities in Him. A divine vision, benevolence, generosity, resourcefulness, adroitness and magnanimity are a few of many such virtues. With the blessing of the Lord Shree Narnarayandev and Shreeji Maharaj, our *Sampradaya* has spread in cities and villages, in the country as well as in abroad. It may be Rajpur village of North Gujarat or Toronto city of America. Everywhere there has been preaching of the scriptures of our *Sampradaya*, so that all human beings on this earth can get emancipation. It is the concern and wish of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj that, there should be increase in worship and *Upasana* in our temples, *Bhaktibhav* through *Katha Varta* and *Samaiya*. When it is the time of natural calamities, one should undertake benevolent work, to nurture *Samskaras* along with freedom from addiction in children of the next generation. To publish the religious books under the guidance of the saints, to perform *Samaiya* of our religious *Utsav*, to create awareness about Almighty *Bhagwan* etc.

This is an incident of the year 2004. it

was an occasion of invocation of the idol images on 9th August 2004 in Toronto city of America. It was raining at that time and it was the forecast there would be heavy rains in the next few days. On that day, *Haibhaktas* had organized *Shobhayatra* of 1.2 km. with the permission of the Police Department. The policemen were also present on the day of *Shobhayatra*. The organizers were confused and could not decide what to do as they were worried about the climate forecast of heavy rains. At last devotees and *Haribhaktas* decided that, there will be no change in the programme and *Shobha-yatra* will be organized. It was raining outside on that day. But the moment, H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj graced the occasion, the rain stopped suddenly. Large number of devotees and *Haribhaktas* participated in the *Shobha-yatra* along with the saints. *Shobha-yatra* was concluded without any hurdle. The moment H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj entered the temple premises in the compound alongwith the idol images of the deities, it started raining. All *Haribhaktas* and devotees were surprised at this.

There are many such miraculous incidents but all cannot be referred to here due to lack of space. No one can write about such incidents exhaustively. It reminds us of *Sadguru Gopalanandji*, *Swami Sadguru Vyapakanand Swami* and *Aadi Acharya Dada Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj*. We have heard about and witnessed many such incidents and miracles. Thousands of saints, lacs of *Haribhaktas* and crores of people get peace of mind, when they get divine *Darshan* of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj.

Let us avail the benefit of divine *Darshan* of Things of *Prasadi* of Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan which will now be available for divine *Darshan* in our *Shree Swaminarayan Museum* – the noble concept of our H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj.

JALKRIDA IN PIPASAR

- Shastri Harijivan Swami (Mahant, Himatnagar temple)

Shree Hari granted divine pleasure to all saints and *Haribhaktas* through *Leela* of *Ghrut Bhojan*. After the meals, Shreeji Maharaj said to Kakabhai, "We wanted to finish all Ghee but these *Kathi* devotees got tired and therefore it could not be finished." All laughed. Then Shree Hari graced the lake Pipasar to take bath along with the saints and devotees.

Shree Hari sat under one shady tree, completed daily chores and cleansed hands and legs with fresh water. All *Haribhaktas* standing on the bank of the lake Pipasar asked for the permission of Shreeji Maharaj to take bath in the lake. Maharaj granted them permission and He

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**Sd/- Shastri Swami Harikrishnadasji
Mahant**

Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Kalupur, Ahmedabad-1.

સુધીની લાલી

WAVE OF PLEASURE

Himself also enjoyed the bath.

It was a pleasure-time of *Jalkrida* with devotees and saints for long time. Devotee Shri Muljibhai was taking bath with Maharaj. While playing with Maharaj, the devotee Shri Muljibhai realized the Almighty Bhagwan in Maharaj and said, "You are *Purna Purushottam*."

In this way Shreeji Maharaj performed *Jalkrida* in Pipasar lake and graced the house of the devotees Shri Kakabhai and Punjabhai and accepted the meals.

'THAAL OF SHREE HARI' - SHANGAAR OF SAMPRADAYA

- Atul Bhanuprasad Pothiwala
(Memnagar-Ahmedabad)

Shree Swaminarayan Sampradaya spread and propagated by Shreeji Maharaj is very rich in many respects. 'Shiksha-Patri' is the well-organized construction of Sampradaya. 'Shiksha-Patri' is like an ocean in a pot.

Similarly aarti created by Muktanand Swami and endorsed by Shree Hari himself "Jay Sadguru Swami, Muktanand Kahe Mukti, Sugam Kari Siddhi" is a rare treasure of our Sampradaya. Besides this aarti, Thaal of Shree Hari created by Sadguru Bhumanand Swami which and performed regularly in our temples even morning and evening is unique in itself. Shreeji Maharaj has got it sung time and again and has also endorsed it. This Thaal is considered wonderful and rich Thaal. It is praised by heads of other Sampradaya also.

Before about seventeen years when Rajat Jayanti Suvarn Jayanti Mahotsav was organized on University Ground, Drive-in road then Bhagwat Katha Parayan of Shri Rameshbhai Oza was organized in Ahmedabad. For seven days, H.H. Shri Acharya 1008 Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharaj graced the Mahotsav and Acharya Maharaj and Shri Rameshbhai Oza would accept Abhivadan of each other. On that occasion, Shri Rameshbhai Oza had praised this Thaal of Bhumanand Swami very much. The history of creation of this Thaal is very interesting.

Once with the directions of Shreeji Maharaj, Bhumanand Swami was performing Vicharan in the villages for propaganda of our Sampradaya. It was a very difficult time for the saints. It was cold winter. Though Katha was performed during the whole day nothing was received in the meals; moreover, there were demonic people who used to harass Swamiji. Yet

સત્સંગ સુરભી SAT SANG SURBHI

Swamiji did not forget Vachan of Shreeji Maharaj.

Once his fasting was prolonged upto four days. On the fifth day another saint met him. The saint could not see the plight of Swamiji and offered Ponk (fresh yield of wheat) to eat. Now while offering this 'Ponk' to Shree Hari, Bhumanand Swami sang this wonderful Thaal:

‘વળી સ્વામિનારાયણ સંપ્રદાયનો નિત્ય ગવાતો થાળ
“જમો થાળ જીવન જાઉ વારી..... એ થાળ પણ
સંપ્રદાયનો અદ્ભુત થાળ છે. આટલો સરળ છતાંય
રસાળ થાય અન્યત્ર મળવો મુશ્કેલ છે.”

Bhumanand ardently sang Thaal and Shreeji Maharaj granted him divine Darshan! All the things and items of sweets which were offered in Thaal by Bhumanand Swami were accepted by Shreeji Maharaj and its Prasad was also given to Bhumanand Swami!

Thereafter, Bhumanand Swami reached Gadhpur after three days. It was ten o'clock in the morning. Thaal was ready for Shreeji Maharaj. When Shreeji Maharaj heard the message that, Bhumanand Swami has came, Shreeji Maharaj ran and embraced him. It was wonderful Sneh-Milan of Shree Hari and saint!!!

While accepting the meals of Thaal, Shreeji Maharaj asked Bhumanand Swami to sing Thaal 'Jamo Thaal Jivan Jau Vari' again and again. Bhumanand Swami sang Thaal for three times. Shree Hari liked this Thaal very much and endorsed it as authentic Thaal of our Sampradaya.

Similarly a big Thaal created by Premsakhi Premanand Swami is also unique in itself. Even today, this Thaal of Premanand Swami is sung before Rangmahol Shri Ghanshyam Maharaj in Kalupur Shree Swaminarayan temple. There is description of so many items of Thaal:

**Sevaiya Motaiya Ladu, Sevda Ladu,
 Khaja Ne Khurma, Golna Churma, Jalebi
 Dhebar, Barfi, Penda, Patasa, Marki,
 Maisub, Sutarfeni, Gagan Ganthiya,
 Gundvada, Gulabpak, Gundar Pak,
 Sakariya, Chana, Tadho Toprapak,
 Sakkarpura, Sevo, Galyo, Molo Kesriyo
 Biranj, Sakarno Dholo Shiro, Ghee Thi
 RAAsbas Lapso and Kansar, Khir, Khand,
 Ghee-Rotli, Badam Charoli Yuvka
 Dudhpak, Puri Ne Kachori, Puran Poli,
 Papad, Pudala, Mitha Malpuda, Misri
 Makhan-Mava thi Yuvka Dahivada,
 Ghauni Bati, Bajrinino Poli, Sundar
 Talsankli, Golpapdi, Ganthiya, Kaline
 Fulvadi, Bhajiya, Vada, Sundar
 Dahithariya, Vagharela Chana, Gunja,
 Mathiya, Farsi, Fafda, Alavi Aaduna
 Bhajiya.**

**Gheema talelu Suran Alavi ne Ratalu,
 Talela Parval, Vantak ane Valol, Kankoda,
 Kola, Kela, Karela, Galaka, Turiya, Choli,
 Valol, Dudhiya, Doda, Guvarni Falio,
 Lilva, Bhindani Kalio, Tandalji, Methi,**

(Con. on page 4)

twelve Bhagwad-Acharya worthy of praise as they are a means to attaining God Supreme.

Rudraksha and Bhasma (ash) are a means of purifying oneself and are a great source of Punya. In the discussion between Shiva and Kartik Swami it is said, 'Those who perform fruitful acts, wearing a Mala of twenty-seven Rudraksha receive endless more Punya.'

It is also possible to become one with Shiva – 'Shankar-Rupa': Bopadev explains, 'Those who wear thirty-two Rudraksha around their neck, forty around the head, twelve around each arm, sixteen around each upper arm, one in the middle of each eye, one on the pigtail or 'Chotli'; and one hundred and eight in their heart; are themselves Shivarupa.'

In this way the greatest of Lord Shree Siva-Shankar is glorified and therefore by praising him and wearing the Rudraksha which has been worn for years is desirable.

**Mula, Mogri, Suvani Bhaji, Dodini Bhaji,
 Sundar Vaghareli Kadhi ne VAdi, Neyana
 Rayata.**

**Swadu Athanama Limbu, Maracha,
 Aadu, Rayatani Keri, Bol Keri, Kharekne
 Draksha, Kera, Karamada, Bila, Vans
 Garmariyo, Elaiachi, Ambamor ane
 sundar sugandhivalo Pankhalino Bhat,
 Tuverni Dal, Masurni Dal, Magni Dal,
 Adadni Dal, Cholani Dal, Chanani Dal.**

Similarly Thaal created by Dayanand Swami and to be sung at night is also very interesting, "**Rudi Randhi Mein Rasiyaji,
 Khate Khichadi Re...**"

Thaal of Jetalpur created in Hindi language by Aadi Acharya Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj is also very delicious and rich. Besides this instant Thaal of Shree Hari created by Jeram Brahmchari is also very beautiful.

All these Thaal of our Sampradaya are very beautiful and delicious. So let us nourish and take care of them !!!

There seems to be a great boundary between *Vaishnavas* and *Shaivites* that needs to be broken. The two *Sampradais* are often thought of as totally distinct and even apposing. Lord Swaminarayan here however has made a move to bring these two great *Sampradais* together and has proven that the two are not distinct. Both have a place and both are to be equally respected.

A question arises- if Shiva is the greatest of *Vaishnavas*- then why it is necessary as *Vaishnavas*, to give praise to Shiva? Note the greatness of Shiva as a devotee: his Lord lives in a great palace of luxury therefore he chooses to live in a cemetery (*Shmashaan*); his Lord wears kingly dress therefore he chooses to wear tiger skin and ash; his Lord wears a necklace of gold so he chooses to wear a necklace of snakes. Thus, he is truly a great devotee, indeed the best. He is forever performing penance of Lord Vishnu and as a result He should never be slandered but should always be praised by all for his dedication and greatness.

HAIL THE LORD SHREE

NARNARAYANDEV

-Shastri Haripriyadas (Gandhinagar)

Shreeji Maharaj has stated, "We reiterate importance of Shree Narnarayandev time and again. The essence is that, Shree Narnarayandev is present in this Sabha and therefore we have established the idol images of Shree Narnarayandev in the temple with dome at Ahmedabad." (Jetalpur-5)

Almighty and merciful Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan has incarnated on this earth and granted emancipation to innumerable souls, has performed many *Leela-Charitra*. Moreover Shree Hari also expressed his vow to remain present in Deev, Acharya, Saint and Scripture for the benefit of all the people. Shree Hari started granting divine Darshan in the deities from Ahmedabad.

With the directions of Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan, Anand Swami got constructed beautiful temple with three domes in Kalupura, Ahmedabad and many devotees and Haribhaktas rendered their services and the construction work of the temple was accomplished. It was the grand occasion of Mahotsav of invocation of the idol images in the first ever Shree Swaminarayan temple of the world. There was great fervour and enthusiasm in the whole Sampradaya.

Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan himself decided the day of invocation of the idol images. It was the pious day of Fagan Sud-3 Samvat 1878, Sunday 24/02/1822. Lacs of people had thronged together on the previous day in Ahmedabad. Necessary arrangements for residence of these devotees were made in the forest of Ambli around the Kankaria lake. Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan had also come in Ahmedabad one week in advance and had

શસ્ત્રી હરિપ્રીયાદસ

SATSANG BALVATIKA

- Compiler Shastri Harikehsavdasji (Gandhinagar)

stayed among devotees at the place where there is marble carved umbrella and temple with dome of Shri Hanumanji Maharaj.

On the pious day of Fagan Sud-3, Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan performed the ritual of invocation of the idol images of the Lord Shree Narnarayandev in the middle dome, idol images of Shree Radhakrishna in the dome towards the East and idol images of Dharm-Bhakti and Self for worship of the devotees in the dome towards the West.

"નોતી દીકી નોતી સાંભળી પગટાવી,

એવી પુનિત પુરુષોત્તમપ્રગટાવી રે."

No one had imagined as to where Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan will construct the first temple of Sampradaya? And when Haribhaktas will get divine Darshan of Mahotsav of invocation of the idol images of the first temple? Such a great luck was associated with Shrinagar (Ahmedabad) and therefore the pious day of Fagan Sud-3 has become historical day.

Shreeji Maharaj himself offered the garlands to the idol images in all the three domes and performed *archan* with *Chandan*, offered *Chandlo* to the idol images. The divine light started emitting from the idol images of Shree Narnarayandev. Then Shreeji Maharaj stood on the threshold in front of the idol images and Himself performed *aarti* of the idol images. Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan granted divine *Tej* and

Aaishwarya in the idol images and told the devotees that, "I am always present in these idol images."

When Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan asked the devotees who will perform the rituals of Kalash and Dhaja? Then devotees Bhago and Mulo Patel of village Pithvadi said that they will perform the rituals and rendered their services of one thousand rupees and performed the ritual of *Kalash*. Devotee Dada Khachar of Gadhdha rendered the services of seven hundred rupees and availed the benefit of performing the ritual of *Dhaja*.

When Shreeji Maharaj directed the devotees to perform divine *Darshan* of the idol images, there was so much rush of the devotees and *Haribhaktas* that, there was long queue from temple upto Kankaria lake. From that day onwards, there has been constant progress of the city and this journey of progress has continued till date. For the happiness of the devotees, Shree Hari has stated, ***Those devotees who will render their services and perform Seva-archa, we shall fulfill all of their desires. Those devotees who will come and perform Darshan on the pious day of Poonam of every month and on the day of Fagan Sud-3, their desires shall be fulfilled and there is no doubt about it.***

While remembering this blessing of Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan, all *Haibhaktas* and devotees should take *Vrata* in their life that, those residing in Ahmedabad should come to the temple everyday to perform *Darshan* of the Lord Shree Narnarayandev and the devotees outside the city and residing in the villages should come and perform *Darshan* on *Poonam* of every month and all those devotees who are residing abroad, they should perform *Darshan* of *Patotsav* of the Lord Shree Narnarayandev on the pious

day of *Fagan Sud-3* every year. The devotees who observe this *Vrata* of performing *Darshan* in their life, they will be happy in their life and there is no doubt about it.

RENDER SERVICES AND BE HAPPY - Sadhu Shri Rangdas (Gandhinagar)

Shreeji Maharaj has got performed many *Shram-Yagna*. Large number of devotees used to stay with and accompany Shreeji Maharaj. Maharaj has explained to them not only the importance of *Katha-Varta* or *Mala-Darshan* but have also got done many benevolent works of social welfare. Wells and ponds have been developed, temples have been constructed. During the time of Shree Hari temples at Ahmedabad, Muli, Bhuj, Vadtal, Gadhdha etc. were being constructed and many devotees and *Haribhaktas* had rendered their beautiful services of mind, body and money. At that time there was not much money but even service of eleven rupees was hailed and appreciated. These *Haribhaktas* used to offer their bullock-carts and other animal-carts in the service of Sampradaya. They used to work hard, without worrying about their physical health. These devotees cherished only one idea, "I want to obtain pleasure of Shree Hari."

Dear devotees! In 'Janmangai Stotra', Shatanand Swami has given the second name of Shree Hari as 'Vasudev'. And therefore if our heart is pure and clean while rendering the services, Maharaj would come and reside in it. This is the power and importance of the pious name 'Vasudev'. So if you wish that, Shree Hari resides in your heart, you should keep your heart clean and serene and they you will get divine *Darshan* of Vasudev in your heart.

RICH FROM POOR

- Sankhya Yogi Kanchanba (Meda)

Oh devotees! Shreeji Maharaj has stated in 58th Vachanamrit of First Chapter, "When any great person is pleased, a poor man can become rich person and his bad luck can be converted into good luck. One such incident occurred in Junagadh.

One Muslim lady was sitting with her one son and daughter near Damodarkund. She had wood with her to be sold but somehow not a single wood was being sold and therefore they had to remain hungry. Meanwhile Gunatitanand Swami came to perform Snan in Damodar Kund. It was cold water and winter season. So after the bath Swamiji developed severe cold. Other saints came out in search of wood. This Muslim lady came to know about this and so she came there and sent her son with woods. The little boy set fire to the wood, and it was warmth of the burning wood through which the cold of Swamiji was cured.

When Swamiji asked the boy his name, the boy said he was Bavlo. When Swamiji asked him why he gave away the wood to a saint who does not have anything? And now what will they do without the wood? The little Bavlo said, "My mother says, we should render our services to the saint. By such services Bhagwan is pleased and we can be happy in our life." Listening to these words of little Bavlo, Swamiji was very much pleased and blessed him that henceforth he will not have to sell the wood for his livelihood. The boy returned to his mother and narrated everything. Then all of them came home. Meanwhile Nawab of Junagadh passed by their hut. With the blessings of Swamiji, there was some change in the mind and thinking of Nawab and he got married with the woman. Bavlo was imparted the best available education and he was made the Minister of the State of Junagadh. In this way, with the blessings of Swamiji the life of poor Bavlo was transformed and he became Rich from poor.

NAVALBA OF PRANTIJ

- Patel Palak Jitendrabhai (Sojavala)

Once Shree Hari graced Prantij through

ભક્તિસુધા

BHAKTI-SUDHA

village Torna of Ranchhod Bhakta and after performing *Darshan* of Shri Utkantheshwar Mahadev. One Bania Navalben was married. She was an ardent devotee of Shree Hari but her husband was very crooked and evil-minded. He used to harass Navalba in her worship, used to throw away *Kan thi*, did not allow her to perform *Vrata*, *Upvaas* (fasting) etc. and did not allow her to go to temple to perform divine *Darshan*.

When Navalba heard the news of arrival of Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan in Prantij, she was very much happy. She asked the permission of her husband to allow her to perform divine *Darshan*, but the crooked husband did not allow her and locked her up in the room. In this way, Navalba was captivated hungry and thirsty for fifteen days in the room.

But one day Navalba broke the door and rushed out and reached to the house of the devotee Shri Kashiram at midnight where Shree Hari had stayed. Two Parshads were there. Navalba expressed her desire to perform divine *Darshan* but ignorant Parshads asked her to come in the morning to perform *Darshan*. Shree Hari overheard the discussion and rushed out of house and Navalba performed divine *Darshan*.

When Shree Hari asked her, Navalba narrated everything to Shreeji Maharaj. Shreeji Maharaj consoled and told her not to worry about. When Navalba returned home, she shouted and woke her husband and informed him that the thieves had broke the door at midnight; however, she ran after them and the thieves ran away. When the husband heard the whole incident, he developed faith in Shreeji Maharaj and became ardent devotee of Shreeji Maharaj. He went to Karjisan and accepted *Kan thi* from Shree Hari and became Satsangi. Thus, with the ardent faith of devotee Shri Navalba, her husband became the devotee

of Shree Hari.

PEACE AT THE LOTUS LIKE FEET OF BHAGWAN

- Ramilaben K. Modi (Himatnagar)

On the occasion of Maruti Yagna organized at Himatnagar, H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj blessed all Haribhaktas and told them that like all spicy condiments, Almighty God created man with all feelings and intelligence and kept one thing with Him. When Laxmiji asked what was that thing, Bhagwan said, "It is 'Peace' which is kept under my feet."

As per Vachanamrit-39 of Gadhda Last Chapter, Brahma, Shiv, Laxmiji, Radhaji, Narad, Shuk, Sanakadik, Nine Yogeshwar etc. great gods, goddesses and saints touch the lotus like feet of Almighty Bhagwan and perform ardent Bhakti.

While explaining the importance of Dharmkul and Guru, Sadguru Brahmanand Swami has stated that,

“ધર્મકુળ તલ્લકે દુજે કો જો શરનો લઈ હું જઈ કે,
તો મેરી ચખરો, સાચી નિશ્ચે વાત કર્યું સમખાઈ કે
જાનો વાત ખરી, જો મેરું નિમિત્તે જાઉ પરી
તો જની મેરી ધૂંધી ભાર ભરી..... ધર્મકુળ.”

When Shreeji Maharaj asked the question to Nityanand Swami, "Whether there is only one means or more than one means to achieve Almighty God?" despite all efforts, Nityanand Swami could not answer the question satisfactorily. Then Shreeji Maharaj told that, Kalyan is achieved only after seeking shelter of Bhagwan. It is essential to strengthen our faith and Bhakti, otherwise all other efforts will be in vain.

Once five young persons were riding cycle towards Bhuj. On their way, they stayed at the residence of a devotee for one night in Nachau. It was the residence of Bhakt Mahamukta. He rendered beautiful services to these pilgrims, offered them delicious meals. When Bhakt Mahamukta asked the question the reason of their pilgrimage,, the young persons told that they wanted to get emancipation and therefore they were performing pilgrimage on bicycle. Then Mahamukta told, "Really, these people do not know anything about Kalyan and how a soul

can get Kalyan?"

Once Gopalanand Swami was in the Sabha organized in Botad. Leading Haribhaktas Bhaga Doshi came to him and told, "Swami! I am going to perform Chardham Yatra. Do you want anything from there?" Swamiji thought that, if this ignorant person stays with him for four months, all the secrets of the scriptures can be explained to him. For Kalyan, it is also essential to have real Saint.

Muktanand Swami asked Shreeji Maharaj, "Oh Maharaj! Yesterday you narrated a very beautiful story to Dada Khachar. Please narrate me that story." Then Shreeji Maharaj said, "Those devotees who are very strong in their belief and faith towards Almighty Bhagwan and also towards the saints, then their Bhakti is very strong and no one can mislead or misguide him. But if this faith is not strong then it is not possible to do anything good towards God or the saints." (Gadhada First Chapter-72)

When Chaitanyaanand Swami asked Shreeji Maharaj, "Oh Maharaj! How a person will think about God when his faith and worship towards God are very strong?" then Shreeji Maharaj said, "These devotees think that, Bhagwan is here only. The great seers like Uddhavji, Akrurji, Vidurji, Sudamaji and Gop of Vrundavan are ardent devotees of Bhagwan. Similarly the great Draupadi, Kuntaji, Sita, Rukshmani, Laxmi, Parvati and Gopis are also ardent and great devotees. Golok, Vaikunth, Brahmpur etc. are here only."

“કેવી નિયમને કામન કરવું.

મર લાભ લાય જો લાભને

તોય લલચાવીએ નહિ લેશ મનને

જાણીએ મુવાળો કાબનો.”

If we do not remain alert then the outsiders can rule us. Just as the Britishers came to India for the purpose of business but then ruled over India for 200 years. Therefore, we must be alert in our faith and worship and Bhakti so that any outsider cannot misguide us.

Shree Hari says in Shloka 209 of 'Shiksha Patri', "My words are My own form." Here there is nice combination of Swaroop, Nishtha and Dharmnishtha.

News And Notes

From Shri Narnarayandev Desh

Celebration of 15th Patotsav of Naranghat temple

With the directions and blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj, H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj, H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj, 15th Patotsav of Shri Ghanshyam Maharaj and Shri Dharmbhakti Harikrishna Maharaj of Shree Swaminarayan temple, Naranghat was celebrated with great fervour and enthusiasm on Maha Vad-5 22/02/2011. H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj performed Mahabhishek of Thakorji in Vedic tradition, performed Annakut aarti and graced the Sabha. Sadguru Mahant Swami Devprakashdasji and Mahant Shastri Swami Purushottamprakashdasji (Nana P.P. Swami) offered garlands and performed Swagat Poojan. The host family Akshar Nivasi Narayandas Kandas Patel (Parida-Mansa), devotees Shri Parshottambhai, Dr. Gordhanbhai, Somabhai and Dahyabhai families performed *poojan-archan* of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and obtained the blessings. In the *Sabha* organized on the occasion, Mahant Sadguru Mahant Shastri Swami Harikrishnadasji of Ahmedabad temple, Shastri Nana P.P. Swami, Shastri Swami Siddheshwardasji delivered their inspirational speeches. Brahmchari Swami Rajeshwaranandji, J.P. Swami etc. saints had also arrived on this occasion. At last H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj blessed the whole Sabha. The *Sabha* was conducted by Shastri Swami ChaitanyaSwaroopdasji.

(Shastri Abhayprakashdasji)

Celebration of 6th Patotsav of Dhariyavad temple (Rajasthan)

With the directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and with the blessings of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and with the divine inspiration of Aksharnivasi Brahmchari Swami Ramkrishnanandji (Chhapaiyadham), 6th Patotsav of Shree Radhakrishna Dev, Shree Swaminarayan Bhagwan and Shivji Parivar and Shree Hanumanji Maharaj of Shree Swaminarayan temple, Dhariyavad (Rajasthan) was celebrated from 13/02/2011 to 15/02/2011.

On this occasion *Tridinatmak Shrimad*

Bhagwat Katha was organized by devotee Shri Rameshbhai Patel (Savliwala) in the memory of his mother. Sadguru Shastri Bhaktinandandasji (Jetalpurdham) was the spokesperson of *Katha*. During this *Katha*, *Chhab* of Thakorji and *Jalyatra* were performed on 14/02/2011. On 15/02/2011 *Abhishek* of Thakoreji was performed by H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj in Vedic tradition. H.H. Sri Mota Maharaj performed both *Shangaar aarti* and *aarti* of concluding ritual of *Katha*. In the *Sabha*, the host family devotee Shri Rameshbhai Patel (Savliwala) and his brother and relatives performed *poojan-archan* of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and obtained the blessings. On this occasion Mahagnt Shastri Swami Atmaprakashdaji of Jetalpurdham, Vishwaprakashdasji, Brahmchari Purnanandji, Mahant Swami Guruprasaddasji of Kankaria temple, Shastri Anand Swami, Bhanu Swami from Mathura, Kahant Swami Narayanprasaddasji of Muli temple, Mahant Shasri Hariprakashdasji of Charadva temple and Yogi Swami and Narayanmuni Swami the disciples of Mahant Swami of Ahmedabad temple arrived on the occasion and delivered their inspirational speeches. Haribhaktas of Dhariyavad village rendered in all services of Rs.1,20,000/- for Shree Swaminarayan Museum and obtained the pleasure of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj. Devotee Shri Maheshbhai Bhavasar rendered services of one room and the host family rendered service of three rooms for Dharmshala in the temple. H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj offered garlands to Poojari Natu Bhagat and Chirag Bhagat and blessed the whole *Sabha*. At last annakut aarti was performed followed by Mahaprasad whose benefit was availed by all devotees. the whole programme was organized under the guidance of Mahant Brahmchari Swami Vasudevanandji of Chhapaiya temple. *Sabha* was conducted by Brahmchari Swami Madhavanandji.

(Sadhu Vishwaprakashdasji, Jetalpurdham)
Shree Swaminarayan temple, Ghatlodiya

Within just four years of construction of Hari-temple in Ghatlodiya area, *Satsang* has strengthened much with the blessings of Shree Hari and H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj. When H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj graced Hari temple during the last year on 16th January 2010, all Haribhaktas had performed *Sankalp* to perform *Shri Janmanga Stotra Path* created by Shantanand Muni every Saturday on the occasion of Shree Swaminarayan Museum. On completion of one year, H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj graced Hari-temple on Sunday 20/02/2011 and performed aarti of Thakorji and graced the *Sabha*. Shri Narnarayandev Yuval Mandal and Kothari of Hari-temple offered cheque of Rs.2,75,000/- collected during the last one year to H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj for Shree Swaminarayan

Museum and obtained the blessings. Earlier H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, H.H. Shri Gadiwala and H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj had also graced Hari-temple and granted divine *Darshan* to *Haribhaktas*.

(Pravinbhai T. Patel)

Celebration of Mahamahotsav of new temple of Shri Prabha Hanumanji, Jamiyatpura

With the blessing and directions of H.H. Shri Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj, H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj and with the inspiration and guidance of Sadguru Mahant Shastri Swami Vijayprakashdasji and Mahant Sadguru Shastri Swami Ghanshyamprakashdasji of Mansa temple, *Mahamahotsav* of newly constructed temple of Shri Prabha Hanumanji was celebrated with great fervour and enthusiasm. On this occasion Shree Swaminarayan Mahamantra Dhoon was performed from 17/01/2011 to 25/01/2011 and Shrimad Bhagwat Panchanh Parayan was performed from 26/01/2011 to 30/01/2011. Shri P.P. Swami of Jetalpurdham was the spokesperson of *Katha. Maruti Yagna, Kalash and Dhwaj-danda poojan* were performed from 28/01/2011 to 30/01/2011. On 28/01/2011 H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj graced the occasion and blessed all the saints and *Haribhaktas*. Shastri Ghanshyam Swami had appealed all *Haribhaktas* to render their services for Shree Swaminarayan Museum. On 29/01/2011 H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj graced the occasion and performed *Abhishek* of Shree Prabha Hanumanji Maharaj. On the concluding day of 30/01/2011 H.H. Shri Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj graced the occasion. Saints and *Haribhaktas* performed grand *Samaiyu*. H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj performed *Abhishek* of Shree Hanumanji in *Vedic* tradition and then performed concluding *aarti* of *Yagna* and *Annakut aarti* and *aarti* of *Vyaspith*. At last H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj blessed all the saints and *Haribhaktas*.

On this occasion disciples of both Sadguru Swami Jagatprakasdasji (Muli) and Sadguru Mahant Shastri Swami Atmprakasdasji had rendered their beautiful services. Many other saints also rendered their beautiful services on this occasion. (Shastri Bhaktinandas, Jetalpurdham)

Gunanuvad Sabha of Sadguru Gopinath Swami in Prantij temple

Sadguru Swami Gopinathdasji (disciple of Akshar Nivasi Sadguru Gavaiya Swami Keshavjivandasji) passed away to Akshardham on Vasant Panchmi (08/02/2011) and therefore *Gunanuvad Sabha* was conducted in Prantij temple in the pious presence of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj. Shri P.P. Swami of Jetalpurdham and many other saints from various places remembered and

cherished the noble qualities and services rendered by the saint. H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj blessed the whole *Mandal* of Gavaiya Swami while cherishing various incidents of the past. At last *Thaal* to Thakorji and *Rasoi* to saints were offered. Large number of devotees and *Haribhaktas* had attended *Gunanuvad Sabha*. (Kothari Haribhai Modi)

Celebration of Amrut Mahotsav in M.P.Pandya High School, Jetalpurdham

On the occasion of *Amrut Mahotsav* celebrated at M.P. Pandya High School on the pious day of *Maha Sud Punam* (18/02/2011), H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj released '*Smrananjali*' book. Trustees of the school, teachers, principal and devotees of village, students and Mahant Shastri Swami Atmprakasdasji of Jetalpurdham, Swami Vishwaprakasdasji, Shastri Swami Bhaktinandasji remained present.

On 21/02/2011 H.H. Shri Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj graced Jetalpurdham in the evening and performed concluding ritual of *Amrut Mahotsav*. The staff and students of the High School and devotees availed the benefit of *Darshan* and blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj. (Mahant Shri K.P. Swami, Jetalpurdham)

Celebration of 2nd Patotsav in Shree Swaminarayan temple, Balrol (Buzarg)

With the directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and blessings of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and with the guidance and inspiration of Mahant Sadguru Shastri Swami Atmprakashdasji and Sadguru Shastri Swami Purushottamprakashdasji, 2nd Patotsav of Shree Swaminarayan temple, Bakrol was celebrated on *Maha Sud-14* with great fervour and enthusiasm. Akshar Nivasi devotee Parshottamdas Desai family (devotees Gordhanbhai, Ashokbhai, Kamleshbhai) rendered the services as the host of the *Patotsav*.

In the morning *Shodasopchar Mahapooja* of Thakorji was performed. Thereafter, *Chhab* of Thakorji and *Swagat* of saints were performed at the house of the devotee Shri Mukeshbhai. The saints performed *Mahabhishek aarti* of Thakorji. Various cultural programmes were also organized wherein drama of Bhaktaraj Naja Jogiya Vasta Khachar was performed. In the *Sabha* Shastri Swami Bhaktinandasji of Jetalpurdham, Shastri Bhagwatprasad of Gadhpur, Shastri Anandswami of Ahmedabad temple, Nilkanth Swami and student saints of Jetalpur Vadi had also arrived who were warmly welcomed by *Haribhaktas*. *Annakut aarti* was also performed on this occasion and all *Haribhaktas* had availed the benefit of *Mahaprasad*. *Shobha-yatra* of Thakorji was performed in the noon at 2.00 hours.

(Swami Vishwaprakasdasji, Jetalpur)

Akrund (Tal. Bayad)

With the directions of H.H. Shri 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj grand 2nd Shakotsav was celebrated at village Akrund. Moreover Khat-vidhi of new Shree Swaminarayan temple was organized by Shree Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal, Akrund. The whole Mahotsav as well as Sabha were conducted by Shastri Swami Akhileshwardasji.

On 09/02/2011 H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj performed *Khat-Muhurt* ritual of new temple. H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj also performed *Vaghar* of divine *Shakotsav*.

On this occasion devotee Shri Narendrabhai Babubhai Patel (Akrundwala) rendered the services as the host of *poojan* of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and the whole *Utsav*. In the *Sabha* organized on the occasion Shastri Swami Akhileshwardasji, Shastri Swami Anandjivandasji and the renowned writer of Sandesh Press Shri Devendrabhai Patel delivered their speeches on the occasion.

On this occasion, Mahant Swami Dharmswaroopdasji (Nathdwara), Shastri Sukhnandasji, Shastri Swami Vishwaswaroopdasji and all members of Shree Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal devotees Shri Premjibhai, Ishwarbhai, Kothari Shri Manubhai Patel rendered their great services. Parshad Narendrabhai Patel rendered services for Rasoi of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj. Contribution of Rs.25 lacs was collected at the time of Khat Muhurt ritual. Shri Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal rendered the services of Rs.25,000/- for Shree Swaminarayan Museum. The work of temple thus began with the co-operation of the devotees of the village under the guidance of Shastri Swami Akhileshwardasji. (Shree Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal, Akrund)

Shree Swaminarayan temple, Madhavgadh

With the blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, 13th *Patotsav* of Shree Swaminarayan temple, Madhavgadh was celebrated with great fervour and enthusiasm. Devotee Shri Jasubhai Parshottamdasji Patel rendered the services as the host of *Patotsav*. *Abhishek Mahapooja*, *Annakut* and *Sabha* were organized beautifully under the guidance of Sadguru Shastri Swami Akhileshwardasji. On this occasion Swami Vishveshwardasji, Parshad Narendrabhai Patel had rendered inspirational services. All the people of the village had contributed at various levels. Names of the host devotees of 14th *Patotsav* were also announced. At last all the devotees availed the benefit of *Mahaprasad*.

With the inspiration of Shastri Swami Akhileshwardasji and with the co-operation of *Haribhaktas*, grand *Shakotsav* was celebrated on

Monday 17/01/2011. In the *Sabha* organized on the occasion, Shastri Swami Akhileshwardasji and Mahant Swami Madhavpriyadasji of Prantij addressed the *Sabha*. Shastri Sukhnandasji and Parshad Narendrabhai Patel had rendered their beautiful services on this occasion. *Haribhaktas* of the nearby villages had also availed the benefit of *Shakotsav*.

(Parshad Narendrabhai Patel)

Modasa

With the blessings and directions of H.H. Shri Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj, Shastri Swami Akhileshwardasji performed *Katha* in Shree Swaminarayan temple during the pious *Dhanur Maas*. On 09/01/2011 grand *Shakotsav* was celebrated. Shastri Swami Sukhnandasji and Narendrabhai Patel had made all the arrangements. *Haribhaktas* of the village also rendered their services and availed the benefit of *Shakotsav*.

(Parshad Narendrabhai Patel)

Celebration of *Shakotsav* in Shree Swaminarayan temple, Meu

With the blessings and directions of H.H. Shri Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj and H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and with the guidance and blessings of Guru Shastri Swami Akhileshwardasji, *Shakotsav* was celebrated with great fervour and enthusiasm in Meu the place of *Prasadi* of devotee Shri Bhusan Bhavsar.

Grand *Shobha-yatra* of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, *aarti* of Thakorji and *Sabha* etc. programmes were organized on this occasion. The *Sabha* was conducted by Shastri Swami Akhileshwardasji. Mahant Shastri Swami Harikrishnadasji of Ahmedabad temple, Mahant Shastri Swami Atmprakashdasji of Jetalpurdham and Mahant Shastri Ghanshyama Swami of Mansa temple had delivered their speeches on this occasion. Saints and Mahants of various temples had also arrived on this occasion. The devotee Shri Abhesinhji Jivanji Chavda was the chief host of *Shakotsav* and the devotee Shri Kothari Ramaji Varvaji Chavda was the host of *poojan* of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj. All the devotees of the village had rendered their noteworthy services on this occasion. On this occasion, Mahant Swami Dharmswaroopdasji (Nathdwara), Shastri Sukhnandasji, Shastri Swami Vishwakrakashdasji and Swami Balswaroopdasji had rendered their services for various types of arrangements on this occasion. On this occasion, the village had rendered services of 100 oil packets (each of 15 k.g.). H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj blessed the whole *Sabha*. All the devotees availed the benefit of *Prasad* of *Shakotsav*.

(Parshad Narendrabhai Patel)

Honour of Shree Sahjanand Arts & Commerce College

Prof. A.R.Dalal has been performing his duties as I/c principal of in Shree Sahjanand Arts & Commerce College run by H.H. Shri Acharya Shri Devendraprasadji Trust. He has been honoured with a shield by H.B. Communication & Management run by Shri Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan. Prof. Dalal has been visiting faculty in our educational institution for the last four years.

Shri Kanubhai Tailor had been studying in our Shree Sahjanand Commerce College in the year 1975. He is physically handicapped in both his legs. He is brought up in misery and poverty. But by obtaining higher education through hard work in our educational institution, he has been in the field of social service and social upliftment and is associated with one such organization. Inspired by his devout social service the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Gujarat State Shri Narendrabhai Modi recommended his name for 'Padma Shree' Award to the Government of India for his services to the physically handicapped persons. And for the first time, the Government of India has awarded one physically handicapped person with 'Padma Shree' Award for rendering services to the physically handicapped persons. H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj have been very much pleased with both these awardees and have blessed them.

Shree Swaminarayan temple, Shahera

With the blessings of the whole Dharmkul, *Tridinatmak Shree Hanuman Chalisa Katha* was organized. *Sitaram Parivar* of the village had rendered their services as the host of this *Katha*. Shastri Vishwaswaroopdasji of Shree Swaminarayan temple, Ahmedabad was the spokesperson of *Katha* whose benefit was availed by many devotees. *Shree Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal* had rendered beautiful services on this occasion.

(Sitaram Parivar)

Shree Swaminarayan temple, Balasinor

With the blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and with the inspiration of Shastri Vishwaswaroopdasji, in the morning of the pious day of *Vasant Panchmi*, *Panchamrit Abhishek* of Thakorji, *Shiksha Patri Path*, *Katha Varta and Nagar Yatra* of Thakorji etc. programmes were organized in Shree Swaminarayan temple, Balasinor, whose benefit was availed by large number of devotees and *Haribhaktas*.

(Ramesh Bhagat)

Shree Swaminarayan temple, Kapadwanj

With the blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and with the inspiration of Shastri Vishwaswaroopdasji, 2nd *Patotsav* of Shree Swaminarayan temple, Kapadwanj was celebrated.

H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj performed *Patotsav ritual* in Vedic tradition. Devotee Kothari Dr. Jayrajbhai J. Trivedi rendered the services as the host of this *Patotsav*. After the inspiration speeches of the speeches, H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj blessed the whole *Sabha*. *Haribhaktas* availed the benefit of divine *Annakut Darshan* on this occasion. Services of Poojari Lalbhai and Shree Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal were inspirational. (Hiren Bhagat)

Shree Swaminarayan temple, Nandol

With the directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, 6th *Patotsav* of Shree Swaminarayan temple, Nandol, was celebrated with great fervour and enthusiasm on *Magsar Sud-6*. *Saint Mandal* of Shri Dhyani Swami arrived on this occasion and performed *Patotsav Ahhishek Aarti* of Shree Ghanshyam Maharaj. *Haribhaktas* availed the benefit of *Katha* and *Annakut Darshan* on this occasion. Devotee Shri Jasubhai Mangalbhai rendered the services as the host of *Patotsav*. Ladies devotees rendered their services of preparing various items of *Annakut*. *Haribhaktas* garlanded the saints and obtained their blessings.

(Kothari Vishnubhai Patel, Nandol)

Shakotsav in Mahundra

With the directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and under the guidance of Mahant Shastri Swami Harijivandasji of Himatnager temple, *Shakotsav* was celebrated with great fervour and enthusiasm in village Mahundra.

Haribhaktas of Nandol, Salki, Vardhana, Muvada, Dharampur, Dolarana, Vasna, Sadra, Isanpur, Gandhinagar, Ghanap, Lavarpur, Himatnagar villages had availed the benefit of this occasion. Sadguru Swami Raghuvircharandasji (Sokli) and Shastri Swami Shreejiprakasdasji explained the importance of *Shakotsav*. Shastri Harijivandasji also explained the importance of miracles of Shree Ghanshyam Maharaj and importance of *Shakotsav*. Koathari S.S. Swami of Idar, other devotees of the village and Poojari Kanubhai Dave had rendered their beautiful services on this occasion. (Kothari Gautambhai)

Celebration of 3rd Patotsav of Shree Swaminarayan temple, Bhaupura

With the blessings and directions of H.H. Shri Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj and H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and with the inspiration and guidance of Shri P.P. Swami and Mahant Swami Atmprakasdasji of Jetalpurdham, 3rd *Patotsav* of Shree Swaminarayan temple, Bhaupura village was celebrated with great fervour and enthusiasm on 24/02/2011.

The host of *Patotsav*, devotee Shri Vishnubhai Tribhovandas Patel family performed *poojan-archan* of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and obtained the blessings. In the *Sabha* organized on the occasion

Shatri Swai Atmprakasdasji (Jetalpurdham), Hariom Swami, Brahmchari Purmandji, Shastri Bhaktinandandasji, Madhav Swami and Yogi Swami of Ahmedabad temple rendered their inspirational speeches on this occasion. *Haribhaktas* of this village rendered the services of rupees four lac for Shree Swaminarayan Museum and obtained the blessings of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj. Moreover, names of the hosts for *Patotsav* of the next three years were also announced on this occasion. H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj blessed all the devotees. All devotees availed the benefit of *Annakut aarti Darshan* and *Mahaprasad*. Devotee Shri Lalbai Patel delivered the vote of thanks on this occasion. (Vishwaprakash Swami)

Celebration of 3rd Patotsav of Shree Swaminarayan temple, Bhimpura

With the directions and blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj and the whole *Dharmkul* and with the inspiration of Sadguru Shastri Swami Purushottamprakashdasji (Mahant, Naranghat temple), 1st *Shakotsav* was celebrated on 05/02/2011 and *Panchdinatmak Gyan Yagna* from 16/02/2011 to 20/02/2011 on the occasion of *Patotsav* of Shree Swaminarayan temple, Bhimpura.

On 05/02/2011, grand *Shakotsav* was performed by H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj whose benefit was availed by about more than 4000 *Haribhaktas*. Sadguru Shastri Swami Ramkrishnadasji and Sadguru Shastri Swami Chaitanyaswaroopdasji of Koteswar Gurukul were spokespersons of *Katha*. Devotees Shri Chaudhari Joitabhai Hathibhai Ranchhodas family (Bhimpura) rendered the services as the host of *Katha*. Many devotees and *Haribhaktas* rendered their services for Shree Swaminarayan Museum on this occasion. The *Sabha* was conducted by Abhay Swami.

(Shastri Chaitanyaswaroopdasji)

Celebration of *Patotsav* of both temples at village Vihar

With the blessings and directions of H.H. Shri Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj and the whole *Dharmkul* and with the inspiration of Sadguru Shastri Swami P.P. Swami (Mahant of Naranghat temple) and Sadguru Swami Suryaprakashdasji, *Patotsav* of both the temples of ladies devotees and *Haribhaktas* was celebrated on 23/02/2011 with great fervour and enthusiasm.

Devotee Shri Bhikhabhai Keshaval Patel rendered the services as the host of *Patotsav*. H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj performed *Annakut aarti* and Sadguru Shastri Swami Chaitanyaswaroopdasji and Sadguru Shastri Swami Abhayprakashdasji narrated beautiful *Katha* on this occasion. Sadguru Shastri Swami Ramswami and Sadguru Shastri Swami Vishwaswaroop Swami also blessed all the

devotees. *Sabha* was conducted by P.P. Swami (Mahant of Naranghat temple).

(Shastri Chaitanyaswaroopdasji)

MULI DESH

Celebration of Samaiyo of Vasant Panchmi in Shree Swaminarayan temple, Muli

In the pious presence of Shree Radhakrishnadev Harikrishna Maharaj and H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj, *Samaiyo of Vasant Panchmi* was celebrated great fervour and enthusiasm in Shree Swaminarayan temple, Muli, on the pious day of *Maha Sud-5*. *Shodasopchar Abhishek Shangaar* and *Annakut aarti* of Thakorji were performed in Vedic tradition by H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj early in the morning at 6.30 hours. More than about 50,000 *Haribhaktas* availed the benefit of divine *Darshan* of *Abhishek*. After the inspirational speeches by the saints, H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj blessed all *Haribhaktas* and directed them to celebrate *Shree Swaminarayan Museum Mahotsav* and *Rajat Jayanti Mahotsav* of Khan temple. Thereafter all *Haribhaktas* celebrated *Rangotsav* in the temple premises. Mahant Sadguru Shastri Swami Narayandprasaddasji made all the arrangements on this occasion. (Shastri Swami Hariprakashdasji, Charadva)

Shree Swaminarayan temple, Limbdi

With the directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and blessings of the whole *Dharmkul* and with the guidance of Mahant Shastri Bhaktvatsaldasji with the inspiration of Sankhya Yogi Kamlaba, Sankhya Yogi Kokilaba and Sankhya Yogi Chandrikaba of Surendranagar temple, 21st *Patotsav* of Balswaroop Ghanshyam Maharaj was celebrated in Shree Swaminarayan temple, Surendranagar.

On this occasion *Shrimad Satsangibhusan Panchanh Parayan* was organized. Mahant Shastri Swami Ghanshyamprakashdasji of Mansa temple was the spokesperson of *Parayan*. Devotee Shri Ranchhodbhai Amrashibhai was the host of this *Parayan*. *Kirtan Bhakti* of devotee Shri Jayeshbhai Soni was also organized on this occasion.

Shastri Swami Atmprakasdasji of Jetalpurdham, Mahant Brahmchari Swami Vasudevanandji of Chhapaiya, Mahant Shastri Swami Narayanprasaddasji of Muli, Prabhujivan Swami, Mahant Swami Shastri Hariprakashdasji of Charadva, Shastri Premvallabh Swami of Surendranagar, V.P. Swami from Jetalpurswami etc. saints had arrived on this occasion. Mahant Shastri Bhaktvallabhdas, Talati sir, devotees Shri Narendrabhai Soni, Shashikantbhai Soni, Kiritbhai, Mahendrabhai and Shree Narmarayandev Yuval Mandal rendered their services on this occasion.

(Shastri Vandanprakashdas)

OVERSEAS NEWS

Shree Swaminarayan temple, Colonia (America)

With the directions and blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj, Group Mahapooja, Purnahuti ritual of Dhanur Maas Dhoon etc. were performed in Shree Swaminarayan temple, Colonia. Mahant Swami Gyanjivandasji explained the importance of Makar Sankranti with examples.

H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj graced the temple alongwith the saints in the last week of January-2011. H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj performed aarti of Thakorji and graced the Sabha. Mahant Swami Gyanjivandasji read over Vachanamrit. At last H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj performed Sandhya aarti of Thakorji and blessed all the devotees.

Vasant Panchmi Shiksha Patri Jayanti

On the pious day of Maha Sud-5 Vasant Panchmi, Mahant Swami Gyanjivandasji and Haribhaktas performed poojan-archan of Shiksha Patri in the pious presence of Thakorji. Mahant Swami and Haribhaktas performed group reading of Shloka 212 of Shiksha Patri. (Pravin Shah)

Shiksha Patri Jayanti Utsav in Shree Swaminarayan temple, Leicester

With the directions and blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj, *Shri Shiksha Patri Bhashya Panchanh Parayan* was performed from 08/02/2011 to 12/02/2011 in Shree Swaminarayan temple, Leicester. Shastri Swami Radharamandasji (Muli) was the spokesperson of *Katha*.

On 08/02/2011 on the pious day of *Shiksha Patri Jayanti*, all *Haribhaktas* performed *poojan* of '*Shiksha Patri*' along with saints, *poojan* of spokesperson was performed by the devotee Shri Yogeshbhai Patel all the devotees availed the benefit of Group *aarti*. *Bhakti Mahila Mandal* had

made beautiful arrangements of *Mahaprasad* on Saturday. (Kiran Bhavsar, Leicester)

San Jose (California)

H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj graced San Jose I.S.S.O. Chapter during the month of December-2010 and all *Haribhaktas* warmly welcomed H.H. Shri Maharaj on the airport.

Here with the blessings of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj one miracle happened. Here our *Haribhaktas* were trying hard for the last decade searching for the land for the purpose of temple. Despite all difficulties, all *Haribhaktas* had ardent faith in Shreeji Maharaj, H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and number of *Dhoon*, *Kirtan*, *Bhakti* etc. were performed in *Satsang Sabhas*.

During the visit in December 2010, a place situated in the middle of the city was selected by H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and the same was informed to H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj who was pleased with this news. Thereafter procedure to get sanction from the local authority was undertaken and to the surprise of all the required sanction was granted within 24 hours. Moreover offer for the temple was also accepted within five days. Therefore, on the occasion of 10th *Patotsav* of Los Angeles, announcement of new temple at San Jose was made by H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj. With the blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj, all *Haribhaktas* rendered their beautiful services for construction of new temple. Many *Haribhaktas* who were watching live coverage of *Patotsav* on Internet, also rendered their services for the temple through telephonic message. Thus, with the blessings of Shreeji Maharaj and *Dharmvanshi*, many impossible tasks are accomplished. (Prashant Dholakia)

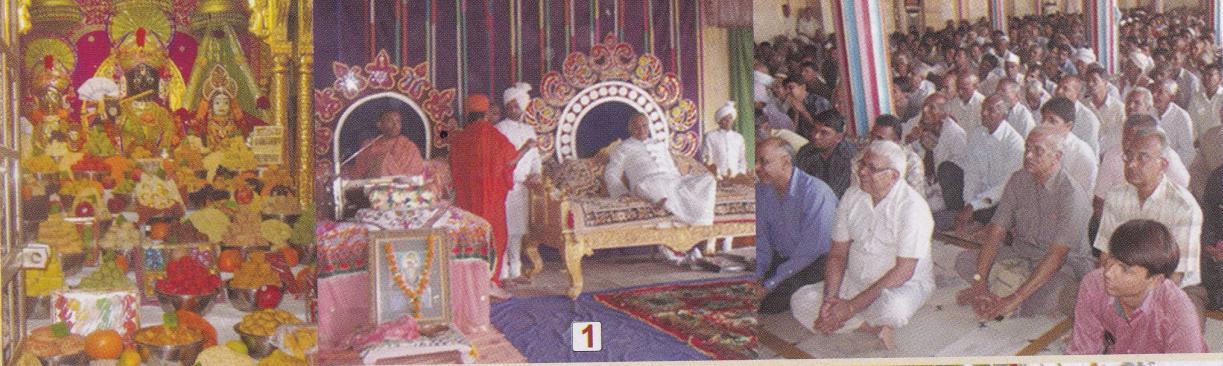
AKSHARVAAS

Ahmedabad Sadguru Swami Gopinathdasji (GURu Sadguru Gavaiya Swami Keshavjiinvadasji) of Shree Swaminarayan temple, Kalupur, has passed away to *Akshardham* on 08/02/2011 pious day of *Maha Sud-5 Vasant Panchmi* in Prantij temple while chanting the name of Shree Hari.

Ahmedabad– Sadguru Swami Krishnajivandasji (Kaka Swami) of Shree Swaminarayan temple, Kalupur, Ahmedabad has passed away to Divine Abode of God on 19/02/2011 while chanting the name of Shreeji Maharaj.

Dahegam– Devotee Shri Madhuben Parshotamdasji Kacchiya passed away to *Akshardham* on 21/01/2011 while chanting the name of Shri Hari.

Kaliyana (Tal. Viramgam)– Devotee Shri Puriben Dahyabhai Butiya (wife of our devotee and active activist of 'Shree Swaminarayan' monthly magazine Shri Dahyabhai Chelabhai Butiya) passed away to Divine Abode of God on 23/02/2011 while chanting the name of Shri Hari.



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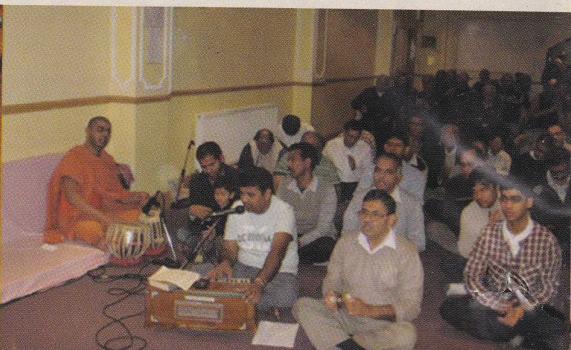


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(1) Annakut Darshan on the occasion of *Vasant Panchmi Patotsav* of our Shree Swaminarayan temple, Muli and H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj granting *Darshan* in the *Sabha*. (2) H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj performing *Abhishek* of Shri Hanumanji Maharaj in *Prabha Hanumanji* temple, Jamiyatpura; H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj granting *Darshan* in the *Sabha*, spokesperson P.P. Swami and H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj performing concluding ritual of *Yagna*. (3) H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj granting *Darshan* in *Sabha* and *Shobhayatra* organized on the occasion of *Shakotsav* in Shree Swaminarayan temple, Meu along with Mahant Shastri Swami Harikrishnadasji, Shastri Atmaprakashdasji, Shri Devprakashdasji Swami, Shastri Swami Akhileshwardasji and H.P. Swami.



Shakotsav Darshan in Shree Swaminarayan temple, Detroit. Saints and Haribhaktas performing Kirtan Bhakti in Shree Swaminarayan temple, Leicester. Shastri Swami Siddheshwardasji performing Katha in the Sabha in Shree Swaminarayan temple, Detroit.



H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj performing Patotsav Abhishek of Balswaroop Ghanshyam Maharaj in Shree Swaminarayan temple, Naranghat. H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj performing Patotsav Abhishek of Shri Radhakrishna Dev Harikrishna Maharaj in Shree Swaminarayan temple, Mahesana.