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SHREE SWAMINARAYAN

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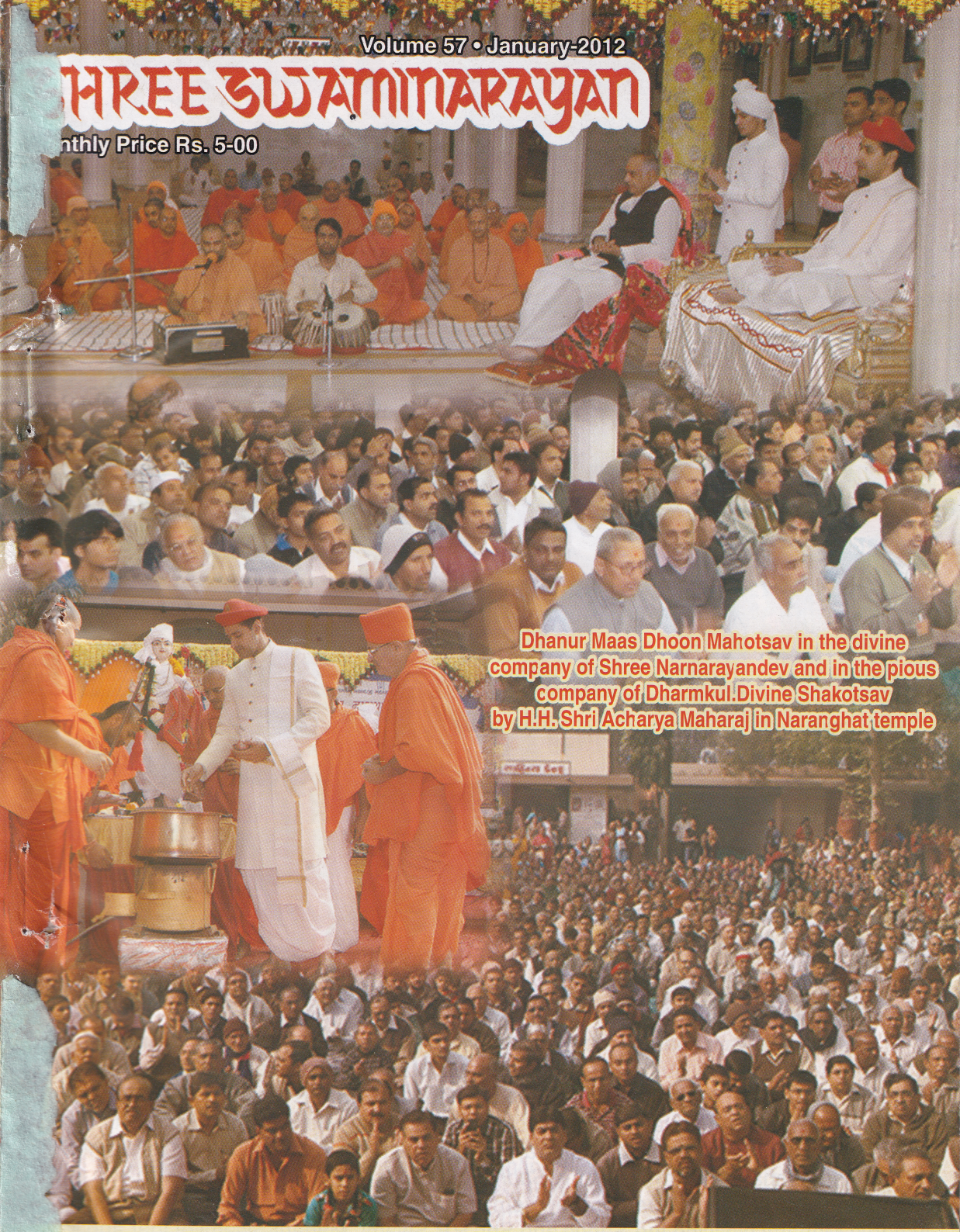
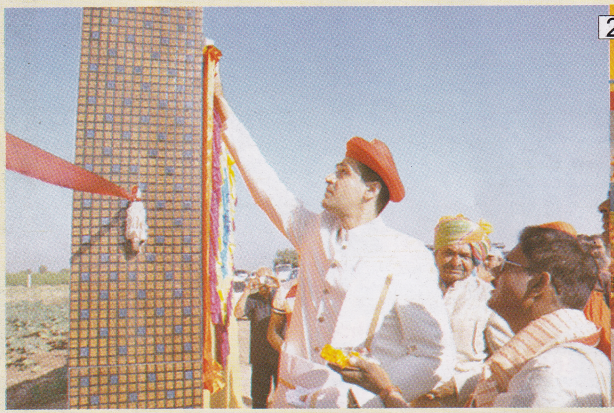
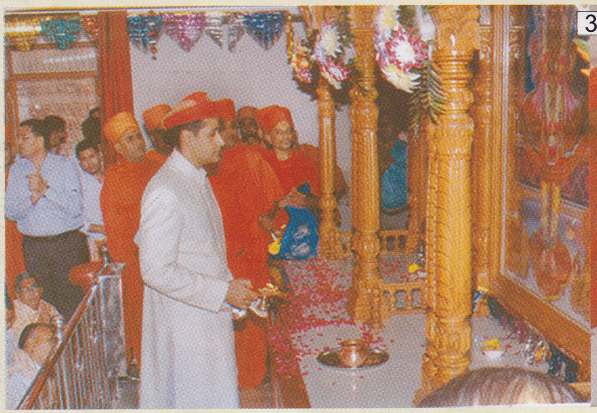
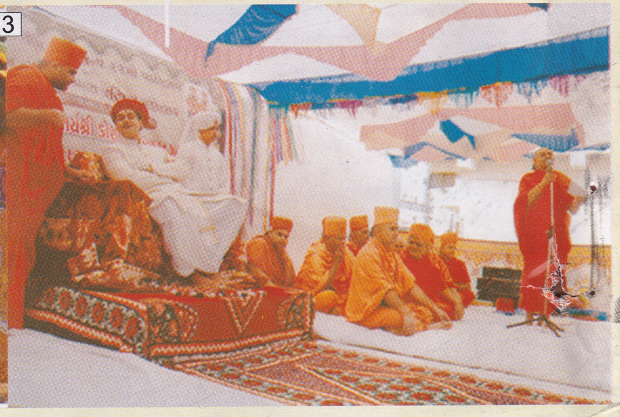


Dhanur Maas Dhoon Mahotsav in the divine company of Shree Narnarayandev and in the pious company of Dharmkul.Divine Shakotsav by H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj in Naranghat temple

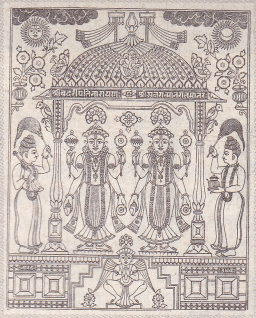
Publisher: Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Ahmedabad- 380001





(1) H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj performing *Annakut Aarti* in Jamiyatpura temple on the occasion of *Patotsav* of Thakorji. And H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj blessings the host devotee Shri Dashrathbhai Patel (Member of Scheme Committee) and Shri P.P. Swami, J.K. Swami and other saints. (2) H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj gracing the *Vadi* of the devotee Nirubha Govubha family in Muli village; H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj granting *Darshan* in the *Sabha* and Mahant Shastri Swami Harkrishnadasji addressing the *Sabha* and saints of Muli. (3) H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj performing *Pran-Pratistha aarti* in new temple of ladies devotees in Himatnagar; H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj blessing the *Sabha* and Shri P.P. Swami, Mahant Swami of Idar and Mahant



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

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SHREE SWAMINARAYAN

Official News-letter from Shri Narnarayandevdesh Diocese

Vol : 5 No : 57 January-2012

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अरम्मदीयम्

EDITORIAL

Shree Hari has established such a tradition in our Sampradaya, which is not found anywhere in this world. Thus, it is a unique tradition.

The Astrology says that, nothing auspicious can be performed during Kamurta-Dhanur Maas. But our Shree Hari made this pious month so simple and lucid that, it has become daily routine of *Satsangi* devotee to perform *Dhoon* of Shree Swaminarayan Mahamantra for one hour early in the morning in any of our temple and thereby they ensure emancipation in their life. In this way, this month is very pious and beneficial for all of us.

Now there would be Season of *Shakotsav*. *Samaiyo* of *Vasant Panchmi* and *Rangotsav* would be celebrated in Shree Swaminarayan temple Muli in the pious company of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj. On the pious day of Fagan Sud-3, *Patotsav* of Almighty Lord Shree Narnarayandev would be celebrated with great fervour and enthusiasm in the pious company of *Dharmkul*. H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj has directed to perform divine *Darshan* of *Patotsav-Samaiya* of Shree Hari. Therefore, all the devotees and *Haribhaktas* must avail the benefit of divine *Darshan* of *Samaiya*.

Editor
Mahant Swami
Shastri Swami Harikrishnadas

नीचेके महामंदिरोमें नित्य दर्शन के लिये

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छपैया : : **www.chhapaiya.com**
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टोरडा : **www.gopallalji.com**
नारायणघाट : **www.narayanghat.com**

For 24 hour live *Darshan* of Shree Narnarayandev

www.swaminarayan.info
www.swaminarayan.in

Aarti Darshan* (Indian Standard time) _ *Mangala Aarti : 5.30 hours ***Shangaar Aarti*** : 8.05 hours ***Rajbhog Aarti*** : 10.10 hours ***Sandhya Aarti*** : 18.15 hours ***Sayan Aarti*** : 20.30 hours

Appointment Diary of H.H. Acharya Maharaj 1008 ShriKoshalendraprasadji Maharajshri

(December - 2011)



1. Graced the house of the devotee Shri Manibhak Dalsukhram Patel, Sola (Karjisanvala) (at present America).
   Graced the house of the devotee Shri Laljibhai Nanjibhia Patel (Devpurwala).
2. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Jamiyatpura on the occasion of Patotsav.
3. Graced the house of the devotee Shri Nirubha Vovubha Parmar, Muli.
5. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Dangarva, on the occasion of Patotsav.
7. Graced the house of the devotee Shri Patel Shankarlal Narandas, Ranip.
8. Graced *'Shanti Sadan'* the house of *Akshar Nivasi* devotee Bhalja sir, Chhipapol, Kalupur.
11. Graced the house of the devotee Shri Ishwarbhai Patel, Science City, Sola (Mansawala).
    Graced the house of the devotee Shri Manish Jitendrakumar Choksi, Prahladnagar.
    Graced 'Shree Hari Darshan Jewellers' of devotee Shri Kaushikbhai Patadiya, C.G. Road, Navrangpura.
    Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Naranghat on the occasion of concluding ritual of *Katha*. Graced Shree Sahjanand Gurukul, Koteshwar.

13-14 Graced Naranpar (Kachchh).

15. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Naranpura, on the occasion of *Katha*.
16. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Kalupur, Ahmedabad on the occasion of inauguration of *Dhanur Maas Dhoon Mahotsav*.
17. Graced village Kherol (Tal. Prantij) on the occasion of Shakotsav.
18. Graced the village Malpur (Sabarkantha) (the birth place of Sadguru Vasudevanand Varni) on the occasion of *Patotsav-Shakotsav*.
19. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Por (Dist. Gandhinagar) on the occasion of *Parayan*.
20. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Balva (Unava) on the occasion of *Shakotsav*.
21. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Jetalpurdham on the occasion of *Parayan*.
22. Graced the house of the devotee Shri Rameshbhai Ambalal Patel, Kudasan (Dist. Gandhinagar) on the occasion of *Parayan*.
23. Graced the village Piludara on the occasion of *Satsang Sabha*.
24. Graced the village Isand on the occasion of *Shakotsav*.
25. Graced the occasion of *Shakotsav* organized by Sabarmati Ramnagar Satsang Samaj, Graced Shree Sahjanand Gurukul Koteshwar.
    Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple Karmshaktinagar, Bapunagar on the occasion of *Mahapooja*. Graced *Shakotsav* organized by Shree Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal New Ranip, at But Bhavani Party Plot.
    Graced the house of the devotee Shri Ashokkumar Joitaram Patel, Ranip on the occasion of *Mahapooja*.
26. Graced the house of the devotee Shri Bharatbhai, Ranip (Rajpurwala).
27. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Bopal on the occasion of *Dhoon*.
    Graced the house of the devotee Shri Naranbhai Ishwarbhai Patel, Narayan Farm Soja, on the occasion of *Katha*.
28. Graced the house of the devotee Shri Janakbhai Vinubhai Patel, Memnagar.

28-29 Graced Mandvi (Kachchh).

31. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Balva, on the occasion of *Katha*.

Suggestion to Haribhaktas at the time of Grace of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj

While availing the divine benefit of Grace of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj at your residence, all the devotees should invariably write their complete name-address and telephone number on the cover while offering *Charan-Bhet* so that it may be convenient to send Bhet-Receipt from Ahmedabad, Kalupur temple.

- Mahant Swami

Shikshapatri

The Epistle of Precepts

(based on Shatanand's Shikshapatri Arthadipika)

By Pravin S. Varsani

Text 56

My *Atmanivedi* devotees shall worship Shaligram or the images of Lord Shree Krishna made from stone or metal, with offerings of sandalwood, flowers, fruits etc. which are available at the time according to their capacity. They shall then recite the eight syllable holy Mantra of Lord Shree Krishna.

Note here that these *Shlokas* are not for only *Atmanivedi Bhaktas* – they apply to all of us. We may not be *Atmanivedi Bhaktas* yet, but we should live in such a way as to aspire to become *Atmanivedi.* This should be our goal and so these *Shlokas* should be noted equally.

Poojan of a *Murti* of Shree Krishna is here mentioned. *Kshira Swami* states the eight *Lohas* (metals): *Survaram* – Gold, *Rajatam*- silver, *Taabhram*- copper, *Ritiha*- Brass, *Kansyam*- bronze, *Trapu*- tin, *Sisum*- lead and *Chimaram* – iron. Out of these, gold, silver, copper and brass should be used for making a *Murti.*

Atmanivedi Bhaktas are to perform *Poojan* of the said *Murtis, Pratimas* (pictorial forms of God) or Shaligram (special sacred stone, considered to be the natural form of Vishnu), using sandalwood, flowers etc., as they chant Mantras. Note that *Shaligram Pooja* is specifically mentioned for Brahmins and not for others caste members as well as women as explained by *Skanda Purana* and others. The reason for this is due to the prohibition of touch of Shaligram for others. *Varaha Purana* explains further : *'Lower caste members and women should not touch Shaligram as their touch is even more powerful than the Vajra (weapon of Indra).'* Therefore they should perform *Pratima Pooja*- worshiping a pictorial form of God.

Vaishnavacharya goes further distinguishing between those who are *Dikshit* (initiated into the sect) and those who are *Adikshit*: *'Brahmins, Kshatriyas, Vaishyas and Sat-Shudras have the right to perform worship of Shaligram. Those who are Avaishnav (irreligious) do not have that right.'*

Bhargavachan Dipika and *Bhavishyotar Purana* explains further: 'The idol of God for worship should be as big as the thumb.' *Vashishta* says: 'One should worship a *Murti* made from stone, whish is no bigger than four fingers-widths. A *Murti* made from a mineral substance should always be used by those desirous of spiritual bliss. It is explained that one should never worship a *Murti* that is broken or damaged in some way.

Now Shatanand goes on to explain *Poojan* using flowers; flowers which are dried out, from the ground, without a sweet fragrance, of bad odour, from a burial ground, which have already been offered to another deity, those that are impure, those containing mustard seeds and those that are unpleasant or old, should not be used for worshipping purposes. The best flowers are those that are grown and brought by the individual themselves. Those that are bought are inferior.

Tulsi and *Bilva* leaves are sacred and so should be used for worship. Such leaves, though old, can still be used for worship during the various time periods other than those explained in *Vishnu Dharmotar*: during a period of transition of the stars (Sankranti), at the end of the dark or bright half of the lunar month, at night time, early morning, late evening and at a time of an inauspicious astrological period.

One should always take the *Tulsi Patra* for worship by chanting the following *Mantra*:

Tulasyamrutajanmasi Sada Tvam Keshavapriya |
Kehsavarthe Vichinvami VArda Bhava Shobhane ||

'O Tulsi ! Born of divine nectar, who is forever beloved to Keshava. I take thee for Keshava therefore fulfil all desires.'

Those who perform *Poojan* must always be careful that they do not offend or insult

God through various unacceptable acts. Our *Shastras* explain: *'It is offensive to go to temple in a vehicle, to go to temple wearing footwear, to not joyously celebrate a festival day, to not bow before the deities therein, to sit upon a seat higher than others, to company with women for even a small time at the temple, to touch God or perform Darshan of God with dirty hands of after going to the toilet, to salute (perform Namaskar) God with one hand, to use foul language in temples or in the presence of the Lord, to sit with one's legs outstretched, to sit with one's legs tied together, to sleep or lie, to eat in a temple during Sabha, to speak falsely, to cry out loudly, to test somebody, to quarrel or argue in temples (readers should take particular note of this!), to look repeatedly at women or to touch them, to speak harshly, to not perform Upavaas (fasting) even though one is capable, to eat that which has not been offered to the Lord first, to pass wind in the presence of the Lord, to sit with one leg over the other, to say things which are unacceptable, to speak highly of oneself, and to sit with one's back facing the Lord.'* All these acts are offensive and an insult to God.

Those with love for God, who commit such an offensive act (unintentionally or otherwise) can nullify their sins by performing an *Upavaas*, performing *Dandavat* (prostration) and chanting the *Kshamayachan Mantra* (as given earlier)- *'O Lord! I may have committed thousands of insults during the day and night. Please forgive me, accepting me as thy servant.'* These are the insults, 'big and small that man may commit. It is our duty to make sure we have an understanding of these and thereby prevent further future insults.

Shatanand then explains that *Shree Krushnam Ashtakshar Mantra* should be chanted. *Parashar Muni* explains the *Vidhi* for chanting the Mantra: *'After bathing, one should sit on an Asana which is clean and with a steady focussed mind, observing Moun Vrata (vow of silence) they shall inwardly chant the Mantra as they meditate upon the Mantra in their heart. Mantra where the lips do not move (inward chanting) is called Upashum and Japa is considered the best. One should not perform Mantra Japa walking, laughing, looking around (the head should be still), talking, with the head uncovered, with one leg over the other and with their hand not still. They should chant with a Mala, and both their hand and Mala covered or in a Gomukhi. Their fore-finger (Tarjani) should not touch the Mala and they should circulate the Mala with their thumb (Angushta).'*

Padma Purana explains the various types of *Malas*: *'The use of Darbha (special sacred wood) Mala will derive Atma Gnaan (knowledge of the self). A Rudraksha Mala will lead to the fulfilment of all desires.' 'Vaishnavas should always use a Tulsi Mala as it will ultimately bring Moksha,'* explains *Gautamiya Tantra.*

In Acharmadhava, Prajapati further explains, *'A Mala with 108 beads is Uttam- the best; one with 54 beads is Madhyam- mediocre; and one with 27 beads is Kanishta- worsht.' If in some exceptional circumstance a Mala cannot be found, one should chant using the sections of one's fingers.'*

Now *Shatanand* explains the greatness of Shree Krishna Mantra. He firstly disputes the saying where Krishna Mantra has no value, as it has no foundation in the Vedas. Shree Krishna mantra is the very breath of the Vedas. The *Puranas*, whose roots lie with the *Vedas* glorify the Krishna Mantra without dispute. For this reason, such statement has no validity.

Other Mantras are comparatively weak explains Shatanand. Furthermore – *Itihaaspuranani Panchaman Vedamischaraha* – 'The Itihaases and Puranas are the fifth Veda.' Thus the oneness of the Vedas and Puranas is glorified. In this way the Krishna Mantra is related to the Vedas. Manusmruti and Mahabharat explain: *Itihaaspuranabhyaam Vedam Samupabrunhayeda- 'The Itihasses and Purunas glorify the greatness of the Vedas.'* One should never find difference in the *Vedas* and *Puranas* for they are considered as one. The *Mantras* in the *Puranas* are therefore to be considered as the *Mantras* of the *Vedas.*

Naradiya Purana goes on further to say, *'I find the explanations of the Puranas to be*

superior than the Vedas. O Devi! The purport of the Vedas is in this way to be found in the Puranas. Those who do not understand this greatness of the Puranas are forever reborn in the wombs of beass and birds, even though they may display sensual control and righteous qualities. Indeed, Shree Krishna Mantra will derive greater fruits than chanting Vedic Mantras.'

Vishnudharmotar explains, *'Those who have chanted the blessed name Vishnu and who understand fully what it means to chant as thus, have acquired the knowledge of the Vedas – including it's Anga-Upangas (associated parts).' 'Those who have even spoken the two syllable word Hari have studied the Rigveda, Yajuraveda, Samaveda and Atharvaveda.'* Padma Purana explains: *Vishnoraykauknamapi Sarvavedadhikam Matam- 'Vishnu's one name is considered greater than even all the Vedas.'*

Kapil Gita says, *'Those who have spoken God's name have performed Tapa (penance), Homa (sacrificial offerings) and Snaan (bathing).'* Shreemad Bhagwat and Skanda Purana explain, *'Any difficulties faced can be immediately overcome by chanting the name of God and singing his praise.'*

In *Haribhaktavilasa, Yama Raja* explains, *'Those who chant the name of God are never visited by difficulties and my servants of death.'* Vishnu Purana explains, *'By chanting the name of Lord Vasudeva, one attains the riches of Swarga Loka, from where they never have to return.'* Brahmanda Purana adds, *'The fruits derived from chanting a thousand names of God can be derived from chanting Shree Krishna's name just once.'*

Vishnudharmotar says:

Krushneti Mangalam Nama Yasya Vachi Pravartate |
Bhasmibhavanti Tsyashu Mahapatakkotayaha ||

'Those whose speech resound the auspicious name Shree Krishna, immediately burn a million great sins.'

Narsinha Purana explains, *'Those who daily chant Krishna thrice are freed from Narak.'* Similarly *Garuda Purana* and *Padma Purana* explain, *'By chanting Krishna Mantra, one becomes free from Sansara (wordly life).'* Skanda Purana explains: ***Naamanam Mukhyatamam Nama Krushnakhyam Mae Paramtapa*** – *'My name Krishna, is the greatest of names. Those who chant this name of mine become free from sin. To do so is the greatest of penance.'* Vishnu Rahasya explains, 'Shree Krishna mantra is the best way to save oneself from death. Therefore ***Sanjivani Nama Krushnakhyamavadharya*** – chant the immortal name of Krishna.' Vaishnavchintamani explains, *'Even if Shree Krishna is uttered once jokingly, one is saved.'*

Shatanand Muni then explains that those who dispute the greatness of God's name are great sinners who are destined for the hells. Such people can never attain *Mukti.*

Hari-Nama-Stotra or Hari-Nama-Sankirtan are the best and easiest ways to *Moksha* in Kali Yuga. Shree Sahajanand Swami, whose purpose was to offer salvation to the masses believed greatly in *Kirtan Bhakti.* He himself gave us the greatest mantra of all the *Maha Mantra*- for ultimate redemption of mankind: ***Ohm Swaminarayanaiya Namaha***. Using this Mantra or by just chanting or singing ***'Swaminarayan'*** one becomes free from sins accumulated through thousands of births. Just as many achieved the state of Samadhi (highest Yogic State) by chanting ***Swaminarayan***, we too can achieve such state through chanting ***Swaminarayana***.

श्री स्वामिनारायण मासिक में प्रसिद्ध करने के लिये लेख,
समाचार एवं फोटोग्राफ्स ई-मेईल से भेजने के लिए नया एड्रेस
shreeswaminarayan9@gmail.com

DHANUR MAAS

Sadhu Purushottamprakashdas (Jetalpurdham)

According to Astrology, the Moon stays for two days in one *Rashi* and the Sun stays for one month in one *Rashi*. When the Sun enters *Dhan Rashi*, the month from 16th December to 14th January is said to be *Dhanarak*. *Dhan means Dhan-Rashi, Ark means Sun.* Guru is *Adhipati* (Dominant) *Graha* (Planet) of *Dhan-Rashi*. That means *Surya* and *Guru* stays together in one Rashi for one month. Both *Surya* and *Guru* are very bright *Graha* (planets) and therefore there is possibility of *Tejodwesh (Conflict of Power)*. Due to this *Tejodwesh Guru* is weakened and therefore it is prohibited as per the scriptures to perform and organize any auspicious occasions during this month.

Bhagwan Vishnu (Narayan) is *Adhipati* of *Guru*. The weakening of the *Guru* has its adverse effect upon the deities and *Adhistata Bhagwan* Vishnu. *Bhagwan Vishnu* is symbol of *Sattvik-Guna*. Resultantly *Tamasik-Guna* becomes pre-dominant. Therefore our *Rishi-Munis* and the sages have asked us to perform *Pooja-Bhajan-Stuti Path, Pura:charan, Vishnu Yaag, Naam Kirtan* of *Bhagwan Vishnu* (*Narayan*). When we perform all this during the critical time then *Bhagwan Vishnu* (*Narayan*) becomes very much pleased with us. And therefore, our forefathers used to perform *Vishnu Sahastra Namavali* and *Path* of *Bhagwat Gita*.

Co-incidently it is the time of the month of *Magsar* as per the *Hindu Calander*. Bhagwan Shree Vishnu has stated that, among all the months, *Magsar* is His Own Form. Moreover, *Guru Brihaspati*- being *Adhipati* of *Dhan Rashi* in *Surya*, this month is considered to be the best month for acquiring knowledge and learning new skills. Therefore Bhagwan Shree Krishna and Baldevji learned *14 Vidya* and *64 Kala* and *Dhanur-Vidya* from Guru Sandipani in Ujjain. Since then another name of this month is *Dhanur-Maas*.

Due to stay of *Guru Brihaspati* in *Surya*, our body remains under the impact of the Sun and therefore also it is considered to be the best time to start learning activities. It is for this reason that, during this month we also offer pen, note-book, slate, school bag etc. alongwith *Bhojan-Thaal* in front of the deities in our temple.

Dhan-Rasi is the last stage of *Dakshinayan* and as the Sun moves out of *Dhan-Rashi* and moves towards *Uttarayan*, it is also known as *Uttarayan*. On 14th January *Surya* moves from *Dhan-Rashi* to *Makar-Rashi*, which is known as *Makar-Sankranti*. The power of the *Surya* moving from the South to the North is considered to be very strong. The sun-rays of this period has got very powerful and positive effect upon the electrons, protons and neutrons of our body and therefore, tradition of kite-flying activity under the Sun has started so that our body gets the healthy light and heat from the Sun.

Our *Istdev* Shree Hari stayed as Nilkanthvarni in the village Loj for ten months. During the *Dhanur Maas*, the saints were taught *Astang-Yog* and *Pooja-Kirtan, Bhajan, Katha, Satsang* etc. were also performed. Following the tradition established by Shree Hari and also with a view to avail the benefits shown by our Rishi-Munis and sages, today we perform Dhoon of Shree Swaminarayan Mahamantra early in the morning in our temples.

In *Kaliyug- Kirtan-Dhoon-* are considered to be the best means of worship. Like *Garba* of *Navrati* of Gujarat, *Dhoon* of early morning during *Dhanur Maas* in temples of Shree Narnarayandev Diocese is popular all over the world. This pious tradition has been strengthened by H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and even today the whole *Dharmkul* grants divine *Darshan* from *Mangala Aarti* till *Rajbhog Aarti*.

Pride of Sampradaya

Devotee Shri Vedant Amishbhai Bhagat (aged 10 years) the grandson of the devotee Shri Dineshbhai Bhagat performed Group Tabla Vaadan alongwith 320 students of Saptak School of Music for one and half hour continuously. Appreciating this, the prestigious institutions such as Guiness Book of World Records, India Book of Records, Record Holder of Republic, Limca Book of Records and World Amazing Records have honoured and issued Certificate to the devotee Shri Vedant. H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj has been very much pleased with this and has blessed the devotee for his progress and overall development.

MANKI OF MANIGAR

- Natubhai B. Patel (Rajpurwala-Canada)

Nand Saints have stated in the Scriptures that if any person remembers during his last time *Katha-Varta, Kirtan-Bhakti* and *Leela-vicharan* of Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan, then he gets emancipation in his life. Similarly, if any person also remembers or cherishes Nand Saints, Places and things of *Prasadi*, *Manki* horse etc. then he gets emancipation in his life. Accordingly, let us talk about *Manki* horse of Shreeji Maharaj:

"માણકીએ ચઢ્યા રે મોહન વનમાળી,

શોભે રૂડી કરમાં લગામ રૂપાળી."

These words sung by the devotees and *Haribhaktas* in the serene and peaceful atmosphere in front of Shree Rangmahol Ghanshyam Maharaj of Kalupur temple, have great impact upon the listeners. This divine Manki horse, who dedicated the whole life at the lotus-like feet of Shreeji Maharaj became the leader among all the animals in rendering divine services.

Kathi Darbar of Jasdan of Saurashtra had one beautiful mare. One Miyana of Kachchh wanted to steal away this mare. As a part of his conspiracy, he kept his son as care-taker of the stable wherein this mare was kept. After some time, the son took away the mare and came to Kachchh. One day when this mare was grazing at the sea-shore, one divine horse came out of the sea and after some time, this mare gave birth to horse – who is none other than Manki horse.

After some time, Manki horse was purchased by Rao of Bhuj, he got his grand-daughter married with the son of Manubha of Minpar. He offered the Manki horse alongwith all other things to his grand-daughter, on the marriage occasion. In the beginning of Shravan Maas of Samvat 1868 Shreeji Maharaj graced the Darbar of Dada Khacar in Gadhda. Maharaj called Sura Khachar and told him, *"We have heard about the praise of Manki horse. Inquire about this, as we want this Manki horse."* Sura Khachar searched for it and after some time, he found that Manki horse was owned by Manubha of Manipar.

Kayaji Bapu of Bhensdad was the friend of Sura Khachar and this Kayaji Bapu knew Manubha very well. Accordingly, on the pious day of Shravan Sud-7 Samvat 1868 Sura Khachar took Shreji Maharaj and Kayaji Bapu at the residence of Manubhai in village Minpar. The moment, Shreeji Maharaj graced the verandah of the residence, the whole atmosphere got charged with the divinity. Manki horse responded the divine arrival very positively, as if they were meeting after many many years!!! There were tears of pleasure in the eyes of Manki horse!!! Manki horse starting jumping joyously. She could prevent expression of her exuberant joy and pleasure.

Manubha was not present at home. His ten years daughter Monghiba was present. She watched everything. She also noticed the change in behaviour and body language of Manki horse. Monghiba offered the seat to Maharaj, Kaya Bapu and Sura Khachar.

After some time, when Monghiba asked for the reason of their arrival, Kaya Bapu told her that, Shreeji Maharaj wanted Manki horse and therefore they had come there to meet Manubha. Immediately Monghiba replied that, for that, there is no need of permission of Manubha and that they can take Manki horse. She went inside, brought Kanku offered and applied Chandlo of Kanku in the forehead of Maharaj and Manki Horse and handed over the reins of Manki horse to Maharaj. Shreeji Maharaj was very much pleased with this. Maharaj blessed her that one day she would become a queen and also offered Rs.60/- as Prasadi in token. Later on Monghiba was married with king Sangramsinh of Gondal.

Maharaj brought Manki horse to Gadhda. From that day onwards, Manki horse became the shadow of Maharaj. Wherever Maharaj would be, Manki would be there and wherever Manki horse would be,

Maharaj would be there. Manki horse was very sharp, intelligent and agile. She could understand the desire and wish of Maharaj even without his expressing it. She had also developed ardent relations with Ladubha and Jivuba, as she had recognized the ardent worship of these ladies devotees towards Maharaj. She could foresee any natural calamity or any bad event. Sadguru Premanand Swami could not stop his pen praising Manki horse and its behaviour.

With the constant touch and company of Shreeji Maharaj, Manki horse had developed divinity in her. Therefore, she could transform even the robbers like Joban Pagi, as the devotees and Haribhaktas of Maharaj. When Shreeji Maharaj returned to Akshardham, Manki horse could not hide her misery and unhappiness. She had abandoned the meals and would not drink even water. She was found crying all the day so much so that, even the tears had dried up upon her face. Exactly on 13th day, Manki Horse passed away to Akshardham. This divine Mukta left all the saints and devotees of the whole Gadhda, crying like anything.

ધન્ય છે, આ પશુને, જેણે ઓળખ્યા પ્રભુને.

ધન્ય છે આ ભક્તને, જેણે જીવંત કરી ભક્તિને.

ધન્ય છે આ માણકીને, જેણે માણ્યા મહારાજને.

The last progeny of Manki horse was living in our Muli temple.

SHREE SWAMINARAYAN MUSEUM DAY

Samvat 2068 Fagan Sud-3 Friday 24/02/2012
Time : Evening from 4.00 to 7.00 hours
Place : Shree Swaminarayan Museum,
Opp. TERF School, behind A.E.C.,
Naranpura, Ahmedabad-13

With the directions and blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj and H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and our Future Acharya H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj, First Annual Day of Shree Swaminarayan Museum would be celebrated on the pious day of *Fagan Sud-3* Friday 24/02/2012. The host devotees would avail the benefit of performing *Mahapooja* along and in the pious company of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj. The devotees and *Haribhaktas* can avail the benefit of being the host by rendering the services of Rs.11,001/- and as co-host by rendering the services of Rs.5,001/-. Therefore, it is suggested that all the devotees and *Haribhaktas*, who are willing, may get their names registered by Tuesday 31/01/2012.

Contact : Shree Swaminarayan Museum
Phone Number : 079-27499597 **Mobile :** 099250 42686 (Dasbhai)

Remaining under Vachan of Hari

- Chandrakant Mohanlal Pathak, Gandhinagar

Once Shreeji Maharaj said to Mukund Brahmchari, *"Brahmchari! The people of this world become very much unhappy when they lose their only son."* Mukund Brahmchari said, *"Yes, Maharaj. The life after such an unfortunate incident becomes unbearable. It appears darkness everywhere. But at last, Time cures and heals all woes."*

During their talk, Maharaj remembered the devotee Durlabhram of Vadodara, who had lost his only son. Shreeji Maharaj had graced the house of the devotee when his son passed away. The devotee family warmly welcomed Shreeji Maharaj and offered the meals to Maharaj. Umiyaben, the wife of the devotee Durlabhram had worn very rich and costly clothes. There was smile on her face as if nothing had happened in the family. Devotee Umiyaben was very much happy with the arrival of Shreeji Maharaj. While accepting the meals, Shreeji Maharaj asked her, *"Are you not unhappy when your only son has passed away?"* then devotee Umiyaben replied, *"Maharaj, my son has passed away to Akshardham. It means You have granted him more happiness than here. Then why should I be unhappy?"*

In the evening, the *Satsang Sabha* was conducted in the village. Maharaj graced the *Sabha* and granted divine *Darshan* to the devotees and other people of the village. In the *Sabha*, Shreeji Maharaj called the devotees Durlabhram and Bechar Bhatt. These two devotees had not good terms between them and hence they never called each other. Shreeji Maharaj knew this. Therefore, Shreeji Maharaj called them in the *Sabha* and tried to persuade them for compromise and to establish good relations between the two devotees. But the devotee Durlabhram did not agree to it and left the *Sabha* immediately. Shreeji Maharaj did not like this attitude of Durlabhram. Then Shreeji Maharaj graced Vadtal.

After some time, devotee Durlabhram and Umiyaben came to Vadtal on the pious day of *Ramnavmi*. There devotee Duralbhram developed sickness and he was advised immediate and complete bed-rest. Day by day the health of the devotee was deteriorating. Devotee Umiyaben came to Shreeji Maharaj and narrated about the sickness of her husband. Shreeji Maharaj told her, *"It appears that, your husband would not get cured. So you should render the services as much as you can."* Devotee Umiyaben became desolate. She said to Maharaj, *"I am happy in all the conditions, wherein you put me. But the people of the world would abuse me like anything. But if [illegible] ardent devotee."* Shreeji Maharaj was very much pleased with the words of the devotee Umiyaben. Maharaj blessed her that, her husband would be cured of. After some days, devotee Durlabhram was cured of the illness.

There is much difference between the understanding and intelligence of Durlabhram and his wife Umiyaben. Devotion and worship of the devotee Umiyaben were the best and therefore Maharaj was always very much happy with the devotee. The scriptures and the saints advise us to always remain obedient and under the directions of Bhagwan as real happiness lies in the words of the saint.

Instructions to Haribhakas visiting and participating Dasabdi Mahotsav of Shree Swaminarayan temple, Nathdwara

With the directions and blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj and H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj, *Dasabdi Mahotsav* of Shree Swaminarayan temple, Nathdwara, would be celebrated from 28/01/2012 to 01/02/2012. on this occasion *Patotsav* of Thakorji, *Abhishek, Annakutotsav, Shrimad Bhagwat Dashm Skand Panchyanh Parayan, Tridinatmak Hariyaag* etc. programmes would be organized and celebrated with great fervour and enthusiasm. All the devotees and Haribhaktas who intend to participate and visit this *Dasabdi Mahotsav* may inform in advance about their arrival so that beautiful arrangements for their residence can be made. (Mahant Swami Dharmswaroopdasji)

Contact : Jitu Bhagat 09352301410, 09983001226

Shree Swaminarayan temple, near Bus Stand, National Highway No.8, Nathdwara (Rajasthan)

Remaining under Vachan of Hari Vachan of Shree Hari about importance of Mulidham

- Gordhanbhai V. Sitapara (Hiravadi-Bapunagar)

Mulidham is a famous place in Zalavad area in Saurashtra. Bhagwan Suryanarayan, who dispels darkness with bright rays, resides here in the form and name of Mandavray. The river Bhogavo flows in the Western side of this village and goes towards its Northern side. There is Alark well of *Prasadi* in Mulidham. The main importance of this Mulidham is that, Shreeji Maharaj had got prepared a very beautiful temple through Brahmanand Swami. On the pious day of *Maha Sud-5 (Vasant Panchmi) Samvat 1879* Shree Hari has invoked the idol images of Radhakrishna and Harikrishna. To the left side of the central temple, idol images of Ranchhod and Trikamrai are invoked and similarly in the same year on the pious day of *Vaisakh Sud Baras*, Shree Hari has invoked the idol images of Dharmdev and Bhaktimata and to its right side is invoked the idol image of Nilkanth Shivji.

Shree Hari has said, *"Oh devotees! Bhagwan Shree Krishna likes this place more than Dwarika and I also like it more among all the temples. Bhagwan Shree Krishna has taken bath in the pious river Bhogavo. Moreover, Bhagwan Shree Krishna and I have taken bath in the Alark well. Therefore, I like it very much. Both these places are very pious. Therefore all of you should perform Snan with this understanding. The devotees who perform Darshan of Shree Radhakrishna and my idol image, those who would perform Magh-Snan in river Bhogavo, those who would offer Brahm Bhojan to the saints and Varnis, they would realize all their wishes and desires. By performing divine Darshan of Shree Radhakrishna, one would get the fruit of performing pilgrimage to Dwarika. By performing divine Darshan of Shree Radhakrishnadev on the pious day of MaghSud Pancham (Vasant Panchmi), devotees would get the fruit of performing Darshan of Tirth-yatra for ten times (Chardham Yatra)."*

Shree Hari has stated in *Adhyay-92* of *'Shree Harikrishna Leelamrit-Uttarardh'*, "The *Mul* (root) of all pilgrimage is this village and therefore this village is popular as *'Muli'*. In Bhogavo resides the hidden *Ganga* and therefore those who would perform *Snan* in Bhogavo they would get fruit of performing *Snan* in holy river *Ganga.* The famous places of pilgrimage such as Ayodhya, Mathura, Kashi, Prayag, Gaya etc. reside in this Mulidham. I have asked to perform two *Samaiya of Vasant Panchmi* and *Janmastmi* in this pious Mulidham. Therefore all the devotees and *Haribhaktas* should invariably perform divine *Darshan* of this place on these two days."

Shree Hari has told Ramabhai Raja of Mulipur that, *"Oh Ramabhai! We reside in Darbar of Dada Khachar. Similarly we also reside in Mulipur in Radhakrishnadev temple. Because I like this place very much."*

This pious place Mulidham has sanctified by the lotus like feet of Shree Hari and many *Nand saints*. Shree Hari has performed many *Leela-Charitra* in this pious place. The saints, Brahmins and devotees have been offered the meals at this place. The beautiful three storey *Haveli* with beautiful wooden carvings is also a place of performing divine *Darshan*. There are many Things of *Prasadi* in this *Haveli*. *Shaligram Bhagwan* whose *poojan* has been performed by Brahmanand Swami, *Bajoth of Prasadi* which was used by Shree Hari while taking bath, *Darbargadh of Prasadi, Gyan Wav* showed by Shree Hari in the form of Shepherd, *Shree Brahm-Mahol* are other places worth performing divine *Darshan*.

Even today H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and *Dharmkul* grace this place on the pious occasions of *Samaiya* of *Vasant Panchmi* and *Janmastmi* and grant happiness of *Rangotsav* to thousands of devotees and *Haribhaktas*. 39th *Prakatyotsav* of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj was also celebrated in Mulidham. In this year on Saturday 28/01/2012, *Samaiyo* of *Vasant Panchmi* would be celebrated with great fervour and enthusiasm. On this pious day of *Patotsav* of Shree Radhakrishnadev would be celebrated in Muli temple. So all the devotees and *Haribhaktas* may avail the benefit of this divine *Utsav*.

श्री स्वामिनारायण म्युझियम

SHREE SWAMINARAYAN MUSEUM

On *Fagan Sud-3* and 24/02/2012 our Museum would complete one year. On that day H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj would perform divine *Mahapooja* and alongwith *Brahm-Bhojan*, there would be celebration of one year. A number of devotees-visitors of Museum arrived from Desh and overseas countries, have praised our Museum very much. They have also praised H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj for such a divine gift to our *Sampradaya*. After performing divine *Darshan* in Kalupur temple during the pious *Dhanur Maas*, H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj performs *Pradakshina* of Museum. Even today on 27/12/2011, when this is being written, H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj performed divine *Darshan* of Shree Narnarayandev invoked in our Museum and while returning home, one devotee came running and requested H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj to stop for a while as students coming from Ghatkopar-Mumbai wanted to perform divine *Darshan*. It took some time, and H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj waited for 10-15 minutes in the premises of the Museum and at last children came and performed divine *Darshan* and obtained the blessings of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj.

List of devotees who rendered their services under Shree Swaminarayan Museum Maintenance *Bhet Yojna*

Rs.5,000/-	Niharikaben Tejendraprasad Pande (Bindu Raja) Ahmedabad	Rs.5,000/-	Parshottambhai Ravjibhai Gohel-Surat
		Rs.5,000/-	Pushpaben Parshottambhai Gohel-Surat
Rs.1,51,000/-	Patel Kamuben and Gordhanbhai Tribhovandas- Itadara through Patel Hinaben and Vinaykumar Gordhanbhai (U.S.A.)	Rs.5,000/-	Jignesh Parshottambhai Gohel-Surat
		Rs.5,000/-	Harmish Parshottambhai Gohel-Surat
		Rs.5,000/-	Sonalben Jigneshbhai Gohel -Surat
		Rs.5,001/-	Jigneshkumar Naranbhai through Gangarambhai-Ahmedabad
Rs.51,000/-	Smt. Nikita Nikunjbhai Patel-Karjisan on the occasion of marriage through Manilal Dalsukhbhai Patel, Amiben, Nikunj, Vaishali.	Rs.5,000/-	Jayantilal G. Patel-Unjha
		Rs.5,001/-	Anilkumar Harshadray Desai-Ahmedabad through Rajanbhai
Rs.50,000/-	Namdev family through Lalbhai Patel, Kedar Cotton Ind. Kadi.	Rs.5,000/-	Mavjibhai Mohanbhai Chavda-Balol-Bhal
		Rs.5,000/-	Kantilal Nathabhai Patel-Thaltej
Rs.11,000/-	Dhirajbhai Karshanbhai Patel-Dharmpur	Rs.5,001/-	Minesh Modi-Ahmedabad through Chetan Jani
Rs.10,001/-	Truptiben S. Patel-Ahmedabad		
Rs.10,000/-	Akshari Nivasi Raiben Prahladbhai Patel-Jamiyatpura through Shri Dashrathbhai (member of Scheme Committee)	Rs.5,000/-	Ramchandra Chimanlal Patel-Ghatlodia
		Rs.5,001/-	Ashok Prabhudas Thakkar-Ahmedabad through Minaben
Rs.10,000/-	Punambhai M. Patel-Ahmedabad	Rs.5,000/-	Mukeshkumar Kantilal Patel-Kalol
Rs.9,201/-	Lapaben Bankimbhai Raval-Ahmedabad through Rajanbhai Desai	Rs.5,000/-	patel Hitendrakumar Virambhai-Aakrund Tal. Dhansura
Rs.5,000/-	Jasubhai J. Chavda-Balol Bhal at present Ahmedabad Bhet on the occasion of marriage of Mayur and Hetal through Vinaben Jasubhai Chavda.	Rs.5,000/-	Maheshbhai S. Patel (Lalodawala) Vapi
		Rs.10,000/-	Ghanshyam Engineer Industries-Ahmedabad
		Rs.5,000/-	Patel Mansukhbhai C.

List of Host devotees who availed the benefit of *Abhishek* of Shree Narnarayandev in Shree Swaminarayan Museum

03/12/2011	Akshar Nivasi Amrubhai Narsinhbhai Patel through Jatin, sajan, Kiran-Maninagar
04/12/2011	Naranpura Satsang Samaj through Shreeji Swami, Mahant of Shree Naranpura temple
09/12/2011	Ganga Swarup Shantaba B. Modi-Ahmedabad For regain of health of Shardaban B. Modi and Tripada family
11/12/2011	Patel Vishnubhai Ambalal (Bhagat)-Vadu Patel Kokilaben Vishnubhai, Patel Kanubhjai Ambalal
16/12/2011	Patel Bhaktibhai Punjabhai (Deusana) (at present Ranip) Mahendrabhai, Rajeshbhai and Jigneshbhai
18/12/2011	Shree Swaminarayan temple, Karmshakti Mahila Mandal- New Naroda
20/12/2011	Kalyan Ramji Jethani-Baldiya (at present in London)
24/12/2011	Shakuntalaben Jagdishbhai Vaghela-London Jagdishbhai Bhimjibhai Vaghela, Rina and Gita J. Vaghela
25/12/2011	Mahendrabhai Jayantilal Bhavsar-Visnagar Dhavalbhai M. Bhavsar, Sandipbhai M. Bhavsar

For booking of Mahapooja/Mahabhishek contact :

Museum Mobile : 98795 49597

Devotee Shri Parshottambhai (Dasbhai, Bapunagar) : Mobile No. 99250 42686

www.swaminarayanmuseum.org/com • **email:swaminarayanmuseum@gmail.com**

Opinions of visiting Devotees and *Haribhaktas*

It is essential for every devotee to visit and watch Museum to understand Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan with correct understanding and perspective. Almighty Lord can do everything. By creating this Museum, H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj has blessed all of us. Therefore, now it is our pious duty to preserve our divine Museum. Hence all the devotees and *Haribhaktas* are ardently requested to render their services. (Kirit C. Patel, Ahmedabad 04/12/2011)

One feels divinity and serenity while performing Darshan of Shree Swaminarayan Museum. By performing divine Darshan of so many Things of Prasadi at one place, which is unique in this world, one gets all his sins burnt and ensures the place in Akshardham. (Sd/- illegible 17/12/2011)

While performing divine Darshan of Museum, I felt as if Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan Himself is granting Darshan to all of us. The whole Satsang and Sampradaya shall always remain indebted to H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj, who granted this divine gift in the form of Shree Swaminarayan Museum to all the future generations. (Bhikhubhai Thakkar-Cleveland Ohio)

It is never too late. Now I have decided to perform divine Darshan of Shree Swaminarayan Museum as many times as I can. Earlier I used to think that, it would have been better if I would have been born in any foreign country. But after performing divine Darshan of Things of Prasadi in Museum, I feel myself proud that, I am born in Kalupur Ahmedabad, where there is divine temple of Almighty Lord Shree Narnarayandev and place of my in-laws is in Naranpura, where our divine Museum is situated. Even one hundred births would not be sufficient to write exhaustively about divine Museum. Really H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj have granted us divine gift in the form of Shree Swaminarayan Museum. Jay Shree Swaminarayan. (Vaishali Soni, Naranpura, Ahmedabad)

With the blessings of Almighty Lord, I have got the opportunity to perform divine Darshan of Museum. I felt divinity while performing *Darshan* of Museum. (Sd/- illegible)

It is something New and it is unique and we have learnt more about *Satsang* and it took six hours to see all evening Rupees we all spend it is worth. (Dhanjibhai Hirani, London)

Our Group and Family members were thrilled to have Darshan of all of the Prasadi items. The hospitality and cleanliness were above our expectations. The vibration that we received during the Darshan and in particular main meditation hall were exceptional and gave us pleasure of being close to our Swaminarayan Bhagwan. This experience will be memorable throughout our life. Jay Shree Swaminarayan (unknown)

It was amazing, something worth coming back again. It's a great idea for the younger generation. Jay Shree Swaminarayan.

This is one of the best Museums, I have ever seen in my whole life. There are lots of such things which will encourage me in my life for better vision. Jay Shree Swaminarayan

WHO IS REAL DEVOTEE?

- Shastri Haripriyadasji (Gandhinagar)

Once Shree Ghanshyam Maharaj became sick. Ghanshyam Maharaj developed fever for two days. His friends Venu-Madhav became worried about Ghanshyam Maharaj and came to meet Ghanshyam Maharaj. Venu-Madhav came alongwith their mother Laxmiba. When Laxmiba saw Ghanshyam Maharaj, she said that, little Ghanshyam had developed *Baliya-Dev* (Small Pox). She advised not to give meals to little Ghanshyam for 20-25 days and also not to take bath during these days. Even Chandaba, the sister-in-law of Bhaktimata, who had came there, advised the same.

But little Ghanshyam did not agree. He said to Bhaktimata, "Being a Brahmin, How can I remain without taking bath even for a single day?" Little Ghanshyam asked Bhaktimata to give him water from the well so that he can take bath. Bhaktimata had faith in the words of little Ghanshyam and therefore she gave him two buckets of water. Little Ghanshyam took bath and became fresh. With the coolness of the water, he got cured of *Baliya-Dev*.

So friends, little Ghanshyam Maharaj did not believe in superstition of not taking bath or meals for 20-25 days during the time of Baliya-dev. He followed the rule of nature to purify the body and got himself cured of the disease. Similarly all of us should not cherish any superstition and should follow the rules of nature. We would be real devotees only when we would cherish strong faith in Bhagwan and then only we would be called the real devotees.

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BRAVE HARIBHAKTA

- Sadhu Shrirangdas (Gandhinagar)

હરિજન સાચા રે, જે ઉરમાં હિંમત રાખે,
વિપતે વચ્ચી રે, કેદી દીન વચન નવ ભાખે,

સત્સંગ બાલવાટિકા
SATSANG BALVATIKA

- Compiler Shastri Harikehsavdasji (Gandhinagar)

જગનું સુખ દુઃખ રે, માયિક મિથ્યા કરી જાણે,
તન ધન જાતા રે, અંતરમાં શોક ન આણે.

These words of Sadguru Brahmanand Swami are not uttered for any common man. It was the time when the ardent devotees had to suffer a lot. They had to risk their life and their livelihood. They had to suffer great miseries and tortures from the society, too. Here is one such real incident from the time of Shree Hari.

Jamadar Kesarmiya of Wadhvan State became ardent devotee of Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan. From the time he became the devotee, he led his life in such a manner, as if it is meant for Bhagwan only. But Bhanji Mehta, the Minister of the Wadhvan State cherished hatred and jealousy towards Shree Hari. And therefore he used to harass Kesar Miya. Many a times Bhanji Mehta used to abuse Shree Hari in the presence of Kesar Miya. Then Kesar Miya would tell him :

"हे गुना करने वालो
कयामत के दिन को मत भूलो ।
अगर चाहीए जद्दन्नत्
तो खुदा की बंदगी करना मत भूलो ॥

Once a Brahmin came to the office of Bhanji Mehta. Kesar Miya was present there. The Brahmin came and asked for some money from Bhanji Mehta as he wanted to perform pilgrimage to Dwarika- the place of pilgrimage of Lord Shree Krishna. Then Bhanji put a condition that, he should abuse Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan and then only he would get the money he wanted. When Kesar

Miya heard this, he threatened the Brahmin not to tell anything wrong about Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan. Bhanji Mehta interrupted him and said to the Brahmin that, Kesar Miya is a servant in his office and therefore he need not be worried about him. Again Bhanji Mehta put the condition that, the Brahmin should abuse Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan, if he wanted the money.

The moment the Brahmin uttered the foul words for Shree Hari, Kesar Miya struck his sword with its cover upon the head of the Brahmin and the Brahmin fell down and became unconscious. Immediately Bhanji Mehta dismissed Kesar Miya from his job of Jamadar of Wadhvan State and asked him to leave the Wadhvan State. Kesar Miya, being the ardent devotee of Shree Hari, was happy to leave the State of Wadhvan, because whatever he did, he had done for Shree Hari.

The queen of Wadhwan State heard about the dismissal of Kesar Miya. She knew Kesar Miya very well, as his father and forefathers had also rendered their faithful services to the Wadhvan State. When she came to know that, it was the fault of the minister Bhanji Mehta, she immediately cancelled the order of dismissal of Kesar Miya, removed Bhanji Mehta from the post of Minister and gave him promotion to Kesar Miya. When Shree Hari heard about the whole incident, he became very happy with Kesar Miya and blessed him.

So, dear devotees, being the ardent devotees, all of us should be courageous and brave like Kesar Miya. We should never tolerate any wrong words uttered towards our Sampradaya or Shree Hari because Shree Hari is always with all of us. If we would be courageous like Kesar Miya, Shree Hari would be very much happy with us.

DIVINE ROPE STRETCHING

- Shastri Harijivan Swami (Mahant, Himatnagar temple)

Almighty Bhagwan is only One, whereas there are crores of people calling Him and worshipping Him. Now sometimes there is competition among the devotees and *Haribhaktas* to invoke and please Almighty Bhagwan and ardent devotion and *Bhakti* are the dominant factors and feelings among these devotees and *Haribhaktas*.

Once Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan graced the village Mankuva. Devotees like Gangaram Malla had arrived from Bhuj to perform divine *Darshan* of Shree Hari. In the *Sabha* organized on the occasion devotee Gangarambhai ardently requested, "Oh Maharaj! Please grace the village Bhuj." On the other hand, the devotees of village Mankuva ardently requested Shree Hari to stay there in Mankuva.

WAVE OF PLEASURE

Therefore, Shree Hari asked the devotees each of Bhuj and Mankuva to play the game of rope-stretching. There would be five devotees on each side and they would stretch the rope towards their side. Those who would succeed in stretching and taking away the rope towards them and would cross the line marked in the centre, they would be winner and Shree Hari would grace their village. In the game, the devotees of Bhuj were winner and therefore Shree Hari graced the village Bhuj. The devotees of Mankuva village offered Sukhdi in breakfast to Shree Hari and the devotees who had arrived from Bhuj.

FROM THE BLESSINGS OF H.H. SHRI GADIWALA

'ANAND IS FORM OF *PARAMATMA'*

- Compiled by Kotak Varsha Natvarlal, Ghodasar)

Do you feel joy when you perform *Bhakti*? Yes. This *Anand* (Joy) is Form of *Parmatma*. It comprises of *'Sat' 'Chit' and 'Anand'*. Among these, *'Sat'* is visible whereas *'Chit' and 'Anand'* is invisible. However, all of them can be experienced. There is *'Sat'* in inanimate objects but there is no *'Chit'* and *'Anand'* in these objects. In *Jiv* (soul) there are *'Sat'* and *'Chit'* in visible form but *'Anand'* is in invisible form. But if you achieve Unity with Paramatma then you will feel this *'Anand'* which is divine in nature. But one has to strive for to achieve this divine *'Anand'* Moreover, there are two types of 'Anand':

i) Sadhanjanya Anand and ii) Swayamsiddha Anand. Nobody would deny to get 'Anand' because everybody on this earth is in search of joy, everybody wants to be happy in this life. But this joy and happiness are *Sadhanjanya Anand* and it can be achieved from the means of this world.

Whereas *Swayamsiddha Anand* can be achieved by removing our mind from the worldly desires and wishes. This type of *Swayamsiddha Anand* can be achieved with the help of *Siddhas, Sadhus,* Saints and Sages. By achieving this type of *Anand* which is divine in nature, our mind and heart feel serenity. We get peaceful sleep. We can achieve this divine happiness by performing *Bhakti* and *Sadhana*. For that one has to lead his/her life as prescribed by the scriptures. Our Scriptures state that, we should lead our life with *Dharma, Artha, Kaam and Moksha*. Thus, journey of our life begins and it should begin from Dharma which ultimately leads all of us to *Moksha* i.e. emancipation. And during this journey which is divine in nature, we get both *Artha* and *Kaam*. Therefore, all of us should live our life while keeping *Dharma* in the centre of all our activities. Our thoughts, words and actions should be regulated by the ethics and human values and also by the divine feelings such as compassion, love, *Bhakti* etc.

By leading our in this way, we would experience that, the worldly pleasures are not the real requirements of human soul. It is noble qualities and feelings, which uplift our soul to divinity helping us to get emancipation which is the ultimate goal of our life.

ભક્તિસુધા
BHAKTI-SUDHA

PURIFICATION OF OUR MEALS

- Sankhya Yogi Kokilaba (Surendranagar)

From the ancient times, it has been prescribed in the scriptures and practised by the noble persons, to keep secret about *Bhajan* (worship) and *Bhojan* (meals). If we are required to keep secret about the meals in our home, how can we take meals outside our house in the market or at the public places? If our meals are pure, our mind and heart would be pure. And if our meals are impure our mind and heart would also get spoiled. Therefore, it has been prescribed by the scriptures that, we should accept only those meals which are pure and *Sattvik*. It purifies not only our body and mind but also our inner self.

The nature and thinking of the person who is preparing the meals, has also its impact upon the meals which results into the consequential similar kind of effects upon the mind and body of the persons who take such meals. Therefore, our kitchen should also be kept neat and clean. During the ancient times, only the ladies members were permitted entry in the kitchen. But now in the modern times, the maidservant, servants and other outsiders also enter in the kitchens. This is not good for the health of the family members. Therefore, this should be prevented as much as we can.

The meals which are prepared while chanting the name of Shree Hari and while cherishing noble feelings has its healthy impact not only upon the meals but also upon the mind of the people who take the meals. If we would worship and chant the name of Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan while preparing the meals and while accepting the meals, we would develop noble qualities and elements in our body and mind which would be divine in nature. These divine qualities and elements would also purify our body and mind and as a result thereof, we would never be sick and weak, physically and mentally.

Therefore, purity of our meals is very much essential. It is first and foremost condition to lead a spiritual and noble life. Therefore, all of us should see to it that, our meals are pure and *Sattvik*.

News And Notes From Shri Narnarayandev Desh

Dhanur Maas Dhoon Mahotsav in Ahmedabad temple

In the pious company of the Almighty Lord Shree Narnarayandev and *Dharmkul* and in the pious presence of the saints and *Haribhaktas*, pious *Dhanur Maas Dhoon Mahotsav* started in Ahmedabad temple from 16/12/2011. In this cold winter season, everyone is found making efforts to protect his body by covering the body with woollen clothes. However, in our temples with dome and in Hari-temple as well as in the houses of the devotees and *Haribhaktas*, devotees are performing divine Shree Swaminarayan *Mahamantra Akhand Dhoon*.

With the directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and with the inspiration of Mahant Shastri Swami Harikrishnadasji and with the co-operation of Kothari Parshad Digambar Bhagat, J.P. Swami, Brahmchari Poojari Rajeshwaranandji, J.K. Swami, Muni Swami and Ram Swami, beautiful *Dhanur Maas Dhoon Mahotsav* is going on. By rendering monthly *Dhoon*, many devotees and *Haribhaktas* have been rendering their services. First of all *Dhoon* of the whole *Dharmkul* (family of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj) and the saints is noted. The devotees rendering monthly *Dhoon* are offered gift of Laptop bag and the devotees rendering daily *Dhoon* are offered gift of CD of *Shiksha Patri* performed by Shreeji Maharaj. Large number of devotees and *Haribhaktas* have been rendering their valuable services for Monthly *Dhoon* of Rs.1500/- and Daily *Dhoon* of Rs.100/-. (Yogi Swami)

***Kirtan-Bhakti* and *Dhoon* during Lunar Eclipse in Ahmedabad temple**

On the day of *Magsar Sud-Poonam*, the day of Lunar Eclipse, *Kirtan Bhakti* and *Shree Swaminarayan Mahamantra Dhoon* were performed in the pious company of Shree Narnarayandev by the saints and *Haribhaktas* in the evening from 6.00 to 10.00 hours. With the inspiration of Mahant Sadguru Shastri Swami Harikrishnadasji the whole programme was organized by Kothari Parshad Digambar Bhagat, J.K. Swami, J.P. Swami etc. saints. (Muni Swami)

Celebration of *Shatabdi Mahotsav* in Shree Swaminarayan temple, Mandal

With the directions and blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj and H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and with the inspiration of Mahant Sadguru Shastri Swami Atmprakashdasji of Jetalpur temple and Sadguru Swami Shyamcharandasji, various programmes were organized from 18/11/2011 to 24/11/2011 on completion of 50 years of Shree Swaminarayan temple, Mandal.

Akhand Mahamantra Jaap was performed from 14/11/2011 to 17/11/2011. On 17/11/2011 *Vijay-Dhwajaropan* was performed in the evening at 5.30 hours. On 18/11/2011 *Pothi-yatra* was performed the house of the host devotee upto temple and *Sabha Mandap*. From 18/11/2011 to 24/11/2011 Sadguru Shastri Swami Purushottamprakashdasji (Jetalpurdham) performed *Shrimad Satsangibhusan Saptah Parayan*. All the Utsavs during *Katha* such as *Shree Ghanshyam Janmotsav, Gadi Abhishek, Annakut* etc. were performed and celebrated with great fervour and enthusiasm. Saints and *Haribhaktas* also performed *Panchala-Raas*. On 23/11/2011 H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj graced the occasion, performed *aarti* of Thakorji in temple of ladies devotees. The host devotees and *Haribhaktas* performed *Swagat-poojan-archan* and obtained the blessings.

From 22/11/2011 to 24/11/2011 *Tri-dinatmak Hariyaag* was also performed on this pious occasion. On 24/11/2011 H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj graced Mandal then the whole village performed grand *Samaiyu* and *Shobhayatra*. First of all H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj performed *Shodasopchar Abhishek* ritual of Thakorji in Vedic tradition in temple of Haribhaktas. Thereafter performed poojan of Shree Ganpatiji and Shree Hanumanji. Thereafter performed Abhhishek of Thakorji in temple of ladies devotees. By performing concluding ritual of Shree Hariyaag, H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj performed *aarti* of Thakorji in both the temples. The host devotees performed *poojan-archan* and obtained the blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj. Beautiful programme of Guru-Mantra was also performed on this occasion. After the inspirational speeches of the saints, H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj blessed the whole *Sabha* and insisted that, if all the devotees and *Haribhaktas* would cherish ardent faith and worship towards the Almighty Lord Shree Narnarayandev, the Lord would always remain with them in all their work. By accepting the retirement of Kothari devotee Bhagwandas, H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj appointed the devotee Shri Mukeshbhai Bhagwandas as Kothari by offering the garland and then graced the houses of the host devotees.

Then H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj graced the village Vaghada for the first time and all *Haribhaktas*

performed beautiful *Swagat. Satsang* in this village has started due to the ladies devotees who are married in this village. Moreover, activity of *Satsang* is spread by Shastri Swami Atmprakashdasji and Shri P.P. Swami (Jetalpurdham) and therefore H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj has been very happy.

(Kothari, Mandal)

Shrimad Bhagwat Saptah Parayan in Shree Swaminarayan temple, Naranghat

With the blessings and directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and with the inspiration of Sadguru Mahant Swami Devprakashdasji and Sadguru Shastri Nana P.P. Swami (Naranghat), *Shrimad Bhagwat Saptah Parayan* was organized from 05/12/2011 to 11/12/2011 in the pious company of Shree Ghanshyam Maharaj.

With the blessings of the devotee Ramaben (the mother of the host devotee) and the in memory of Akshar Nivasi Rekhaben Girishbhai Kanani, the devotee Shri Girishbhai Devchandbhai Kanani family rendered the services as the host of this beautiful Katha.

Sadguru Shastri Swami Ramkrishnadasji and Sadguru Shastri Swmi Chaitanyaswaroopdasji (Koteshwar Gurukul) were the spokespersons of this *Katha*. All the devotees and Haribhaktas had availed the benefit of this beautiful *Kathamrut*. H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj graced the concluding the ritual alongwith the saints like Brahmchari Poojari Swami Rajeshwaranandji and Anand Swami. H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj performed *aarti* of the concluding ritual of *Katha* and blessed the host devotee family. (Shree Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal, Naranghat)

Establishment of *Bal Satsang Mandal* in Motera village of *Prasadi*

With the directions and blessings of future Acharya H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj 108 Shri Vrajendraprasadji Maharaj, *Bal Satsang Mandal* began on Sunday 11/12/2011 under the auspices of Shree Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal.

In the beginning *Sabha* of 4-5 children was conducted. After the introduction of the children devotees Sadguru Shastri Swami Chaitanyaswaroopdasji and Swami Vrajbhusandasji offered *Kanthi* and explained to them talks of *Bal Leela Charitra* and *Satsang*. About 50 children availed the divine benefit of *Sabha*. This Bal Mandal was conducted by the devotees Harshadbhai, Mayurbhai and Madhusudanbhai. H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj blessed the devotees for the progress of *Bal Mandal*.

(Shree Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal, Motera)

Celebration of 2nd *Patotsav* of Shree Swaminarayan temple, Jamiyatpura

With the blessings and directions of H.H. Shri Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj and H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and with the inspiration of Shastri Swami Atmaprakashdaji and Shastri Swami Purushottamprakashdasji and Poojari of the temple Shastri Chhapaiyaprasaddasji, 2nd *Patotsav* of Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan of the temple under the auspices of Shree Prabha Hanumanji Maharaj was celebrated on 02/12/2011 with great fervour and enthusiasm by H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj.

In the memory of *Akshar Nivasi* devotee Prahladbhai Punjabhai Patel and with the noble aim of devotee Shri Raiben Prahladbhai Patel (who also passed away to Akshardham after *Patotsav*), devotees Shri Dashrathbhai Prahladbhai Patel (Member of the Scheme Committee), devotee Shri Rameshbhai Prahladbhai Patel and devotee Shri Prakashbhai Prahladbhai Patel, devotee Shri Tusharbhai Dashrathbhai, Devotee Shri Amitbhai Dashrathbhai and Ishanbhai Rameshbhai Patel rendered the services as the host of the 2nd *Patotsav*.

First of all, H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj performed *Abhishek* of Thakorji in Vedic tradition. Thereafter H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj graced *Mahapooja* and performed *aarti* of *Mahapooja* and *Annakut aarti* of Thakorji. In the *Sabha* organized on the occasion, the host devotees performed *poojan, archan* and obtained the blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj.

In the *Sabha*, Mahant Sadguru Shastri Swami Harikrishnadasji of Ahmedabad temple, Shri P.P. Swami, Shri Atmaprakashdasji Swami, Shastri Ghanshyam Swami delivered their inspirational speeches and at last H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj blessed the whole *Sabha*. The *Sabha* was conducted by Shastri Chhapaiyaprasaddasji. All the Haribhaktas of the village had availed the benefit of Prasad.

(Kothari Hardik Bhagat)

***Patotsav* in Sitapur temple**

With the directions and blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and with the inspiration of Mahant Sadguru Shastri Swami Atmprakashdasji of Jetalpurdham and Shyamcharandasji Swami, 96th *Patotsav* of Shree Swaminarayan temple, Sitapur was celebrated on 27/11/2011.

First of all *Abhishek, Annakut Aarti and Shobha-yatra* of Thakorji were performed wherein all the devotees of the village participated. Mahant K.P. Swami from Jetalpurdham, Shastri Hariom Swami and V.P. Swami performed *Katha-Varta* on this occasion.

(Shastri Bhaktinandandas)

Shree Swaminarayan temple, Kalol

With the directions and blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, new Hari-temple was constructed in a shed in the compound of temple with dome (under construction). On 27/11/2011 H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj graced the place and performed *aarti* of the idol images of Shree Narnarayandev, Shree Ghanshyam Maharaj etc. and at last blessed the devotees in the *Sabha*. (V.P. Swami, Mahant)

Satsangjijivan Parayan* and *Panchanh Parayan* in Jetalpurdham in *Dhanur Maas

With the directions and blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and with the inspiration of Mahant Shastri Swami Atmaprakashdasji, Sadguru Shastri Swami Purushottamprakashdasji and Sadguru Swami Shyamcharandasji, Shrimad Satsangijivan *Saptah Parayan* was performed from 11/11/2011 to 17/11/2011 in the pious company of Shree Revti Baldevji Harikrishna Maharaj in the memory of *Akshar Nivasi* devotee Virjibhai Harjibhai Desai (Patel). Shastri Bhaktimandasji was the spokesperson of this *Parayan*. All the festivals and *Utsavs* were celebrated during *Saptah*. On this occasion, saints from Chhapaiyadham, Ahmedabad, Charadva, Muli, Kankaria and Surat had arrived. The host family availed the benefit of *Katha*. H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj graced the occasion and granted the benefit of divine *Darshan* and blessings. All arrangements of this occasion were made by Mahant K.P. Swami and Mahant V.P. Swami of Kalol.

Satsangijivan Panchanh Parayan* during the pious *Dhanur Maas

In the pious company of Shree Revti Baldevji Maharaj, *Shrimad Satsangijiva Panchanh Parayan* was organized from 18/12/2011 to 24/12/2011. Sadguru Shastri Swami Hariomprakashdasji and Sadguru Shastri Vishwaprakashdasji (Mahant of Kalol) were the spokespersons of this *Katha*. Devotee Shri Pushpaben Girishbhai Bhagat rendered the services as the host of this *Parayan*. Many saints from various places had arrived on this occasion. On 21/12/2011 H.H. Shri charya Maharaj graced the occasion and blessed all the saints and devotees. *Haribhaktas* avail the benefit of *Shree Swaminarayan Mahamantra Dhoon* early in the morning from 6.30 to 7.15 hours in Jetalpurdham.

(Shyamcharan Swami)

***Dhirajakhyan Panchanh Parayan* in Por (Dist. Ahmedabad)**

With the directions and blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and with the inspiration of Mahant Sadguru Shastri Swami Harikrishnadasji of Ahmedabad temple and Sadguru Shastri P.P. Swami (Naranghat temple), *Dhirajakhyan Katha* of *Sadguru Nishkulanand Kavya* was performed from 15/12/2011 to 19/12/2011. Sadguru Shastri Swami Ramkrishnadasji (Koteshwar Gurukul) was the spokesperson of this *Katha*. Devotee Shri Ambalalbhai Chaturdas Patel (Nawab) through devotee Shri Sukmabhai Ambalal Patel rendered the services as the chief host of this *Parayan*. *Satsang Diaro* and Freedom from Addiction camp etc. were also organized on this occasion. Many *Haribhaktas* from the nearby villages availed the benefit of *Parayan-Katha* on this occasion. H.H. Shri Gadiwala graced the occasion and blessed all the ladies devotees.

H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj graced the occasion of concluding ritual of the *Parayan* and blessed the host devotee family and all the *Haribhaktas* of the village. Sadguru Mahant Swami Devprakashdasji (Naranghat), Poojari Brahmchari Swami Rajeshwarajandji etc. saints arrived on this occasion. Sadguru Swami Jayprakashdasji (J.P. Swami) made all the arrangements on this occasion.

(Shastri Swami Chaitanyaswaroopdasji)

Grand *Shakotsav* in Kherol temple (Sabarkantha)

With the directions and blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharj and with the inspiration of Sadguru Swmi Devprakashdasji and Sadguru Shatri Swami Purushottamprakashdasji (Mahant of Naranghat temple), grand *Shakotsav* was organized at Kherol village for the first time on Saturday 17/12/2011. *Akshar Nivasi* devotee Santokben Hathibhai Patel through devotee Shri Shakrabhai and Kanubhai rendered the services as the chief host of *Shakotsav*. Moreover, all other devotees also rendered their services on this occasion. H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj graced this occasion alongwith Mahant Shastri Swami Harikrishnadasji, Shastri Swami Akhileshwardasji etc. saints. H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj performed divine *Vaghar* of *Shakotsav*. Large number of devotees and *Haribhaktas* remained present on this occasion. H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj blessed the whole Sabha on this occasion. Sadguru Shatri Sukhnandan Swami and Sadguru Shastri Swami Chaitanyaswaroopdasji narrated the *Katha* whose benefit was availed by the devotees of the village. On this occasion, Shree Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal, Kherol rendered the beautiful services. (Shasti Chaitanyaswaroopdasji)

Divine *Shakotsav* in Balva

With the blessings and directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj, grand *Shakotsav* was celebrated in the village Balva on 20/12/2011. About 160 k.g. vegetables and 160 k.g. *Bajri* flour and huge quantity of butter was used during this *Shakotsav* organized by Shree

Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal. Shastri Swami Bhaktinandandas etc. saints had earlier for preparation of this *Shakotsav*.

On 20/12/2011, H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj graced the house of the host devotee of *Shakotsav*, devotee Shri Lalsinh Bhati. The host devotee performed *aarti-poojan* and offered *Bhet* to H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj. Thereafter, H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj graced the *Sabha*, wherein the host family offered the golden ring to H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj. Then the devotees of the village offered the garlands and obtained the blessings. Then H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj graced High School of the village. H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj graced the divine *Shakotsav* alongwith Shri P.P. Swami, Shri Atmprakashdasji Swami and Shyamcharan Swami. Thousands of devotees and *Haribhaktas* availed the benefit of divine *Darshan* of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj. Ladies devotees of Balva village and other nearby villages rendered their services for preparing the loaves on this occasion. Saints from Jetalpur, Ahmedabad, Mansa, Torda, Mahesana and Unava places had also arrived on this occasion. In the *Sabha* organized on the occasion, Shasti Swami Atmprakahdasji and swami Narayanprasaddasji etc. saints rendered their inspirational speeches. At last H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj blessed the whole *Sabha*. The whole *Utsav* was conducted by Bhaktinandandas of Jetalpur.

(K.P. Swami, Jetalpur)

Satsang Sabha in Patdi

With the directions and blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, beautiful *Satsang Sabha* was organized in Shree Swaminarayan temple, Patdi on 18/12/2011 at night from 8.00 to 11.00 hours. Mahant Shastri Swami Atmprakashdasji of Jetalpurdham, Shastri Bhaktinandandasji, students-saints of Aksharmaholvadi, Gunsagar Swami and Dharmtilak Swami narrated beautiful *Katha* on this occasion. At last Shastri Swami Atmprakashdasji blessed all the devotees and *Haribhaktas*. *Satsang Mandal* of Sankhya Yogi Shantaba had also participated in this *Satsang Sabha*. Many *Haribhaktas* of Patdi, Mandal, Trent, Bamanva villages had participated.

(Shastri Bhaktinandandas)

Patotsav and Hari-Mandir Invocation *Mahotsav* in Himatnagar

With the directions and blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj and with the noble aim of Akshar Nivasi Gavaiya Swami Keshavjivandasji and as per the guidance of Sadguru Mahant Swami Jagdishprasaddasji (Idar) and Mahant Shastri Harijivandasji, grand *Mahotsav* of invocation of the idol images in Hari-temple and 22nd *Patotsav* of inner temple were celebrated with great fervour and enthusiasm.

Abhishek and *aarti* of Shree Ghanshyam Maharaj was performed by H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj on *Magsar Sud-6* on 30/11/2011. H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj graced the house of the host devotee and thereafter also performed invocation ritual and *aarti* of Shree Ghanshyam Maharaj, Shree Narnarayandev, Radhakrishnadev etc. and then performed concluding ritual of *Tridinatmak Hariyaag* organized on this occasion.

Thereafter H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj graced the *Sabha* organized on the occasion. In the *Sabha*, Shri P.P. Swami (Jetalpurdham), Mahant Swami Jagdishprasaddasji, Sadguru Raghuvir Swami, Sadguru Krishnaprasad Swami offered garlands to H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj. The chief host of *Mahotsav* devotee Shri Dineshbhai P. Patel, host of *Patotsav* devotee Shri Bharatbhai S. Modi , host of Hari Yaag devotee Shri Dwarkadas H. Patel performed *aarti pooja* and obtained the blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj. Many saints of Ahmedabad, Jetalpur, Sokli, Mansa and other places delivered their inspirational speeches and Dr. K.K. Patel (Trustee) also delivered his speech on this occasion. The Sabha was conducted by Shastri Harijivandasji. In the Sabha H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj released the CD of *Kirtans* named '*Hari-Raas*'. H.H. Shri Gadiwala had also graced this occasion and blessed the ladies devotees.

Blood Donation Camp was also organized on this occasion, whose benefit was availed by large number of devotees and *Haribhaktas*. Poojari Swami Ajayprakashdasji and Sadguru Dhrmpriya Swami and Kothari Satyasankalp Swami and Shastri Shreejiprakashdasji and Shastri Vasudevcharandasji rendered their beautiful services during this Mahotsav. (Kothari Swami)

Ekadashi Jagran

With the directions and blessings of H.H. Shri Gadiwala, Shree Narnarayandev *Mahila Mandal*, Himatnagar, organized *Prabodhini Ekadashi Jagran* on Sunday 06/1/2011. Mahant Shastri Swami Harijivandasji inaugurated the occasion by lighting the lamps. About 60 ladies devotees performed *Swagat Song, Kirtan Bhakti,* drama based on our *Sampradaya* and cultural programme during the course of *Ekadashi Jagran*. (Rakesh Prajapati)

Shree Hari Public Library in Kichod village

With the blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and in the memory of Akshar Nivasi devotee Chhaganbhai Haribhai and Akshar Nivasi devotee Joitiba, the family released Shree Hari Public Library in village Kichod of Idar taluka. Many devotees had rendered their services on this occasion.

6th *Shakotsav* in Delvada Village

With the blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj grand *Shakotsav and Satsang Sabha* were organized on 17/11/2011. In the *Satsang Sabha* Sadguru Shastri Swami Ramkrishnadasji (Koteshwar Gurukul) and Sadguru Shastri Nana P.P. Swami narrated beautiful *Katha*. Ladies devotees of the village rendered their services for preparing the loaves. At night *Bhajan Kirtan* etc. were performed Gavaiya *Haribhaktas*.

On 18/12/2011 H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj graced the occasion and *Haribhaktas* of the village performed grand *Swagat Samaiyu*. First of all H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj performed *aarti* of Thakorji in the temple and thereafter performed divine *Vaghar* of *Shakotsav*. At last H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj blessed the whole *Satsang Sabha*. Devotee Shri Manibhai (aged 84 years) (Khandwala) obtained life time membership of *'Shree Swaminarayan'* monthly magazine. With the services of devotee Shri Ghanshyambhai Bapudas Patel, 9 devotes became life time members of *'Shree Swaminarayan'* magazine. Devotee Shri Bhagubhai Master delivered the Vote of Thanks. (Manibhai Khandwala)

***Satsang Sabha* in Kherol village**

With the directions and blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj, beautiful Saint-*Vani* programme was organized in Shree Swaminarayan temple, Kherol on the pious day of Ekadashi on 21/11/2011. In this programme, Sadguru Shastri Swami Akhileshwardasji and Shastri Sukhnandandas explained the importance of Shree Hari. The devotee Shri Shankarbhai Kachrabhai Patel rendered the services as the host of this occasion. Swami Sarveshwardas and Swami Vishweshwardas performed *Kirtan-Bhakti*.

(Sadhu Sarveshwardas)

***Dhoon* by Shree Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal in village Gomtipur**

With the blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and the whole *Dharmkul*, *Shree Swaminarayan Mahamantra Dhoon* was organized during the pious *Dhanur Maas* in our Shree Swaminarayan temple, Gomtipur early in the morning from 5.30 to 6.00 hours. This programme is being organized for the last five years. (Shree Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal, Gomtipur)

Celebration of Grand *Shakotsav* in New Ranip

With the directions and blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and the whole *Dharmkul* and with the inspiration of Sadguru Swami Devprakashdasji and Sadguru Shastri P.P. Swami (Mahant, Naranghat), Shree Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal, Ranip organised first grand *Shakotsav* on Sunday 25/12/2011.

H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj graced the occasion with the saints. About 4000 devotees and *Haribhaktas* were excited with the divine presence of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj who performed divine *Vaghar* of *Shakotsav* in But Bhavani Party Plot. Through devotee Prakashbhai (Chenpur) Devotee Shri Purushottambhai Naranbhai Patel (owner of the But Bhavani Party Plot) rendered the services as the host of *Shakotsav*. Services of Shree Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal of Ranip, Nava Vadaj, Naranghat and Ghatlodia were inspirational.

On this occasion Sadguru Mahant Shatri Swami Harikrishnadasji arrived alongwith the saints and blessed all the devotees. After *Kirtan-Bhakti*, Sadguru Shastri Swami Chaitanyaswaroopdasji explained the importance of *Shakotsav*. Thousands of devotees and *Haribhaktas* availed the benefit of this Grand *Shakotsav*. (Pravinbhai Patel)

***Mahapooja* by Shree Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal, Bapunagar**

With the directions and blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya 108 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharja and with the inspiration and guidance of Sadguru Shastri P.P. Swami (Mahant of Naranghat temple), Group *Mahapooja* was organized by Shree Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal, Karmshakti Bapunagar at Karmshakti Park (Gokul Party Plot) on Sunday 25/12/2011.

Sadguru Akhandanand Swami, the contemporary of Shreeji Maharaj has made popular this divine *Mahapooja* in our *Sampradaya*. About 430 *Haribhaktas* availed the benefit of this *Mahapooja*. In the *Sabha* organized on the occasion, Shastri Swami Vishwaswaroopdasji explained the importance of *Mahapooja*. Sadguru Swami Devprakashdasji, Sadguru Shastri P.P. Swami (Mahant of Naranghat temple), Swami Laxmanjivandasji had remained present on this occasion. Shastri P.P. Swami blessed the host devotees of *Mahapooja*. Devotee Shri Ashwinbhai Sardhara rendered the services as the chief host of *Mahapooja*. Many other devotees had also rendered their beautiful services. At last H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj performed concluding ritual of *Mahapooja* and praised the services rendered by the young devotees. The *Sabha* was conducted by Sadguru Shastri Swami Chaitanyaswaroopdasji. (Shree Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal, Bapunagar)

Celebration of *Shakotsav* of Shree Swaminarayan temple, Sabarmati

With the directions and blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and with the inspiration and guidance of Sadguru Shastri Nana P.P. Swami (Mahant of Naranghat temple), grand *Shakotsav* was organized by Shree Swaminarayan temple,

Sabarmati (Ramnagar). This *Shakotsav* was organized on Sunday 25/12/2011 at Shree Sahjanand Gurukul, Koteshwar.

Many devotees and *Haribhaktas* of Sabarmati and nearby areas had participated in this *Shakotsav*. In the Sabha organized on the occasion, *Kirtan Bhakti* etc. were performed. Thereafter, H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj graced the *Sabha* alonwith the saints. Sadguru Mahant Swami Devprakashdasji, Sadguru Shastri P.P. Swami (Naranghat), Brahmchari Poojari Rajeshwaranandji, Swami Divyaprakashdas. In the *Sabha* P.P. Swami explained the importance of Shreeji Maharaj with examples. At last H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj blessed the whole *Sabha*. Thousands of devotees and *Haribhaktas* availed the benefit of *Prasad* of *Shakotsav*. Services of Shree Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal, Ramnagar was inspirational.

(Shastri Chaitanyaswaroopdasji)

MULI DESH

Shrimad Bhagwat Saptah Gyan-Yagna, Mathak (tal. Halvad)

With the directions and blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj and H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and with the inspiration and guidance of Sadguru Shastri Swami Purushottamprakashdasji (Mahant of Naranghat temple) from 19/11/2011 to 25/11/2011 *Shrimad Bhagwat Saptah* was organized in the memory of *Akshar Nivasi* devotee Khimjibhai Vashrambhai Vadgama in Shree Swaminarayan temple at Mathak village of Muli Desh. Sadguru Shastri Swami Ramkrishnadasji (Koteshwar Gurukul) was the spokesperson of this *Katha*. H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj graced this occasion and blessed all the devotees of the village. On this occasion, *Pothi-Yatra, Rukshmani Vivah* and Freedom from Addiction Camp etc. were also organized.

H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj graced the concluding ritual of *Saptah* alongwith the saints Mahant Shastri Swami Harikrishnadasji, Sadguru Swami Devprakashdasji, Brahmchari Poojari Rajeshshwaranandji. First of all H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj performed *aarti* of Thakorji and concluding ritual of *Katha* and blessed the host devotees; then graced the *Sabha* and blessed all the devotees. Services of Jivrajpark Yuvak Mandal was inspirational during the whole programme. The *Sabha* was conducted by Shastri Swami Chaitanyaswaroopdasji and devotee Shri Bharatbhai Thakkar (Jivrajpark). H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj was very much pleased with the services rendered by the devotee Shri Narayanbhai Vadgama and appointed him as trustee of Jivraj temple in the presence of the Managing Trustee devotee Shri Rajnibhai. The whole village and Vadgama family obtained the blessings and pleasure of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj on this occasion. (Shree Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal, Jivrajpark)

Celebration of 6th *Patotsav* in Shree Swaminarayan temple, Surendranagar

With the directions and blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj and with the inspiration of Mahant Sadguru Swami Premjivandasji, 6th *Patotsav* of Shree Swaminarayan temple, Surendranagar was celebrated with great fervour and enthusiasm on the Pious day of *Kartak Sud-2*.

On this occasion, *Shrimad Satsangijivan Saptah Parayan* was organized from *Kartak Sud-11 to Kartak Vad-2*. Shastri Swami Satyasankalpdasji was the spokesperson of the *Parayan*. Akshar Nivasi Rakilaben Kantilal Chandarana family rendered the services as the host of this *Parayan*. Whereas Akshar Nivasi Manilal Mohanlal family rendered the services as the host of *Patotsav*. On the pious day of *Kartak Sud-2* in the morning, H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj performed *Abhishek, Annakut Aarti* of Thakorji and the concluding ritual of *Hari-Yaag* was also performed. H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj also graced this occasion and blessed all the devotees and *Haribhaktas*. H.H. Shri Gadiwala also graced the occasion and blessed the ladies devotees.

Every night *Bal Sabha, Balika Sabha* and cultural programme of the children were organized. Saints from Ahmedabad, Muli, Naranpura and Kankaria had also arrived on this occasion. *Sankhya Yogi* ladies devotees had also arrived and participated in Patotsav. The *Sabha* was conducted by Shastri Swami Premvallabhdasji and Swami Suvratswaroopdasji. The whole arrangement was made by Shree Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal under the guidance of Kothari Swami.

(Shailendrasinh Zala)

Celebration of 6th *Patotsav* in Balol (Bhal) of Devanand Swami

With the directions and blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and the whole *Dharmkul* and with the inspiration of Mahant Sadguru Swami Dharmswaroopdasji of Nathdwara, 6th *Patotsav* of Shree Swaminarayan temple, Balol (Bhal) under Muli Desh was celebrated with great fervour and enthusiasm. On Magsar Sud-2, 02/12/2011, H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj graced the village, and all the devotees of the village performed grand *Samaiyu*. H.H. Shri Mota Mharaj performed *Abhishek* of Shree Harikrishna Maharaj in Vedic tradition whose *darshan* was performed by many devotees and *Haribhaktas*. Thereafter, H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj performed *aarti* in the temple of ladies

devotees and graced the *Sabha* organized on the occasion. *Akshar Nivasi* devotee Kanabha Sindhav family (at present Hansol, Ahmedabad) (devotees Keshubhai Sindhav, his brothers and sons, who rendered the services as the host of *Patotsav*, performed *poojan-archan* and obtained the blessings of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj. Thereafter the devotee Shri Labhubhai Naranbhai Kher, who rendered the services as host of *Annakut*, offered garlands and obtained the blessings of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj. In the *Sabha,* Mahant Shastri Swami Naranprasaddasji of Muli temple and Shastri Swami Ramkrishnadasji (representative of Mahant Swami of Ahmedabad temple) narrated *Katha* and performed religious preaching. At last H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj blessed the whole *Sabha*. Then H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj offered holy fruit in concluding ritual of *Mahapooja* at the residence of devotee Shri Keshubhai Sindhav. On this occasion, saints from Ahmedabad, Muli, Charadva, Shreenathji an Dholera had arrived. The *Sabha* was conducted by Sadguru Shastri Swami Vasudevcharandasji.

(Kothari Malubhai Chavda)

H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj in Nayanipa area of Mulidham

On 03/12/2011, H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj graced the residence of the devotee Shri Nirubha Govabha on the occasion of *Shatabdi Parv* (100 years) of his mother devotee Shri Rupaliba organized with the inspiration and guidance of Sadguru Swami Balkrishnadasji of Muli. First of all H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj performed divine *Darshan* of Shree Radhakrishnadev and then inaugurated and graced huge *Vaadi* of the devotee Shri Nirubha. Then performed *Darshan* of Shree Mandavraiji and granted *Darshan* in *Shobha-yatra* to devotees of Parmar community and *Haribhaktas* of the village. Then H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj graced the residence of the devotee Shri Nirubha, accepted the snacks and graced the *Sabha* organized at the place of Shree Lalji Maharaj. In the *Sabha* devotees Shri Nirubha, Shri Pravinsinh, Yashpalsinh and their other relatives offered garlands and obtained the blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj.

In the *Sabha* organized on the occasion, Mahant Shastri Swami Harikrishnadasji, Shastri Gyanvallabhdasji narrated the history of Mulidham. The *Sabha* was conducted by Shastri Chhapaiyaprasaddas.

H.H. Shri Gadiwala also graced the occasion and blessed the devotee Rupaliba and other ladies devotees. Under the guidance of Balkrishnadasji, Mahant Omswami of Khan temple, Anu Swami, J.P. Swami, Vishnu Swami, Chandu Bhagat and Bharat Bhagat had rendered their beautiful services. By accepting the ardent invitation of the devotee Shri Nirubha, Mahant Swami of Muli Temple, swami Jagatprakashdasji, Swami Laxmiprasaddasji, Swami Krishnavallabhdasji had also arrived on this occasion. (Bhanubha, Bagadwala)

Shree Swaminarayan temple, Limbdi

With the directions and blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and with the inspiration of Mahant Bhaktvatsaldasji, *Dhoon, Kirtan* etc. were performed in the pious company of Shree Ghanshyam Maharaj during the pious *Dhanur Maas* in our Shree Swaminarayan temple, Limbdi, whose benefit was availed by large number of devotees and *Haribhakas*. (Kothari Vandanprakashdas)

OVERSEAS SATSANG NEWS

Washington D.C. (I.S.S.O. Chapter)

With the directions and blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj, *Satsang Sabha* was conducted in one hall in Washington in the evening from 4.45 hours till 8.45 hours on Saturday 19/11/2011. Vrajvallabh Swami had narrated *Katha* on cell phone. *Dhoon, Kirtan* and *Thaal-Aarti* to Thakorji were performed in group.

In another *Satsang Sabha* organized on Saturday 15/10/2011, *Katha* of *Vachnamrit (273), Kirtan, Bhakti* were performed. Nilkanth Swami from Los Angeles temple had narrated importance of Shree Hari on cell phone. In the *Sabha*, birthday cake was cut and *poojan* of photo of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and thereby 39th *Prakatyotsav* of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj was celebrated with great fervour and enthusiasm. On the new year day, *Annakut* of 251 items was offered to Thakorji. Yogi Swami from Florida temple had narrated *Katha* on cell phone. Thus, all the festivals and *Utsavs* are celebrated with great fervour and enthusiasm. (Kanubhai Patel)

I.S.S.O. Shree Swaminarayan temple, Auckland (New Zealand)

With the directions and blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj and H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj, Shastri Swami Vishwaviharidasji and Shastri Abhayprakashdasji of Ahmedabad temple narrated *Katha* of *Vachnamrit (273)* on 28/11/2011 on the occasion of *Vachnamrit Jayanti*. Thereafter, all the devotees and *Haribhaktas* availed the benefit of Prasad.

(Jayantibhai Patel, Auckland)

Shree Swaminarayan temple, Chicago

With the directions and blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj, all the activities of our *Satsang* are going on very well. Mahant Swami Nilkanthprasaddasji performed group reading of *Vachnamrit* alongwith the devotees. On the day of Lunar Eclipse, all the devotees and *Haribhaktas* had performed *Dhoon, Bhajan, Kirtan* etc. (Vasantbhai Trivedi)

Request to Saints, *Haribhaktas* who send Satsang News and photograph for our Magazine

It is an humble request to the saints and *Haribhaktas* who send Satsang News and Photographs through mail for our *'Shree Swaminarayan'* magazine that, such news and photographs may be sent **before 20th of each month.** The writing of Satsang News should be precise and to the point and in legible writing. Details of photographs may be provided invariably. It should be insisted to send those photographs wherein H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj would appear.

The overseas *Haribhaktas* are requested that, they may send important news and such news may be written in brief and point-wise.

New Address to send articles, news and photographs through e-mail for publication in Shree Swaminarayan monthly magazine:

shreeswaminarayan9@gmail.com

Shree Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal in Shree Swaminarayan temple, Kalupur, Ahmedabad

With the directions and blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasdji Maharaj and with the inspiration of H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj, Shree Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal has been formed formally in Shree Swaminarayan temple, Kalupur area. Satsang Sabha would be organized in the evening from 5.00 to 6.00 in Sabha Mandap every fortnight. Young devotees of Kalupur, Dariyapur, Ghee-kanta, Raipur, Astodiya, Manek Chawk, Shahpur etc. areas can avail the benefit of this *Satsang Sabha.*

Contact : Vipul Thakkar 9137309349 (Kothari J.K. Swami)

Group Path of *Vachnamrit-273* by *Haribhaktas* of Kankaria area on the occasion of *Patotsav* of Shree Narnarayandev

By performing *Group Path* of *Vachnamrit-273* by 273 devotees of Kankaria area on the pious day of *Fagan Sud-3 Patotsav* of Shree Narnarayandev in order to obtain the blessings and pleasure of Shree Narnarayandev and *Dharmkul.*

AKSHARVAAS

Jamiyatpura (Ahmedabad) – Devotee Shri Raiben Prahladbhai Patel (Age: 89 years) (mother of devotee Shri Dashrathbhai Prahladbhai Patel (trustee of Swaminarayan temple, Kalupur), devotee Shri Rameshbhai Patel and devotee Shri Prakashbhai Patel) passed away to *Akshardham* on *Magsar Sud-09* Saturday 03/12/2011 while chanting the name of Shree Hari.

Ambapur - Devotee Shri Kashiben Keshabhai Patel passed away to Divine Abode of God on 31/10/2011 while chanting the name of Shreeji Maharaj.

Biliya - Devotee Shri Naranbhai Madhabhai (Targandi) passed away to *Akshardham* on *Magsar Sud-7* on 01/12/2011 while chanting the name of Shri Hari.

Ahmedabad – Devotee Shri Ganpatbhai Bhavsar (rendering Brahmchari services in Ahmedabad temple) passed away to Divine Abode of God on while chanting the name of Shri Hari.

Ambapur (Dist. Gandhinagar) - Devotee Shri Chaturbhai Bhagabhai passed away to Akshardham on 20/11/2011 while chanting the name of Shri Hari.

Detroit (America)– Devotee Shri Jayrambhai Vishrambhai Patek (Madhaparwala) passed away to Divine Abode of God on 22/12/2011 while chanting the name of Shreeji Maharaj.

Ahmedabad (Swaminarayan temple, Jamfalvadi) - Devotee Shri Labhuben Parshottambhai Laheri passed away to Akshardham on Posh Sud-3 27/12/2011 while chanting the name of Shri Hari.

Ahmedabad (Devpura Khakharia) - Devotee Shri Hitendrakumar (Age:48 years) (son of the devotee Shri Ratilal Maganlal Patel) passed away to Akshardham on 25/12/2011 while chanting the name of Shreeji Maharaj.

Ahmedabad-Kankaria - Devotee Dr. Rameshbhai Ratilal Parikh (who rendered life time free medical services to saints and devotees) passed away to Akshardham on 29/12/2011 while chanting the name of Shri Hari.

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(1) H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj performing *Patotsav Abhishek* in Bhachau temple and H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj performing *Annakut Aarti* and H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj blessing the host of *Patotsav* devotee Shr Virjibhai Naranbhai Valji Khusiya family. (2) H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj performing grand *Shakotsav* and blessing the *Sabha* in New Ranip area alongwith Mahant Swami Harikrishnadasji, Dev Swami etc. (3 *Haribhaktas* availing the benefit of *Dhoon* of *Dhanur Maas* in Kalupur temple. (4) Mahant Swami and the saints performing *Bhajan-Kirtan* in *Sabha* in Kalupur temple on the occasion of Lunar Eclipse. (5) Saints o Idar temple granting the benefit of *Katha* and the host devotee Shri Patel Bhikhabhai in Maniyor temple (Idar

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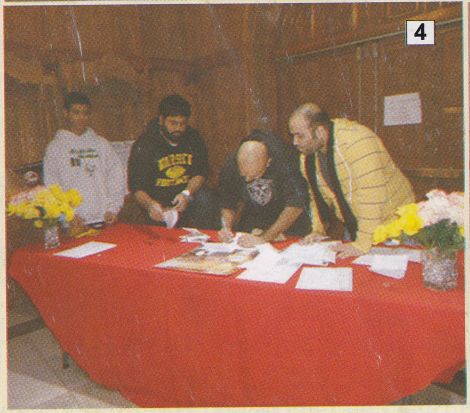



(1) Shastri Vishvaviharidasji performing *Path* in our temple at Auckland (New Zealand) and *Haribhaktas* on the occasion of *Vachnamrit Jayanti*. (*2*) *Haribhaktas* celebrating *Vachnamrit Jayanti* in Chicago temple. (*3*) *Tulsi Vivah Darshan* in Detroit temple. (*4*) *Haribhaktas* busy in the activity of Shree Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal in Chicago temple. (*5*) *Haribhaktas* performing *Darshan* of Shree Swaminarayan Museum.

Praful Kharsani