

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

Shri Swaminarayan Museum
Narayanpura, Ahmedabad-13.
Phone : 27499597 - 9825309597
Fax : 27419597
www.swaminarayanmuseum.com

With the directions of
Shri Narnarayandev
Pithadhipati H.H. 1008 Shri
Koshalendraprasadji
Maharajshri

Controlling Editors & Publishers
Shastri Swami Harikrishnadasji
MAHANT

SHRI SWAMINARAYAN TEMPLE

Kalupur, Ahmedabad-1.
Phone : 22132170, 22136818
Karbhari office : 22121515.
Fax : 22176992.

www.swaminarayan.info
www.swaminarayan.in

Editorial & Subscription Address
Shri Swaminarayan

Shri Swaminarayan Temple
Kalupur, AHMEDABAD-1 (INDIA)

For a Change in Address :
E-mail : manishnvora@yahoo.co.in

Life time Subscription :

One Year : Rs. 50/-
Inland life time : Rs. 501/-
Overseas life time : Rs. 10,000/-
India : @ Rs. 5/-

SHREE SWAMINARAYAN

Official News-letter from Shri Narnarayandevdesh Diocese

Vol : 4

No : 45

January-2011

CONTENTS

1. EDITORIAL 04
2. APPOINTMENT DIARY OF
H.H. ACHARYA MAHARAJSHRI 05
3. SHIKSHAPATRI 6
4. MURTI 07
5. DHANUR MAAS 09
6. FROM BLESSINGS OF H.H. SHRIACHARYA
MAHARAJA AND H.H. SHRI MOTA MAHARAJ 10
7. GURU MANTRA-DIKSHA MAHOTSAV 12
8. WAVE OF PLEASURE 14
9. SATSANG BALVATIKA 15
10. BHAKTI-SUDHA 17
11. NEWS 20

सुसुधियम

EDITORIAL

We availed divine and special benefit of remembering and chanting Mahamantra of the Lord Shree Swaminarayan during the pious *Dhanur Maas*. While all the people of the world were sleeping and snoring in their bed, devotees of Bhagwan Swaminarayan are performing *Mangala Aarti, Dhoon, Kirtan, Katha* and *Shangaar Aarti* in our temples. Only lucky persons get such a rare and divine benefit. Only a Satsangi can understand the meaning of our '*happiness*' otherwise there are many people who know and understand the meaning of worldly happiness. If we continue to relish divine '*happiness*' then Shree Hari will be very much pleased with us.

The time of inauguration function of '*Shree Swaminarayan Museum*' of our H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj is coming closer. Large number of devotees from all over the world will come to participate in this function. Who knows whether such a divine occasion associating us with the Almighty Lord will come again in our life or not? And therefore this is a grand *Mahotsav* for all the devotees of our Sampradaya; moreover, it is our own *Mahotsav*. Therefore, let us render our services of mind, body and money in celebrating this *Mahotsav*. It is an humble prayer to the Almighty Lord that, we render our best services along with H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and perform our divine duties.

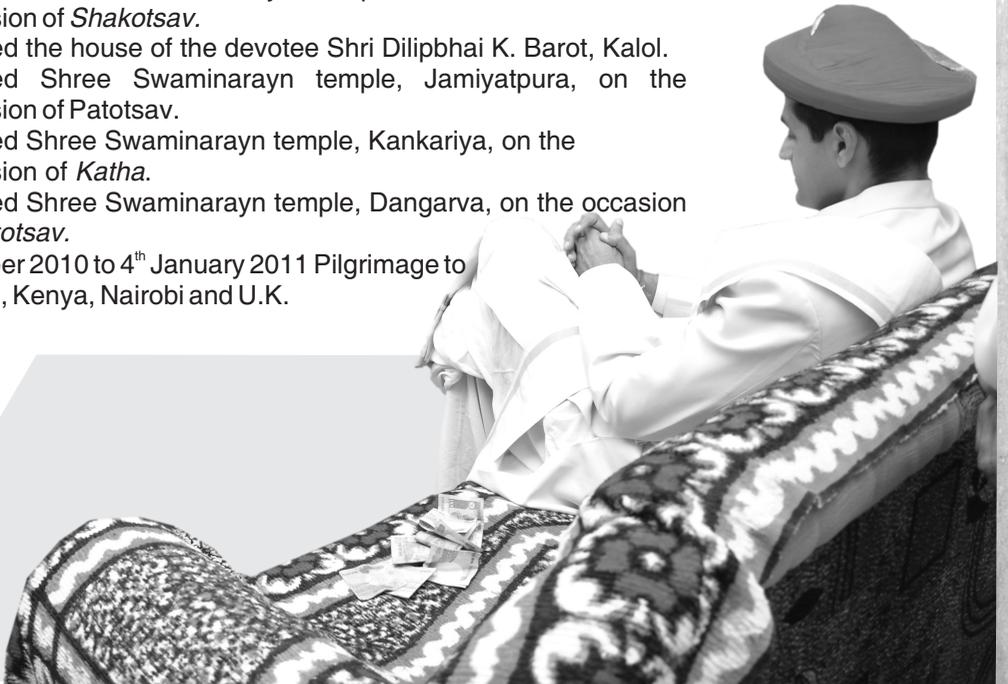
Editor
Mahant Swami
Shastri Swami Harikrishnadas



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

DECEMBER-2010

1. Graced Shree Swaminarayn temple, Bhadreshi (Muli Desh), on the occasion of invocation of the idol images.
 3. Graced Shree Swaminarayn temple, Tavi (Muli Desh) on the occasion of re-invocation of the idol images and *Katha*.
 4. Graced the house of the devotee Shri Kamleshbhai Chimanbhai Patel on the occasion of *Mahapooja* and also graced houses of other devotees of the village.
 5. Graced the village Soja.
Graced the village Vihar on the occasion of *Shakotsav*.
 6. Graced Shree Swaminarayn temple, Laloda.
Graced Bhuj-Kachchh in the evening.
 7. Graced the city Morbi from Bhuj-Kachchh.
 8. Graced Shree Swaminarayn temple (ladies), Morbi on the occasion of *Patotsav*.
 9. Graced the house of the devotee Shri Dasrathbhai Nathuji Chaudhari, Balva.
Graced the house of the devotee Shri Govindbhai Babaldas Gajjar, Ghee Kanta.
 10. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Gandhinagar (Sector-2) on the occasion of *Patotsav*.
Graced the house of the devotee Shri Ghanshyambhai Pravinbhai Kothari, village Ola.
Graced the house of the devotee Shri Bharatsinh Vaghela, village Godhavi.
 11. Graced Shree Swaminarayn temple, Himatnagar on the occasion of *Patotsav*.
 12. Graced Shree Swaminarayn temple, Dhamasana, on the occasion of *Shakotsav*.
Graced the house of the devotee Shri Dilipbhai K. Barot, Kalol.
 13. Graced Shree Swaminarayn temple, Jamiyatpura, on the occasion of *Patotsav*.
 14. Graced Shree Swaminarayn temple, Kankariya, on the occasion of *Katha*.
 16. Graced Shree Swaminarayn temple, Dangarva, on the occasion of *Patotsav*.
- 17th December 2010 to 4th January 2011 Pilgrimage to Dubai, Kenya, Nairobi and U.K.



Shikshapatri

The Epistle of Precepts

(based on Shatanand's Shikshapatri
Arthadipika)

By Pravin S. Varsani

Text 42

**The *Tilak* shall be made with
Gopichandan stick or with
Consecrated sandal paste mixed with
Kum-Kum (saffron or red
Powder) duly offered to Lord Krishna.
*Tatu Gopichandanena Chandanenathva
Hareha |***

Shatanand explains that *Gopichandan* is a special type of mud, which is famed with Dwarika. Legend has it that after the demise of Shree Krishna, his wives stricken with grief, fell to the earth and became one with the earth. This area is known as '*Gopi Tarava*' and this is where *Gopichandan* can be found. Alternatively any other purified mud or paste can be used which has been offered to God. This could be sandalwood paste etc.

Shatanand says, ***Atra Gopichandaneneti Tirthamruda Upalaksharnam*** – *Gopichandan* can be taken to mean the mud or paste from a place of pilgrimage. **Acharamadhava of Brahmnd Purana** explains, 'The mud from the pinnacle of a mountain, the banks of an ocean or sea, an ant hill or serpent's burrow and the paste of a Tulsi plant should always be favoured for marking the *Tilak*.'

Vyaas adds, 'Those who use the mud from the banks of the *River Ganges* on their forehead destroy darkness by being endowed with the luster of the sun.' **Satyapa** says 'Those who use on their foreheads, the mud from the banks of the *River Gomati*, made from the bodies of Gopis, are freed from all sin.'

Padma Purana explains, 'The mud from places of pilgrimage should be used to mark

the *Urdvapundra* on the forehead.' **Skanda Purana** explains. 'Paste of the Tulsi plant, *Gopichandan* or the paste of sandalwood duly offered to God, should be used by Vaishnavas to mark the *Urdvapundra*.'

In some instances the use of *Gopichandan* is forbidden. **Dharma Pravarti of Smrutisarasmuchai** explains, '*Gopichandan* should never be used for purposes of perfuming the body, during *Sutak* period (ten days succeeding a birth or death), during a wedding, when a child is born and other such occasions.' At such times other pastes should be used, as *Chandan* offered to God in *Pooja* is never forbidden for use.

Uddhava explains, 'O Lord! Those who first offer these flower garlands, paste (*Chandan*), clothing and ornaments such as jewellery and only then use such things for personal use, can overcome the clutches of *Maya* (illusion).' 'After bathing, one should mark the *Tilak* using paste. After '*Homa*' – sacrificial offering, one should mark the *Tilak* using the ash from the sacrifice, to destroy all sins.' Thus in this way the *Tilak-Chandlo* is glorified in *Shastras* such as *Padma Purana* and **Urdvapundra Dharamvada**. Only those substances mentioned in *Shastras* should be used to mark the forehead. In this way, *Tilak-Chandlas* made using pastes offered to Shree Krishna are able to destroy the sins of man.

Text 43

**In the centre of the *Tilak*, one shall make
a *Chandlo* (round mark) of
Gopichandan or *Kum-kum*, which has
been offered to Radha or Lakshmi.**

***Tanmadhya Eva Kartavyata
Pundradavyera Chandarkaha |***

The centre (*Madhya*) of the *Tilak* (*Pundra*) is stipulated here. Thus it should be neither too high nor too low. *Pundradavyera* – that which is used to mark the *Tilak* should be used to mark the *Chandlo* (*Chandrakaha*).

Sarsamgraha's Vishnu Dharmotrara

(Con. on page 11)



Murti

- Sadhu Purushottamprakashdas (Jetalpurdham)

**By the Acharya (of Dharma Kul) or
installed by Him.
other idols shall be respectfully bowed
before, but not worshipped."**

Even if any one explains something else about the idols or idol-worship then also we should not think other than as directed in *Shloka-62* of '*Shiksha Patri*'. Therefore we should render our services as per the directions of Shree Hari. Our *Murti-Pooja* must be and strictly as per the guidance of our *Dharmvanshi Acharya Maharaj*. Like the Judgement of the Supreme Court of India, judgment delivered in *Shloka-62* of '*Shiksha Patri*' is final and binding to all the devotees and *Haribhaktas*.

In *Vachanamrit-48* *Gadhda Madhya* Chapter it is stated, "*We have tuning with the Lord Shree Narnarayandev. And therefore we shall request the Lord, 'Oh Maharaj! those who worship your idol image given by us while remaining under Panchvartmaan, You may permanently reside with such devotees.' Therefore, never allow the idol images unworshipped. This is our order and direction, which all of you shall follow scrupulously.*"

Though *Murti-Pooja* is very simple, yet it also requires great care and caution on the part of the devotee. It is very essential to know about the number and size of the idol image. In the absence of such an important information, it is possible that, in stead of obtaining the blessings and pleasure, we may invite wrath of the deities by committing the sins. Today the devotees bring anything new which they come across. Even the persons making gifts of the idol images do not know about the idol images. One should not collect the idol images in the house. The idol images which are either unworshipped or are broken should be placed

In our Vedic tradition, idols are worshipped with a view to Siddhi of Sakar Upasana. The form of Almighty God which grants divine Darshan to Muktas in Akshardham, the same form accepts worship of the devotees and people of this mortal world while remaining in the idol. In *Shiksha Patri Shloka 121*, it is stated : तत्र ब्रह्मात्मना कृष्णासेवा मुक्तिश्च गम्यताम् "My philosophy rests in the theory of Vishishtadvaita. Goloka Dhaama is my beloved abode. I believe Mukti (salvation) as being able to serve Lord Krishna as Brahmanrupa, in Goloka Dhaama."

So for worship, there is great importance of idol. *Bhagwat Swaroop* residing in *Dhaam* is also present in the idol in living form. It is not possible to worship Him in other *Lok* of this *Brahmand* (Universe). *Mantra*, *Yantra* and *Murti* (idol) are the means to be one with Almighty Lord. *Bhagwan Ramanujacharya* propounded the idol worship before 2500 years.

In *Bhakti-Marg*, it is essential to have knowledge about *Murti* for rendering our services. It is not proper that, we purchase the idol image from the market and place it in our house. *Shree Hari* has given us ample information, Knowledge and guidance in this regard. By following His directions only we become eligible to render our services for the idols of the deities. In *Shloka-62* of *Shiksha Patri*, it is clearly stated that :

**"They shall worship only those idols of
Shree Krishna, which have been given to
them**

in the flowing river.

We should not place *Murti* on the wall or cupboard of our house. By choosing an appropriate corner in North-East corner, we should establish only such idol images which are given to us by H.H.Shri Acharya Maharaj. Nowhere else should we keep the idol images. Yes, we can keep pictures of *Leela Charitra* and the forms of *Mukta, Saints, Dharmvanchi Acharya*. We should invariably keep the idol images of *Ishtdev* and the Lord Shree Narnarayandev in the throne of our *Pooja*. Idol images of other deities can be kept at our will.

As regards Murtis of Panchdev, it is stated in '*Matsya Purana*' that, if we keep two Shivlinga, Three Ganesh, Two Surya, Three Durgadevi, Two Gomati and two Shaligram Bhagwan in our home, then there never remains peace in the house. Shaligram Bhgwan should be kept in odd numbers means 1,3, 5 etc. In '*Skanda Purana*' it is stated, invocation is not required in Shila of Shaligram and installation of Baan Linga. In 57th Adhyay of Brihatdharmapurana, it is stated that, there should be movable establishment of the idols in the house. Whereas in the temples it should be fixed and not movable. When circumstances arise to perform Visarjan of the idol images, then all gods can be invoked with Ganga-Jal (water of the pious river Ganga) and Shaligram Bhagwan and then we can perform Visarjan of the idol images.

Even in our office, we should keep *Simhasana* (throne) as per our capacity and they we should perform *Deep, Aarti* etc.

In 12th *Shloka* of 27th Chapter of Shrimad Bhagwat Purana, it is stated:

शैली दासमयी लौही लेश्वा लोया च सैकती ।

मनोमयी मणीमयी प्रतिमाष्टविधा स्मृता ॥

The idol images made of fiber, plastic, rubber an synthetic and chemical things should not be used as this is against the Scriptures. moreover, it is also harmful from the point of view of the Environment. Therefore, all those persons, who are associated with these idol images, are earning their share from the sins. This is an era of Plastics and therefore even the idol image are also made of the rubber or any of the above said material.

Similarly idol are printed in the wall calendars and pocket calendars. We should not throw them at random, but we should offer them in the flowing water.

For our *Nitya Pooja*, Shree Hari has stated in *Shloka-54* of '*Shiksha Patri*'.

“Then they shall, with due respect, bow down before the images of Shree Radha Krishna and recite the eight syllabled holy Mantra of Shree Krishna according to their capacity and then attend to there daily routines.”

Even specific size of the idol image is prescribed in the books of Sculptures. Even if Shaligram Bhagwan is broken, then it can be worshipped by the Brahmins. The ladies devotees should not *poojan* of Shaligram Bhagwan. There is no need of *Visarjan* of these idol images. We should regularly offer *Tulsi-patra, Chandan* etc. while performing *poojan* and *aarti* of these idol images. At night one should not pluck *Tulsi-Patra*.

At home, we should regularly offer and perform *Aarti, Thaal* etc. if *Pooja* remains unattended at home then it is not a sin, as every movable *pooja*. When the King Indra asked Brahmaji about the mystery of Pratima-poojan. Then Brahmaji said, “Shivji ardently worshipped the idol image with Mantras. Therefore He was called and known as Maheshwar. I (Brahma) worshipped the idol image in Shail method and therefore I got immortality. When Yavudev, Vasugan, Agnidev, Surya and Chandra, Matukagan etc. deities worshipped the idol images of the Almighty Lord and they obtained the greatness.

In *Shloka-24* of Adhyay-27 of Shrimad Bhagwat Skanda-11, it is stated that the divine element of the Almighty Lord resides in me and therefore all should perform at least *Manaspooja*.

Moreover in *Shloka- 52* Bhagwan Shree Krishna told Shri Krishna Uddhav that, by installing my idol images one can get Brahmlok by worshipping the idol images one gets Brahmlok.

Dhanur Maas

- Sadhu Ghanshyamprakashdas,
Jamiyotpura (Mahant Swami, Mansa)

Devotees converted this time of conserving energy during the time of severe cold for all 12 months for worship of Almighty Lord. It was during this time that, the Lord Shree Krishna came to Ashram of His Guru Sandipani and started learning.

In fact it was a message for all to render their services for Their own Guru. Even the devotees took strong and strict rules for observance while leaving their sweet sleep during this month. From Pooja Pith till Mangala aarti, devotees are found relishing into ardent worship of Almighty Lord and they become virtually frenzy in their worship.

For *Shangar Aarti*, the devotees are eager to offer various types of clothes and ornaments. Moreover, various types of meals, breakfast, chocolates, biscuits, utensils etc. are offered in Shangaar to the deities.

Thus, heart of every devotee is like that of a young child who is eager to meet his mother. Then Haribhaktas concentrate their attention towards offering alms as the pious day of Makarsankranti comes closer. Many devotees offer the grass to the cows, meals to the hungry and blankets and other clothes to the needy people. The rich people render their services for education of the needy and poor students, for orphans, and also for needy old aged people. Many people offer the meals and clothes to the Brahmins and Sadhus and offer so many things in *Dakshina*.

Kathamrit of Hari Charitra is spread all over the world through *Yagna*, *Parayana* and *Shakotsav* during this pious *Dhanur Maas*. In every temple of our *Sampradaya*, be it big or small, be it a temple with a dome or Hari-temple, *Mahamantra Dhoon* is performed invariably in all the temples, during this pious *Dhanur Maas*. Many people are found eagerly waiting for the arrival of this pious month so that they can



ardently worship Almighty Lord!

So let us rejoice and celebrate our worship during this pious *Dhanur Maas*!!!

Rajat Shatabdi Patotsav of Rangmahol Shree Ghanshyam Maharaj

With the directions and blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj, for the first time in the history of our *Sampradaya*, '*Rajat Shatabdi Mahotsav*' 125th Annual *Patotsav* of Rangmahol Shree Ghanshyam Maharaj of Shree Swaminayan temple, Ahmedabad, shall be celebrated with great fervour and enthusiasm on the pious day of Fagan Sud-1 06/03/2011 as a part of Shree Swaminarayan Museum Inauguration function. The devotees desirous to render their services as the host of this *Patotsav* may contact Shri Mahant Swami and Poojari Swami. (Poojari Gyanprakashdasji, Rangmahol)

From Blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharja and H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj

- Gordhanbhai V. Sitapara (Hirawadi-Bapunagar)



In the *Sabha* organized by Shree Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal, Bapunagar, on the occasion of 1008 *Group Maha Pooja*, H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj in the inaugural *Sabha* and H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj in the concluding *Sabha* blessed all the devotees. From these blessings, we could remember two important things. One is – in the blessings, H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj explained about the importance of religion and stated that, before many years H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj graced the place of one old devotee in Jamshedpur. The old man was very rich person. When H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj asked what was he doing? The devotee replied that he was not a big businessman but we make symbol 'T' of Tata Company which manufactures railway wagons. The point to remember from this is that, if one has a very small connection with a big company like

Tata then also he can be so happy and prosperous in his life then if we keep our connection with Almighty Lord then how happy and prosperous we can be provided we scrupulously follow the directions of Shree Hari and regularly offer 10th or 20th portion of our income towards '*Dharmada*'. Even there is partnership of only 2% then also one can be very happy and rich in his life. It is not important how much we offered in *Dharmada* of the Lord Shree Narnarayandev,

but our regularity in this should be maintained. By our regularity we shall be able to offer our services and we would become more conscious about all this.

Every morning we perform *poojan* of our *Ishtadev*. But at least once in a year, we participate in *Group Mahapooja* and thereby we remember and recall our duty towards our Acharya. Those who have participated directly or indirectly are really praiseworthy.

H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj explained how strong are *Sankalp* of the devotees and Haribhaktas! He narrated one incident in this regard. Once when we were returning to India from America, many Haribhaktas came to see us on the air port. At that time Mahant Swami (Mahant Shatri Swami Harikrishnadasji of Ahmedabad temple) was also accompanying us. A small child from Gosaliya family of Saurashtra had also came

with a rose flower in his hand. But the child was late. When he arrived, the procedure of immigration was completed and everything was arranged in the flight. The child became very unhappy. But he was firm in his decision of offering the flower of rose to us. And it is a mere co-incidence that, all computers on the airport suddenly stopped working and hence all flights of that day were cancelled. We came out of the airport with our luggage. All other devotees had already left, but that child was standing unhappy holding the rose flower in his hand. The divine and determined Sankalp of the little child was fulfilled by Maharaj. thereafter we stayed for two more days in America and then returned to India. but what we have to understand is that, if noble aim of a little child of a devotee can be so strong then there is 1008 Group Mahapooja on the occasion of Museum. When so many Haribhaktas determine for a noble aim of Shree Swaminarayan Museum

then Maharaj will invariably complete that work without any obstacles!!! All of you have strengthened our enthusiasm and will power for our Museum. Any Haribhaktas, who is going to render his services for our Museum, will certainly earn pleasure and happiness of Almighty Lord. Through the pen of Nishkulanand Swami, Shree Hari has stated:

અમે એમાં એ છે અમમાં ઈ રે,

એમસમજો સહુ બાઈ ભાઈ રે ॥

એથી અમે અળગા ન રે'યે રે,

એમાં રહીને દર્શન દેયે રે ॥

A number of such miraculous incidents occur in the life of Dharmvanshi Acharya. But sometimes with their blessings, we get an opportunity to relish some of these miraculous incidents from them only. There are many incidents when Shree Hari has fulfilled the desires of our ardent devotees, as narrated in various scriptures. This divine tradition continues even today!!!

(Con. from page 6)

explains, 'O King! Vaishnavas in order to please Lakshmi and earn her favour should wear a *Chandlo* made from Kum-Kum in the centre of the Urdvapundra *Tilak*, daily.' By doing so, we are showered with wealth, as Lakshmi is the Goddess of Wealth. Kum-Kum has been glorified here and so it should be used in preference to others substances ideally.

Kum kum enathava Vruto Radhalaksmiprasadapi – The Kum-Kum offered to Radha or Lakshmi is considered the greatest. Kum-kum that is offered to Radha-Lakshmi is above all else and will surely provide all that one requires.

This Shloka is really for men (as explained later) and commands them to wear a *Tilak* (U – shaped mark) using Gopichandan (yellow or orange paste) with a round circle of red powder- Kum-kum in the middle of the *Tilak*. This sign is somewhat specific to members of the Swaminarayan sect, but as we can see, it is in actual fact the

Shikshapatri

mark for all Vaishnavas. All Vaishnavas should mark their foreheads in exactly this way. There are many sects that wear different markings – some mark only the U-shape *Tilak* and not the *Chandlo*. The *Chandlo* in some sects is too far down. Sometimes women wear the *Tilak* and not the *Chandlo*. The *Tilak* may be too long or too short. It may be too wide or too narrow. The *Chandlo* may be too small or too big. In all such cases the sizes should be proportionate and should complement each other.

Jugal Upasna should always be practiced – the worship of Radha and Krishna or Lakshmi and Narayan and therefore both the *Tilak* and *Chandlo* should be worn by men to signify both Bhakta and Bhagwan. Those who do not act in this way can never fully fulfill their devotion to God. **Shrischa Yasyasti Vakshasi** – Lakshmi reside in the heart of God and therefore the *Chandlo* must reside within the heart of the *Tilak*.

Guru Mantra- Diksha Mahotsav



જેને જોઈએ તે આવો મોક્ષ માગવા રે લોલ,
આજ ધર્મવંશીને દાર, નરનારી જેને જોઈએ.

All devotees of Khakhariya Desh may kindly know that ours is Uddhav Sampradaya and we should know its method and we must also know its Tradition of Guru. How is its Tradition of Guru ? What is the importance of Guru Mantra? What is the importance of the place of *Dharmkul* established by Shreei Maharaj?

From the point of view of Sampradaya we should know that ours is *Uddhav Sampradaya*. Uddhavji – ardent devotee of the Lord Shree Krishna- was born at the residence of father Ajay and mother Sumati in Ayodhya. After obtaining permission of the parents, Uddhavji left home for welfare of the people. He reached Shri Rang Kshetra in search of Guru where he met Shri Ramanujacharya and obtained Vaishnavi Diksha from him and accepted him as his Guru. After many hurdles and obstacles he had divine Darshan of the Lord Shree Krishna and it was because of the blessings of his Guru Shri Ramanujacharya. And therefore Shreeji Maharaj has stated in 18th Vachanamrit of Vadtal Chapter that,

“Uddhav was in the form of Ramanand Swami and that Ramanand Swami obtained Vaishnavi Diksha from Shri Ramanujacharya in Shri Rang Kshetra. Thus, Ramanujacharya is Guru of Shri Ramanand Swami, and I am the disciple of Shri Ramanand Swami.”

Now who should be entrusted with the reins of this Sampradaya? After deliberation by the Nand saints and the devotees, Shreeji Maharaj adopted Ayodhyaprasadji and Raghuvir Maharaj as his sons from Dharmkul of Dharmdev and sons of Rampratapbhai and Iccharambhai. After the rituals, a grand Utsav was performed and Satsang was divided into Two Desh. North one known as Shree Narnarayandev Desh and South one known as Shree Laxminarayandev Desh and Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj and

Raghuvirprasadji Maharaj were established as Acharyas and Guru of the devotees and saints of both these Desh, respectively. Shreeji Maharaj also preached the devotees to

lead a religious and righteous life. All arrangements

were made so that *Uddhav Sampradaya* may develop and it was also declared that He wanted to grant emancipation to the



devotees who will remain under the shelter and directions of the Deities and Acharya and will behave as prescribed in 'Shiksha Patri'. It was also recommended to the whole *Satsang Samaj* and also to the saints that the devotees who shall under the importance of *Dharmkul* and who shall remain under the directions of *Acharya*, will get place in *Akshardham*. Shreeji Maharaj also directed *Acharyas* to remain alert as regards rules and regulations and restrictions prescribed under the scriptures of *Sampradaya* and also to preserve *Gadi* of *Acharya* of *Sampradaya* with utmost care. A beautiful tradition of granting *Gurumantra* to *Haribhaktas* is also developed. And devotees who will accept *Gurumantra* shall get themselves absolved off all their sins. Seat of Acharya is very essential and through this pious seat, the whole *Satsang* gets nourished.

In this way, importance of Seat of Acharya is explained in detail by Shreeji Maharaj. Many ways for *Ekantik Kalyan* of devotees are also shown by Shreeji Maharaj. At last Shreeji Maharaj has stated: “જેવું અમારું કુળ મનાશે રે, તેને તુલ્ય બીજુ કેમથાશે રે; માટે વિચારીને વાત કીધી રે, ઘણું સમજીને ગાદી દીધી રે.” Wives of Acharya are given the place of Guru of ladies devotees by giving them status of 'Gadiwala' and importance of these Guru of ladies devotees is also explained in detail. With the directions of Acharya Maharaj only, His wife- Gadiwala- can grant Guru-Mantra to the ladies devotees. thus, the whole structure of *Dharmkul* and *Uddhav Sampradaya* is such that every soul can lead a very easy life and can get emancipation. But one should always remember that, *Bhakti* without *Guru Mantra* is incomplete and it cannot yield any fruits.

Details of Programme

Sunday 23/11/2011

1. Jap Yagna in the morning from 7.00 a.m. to 9.00 a.m.
2. Swagat and Samaiyu of the whole *Dharmkul* at 9.00 a.m.

3. Sabha, Pravachan, Guru Mantra : 10.00 a.m. to 12.00 hours
 4. Maha Prasad from 12.00 hours onwards
- Following saints from various places will attend this *Guru Mantra Mahotsav*.**
1. Sadguru Mahant Swami Harikrishnadasji, Ahmedabad.
 2. Sadguru Swami Swayamprakashdasji, Jaidevpura.
 3. Sadguru Shastri Swami Nirgundasji, Ahmedabad.
 4. Sadguru Shastri Swami Atmprakashdasji, Jetalpur.
 5. Sadguru Shastri Swami P.P. Swami, Jetalpur.
 6. Sadguru Shastri Swami Anandpriyadasji, Mahadevnagar.
 7. Sadguru Swami Devprakashdasji, Narayanghat.
 8. Sadguru Shastri Swami Shreejiprakashdasji, Naranpura.
 9. Sadguru Shastri Swami ghanshyamprakashdasji, Jamiyatpura.
 10. Brahmchari Poojari Swami Rajeshwaranandji, Ahmedabad.
 11. Sadguru Swami Krishnavallabhdasji, Surendranagar.

Haribhaktas rendering services in Mahotsav

1. Devotee Shri Khimjibhai Bhagwandas Patel family
2. Devotee Shri Ratilalbhai Khimjibhai (through Ketankumar)
3. Devotee Shri Govindbhai Khimjibhai (through Mahendrabhai)
4. Devotee Shri Govindbhai Khimjibhai (through Sharadbhai, Jigneshbhai)
5. Devotee Shri Jayantbhai Manilal (through Jaykumar)
6. Devotee Shri Mansukhbhai Zaverbhai Patel (through Niravkumar)

Invitation

It is cordial and ardent invitation of *Haribhaktas* of the village Meda to avail the benefit of Maha Prasad which shall be immediately after *Japa Yagna* and *Guru Mantra Diksha Mahotsav*.

- Shree Swaminaryan temple, village Meda, Tal. Kadi.

Wave of Pleasure

- Shastri Harijivan Swami (Mahant, Himatnagar temple)

ORDERED JALEBI AT NIGHT

Once devotee Shri Sunderji asked a beautiful question to Shreeji Maharaj in the *Sabha* organized at Bhuj, ***“Whether emancipation of Grihastha is done at par with emancipation of saint?”*** Shreeji Maharaj replied that, devotees render more services by offering the meals and clothes to the saints and they provide all things which are demanded by the saints. thus, it is on the strength of services of the devotees that, the saints can perform Bhajan and Bhakti at ease. Through Katha-Varta saints render services to the devotees and thus,

emancipation of both the devotees and the saints is done at par.

While Shreeji Maharaj was taking rest, the devotee Sundarjibhai asked whether Maharaj was hungry? Maharaj replied affirmatively and said, “But now it is late night and all must have slept.” Sundarjibhai told Maharaj not to worry and called one Brahmin and asked him to bring Jalebi from the shop of the Sweets. The sweets were called in a clay pot and offered to Maharaj. After some time another clay pot of Jalebi was called and offered to Maharaj. Hirjibhai and Sundarjibhai were alert and ready to render their services to Maharaj. after Maharaj completed, all the devotees relished the sweets and slept peacefully.



EVERYTHING IS POSSIBLE THROUGH SHRADDHA

-Shastri Haripriyadas (Gandhinagar)

It is a matter of great luck that one gets pious company of innocent and selfless *Satsang*. A devotee should be in company with the saints who have ardent faith in their hearts towards Almighty Lord. They should believe in the words of the saints. Temple is a place of emancipation. It is a meeting place for both the devotee and the Almighty Lord. However, we should have Shraddha in us.

We should not keep on changing our faith. When faith is reposed, Almighty Lord will take care of all other things. Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan has stated, "Bhagwan Shree Rama has stated in Ramayan that just as mother takes care of a child, the Almighty Lord takes care of an ardent devotee. if we maintain our faith then our qualities will increase. The faith of devotee in Almighty Lord will never fail. Always remember that, faith and suspicion cannot stay together. Even in 'Bhagwat Gita' Lord Shree Krishna has stated that, **"Those who have trust and faith in God, can certainly get Knowledge."**

What cannot be done with the person with faith? Once one disciple came to Ashram of his Guru and asked him, "How can I get Peace and Emancipation in Life?" Mahatma replied him that he would answer his question later on. But the disciple was adamant and he wanted an immediate answer. He was chasing his Guru at every place. After three days, Guru threw a brick towards him. The disciple thought that he will get peace and emancipation from this brick and he took away the brick.

Everyday the disciple used to perform *Poojan-Archan* of the brick. He used to offer pious water very religiously. When the neighbours asked what the deity was? The disciple said, '*Dhekhaleshwar Mahadev*'. People started believing the deity and they

શ્રેણી ગાલવાટિકા SATSANG BALVATIKA

- Compiler Shastri Harikehsavdasji (Gandhinagar)

got success in their life by worshipping and faith. Gradually the fame of the deity spread in all the nearby villages. Many rich people started visiting the place to perform divine *Darshan* of the deity with a wish and desire that, they should have birth of a child in their house. They also offered to construct the place of residence for the pilgrims who would visit the place of pilgrimage. After some time, a child was born in the family of the rich person and as per his words, the rich man got constructed a place of residence for the pilgrims. Now aarti and poojan archan were being performed every morning and evening.

Guru of the disciple visited the place on his pilgrimage along with other disciples. When he inquired he found that there was no idol image of the deities in the inner temple. The disciple saw his Guru and fell at the feet of His Guru. He was very happy; he acknowledged in the presence of all that, now he has got both Peace and Emancipation from his Guru. The Guru was surprised; but the disciple ardently insisted the Guru to stay for some days at the place where all the facilities of residence were there for the pilgrims.

The Guru thought that, words of Guru and the Scriptures can be realized only through Trust and Faith. It is stated in *Vachanamrit* that *Shraddha* is the Mother of Wealth, Knowledge, *Vairagya* and *Moksha*. Therefore all of should cherish ardent faith and trust in Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan.

IMPACT OF SATSANG

- Sadhu Shrirang Maharaj
(Gandhinagar)

“થોડો સમય પણ જો સત્સંગ થાય તો જીવ તરી જાય છે.” But very few people understand this. But when one come across such an event in life, one understands everything. There was Sheth; though he was very rich, he used to wake up early in the morning. There is one saying:

“વિદ્યાવાન થવા એક એક ક્ષણનો ઉપયોગ કરવો ને
ધનવાન થવા એક એક ક્ષણનો ઉપયોગ કરવો.”

**“To be learned one should use every minute,
and to be wealthy one should use every thing.”**

This rich man was very generous. He was very careful in using his every minute and thing. Everyday he used to wake up early in the morning. The rich man used to go for a walk in the morning on the bank of the river. Then he would return home and perform all daily rituals and would go to the place of his business. Some of his partners were noble persons and they used to narrate stories of *Dharma* to him. Many times these partners used to invite Sheth at the temple. At the same time, there were also some bad persons who also invited Sheth in evening parties. But this Sheth was very careful and he did not go at any such places.

One day Sheth went for a walk on the bank of the river. There he saw a bird. The bird was dipping its beak into the water and then it would rub it with a stone. This Sheth was observing all this. Meanwhile one Mahatma came; he also saw the bird and its activity. Mahatmaji uttered the words:

ઘસત ઘસત યુ ઘસત હૈ, લે પાસાન પર પાની,
ક્યુ કારન ઘસત હૈ રામા, બાત તોરી મેં જાની.

When Sheth heard these words, he became very happy. He liked the words very much and got them memorized in his

mind due to their beautiful arrangements. Sheth started thinking, why the bird was rubbing its beak with the stone? As if the bird was sharpening the edge of its beak to pluck the fish from the water. When Sheth returned home the barber had come there to shave his beard and cut his hair. While getting himself shaved, Sheth got reminded of the words of the saints:

ઘસત ઘસત યુ ઘસત હૈ, લે પાસાન પર પાની,
ક્યુ કારન ઘસત હૈ રામા, બાત તોરી મેં જાની.

The barber was frightened to listen to these words. He dropped his equipment of shaving from his hand and was looking at Sheth surprisingly. He begged pardon of Sheth and was shivering with fear. Sheth was surprised at this and asked the reasons for the same. When Sheth inquired, the barber acknowledged his mistake and narrated everything. He also disclosed to Sheth that, he was paid by his partners and brothers to kill Sheth. The barber begged pardon of Sheth. Sheth was shocked and surprised to listen to this. He felt that, his life was saved. When he thought, he realized that, he was saved due to those words of Mahatmaji.

Thus, those who seek shelter of Mahatma and saints, their lives would be saved. Those who will perform Satsang regularly will cross the Ocean of this World safely. They would be cured of all happiness and miseries of life. the doors of worship would be opened for him.

Devotees! Without *Satsang* this human soul does not get peace, *Samskara* and noble qualities. And this very rare *Satsang* cannot be achieved without the blessings of Almighty Lord. There is great importance of *Satsang* in the life of a devotee. And therefore only Shreeji Maharaj has directed in '*Shiksha Patri*' that every devotee should regularly perform *Nitya Darshan* in the temple in the evening and should also perform *Samagam* of the saints.

ETERNAL HAPPINESS - Sankhya Yogi Kokilaba (Surendranagar)

If we want to obtain eternal happiness in life then we should be ardent devotees of *Swaminarayan Sampradaya*. Many people may think that most of the devotees of Shree Swaminarayan Sampradaya are always happy. What is the reason for it? Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan has obtained two blessings from His Guru Ramanand Swami that devotees should always be happy and all miseries may be removed from their lives. In history, no one has asked for so benevolent blessings nor such blessings are granted by anyone. Therefore, if a devotee wants to remain happy, he should have faith in his heart towards Almighty Lord and should always behave under the directions.

If we want to obtain eternal happiness then we have to change our view point and attitude. Till there is Maya and Moha in our mind about this world and its worldly pleasures, the whole world appears to us saturated with *Maya*. And it is due to this *Maya* that, we cannot recognize the real worth and ocean of happiness of idol images of the deities. If we associate ourselves with Almighty Lord, then only we can get eternal happiness.

There is Ghee in the milk, but how can we extract Ghee from the milk? If we do not know the method of extracting Ghee from the milk then we cannot obtain it. There is cold in the ice and we get coldness in the ice. There is heat in the fire and we get heat and warmth from the fire. Similarly, there are always peace and happiness in Almighty Lord and we certainly get them. But the difficulty is that we do not know the method to obtain this happiness and peace. If we want to achieve them, then we have to concentrate our selves on the idol images of the deities with ardent faith and worship.

Until this human soul recognizes the importance of Mahatma, it cannot

ભક્તિસુધા

BHAKTI-SUDHA

concentrate anywhere. If he succeeds in that, one gets eternal happiness. And therefore the saints say that we should regulate and divert our mind towards *Paramatma*. Only those who have very healthy and strong stomach can digest the heavy meals and Ghee. Similarly those, who have understood the importance of the Almighty Lord, they find it very easy to associate themselves with Almighty Lord. And therefore in order to obtain eternal happiness one should concentrate his attention and firm faith in the idol images of the deities.

There are two types of happiness. (1) Worldly Happiness and (2) Eternal Happiness. One gets the result of the actions as per his thoughts and intentions and therefore there should always be noble intention along with noble action and noble thoughts. Happiness and unhappiness are temporal in nature and they come and go in life. One can enjoy happiness in life till his *Punyas* are accumulated. When these *Punyas* are exhausted, there comes an end to his happiness. Sadguru Muktanand Swami has sung in one of his Kirtans that: “તમારી મૂર્તિ વિના મારા નાથ રે બીજુ મને આપશો માં,” Thus, the great saints state that, the actions created through *Maya* are temporal in nature. Eternal happiness is of two types (1) Happiness of Heaver and (2) Happiness of Akshardham. Now in order to obtain these eternal happiness one should always perform *Satsang*. It is through this *Satsang* that, one can keep his concentration stable in the idol image and ultimately he gets eternal happiness.

GOD PROTECTS THOSE WHO

WORSHIP HIM**- Varshaben Arvindbhai Soni**

Once Maharaj was sitting in a Sabha along with five hundred Paramhansas. There were about two hundred Parshads. These Parshads prepared the meals for the saints. And devotee Aasubai prepared the meals for Parshads. Devotee Aasubai was an ardent devotee of Shreeji Maharaj and therefore her daily worship used to cause delay in preparing the meals. Therefore Parshads complained to Shreeji Maharaj that meals are prepared after much delay.

Maharaj consoled these *Parshads* saying that, he would inquire in the matter. Once on the pious day of *Akha Trij*, Maharaj addressed *Sabha* with beautiful clothes like *Pitambar, Chandan Vagha* etc.

Devotee Aasubai came to perform divine *Darshan* of Maharaj; while performing *Darshan* she was so much engrossed that, she forgot the time factor and two three hours passed. Maharaj observed that, the devotee Aasubai had slipped into *Dhyan*.

Maharaj took the form of devotee Aasubai, went home and offered the meals to Parshads. Parshads praised the sweetness and quality of the meals like anything. While they were returning, they met the devotee Aasubai on the way. She begged pardon of the Parshads for the delay in preparing the meals. But Parshads informed that, they had had their meals and the meals were served by her only. Devotee Aasubai was very much surprised at this.

She understood everything and thought that, Maharaj must have done all this. She came to Maharaj and told that, the loaves were prepared by Maharaj, isn't it? Maharaj told her that, as she was in the State of Samadhi, He had done her work. Thus, Almighty Lord protects those who worship Him ardently.

RANI ZAMKUBAI**- Tarlaben Atulbhai Pothiwala
(Memnagar, Ahmedabad)**

Zamkubai was the Rani (queen) of the king of Udepur-Rajasthan. She was Satsangi right from her childhood. Her husband the king had made all the efforts so that, she may forsake her Satsang; he also used to harass her for that, but all in vain. Zamkubai was very happy in all conditions while worshipping Shree Hari. On one day, she thought, it is better that, she should leave this human body and therefore she jumped from the top floor of the palace but Shree Hari protected her.

One day Zamkubai started walking away from the palace. Shree Hari followed her in the form of Brahmin and immediately the gates of the castle were opened. Here servants of the king started her search. The queen hid herself in a carcass of a camel. She hid herself in the carcass for three days and they walked away and came to the bank of a river.

Shreeji Maharaj came there in the form of a Brahmin. He asked her to take bath in the river as she had hid herself in a dead body of an animal, which is impure place. When she took bath in the river, the Brahmin offered her the meals as she was hungry for four days. After accepting the meals, the queen took rest for a while and the Brahmin protected her in the forest. Then Shreeji Maharaj brought her at the outskirts of village Kariyani and asked her to go to Shree Swaminarayan who was there in the village. The queen came to the Darbar of Vasta Khachar and performed divine *Darshan* of Maharaj. then Maharaj sent her to Gadhdha.

There in Gadhdha, the queen rendered her services for many days and months. When Maharaj asked Motiba, who was rendering so beautiful services, Motiba replied that, the queen of Udeipur had been rendering her ardent services for many days and months. Meanwhile Ladhikai from Bhuj came to perform divine *Darshan*

of Shreeji Maharaj. Maharaj asked Ladhibai to take the queen with her at Bhuj.

Then Ladhibai took her to Bhuj and both started living together in one room where both of them used to perform Dhyan and Shreeji Maharaj used to grant them divine Darshan. Both these ardent devotees passed away to Akshardham on the same day.

HAPPINESS OF SATSANG

- Ramilaben K. Modi (Himatnagar)

If we have made our body strong with Satsang then we get eternal happiness and peace. Until we are tied strongly with Satsang we can not enjoy and relish pleasure in Satsang. Once we get divine Darshan of Almighty Lord then we would be stable in our life and our Satsang would be strengthened.

Once Satyavan was staying in a hut with his wife Savitri and father. Meanwhile Naradji came. Father of Satyavan performed pooja of Naradji and asked for the life of his son Satyavan. Naradji informed that, he will pass away on completion of 12 years. Listening to this, the father was very much happy. Naradji gave him Mahamantra 'Shree Swaminarayan which he had heard in Brahmand. Savitri heard this and remembered the Mahamantra. The wife Savitri asked Naradji on which exact day, her husband will pass away and on that day she accompanied her husband. While cutting the wood from the tree, Satyavan fell and passed away. Servants of Dharmraj came to take away his dead body.

Savitri took the dead body of her husband and started walking behind these Sevaks while chanting Shree Swaminarayan Mahamantra. When Dharmraja asked her to perform the last rituals of the dead body of her husband, she insisted that, she may also be allowed to accompany along with her husband, but Dharmraja refused the request. When

Savitri asked Dharmraja about the importance of Satsang, Dharmraja replied that, it is like earth. When further inquired, Dharmraja said that it is like Shesh Narayan. When asked again, Dharmraja replied that, it is like the Lord Shiva and the great mountain Kailash where the Lord Shiva resides. When again asked, Dharmraja stated that, king Ravana is bigger than the Himalayas and Satsang is bigger than both. When asked, Dharmraja explained that, it is like Vali, who had once tied Ravana with a strong rope. When Sati asked, Dharmraja stated that, Satsang is like Lord Rama who had killed Ravana.

Sati said that, she should get the result of divine Darshan of saints. Dharmraja told her to ask her for anything except her husband. Then Sati asked that, her parents should have one hundred children and the request was granted by Dharmraja. She was also granted the blessings of fruits of Ashwamegh Yagna and the sight to her blind father-in-law. She was also granted the kingdom which was lost. She was also granted the blessing of having one hundred sons.

At last Dharmraja granted her the life of her husband Satyavan and thereby Savitri got her husband Satyavan. This shows the strength of *Satsang*.

OUR FUTURE FESTIVALS

Maha Sud-5 : On Vasant Panchmi (Shree Shiksha Patri Jayanti) Tuesday 08/02/2011, Patotsav of Shri Shree Swaminarayan temple, Muli.

Maha Sud-8 : On Friday 11/02/2011 Patotsav of Shri Swaminarayan temple, Torda.

Maha Sud-10 : On Sunday 13/02/2011 Patotsav of Shri Swaminarayan temple, Naranpura.

Maha Sud-12 : On Tuesday 15/02/2011 Patotsav of Shri Swaminarayan temple, Dhariyavad.

Maha Sud-14 : On Thursday 17/02/2011 Patotsav of Shri Swaminarayan temple, Vasna (Ahmedabad).

News And Notes From Shri Narnarayandev Desh

(Celebration of pious *Dhanur Maas* in Shree Swaminarayan temple, Ahmedabad

In the pious company of the Almighty Lord Shree Narnarayandev, pious *Dhanur Maas* was celebrated from 17/12/2010 to 15/01/2011 with great zeal and fervour. In the pious company of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj and H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharaj, many saints and devotees came to our temple to avail the divine benefit of *Dhoon* and *Kirtan* early in the very cold morning. With the inspiration and guidance of Mahant Swami and Kothari Parshad Digambar Bhagat, saints and *Kothar* Staff and young devotees had rendered their beautiful services. In this year 1400 *Maasik Dhoon* and 5000 *Dainik Dhoon* were performed. The host devotees who rendered their services for *Maasik Dhoon* were offered *Prasadi* of Idol image of Shri Nilkanthvarni made from acrylic material. (Muni Swami)

Shrimad Satsangibhusan Parayan in our Shree Swaminarayan temple, Ahmedabad

With the directions and blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj and *Dharmkul* and with the inspiration of Sadguru Shastri Swami Harikrishnadasji of Ahmedabad temple, from 14/11/2010 to 18/11/2010, *Shrimad Satsangibhusan Parayan* was performed in the pious company of the Lord Shree Narnarayandev in the memory of Aksharnivasi Sankhya Yogi Rambai. Sankhya Yogi Purbai (Madhapar- Kachchh) had rendered services as the host of the *Parayan*. Sadguru Shastri Swami Ramkrishnadasji and Sadguru Shastri Swami Chaitanyaswaroopdasji (Koteswar Gurukul) were the spokespersons of this *Katha*. H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj graced the *Katha* and blessed all the devotees. The whole *Parayan* was organized under the guidance of Kothari Parshad Digambar Bhagat and with the beautiful services of J.K. Swami and saints. (Muni Swami)

Shree Swaminarayan temple, Vavol

With the directions and blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj and inspiration of Sadguru Swami Harisevadasji the Mahant Swami of Vadnagar temple, *Shrimad Bhagwat Saptah Parayan* was organized from 18/11/2010 to 24/11/2010. *Saptah Parayan* was organized by the devotees Shri Anilbhai Chaturbhai the son of our devotee Shri Patel Chaturbhai Ishwardas. Sadguru Shastri Narayanvallabhdasji - Mahant of Vadnagar temple was the spokesperson of *Parayan*. On this occasion *Shri Krishna*

Janmotsav and *Rukshmani Vivah* were celebrated.

H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and H.H. Shri Gadiwala graced *Parayan* along with the saints and Mahants. Sadguru Swami Shri Vallabhdasji (Isand) was the spokesperson of *Samhita Path*. The *Sabha* organized on the occasion was conducted by Shastri Vishwaswaroopdasji and Poojari Shastri Abhishekprasaddasji of Vadnagar. (Shastri Narayanvallabhdasji, Vadnagar Mahant Swami)

Grand Shakotsav at village Vihar

With the directions and blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj and pleasure of the whole *Dharmkul* and with the divine inspiration of Akshar Nivasi Swami Yogeshwardasji (Jogi Swami), *Grand Shakotsav* was performed by H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj on 05/12/2010.

In the *Sabha* organized on the occasion, Sadguru Mahant Swami Harikrishnadasji and Nana P.P. Swami (Mahant, Naranghat temple) delivered their erudite and inspirational speeches. At last H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj blessed the whole *Sabha*. The devotees Shri Laxmanbhai, Shri Babubhai (Vimawala) of *Akshar Nivasi* Kachrabhai Tribhovandas family rendered their services as the hosts of this *Shakotsav*. Kothari Shri Manubhai and all the devotees of the village rendered their beautiful services on this occasion. Mahant Swami Devprakasdasji of Naranghat temple and Bhandari Suryaprasadasji had remained present on this occasion. (Shastri Chaitanyaswaroopdas, Koteswar)

Snehy Yuva Sammelan in TERF School, Naranpura (Ahmedabad)

With the directions and blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj and pleasure of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj, *Snehy Yuva Sammelan* was organized in TERF School, Naranpura, Ahmedabad, in connection with Shree Swaminarayan Museum.

On Sunday 05/12/2010 during *Snehy Yuva Sammelan* which was organized in the pious presence of H.H. Shri Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj, sadguru Shastri Swami Harikrishnadasji of Ahmedabad temple, Sadguru Shastri Swami Nirgundasji, Shastri Swami Shreejiprakashdasji, Sadguru Shastri Swami Purushottamprakashdasji (Mahant, Naranghat temple), Sadguru Shastri Swami Ramkrishnadasjim Sadguru Mahant Swami Devprakasdasji, Brahmchari Swami Rajeshwaranandji, J.P. Swami etc. inspired all the young devotees to render their services for Shree Swaminarayan Museum.

H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj also graced the occasion and blessed all the devotees and saints. At last H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj blessed all the devotees. More than 3000 devotee families participated in this *Sammelan* and availed the benefit of *Mahaprasad*. (Shastri Swami Chaitanyaswaroopdas)

H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj in village Soja

On the occasion of *Jivat Charya* of the devotee Shri Mangalbhai Joitaram Patel, a beautiful *Satsang*

Sabha was organized on 05/12/2010 at village Soja wherein the learned saints delivered their inspirational speeches. At last H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj blessed the whole devotee family. Families of the devotees Shri Ghanshyambhai, Shri Maheshbhai, Shri Rameshbhai, Shri Ashwinbhai and Shri Rakeshbhai performed divine *Darshan* of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and obtained the blessings. The *Sabha* was conducted by Nana P.P. Swami (Mahant, Naranghat temple) whose benefit was availed by all the devotees and *Haribhaktas* of the village. (Shastri Abhayprakashdas)

Invocation ceremony of new temple, Mubarkpura

With the directions and blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj, H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and the whole *Dharmkul* and with the inspiration of Sadguru Mahant Swami Devprakashdasji and Sadguru Shastri Swami Purushottamprakashdasji (Mahant, Naranghat temple), invocation ceremony of the idol images in new temple at village Mubarkpura was celebrated from 21/11/2010 to 25/11/2010.

Here the temple was constructed before 50 years, which was in dilapidated condition and required renovation. With the strenuous efforts of the saints and the devotees construction-qua-renovation of the temple was completed in a very short span of time. With the directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, date was determined for invocation of the idol images of the temple and accordingly *Shrimad Bhagwat Panchan Parayan*, *Samhitapath Parayan*, *Yagna*, *Shobha-yatra*, *Nagar-yatra*, *Annakut*, and other beautiful programmes were organized on this occasion.

On the first day *Pothi-yatra* of the Scriptures was organized wherein from little kids to the senior citizens participated. Sadguru Shastri Swami Ramkrishnadasji was the spokesperson of the *Katha*. H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj graced the occasion on the very first day along with the saints and blessed all the devotees. On this occasion saints from different places and Mahant Shastri Swami Harikrishndasji of Ahmedabad temple praised the services rendered by the devotees. Accepting the invitation of the ladies devotees H.H. Shri Gadiwala also graced the occasion and blessed all the ladies devotees.

On the third day *Shri Krishna Janmotsav* was celebrated during the course of *Shrimad Bhagwat Parayan* and all the *Haribhaktas* of the village performed *Raas* on that day. On the 4th day, our future Acharya H.H. Shri Vrajendraprasadji Maharaj graced the occasion and blessed all the devotees of the village. At night grand *Nagaryatra* of Thakorji was performed wherein the devotees availed the benefit of performing *poojan-archan* of the idol images of the Lord Shree Narnarayandev, Shree Radhakrishnadev, Shree Ghanshyam Maharaj and Shree Hanumanji Maharaj and Shree Ganpatiji.

On the last day on 25/11/2010 H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj graced the occasion and grand *Samaiya* was performed. First of H.H. Shri Acharya

Maharaj graced the new temple and performed Vedic ritual and divine *aarti* of the idol images. Thereafter performed *Poornahuti aarti* of *Yagna* and graced the place to perform *Annakut aarti*. The devotees who rendered their beautiful services were offered the divine idol images of deities and garland. In the *Sabha* organized on the occasion, the learned saints delivered their inspirational speeches.

As a mark of life-long memory of this occasion, many devotees participated in Freedom from Addiction Campaign in the pious presence of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj. At last H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj graced and blessed the whole *Sabha*. After concluding ritual, all the devotees availed the benefit of *Prasad*. Services of *Shree Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal*, Mubarkpura, was very inspirational on this occasion. The chief host of the invocation ceremony of the idol images, devotees Shri Janakkumar, Shri Nandukumar and Shri Kamleshkumar of family of Akshar Nivasi devotee Shri Govindbhai Narandas Patel. The chief host of *Parayan* was the devotee Shri Ghanshyambhai Aadarbhai Patel. The whole *Sabha* was conducted by Sadguru Shastri Swami Purushottamprakashdasji (Mahant, Naranghat temple) and Sadguru Shastri Swami Chaitanyaswaroopdasji (Koteshwar Gurukul). (Shastri Abhayprakashdas)

Grand Shakotsav at village Ola

With the directions and blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj, H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and the whole *Dharmkul* and with the inspiration and guidance of Sadguru Swami Haricharandasji (Kalol) and Sadguru Shastri Swami Purushottamprakashdasji (Mahant, Naranghat temple), a grand *Shakotsav* was performed on 15/12/2010 at the pious place of *Prasadi* of village Ola which was once graced by Shree Hari.

Shree Hari had graced this village for more than 20 times and thereby this village is very important from the point of view of history of our *Sampradaya*. H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj himself performed the divine *Shakotsav* and graced the house of *Prasadi* of the devotee Ratanba to perform divine *Darshan*. Thereafter, H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj graced the *Sabha* along with the saints. In the *Sabha*, Shastri Swami Abhayprakashdasji and Sadguru Shastri Swami Chaitanyaswaroopdasji (Koteshwar Gurukul) explained the importance of *Shakotsav*. Many devotees rendered their beautiful services for '*Shree Swaminarayan Museum*'.

On this occasion Mahant Sadguru Shastri Swami Harikrishnadasji of Ahmedabad temple, Mahant Sadguru Swami Devprakashdasji of Naranghat temple and Poojari Brahmchari Swami Rajeshwaranandji of the Lord Shree Narnarayandev had arrived on this occasion. At last H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj blessed the whole *Sabha*. Thereafter, all *Haribhaktas* availed the benefit of divine *Shakotsav*. The whole *Sabha* was conducted by P.P. Swami (Mahant of Naranghat temple) (Shastri Chaitanyaswaroopdas)

Shree Swaminarayan temple, Nathdwara

With the directions and blessings of H.H.

Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj and with the inspiration of Sadguru Bhandari swami Jankivallabhdasji and with the guidance of Mahant Swami Dharmswarooddasji, 8th annual *Patotsav* of the deities of Nathdwara temple was performed amidst the rituals of *Mahabishek*, *Annakut Darshan* etc. the devotee Shri Shankarbai Manibhai and Anandiben family of Aslali had rendered their services as the host of *Patotsav*. Their family members devotee Shri Ashishbhai, Binalben, daughter Alpaben Sudhir Kumar Patel (Mahijada) and Kananben Gaurang Kumar Natvarbhai Patel (Dahegam) had also rendered their services.

On this occasion Shri Rajubhai Shukla had got performed the rituals of Mahapooja-Abhishek. Shastri Swami Akhileshrdasji had conducted the Sabha. Shastri Swami Ghanshymaprakasdasji and Shastri Swami Sukhnandandasji had delivered the speeches on the occasion.

On this occasion Sadguru Swami Jankivallabhdasji inaugurated '*Vrajendra Dwar*' the main entrance gate of the temple. Akshar Nivasi devotee Shri Raiben Shankardas Talsidas Patel (Jinwala) family had rendered services as the host of both the entrance gates. Devotees Shri Amrutbhai, Vishnubhai, Laljibhai, Jayrambhai, Jagdishbhai, Krishnabhai, Sureshbhai, Nareshbhai, Bharatbhai, Shaileshbhai and Bipinbhai had also rendered their services.

Shastri Swami Ghanshymaprakashdasji, narendra Bhagat, Prashant Bhagat, Pravinbhai, Hemalbhai, Kothari Jitubhai, Jaydip Bhagat and Baldev Swami and Bharatbhai Bhavsar Photographer and students had rendered their beautiful services on this occasion. (Ravi Kacha, Nathdwara)

Nandol and Salki villages

With the directions and blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, grand Shakotsav was performed in temples of both the villages on the occasion of Dipotsavi. Satsangi ladies devotees had prepared meals and rendered their services for offering Annakut to the deities. The devotee Shri Manubhai Motibhai Patel had rendered the services as the host of Annakutotsav. The devotee Shri Bhaveshbhai Vishnubhai Patel of Nandol (residing in America) had rendered beautiful services on this occasion. The village Salki is the place of Prasadi of Shree Hari. (Kothari Vishnubhai Patel)

Patotsav Parayan and Group Mahapooja in Shree Swaminarayan temple, Badrinarayan

With the blessings and noble aim of H.H. Shri Mota Gadiwala, Guru of ladies devotees of our *Sampradaya*, *Shrimad Satsangibhusan Parayan* was performed in our Shree Swaminarayan temple, Badrinarayan, situated in the foothills of the great Himalayas. Shastri Swami Nirgundasji was the spokesperson of this *Parayan*. Mahant Swami Shastri Gaulokviharidasji had made beautiful arrangements on this occasion. Katha, Parayan and annual Patotsav of the inner temple was performed wherein Haribhaktas of Kachchh (at present residing in Indore) had rendered their services as the hosts of

the Parayan.

Shodasopchar Abhishek of Shri Harikrishna Maharaj was performed in Vedic ritual by H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj followed by *Chhapanbhog aarti*. Thereafter, H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj graced the *Sabha* organized on the occasion. The devotee Shri Rameshbhai (Dordawala) Kashiba family had rendered their services as the host of the *Sabha*. Here all the pilgrims were provided with excellent facilities. Similarly, Parshad Bhaguji and Hajuri Parshad Vanraj Bhagat had rendered their excellent and prompt services to the *Dharmkul*. On this occasion, many *Haribhaktas* had rendered their beautiful services for Shree Swaminarayan Museum. Mahant Swami Golokviharidasji and Mahant Anand Swami of Mathura had also rendered their beautiful services on this occasion. (Tulsi, Ronak Thakkar)

21st Patotsav of Shree Swaminarayan temple, Himatnagar

H.H. Shri Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj performed rituals of Abhishek of Balswaroop Shree Ghanshyam Maharaj on the occasion of 21st *Patotsav* of Shree Swaminarayan temple, Himatnagar, on the pious day of Magsar Sud-6. large number of Haribhaktas availed the benefit of divine Darshan. Poojari Ajayprakashdasji had performed beautiful Shangaar in the inner temple. H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj performed aarti of the deities and then graced the Sabha. The host devotee Shri Parshottamdas Bholidas Patel family performed aarti-pooja and obtained the blessings. Mahant Swami Jagdishprasaddasji of Idar offered the garlands to H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and obtained the blessings. Devotee Dr. K.K. Patel delivered a very inspiration speech on this occasion. Thereafter Mahant Shastri Harijivandasji talked about the inauguration function of Shree Swaminarayan Museum. At last H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj blessed all the saints and the devotees. Saints from Idar, Sokli, Torda, Prantij and Ahmedabad places had arrived on this occasion. Sadguru Vasudevcharan Swami had delivered the Vote of Thanks. At last all the devotees and saints availed the benefit of Prasadi. (Bipinbhai Patel)

With the directions of H.H. Shri Gadiwala, *Jagran of Prabodhini Ekadasi* was performed by 50 ladies devotees of Ghanshyam Mandal and they all had performed *poojar-aarti* of *Vachnamrit* (273) till early morning. The *sabha* was conducted by the devotee Shri Labhuben and Kalpanaben. (Sangitaben Prajapati)

Satsang Sabha in Dugri

When H.H. Shri Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj graced the village Dugri of Idar Desh, all the devotees of the village performed grand Samaiya of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj. on this occasion H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj graced the house of the devotee Shri Monghabhai Jivabhai Patel, who rendered his services as the host of this occasion.

In the grand Sabha organized on the occasion,

Mahant Swami Sadguru Jagdishprasaddasji of Idar offered garlands to H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj. the host family also performed aarti and Pooja and obtained the blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj.

Mahant Swami of Ahmedabad temple and Himatnagar temple and many other saints had delivered their inspirational speeches. The Sabha was conducted by Sadguru Vasudevcharan Swami. At last H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj blessed the host devotee family and all the devotees for nourishment of our Satsang. At last all dispersed after availing the benefit of Prasad.

(Poojari Kapil Swami)

Aakrund (Tal. Bayad)

With the directions and blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj, Satsang Sabha was organized in the village Aakrund (Tal. Bayad) for the purpose of constructing a new temple in the village. Shastri Swami Akhileshwaranandji (former Mahant of Mathura temple) narrated beautiful Katha to Haribhaktas and Shakotsav was also celebrated on this occasion. Sukhnandandas, Narendra Bhagat and Prashant Bhagat had rendered their services.

(Chandresh Chaudhary)

Shakotsav in Rampura Bhankoda

Stone of *Prasadi* is still there in village Rampura Bhankoda where Shree Hari had offered very simple meals to the saints. Here *Haribhaktas* perform *Dhoon* every morning and offer various types of *Thaal* during the pious *Dhanur Maas*. Beautiful *Shakotsav* was also organized. With the blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, activity of *Satsang* is going on very well in the village. (Arjanbhai Mori)

Parayan in village Salal

With the directions and blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj and with the inspiration of Bhandari Swami Jankivallabhdasji, *Shrimad Satsangjivan Parayan* was organized. The devotee Shri Bhagubhai Jethabhai Patel had rendered his services as the host of the *Parayan* with a view that his late father *Akshar Nivasi* devotee Jethabhai Ranchhodhbhai Patel (*Talati*) may get emancipation. This *Parayan* was organized by Mahant Swami Dharmswaroopdasji of Mathura temple. Shastri Swami Ghanshyamprakashdasji (Jamiyatpurawala) was the spokesperson of the *Parayan*. Accepting the invitation of the host devotee family, H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj graced the *Parayan*. All the devotees performed *Shobha Yatra* in the village. H.H. Shri Gadiwala had also graced the occasion and granted divine *Darshan* to the ladies devotees of the village. Many saints and Mahants from various villages had arrived on this occasion. Shastri Swami Akhileshwardasji conducted beautiful Sabha and delivered an inspirational speech. Mahant Sadguru Shastri Swami Harikrishnadasji of Ahmedabad temple delivered a beautiful speech and blessed all the devotees. H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj blessed the host family, all the devotees and the saints. Many *Haribhaktas* who had come from abroad on invitation

of the host family, also performed divine *Darshan* of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and the saints. Devotee Shri Manibhai Vithalbhai Patel from America rendered services of Rs.11,00,000/- for Shree Narnarayandev Swaminarayan Wadi. H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj was very much pleased with this and blessed the devotee and offered an idol image of Shree Hari to the devotee. For all the five days of *Parayan*, *Prasad* and meals were offered to the deities, saints and *Haribhaktas* by the host family. On this occasion, Shastri Sukhnandan Swami Shastri Swami Vishwaviharidas, Nilkanthdasji from Bhuj, Vishwaprakashdasji from Laloda, Parshad Narendra Bhagat, Prashant Bhagat and Bhogilal Bhagat rendered their beautiful services. The host and the devotee Shri Bhagubhai Patel felt greatly obliged for availing such a divine opportunity of rendering his services on this occasion.

(Shastri Swami Akhileshwardasji)

Celebration of Grand Shakotsav in village Dhamasana

H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj performed grand Shakotsav on 12/10/2010 in Shree Swaminarayan temple, Dhamasana of Dandhavya region which was once graced by Shree Hari.

This Shakotsav was organized under the guidance of Swami Jayprakashdasji (J.P. Swami) the disciple of Mahant Shastri Swami Harikrishnadasji. First of all H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj inaugurated the marble carved umbrella. This umbrella was constructed under the supervision of Swami Devprakashdasji (Naranghat), Shastri Krishnavallabhdasji and the devotees Kantibhai Ambalal Patel and Kothari Popatbhai and Swami.

Ramswami of Aadraj had narrated Kathamrit. H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj performed divine Shakotsav. On this occasion Mahant Shastri Swami Harikrishnadasji, Swami Krishnavallabhdasji, Shastri Anandjivandasji, Mahant Nana P.P. Swami of Naranghat temple, Mahant Ghanshyam Swami of Mansa and Shastri Vishwaswaroopdasji explained the importance of Dhamasana village. Swami Haricharandasji of Kalol, Shri Devprakashdasji (Naranghat), Brahmchari Rajeshwaranandji and Shri Vallabhdasji (Isand), Nilkanth Swami, Purani Swami Vishwavihari and Kothari J.K. Swami etc. saints had also arrived on the occasion. Haribhaktas of the village had also rendered their beautiful service for Shree Swaminarayan Museum and had also rendered services as the hosts of Shakotsav. At last H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj blessed the Sabha.

About more than 3000 Haribhaktas of Dhamasana and nearby villages had availed the benefit of Shakotsav and had accepted the divine Prasad. The Sabha was conducted by Shastri Abhayprakashdasji (Urmik Patel and Tapan Patel)

Saints in village Dehgam during pious Dhanur Maas

With the directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, every year *Dhanur Maas Dhoon* is performed in our temple at Tebla Fali in Dehgam. Koathari devotee Shri Arvindbhai Amina nd

Harshadbhai Patel etc. devotees are very active in all such activities. With the inspiration of Shri Mahant Swami, Shastri Swami Anandjivandasji, Nilkanth Swami and Muni Swami from Ahmedabad had arrived on this occasion and granted to the devotees the benefit of *Katha-Varta*. The saints had also arrived at the village Nandol and granted to the devotees the benefit of *Kathamrit Amrit Vani*. Grand Shakotsav was also organized in our temple at Dehgam. (Harshadbhai Patel)

MULI DESH

Celebration of 5th Patotsav of Shree Swaminarayan temple, Surendranagar

With the directions and blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and with the inspiration of Mahant Swami Premjivandasji of temple, 5th Patotsav of Shree Swaminarayan temple, Surendranagar was celebrated wherein family of devotee Shri Pravinbhai Bhavanbhai Chavda (Surendranagar) (at present Rajkot) had rendered the services.

On this occasion *Shrimad Satsangibhusan Saptah Paryan* was organized from 17/11/2010 to 23/11/2010. Sadguru Shastri Swami Shreejiprakashdasji (Hathijan, Mahant of Naranpura temple) and Shastri Swami Divyaprakashdasji (Muli) were the spokespersons of *Katha*. Shastri Swami Vrajvallbhdasji (Muli), Shastri Swami Suryaprakashdasji (Wankaner), Vihhwaviharidasji (Dhrangadhra), Shastri Swami Satyasankalpadasji (Muli), Purani Swami Ramkrishnadasi (Dhrangadhra) had delivered their inspirational speeches during *Sevan Day Vyakhyanmala* organized on this occasion.

On Kartik Vad-2 (23/11/2010) inauguration of the main entrance gate, Mahabishek Annakut of Shri Thakorji etc. were celebrated with great fervour and enthusiasm. Cultural programmes were organized at every night. This occasion was graced by H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj, H.H. Shri Mota Gadiwala and H.H. Shri Gadiwala and granted to the devotees the benefit of divine *Darshan*. Moreover saints and ladies devotees from Ahmedabad, Muli, Dholera, Charadvya, Kankaria, Dhrangadhra etc. places had arrived on this occasion. Many Haribhaktas from the villages of Muli Desh had availed the benefit of *Darshan*. On this occasion Poojari Swami Shantiprakashdasji, Poojari Swami Vishwaswaroopdasji, Raju Swami (Ahmedabad), Suryaprakashdasji Swami, the group of disciples of Shastri Swami Dharmvallabhdasji and Swami Jishnucharandasji etc. had rendered their services. The whole programme was organized and conducted by Shastri Premvallabhdasji. Shree Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal had rendered beautiful services on this occasion.

(Shailendrasinh Zala)

Re-invocation of the idol images at village Tavi of Prasadi

With the directions and blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj with the inspiration of Akshar

Nivasi Sadguru Swami Laxmanjivandasji of Muli and with the co-operation of Mahant Swami Premjivandasji of Shree Swaminarayan temple, Surendranagar, re-invocation of the idol images of both the temples was performed in the village Tavi of Prasadi – the place of the King Shri Jyeshthji who was the principal listener of the scripture *Shrimad Satsangibhusan*.

On this occasion, *Shrimad Bhagwat Saptah Parayan* was performed from 27/11/2010 to 03/12/2010. Sadguru Shastri Swami Shreejiprakashdasji (Hathijan, Naranpura Mahant) was the spokesperson of Parayan. Devotee Shri Tribhovanbhai Mistry and the former Power of Attorney of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, devotee Shri Sajubha Vaghubha Rana had rendered their services as the hosts of *Parayan*. On this occasion, Three Day Shree Hariyag, Annakut and Abhishek of Thakorji etc. were performed. Accepting the invitation of the devotee Shri Sajubha RANA, H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj had graced the occasion. Similarly, accepting the invitation of the ladies devotees, H.H. Shri Gadiwala and H.H. Shri Mota Gadiwala also graced the occasion and grand *Samaiya* of *Dharmkul* was performed.

Saints of Ahmedabad, Muli, Dhrangadhra, Khan and Naranghat temple temples had arrived on this occasion. Many Sankhya Yogi ladies devotees also graced the occasion and granted the benefit of *Darshan* to the ladies devotees. Many devotees from the nearby villages had also arrived on the occasion to perform divine *Darshan*. H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj blessed the whole village. The whole programme and Sabha was conducted by Shastri Swami Premvallabhdasji (Surendranagar). Sadguru Swami Dharmpriyadasji, Balswaroop Swami and Kanu Bhagat of Muli had rendered their services on this occasion.

(Shailendrasinh Zala)

Shree Swaminarayan temple, Limbdi

Dhoon-Katha, Varta, Kirtan, Annakut, Abhishek and Raas etc. were performed in the pious company of Balswaroop Ghanshyam Maharaj in our Shree Swaminarayan temple, Limbdi, during the pious Dhanur Maas. All these programmes were organized under the guidance of Mahant Bhaktvatsaldasji whose benefit was availed by many devotees.

(Kothari Sadhu Vandanprakashdas)

Celebration of Dhanur Maas in Shree Swaminarayan temple, Balol (Bhal)

With the blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and the whole Dharmkul, Chanting the name of Shree Hari, Mantra Dhoon, Katha-Varta, Kirtan etc, were performed in the morning from 5.30 to 7.30 a.m. in grand Harimandir at the birthplace of the great poet Devanand Swami. Large number of ladies and gents devotees used to throng together in the temple and all the devotees joyously participated in *Dhoon*.

(Khatana Jesangbhai)

OVERSEAS SATSANG NEWS**Shree Swaminarayan temple, Vihokan (New Jersey)**

With the directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj and H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj, Kirtan-Sandhya programme was performed by Gavaiya Swami Chandraprakashdasji in our Shree Swaminarayan temple, New Jersey, who was accompanied by the devotees Thakorbhaj and Pinakinbhai Jani.

H.H. Shri Binduraja, Shri Suvratkumar and Shri Saumyakumar had arrived on this occasion. Shri Bhaktibhai, the President of the temple and the devotees Shri Prahladbhai Patel rendered their beautiful services on this occasion. The devotee Karsanbhai Patel (Dangarvawal) had offered a garland of *Viday* to Chandraprakash Swami.

(Pankaj P. Patel)

Celebration of Tulsi Vivah

Tulsi Vivah was celebrated with great fervour and enthusiasm in the temple. Devotees Vinaben Mahendrabhai Choksi and Bhavnaben Manojbhai Patel (Dangarvawala) had rendered their services as the hosts of *Tulsi Vivah*. Devotee Shri Vasantbhai Patel rendered his services for the meals which was offered to all the devotees. Mahant Swami Chandraprakashdasji had narrated beautiful *Katha-Kirtan*. Shree Saumyakumar, who stood first in Bal Vibhag, was honoured and garlanded by Mahant Swami. Devotee Shri Prahladbhai Patel had furnished latest information about new Shree Swaminarayan temple, Parcipenny. Devotee Shri Bhaktibhai had delivered the Vote of Thanks.

(P. Shah)

Celebration of Prakatyotsav of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj in Colonia temple

38th Prakatyotsav of H.H. Shri Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj as well as Day of establishment of I.S.S.O. were celebrated with great fervour and enthusiasm in Shree Narnarayandev Shri Swaminarayan temple, Colonia (New Jersey). In the Sabha organized on the occasion, Mahant Swami Gyanprakashdasji and Mahant Swami Gavaiya Chandraprakashdasji of Vihokan temple and Shri Suvratkumar and Shri Saumyakumar had cut the birthday cake and had celebrated *Janmotsav*. All the saints and *Haribhaktas* had performed *Poojan* of photo-image of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj. The saints explained the importance of Dharmkul.

Celebration of Mukutotsav Poonam

Here every pious day of *Poonam* is celebrated with great fervour and enthusiasm wherein large number of devotees come to perform *Darshan*. Gavaiya Swami Chandraprakashdasji sang the *Kirtans* of Nand saints, the Mayor of Mahesana and the staff, who had come there, had also availed the benefit of *Mukutotsav Poonam*.

Celebration of Dipotsavi

Dipotsavi festival was celebrated with great fervour and enthusiasm in our temple. On the pious day of *Kali Chaudas*, group *poojan-aarti* of Shree Hanumanji were performed. On the pious day of

Dipawali, *Laxmi Poojan-Sharda Poojan* were performed and grand *Annakut* was offered to Thakorji. Mahant Swami performed *Annakut Aarti* and thousands of devotees availed the benefit of divine *Darshan*. Mahant Swami had beautiful explained the importance of Shree Hanumanji, Laxmidevi and *Annakut*.

Tulsi Vivah

On 20th November 2010, *Tulsi Vivah* was celebrated with great fervour and enthusiasm. Many *Haribhaktas* had rendered their services as the hosts of *Tulsi Vivah*. The ladies devotees had sung songs of *Tulsi Mata* and the Lord Vishnu on this occasion. Shri Pinakinbhai Joshi had got performed all the rituals of *Tulsi Vivah*. Mahant Swami Gyanprakashdasji had explained the importance of *Tulsi Vivah* and honoured the host families with garlands. With the blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj activity of *Satsang* is going on very well.

(Shree Swaminarayan temple, Colonia)

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

With the blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj activity of *Satsang* is going on very well here.

A beautiful *Satsang Sabha* was organized on Friday 5th November 2010 in the evening from 7.15 to 9.45 p.m. at Ketans Vilnidais. On the pious day of *Kali Chaudas, poojan-aarti* of Shri Hanumanji were performed. Thereafter *Kirtan-Dhoon* and *Nitya-Niyam* were performed in group. On Saturday 20th November 2010, *Satsang Sabha* was organized in the evening from 4.00 to 10.00 p.m. in Hall of Ilkris Church. Grand *Annakutotsav* of Thakorji was performed on the occasion. Through Cell Phone, D.K. Swami of LA temple had explained the importance of *Annakutotsav*. Devotees had performed *Kirtan, Dhoon, Aarti* of *Annakut* and *Nitya-Niyam*. Through Internet, blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and Mahant Swami of Kalupur temple were read over to all the devotees. At last all the devotees availed the benefit of *Prasad*. (Kanubhai Patel)

Shree Swaminarayan temple, Leicester

With the directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj, *Poojan-Archan, Thaal, Aarti* of Shree Hanumanji were performed on the pious day of *Kali Chaudas* on 04/11/2010 in the evening from 6.00 to 8.00 p.m. in our Shree Swaminarayan temple, Leicester. The devotee Shri Harishbhai Govindbhai Patel had rendered the services as the host on this occasion. Many other devotees also participated in the ritual of *poojan*.

On the pious day of *Dipawali*, Shri Kantibhai Bhatt got performed *Chopda Poojan*. On Saturday 06/11/2010 the New Year Day, grand *Annakut* was offered to Thakorji at 12.00 hours at noon. Devotee Shri Rutulbhai Girsibhai Patel and Shri Damodarbhai Rana family had rendered their services as the hosts of *Annakutotsav*. *Annakut Darshan* was available from 12.00 to 4.00 p.m. Farewell function of Shastri Swami Satyasankalpdasji and Shastri Swami

Suvratswaroopdasji was also organized on this occasion. At last Prasad of Annakut was distributed amongst all the devotees.

On Sunday 07/11/2010, Satsang Sabha of the New Year Day was organized in the evening from 5.00 to 7.00 p.m. wherein the blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj were read over to all the devotees. The temple was beautiful decorated with lightening. The Executive Committee and Shreeji Sewa Mandal had rendered their great services on this occasion. With the blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, activity of Satsang is going on very well. (Kiranbhai Bhavsar, Vice President, Leicester)

Shree Swaminarayan temple, Stredham (U.K.)

With the blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj activity of *Satsang* is going on very well. On the pious day of *Dhan Teras*, the Treasurer and the devotee Shri Ashokbhai Patel performed *poojan-aarti* of Shree Laxmiji. On the pious day of *Kali Chaudas* Poojari Kesu Bhagat performed *poojan-aarti* of Shree Hanumanji. Many businessmen devotees participated in the ritual of *Sharda Poojan*.

On Saturday, beautiful *Annakut* was offered to Thakorji. Every hour, *aarti* was being performed from morning 10.00 hours till 9.00 hours at night. Many *Haribhaktas* had performed *Darshan* and availed the benefit of *Prasad of Annakut*.

On this occasion, the Mayor of Lamberth, Shri Patil had arrived to perform *Darshan* and *Katha*. Young devotees had decorated the inner temple with the Theme of Forest on this occasion of *Annakut*. On 20th November and 21st November, *Tulsi Vivah* was celebrated with great fervour and enthusiasm.

(Ajay Patel, Stredham)

Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Sweden

With the directions and blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and with the inspiration of Mahant

Swami of Bhuj temple, Swami Mukundjivandasji, Shastri Vigyanswaroopdasji, Shastri Shukmuniadasji and swami Suvratmuniadasji of Bhuj temple arrived on 4th November 2010 on the pious day of *Dhan-Teras*. All *Haribhaktas* performed grand *Samaiyo*. It is the first ever visit of the saints on *Dipotsavi Annakutotsav*. The saints offered divine *Annakut* to Thakorji and preached the devotees the importance of the Almighty Lord and also recommended them to remain under the directions of *Dharmkul*.

The President of the temple, devotee Shri Narottambhai Narsi, Poojari Manji Ramji Limbani, Mantri Jayeshbhai Patel, and amongst the trustees devotees Shri Harshadbhai Patel, Rameshbhai Kerai, the treasurer Vaghjibhai Limbani and the leading figure of *'John Scope'* Ravjibhai Devji Vekaria and Valambhai etc. devotees obtained the pleasure of the saints. from 04/11/2010 to 13/11/2010, the saints granted to the devotees the benefit of *Katha-Varta*.

(Sureshbhai Kerai, the young devotee)

10th Patotsav of ISSO Temple (Los Angeles)

With the directions and blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and with the inspiration of Mahant Swami of the temple, 10th Patotsav of ISSO Temple was celebrated with great fervour and enthusiasm from 12th December 2010 to 19th December 2010. On 12th December 2010, *'Pothi-Yatra'* was performed wherein many devotees participated. It was followed by *'Deep Pragatya and Mangala Pravarchan'*. On 14th December 2010, *'Maruti Yagna'* was performed. Besides this, *'Vishnu Yagna'*, *'Jal Yatra'* and *'Shobha Yatra'* and *'Kalash Yata'* were also performed during the course of the celebrations. During the course of the *Katha*, *'Ram Janmotsav'*, *'Shri Krishna Janmotsav'* and *'Rukshmani Vivah'* etc. were celebrated. Large number of devotees availed the benefit of divine *Darshan*.

(Pratulbhai Kharsani)

AKSHARVAAS

Balol (Bhal) Devotee Kashiben Thakarsibhai Kher and devotee Motibhai Dahyabhai Parmar has passed away to *Akshardham* while chanting the name of Shree Hari.

Kothamba- Devotee Gaurang (Jigar) Govindbhai Kachhia (age 26 years old and Member of *Shree Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal*) has passed away to Divine Abode of God on 05/12/2010 while chanting the name of Shreeji Maharaj.

Mitli (tal. Khambhat)- Devotee Shri Shaileshbhai Kanubhai Vyas (Chief Engineer, P.W.D.) (Age 63 years) passed away to *Akshardham* on 13/11/2010 while chanting the name of Shri Hari.

Sankodra (Dholka Desh) - Devotee Shri Kothari Kalubhai Hirabhai Patel passed away to Divine Abode of God on 07/11/2010 while chanting the name of Shri Hari.

Ahmedabad - Devotee Shri Hiragauri Mansukhlal Soni passed away to Divine Abode of God on 07/11/2010 while chanting the name of Shri Hari.

Jiragadh (Halar) - Devotee Shri Ratansi Laxmanbhai Varu passed away to *Akshardham* on 14/12/2010 while chanting the name of Shri Hari.

Laklend Florida: Devotee Shri Hiraba (mother of the devotee Shri Nalinbhai) passed away to Divine Abode of God on 29/12/2010 while chanting the name of Shri Hari.

Editor, Printer and Publisher : Mahant Shastri Swami Harikrishnadasji for Shree Swaminarayan Temple Kalupur, Ahmedabad.
Printed at Shree Swaminarayan Printing press, Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Kalupur, Ahmedabad (GUJARAT) Pin-380 001
and Published at and for Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Kalupur, Ahmedabad (GUJARAT) Pin-380 001.