



સ્વાતંત્ર્ય પર્વ ૨૦૦૮



એનઆરજી ટાઈમ્સ

પાક્ષિક

પ્રકાશક: એનઆરજી ફાઉન્ડેશન, ગાંધીનગર

તા. ૧૫ ઓગસ્ટ, ૨૦૦૮ • શ્રાવણ સુદ ચૌદસ, સંવત ૨૦૬૪

State Level Celebrations of 62nd Independence Day at Palanpur

Independence Day celebrations gains momentum: State Government committed to all round development and Inclusive growth Palanpur: Saturday: The 62nd Independence Day is being celebrated in Banaskantha with patriotic fervor and gaiety. People witness the festivity that brings about the growth and development in district.

Development works and welfare projects are being

dedicated to mark the celebrations of the national festival. They appreciate the vision of the Chief Minister to hold State level celebrations at districts other than Gandhinagar.

Panchayat Minister toured Jethi, Dhanpura, Virampur, Dhadhodi and Kanpura villages of Amargadh taluka and laid foundation stones of welfare and development projects, he also inaugurated some of the works. Under the

leadership of Shri Narendrabhai Modi Gujarat has made landmark breakthroughs and achievement.

People have experienced transparency. National festivals celebrations in Banaskantha district is going to be an event to be remembered.

The truth is that, we have special focus is on education of the tribal and Maldhari children.

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Prime Minister to open Pravasi Bharatiya Divas on 8th January Diaspora Convention to be held in Chennai

The 7th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) Convention will be held at the Chennai Trade Centre, Chennai on 07-09 January 2009. It will be inaugurated by the Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh on 8th January. The President Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil will deliver the valedictory address on the 9th. She will also confer Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards for 2009.

The Convention is being organised by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs in partnership with the Government of Tamil Nadu. Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) would be the institutional partner. Chennai is hosting the Convention for the first time. The last PBD was held in New Delhi.

The 7th PBD will focus on issues relating to the role of Overseas Indians in India's emergence as a global power. Topics for discussion include "Indian Diaspora: Preservation of Language and

Culture", "Health Concerns of Indian Diaspora", "Role of Diaspora Youth in the 21st Century India", and "India As An Emerging Power: The Diaspora Factor".

There will be regional working sessions on Diaspora in the Gulf, Asia-Pacific, Africa, USA, Europe, Caribbean and Canada. Another unique feature of the event is the Building-the-Bridges sessions on 'Trade & Industry', 'Culture & Entertainment', 'Education' and 'Philanthropy'. There will also be sessions with state governments on "Need for having a response mechanism for the Indian Diaspora".

A special Trade and Industry Exhibition with participation from Corporate, Financial Institutions, State Governments, NGOs and others will form part of the event. The Overseas Indian Facilitation Centre (OIFC) will set up a Market Place at the

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Samaj Darpan : Gujarati Samaj of New York

Gujarati Samaj of New York was established as non-profit organization in 1974. Over last 24 years Samaj has conducted several projects to promote Gujarati Culture amongst tristate New York area residents. In 1985 Samaj built its own Center which can accommodate up to 700 people. Several thousand members of the Queens area have used the Center for family events like Birthday parties, Sweet Sixteen parties, Wedding and Baby Showers. Large number of associations have taken benefit of the central location to conduct their programs at our center. For further information please contact at Gujarati Samaj of New York. Phone/ Fax: 718-357-8GS1



રાઉલજી દિપસિંહ ભગવાનસિંહ (એનઆરજી) તરફથી પોતાના વતન આણંદ જિલ્લાના ભારોડા ગામે હાથર સેકન્ડરી સ્કૂલ માટે રૂ. ૨૫ લાખનું અનુદાન મળેલ છે.

Celebrating Mahatma Gandhi's life and message



A unique first of its kind eco-friendly festival celebrating Mahatma Gandhi's life and message was held in Nevada, USA . Drummers, fire spinners, healthy and organic food advocates, yoga teachers, DJs, and sustainable living proponents joined hands to celebrate peace, love, freedom, non-violence, self-power and conscious living as promoted by Gandhi on the banks of Truckee River in Reno. Rajan Zed, acclaimed Indo-American leader, was the keynote speaker who talked about Gandhi's life, philosophy, and experiments, and answered questions of the participants during this festival.

The festival included folk dancing, musical performances, sustainable goods displays, nature tours, bhajan chanting, fire spinning, yoga shows, organic food demonstrations, etc. According to coordinators Tom Stille and Doug Keeney, this Gandhi Fest will be an annual feature.

Meanwhile, October has been designated as "Gandhi Month" by a team of Nevadans who want to celebrate his 139th birth-month to highlight his message regarding human and spiritual rights. Lead by Right Reverend Gene Savoy Jr., bishop of International

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Celebrating Mahatma Gandhi's...

Community of Christ, and Rajan Zed, this team will culminate the "Gandhi Month" celebrations with prayers from major world faiths by religious leaders of Nevada on a 5,000 foot high hilltop at Red Rock Consecrated Sanctuary north of Reno in Nevada at sunset on October 12. At this distinctive first-of-its-kind celebration, the recitations at the sunset to honor the legacy of Mahatma Gandhi will include Christian prayers in English, Muslim prayers in Arabic, Hindu shlokas in Sanskrit, Buddhist prayers in Pali, Jewish prayers in Hebrew, a Baha'i prayer in Persian, and a Native American chant in the Sioux tradition. All attendees will do mass recitation of one of the Gandhi's favorite songs, "Raghupati raghav rajaram," on the occasion.

A ringing of bells ritual, with bells collected worldwide, will be held exactly at sunset during this ceremony in memory of Gandhi as a promoter of global peace. Representatives of different faiths will garland a picture of

Gandhi, and tributes will be paid to him in an interfaith dance. According to Zed and Savoy, they would like to make "Gandhi Month" an annual feature in Nevada. The two are also pushing for Gandhi monument around the state capitol in Carson City and Gandhi statues in Las Vegas and Reno. A Nevada-wide essay competition will be held in October on the topics of non-violence, peace, conflict resolution, etc., to promote Gandhi's teachings.

"This special sunset service is being held in recognition that every member of human family, equally and without distinction, is invested in God with a spiritual nature. Gandhi acknowledged this and was a champion of religious freedom as a fundamental human right," Reverend Savoy said.

"There is a renewed interest world over in Mahatma Gandhi and his ideas, who is universally venerated as one of the paramount moral, political, and social leaders of the recent history," Rajan Zed adds.

(Source : www.nriol.com)

Prime Minister to open Pravasi Bharatiya...

venue to facilitate business and investment. Arrangements have been made to take delegates on tour to Tirupati, Puducherry, Mamallapuram (Mahabalipuram) and other places PBD Conventions provide a platform for exchange of views and networking to the Persons of Indian Origin on matters of common interest. These Conventions enable the Government of India to better understand the expectations of the Overseas Indians from the land of their ancestors and to acknowledge their role in India's all round development and its efforts to acquire its rightful place in the comity of nations.

Formation of a separate Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs in 2004 is a testimony to the importance attached by the Government towards the well-being of the Persons of Indian Origin and their close affinity with India. Decisions taken by the Government of

India as a result of wider consultations held at such Conventions include formulation of the Overseas Citizenship of India Scheme, establishment of Overseas Indian Facilitation Centre, conceptualisation of a PIO University, formation of Prime Minister's Global Advisory Council of People of Indian Origin, and setting up of an India Development Foundation. Programmes e.g. Know India Programme and Scholarship Programme for Diaspora Children are designed specifically for Diaspora youth.

PBD Chennai is expected to carry forward the constructive engagement with the Diaspora with renewed vigour. A website www.pbdindia.org is being launched on 21st of this month, which would provide further details and open the registration for the Convention. (Source : Ministry of Overseas Affairs)

Origin of Raksha Bandhan

The Bhavishya Puran cites a story that the devas once battled with the danavas (demons) for twelve years. However, the devas lost, including the mighty Indra. So they prepared to fight again. On this occasion, Indrani tied a raksha on her consort Indra, after extolling Raksha Bandhan's glory. Indra then attained victory. During the battle of Mahabharat, Queen Kunti tied a raksha on her grandson Abhimanyu to protect him in battle. When the demon King Bali's devotion won over Lord Narayan, he was compelled to leave his abode, Vaikunth, to stay in Bali's kingdom in Satal. When Lord Narayan failed to return, his distressed consort Lakshmi arrived in Satal on Shraavan Purnima.

She accepted Bali as her brother by tying a raksha on him. In return, Bali asked her to wish for a boon. She requested Narayan's return.

despite having a pre-arranged boon. The Lord had to resolve his dilemma, and Shiva agreed



To resolve his dilemma, and Shiva agreed to guard Bali for four months each, while Vishnu (Narayan) would guard him for the auspicious four months - Chaturmaas - beginning from Ashadh Sud Ekadashi and terminating on Kartik Sud Ekadashi, usually from Mid-July to Mid-November.

The festival of Raksha Bandhan commenced when Lakshmi tied the 'rakhadi' ('rakhee' in Hindi) on Bali Raja. Since Bali Raja offered devotion by sacrificing everything to the Lord, the day is also known as 'Bali-eva' or 'Baleva' for short. Therefore when Brahmin priests perform puja rituals, they chant a famous mantra while tying the 'nada chhadi' (raksha) on a devotee: Yena baddho Baliraja daanavendro Mahaabala, tena twaamabhi badh naami rakshe maa chala maa chala i.e. I tie on you (the devotee) the raksha which was tied on Bali, the King of demons. Therefore O Raksha! Do not ever fail to protect this devotee, do not ever fail.

-Bhavishyottara Puran : 137/20, (Source : <http://www.swaminarayan.org>)

State Level Celebrations...

He outlined the tremendous public participation received in Krushi Mahotsav, Kanya-Kelavani, Shala - Praveshtsav, and activities of water conservation. Chief Minister has constituted Kanya Kelavani Nidhi-The gifts received by the C.M is publicly auctioned, and the amount received is deposited in to the fund- to the tune of Rs. 15 crores. The Kanya Kelavani Nidhi is meant to encourage girl child education. Minister of State for Industries and Energy Shri Saurabhbhai Patel dedicated development works of Rs.5 crores in the clusters under the villages Kant, Dhuva, Juna-Disa, Khardosan, and Vadaval. He

claimed that State is fully committed to all round development and inclusive growth. Minister of State for Welfare of Socially and Economically Backward Classes Shri Vasanhai Ahir inaugurated 28 odd development works worth Rs.538.62 lakhs.

He said that the positive attitude of the State towards the development has made Gujarat as a number one State. He laid foundation stone of 66 K.V Substation, which is to be erected at the project cost of Rs.253 Lakhs, which is aimed to address the problem of load shedding in the rural area. Source : Information Bureau, Government of Gujarat, Palanpur