

SATSANG PRAVESH-PAPER-1

Time : 9.00 to 11.15 a.m.

Total Marks : 75

Sunday, 5 March, 2017

Note : 1. Answer of the prescribed edition only will be accepted. Any other answer from different edition will not be accepted. 2. Numbers of the right side indicate marks of question number. 3. Numbers in the blanks on the right side of the answer indicate lesson number & page number.

Important Note

In the question paper the marks of each sub-question should be written in the box (mark : 1) given on the right side and the marks obtained by the candidate should be written in the adjacent box. If the answer is wrong then write '0' (zero) in the given box. The sign or indication of true (✓) or false (X) of each sub-question should be marked only on the left-side before the question starts.

Important Note

While checking the answers, when you come across lengthy answers i.e. shortnotes, reasons, brief answer in five sentence etc. Justify to the left side of the paper for any marks deducted. If the candidate has forgotten to mention any mentioned points then the examiner can deduct mark likewise and explain to the leftside of the paper that which point is not mentioned by candidate. For example there is question in March-2013, Pravesh paper-1, "Transformation of JobanPagi" JobanPagi said to Maharaj, 'Oh Lord, I am crooked worthless and foolish. I was unable to recognize you for who are you. Oh compassionate one! please have pity on me. Please free me from my sins.' If any point is not written then write "My sins" at left side.

SECTION-1: NILKANTH CHARITRA, 6th Edition, December - 2010)

Q.1 In the sentences below, state who is speaking to whom and when. (Total Marks: 9)

Note: Who is speaking 1 mark, to whom 1 mark and when 1 mark.

1. "From today you shall be called Sarjudas. " (48/98)
 - Muktanand Swami - Nilkanth Varni
 - The next day Varni came in the Ramanand Swami's Ashram in Loj, Muktanand Swami gave him and requested him to put on those clothes and said....
2. " Look, here is your bundle of clothes and the box of foodstuffs." (31/59)
 - Bhagwandas' mother - Bhagwandas
 - Believing that they would find God if they searched for him, Bhagwandas' mother, once kept a box containing foodstuffs and a bundle of clothes ready for him when he returned for lunch from his farm and said....
3. "Where is that ascetic with whom you were talking?" (42/86)
 - Narsinh Mehta - Kalyanji
 - In Piplana Narsinh Mehta was worshipping the Shaligram. As Nilkanth Varni shot a glance at the Shaligram, a bright light issued from the Shaligram. Narsinh Mehta soon came out of the house and asked Kalyanji..

Q.2 Give reasons for the following (two to three lines each). (Total Marks: 6)

1. Bhagwansinhji and Jiva Thakkar went in search of Nilkanth varni. (39/77)

- A. Bhagwansinhji and Jiva Thakkar were sitting by the gate of his home. The ruler said in jest, "Maharaj! Where do you live? What is your name? What is your caste?" Nilkanth Varni replied with pride, "My country is an intangible place, caste is brahman and my names are endless. I cannot even count my names." Saying this he left the place. The clever employee told the ruler, "Sir, whether you believe it or not, the Brahmachari is a great yogi. It was wrong to have not honoured him." And so sayign they went in search of Nilkanth Varni.

2. The bear will attain Akshardham. (24/47)

- A. Clearing Krishna Tamboli's doubt Varni said, "The bear had served Shri Krishna but because of doubts it had been wandering hither and thither. Now it will be redeemed. It will shed its body and be born as a devotee. He will then come into my contact and attain Akshardham."

3. Shiv-Parvati came to Nilkanth Varni with some sathvo. (32/65)

- A. On the way to Bhutpuri, Nilkanth Varni continued to walk for four days continuously without food to eat or water to drink. On the fifth day, when he found a well nearby, he began to bathe it with the water from the gourd. Four times Shaligram drank it all. He thought, It must be hungry too." As he was thinking about how to get food for the Shaligram, Shiv-Parvati came there with sathvo.

Q.3 Write short notes on any ONE of the following. (In 15 lines.) (Total Marks: 5)

1. Visits Badrinath and Manas Sarovar. (7/13-14)

Nilkanth Varni walked on through the mountains for **nine days** and atlast reached Badrinath. He had the darshan of **Bhagwan Badrinath** and **Nar Narayan**. The priest of the mandir saw in Nilkanth, **Bhagwan Badrinath** himself, and out of deep respect for him he offered his services to him. Nikanth stayed there till **the Diwali festival** after the **celebration of Annakut**. During the four months of winter it is very cold in Badrinath, so the murti of Bhagwan Badrinath is brought down and installed in the Jyotishvar mandir of Joshimath for worship. The pujari respectfully brought Nilkanth to Joshimath on an elephant. From **Joshimath**, a very precipitous road passes via the valley of Niti, leading to Manas Sarovar and from there towards Kailas. Nilkanth walked on and reached Badrivan (Adi-Badri). There is the **ashram of Narayan Rishi** here. It was here that nar and Narayan had performed austerities for **more than fifty years**, beseeching the Supreme God to come on earth. Today, God in the form of Nilkanth had come to bless them with the **fruits of their austerities**. Both Nar and Narayan prayed, "No one knows **your glory**. It is because of your powers that we are great. And those who believe us as greater than you know not your true greatness." Nilkanth Varni stayed in the ashram for three months during winter, performed austerities here and gave the divine bliss of his form to thousands of rishis. After completing his stay here he blessed Nar and Narayan, "You have served me well, therefore, I shall **install your murti** on earth." Nilkanth Varni then resumed his pilgrimage and walking barefoot on the snow reached **Manas Saroar**, bathed in the clear waters of the lake and bestowed his blessings on the **white swans**. This place is the **source** of the **River Saryu**. Nilkanth bathed in the mouth of the River Saryu, paid **obeisance to Kailas mountain** from a distance and continuing his journey on foot, he returned to Badrinath on the day of **Akhatrij**.

2. The glory of Nilkanth. (51/105-106)


From **Kutch** Ramanand Swami instructed **Mayaram Bhatt** inform all the devotees about Varni's arrival in the villages he pass through and tell everyone to go to Loj for his **darshan**. **Lalji Suthar of Shekhpat** heard this from Mayaram Bhatt though he went to Ramanand Swami in Kutch. Ramanand Swami asked him, "Why did you come here all of a sudden?" He repleid, Mayaram Bhatt informed me that Varni has arived in Loj and he is greater than you. So I thought I should see you and acquaint you with the fact that Mayaram is **propogating the greatness of Nilkanth in your name**." On hearing this

Ramanand Swami told him, "Why did you come here at all? I had sent word to all concerned through Mayaram to go for Varni's darshan in Loj. Why, then, didn't you go to Loj?" He queried, "How great is Nilkanth? **Is he as great as Dattatray, Rishabhdev or Ramchandraj?**" Ramanand Swami calmly replied, "They are all great. But Shri Krishna is greater than all of them. And Nilkanth Varni is **the greatest of them all**. He is the **incarnation of all incarnations**. However much we may extol his greatness, it will be inadequate. Even the greatest of yogis and munis **meditate** on him. Why did you come to Kutch without having Varni's darshan? Now, go to Lojpur, have the darshan of Nilkanth and pay your respect to him." Overwhelmed with joy, he then bowed to his guru, and left enthusiastically for Lojpur for Nilkanth's darshan. He felt blessed at Varni's darshan. After Ramanand Swami passed away, Lalji Suthar was initiated into the sadhu-fold and named **Nishkulanand Swami**.

3. Redemption of ascetics. (4/7-9)


Continuing his journey on foot through the thick jungle, Nilkanth came to a banyan tree. He saw some ascetics sitting under the tree. He went to them and asked, "Why have you come here? Where will you go from here?" The ascetics replied, "We are going to Himalayas to perform penance to **propitiate God** through our austerities. We shall undertake severe penance to **attain salvation**." The ascetics then asked Nilkanth, "Why have you come alone in this harsh jungle? We are many, still we are mortally afraid of wild animals at night. How is it that you are moving about **so fearlessly**? Who are you? As you are clad only in a laincloth, don't you feel cold at night?" Nilkanth replied, "I am **atma**, distinct from the physical body, and unattached to family and relatives. I am free from **carnal desire, anger, avarice and other vices**. I am **beyond Akshar**, which is sat-chit-anand. I am beyond the three states, the three bodies, and the three qualities. I am the divine embodiment of the Supreme God. I am also going to the Himalayas for the **redemption of countless jivas**. But tell me how will you attain salvation **without meeting God in human manifestation**? Even if your bodies were to become mere skeletons through penance, how would you attain salvation without knowing a living God?" They asked, "**Where can we find a living God and when?** How can we attain salvation?" Nilkanth replied, "If you are sincere and earnest in your quest, you will find God incarnate right here. Recognize him, and you will immediately attain salvation." They felt Nilkanth himself was God incarnate. They followed Nilkanth, listened to his soul-elevating discourses; and served him devoutly. Pleased with their services and their faith, Nilkanth gave **darshan** to the ascetics in the **chaturbhuj form of Narayan Bhagwan**. At night ascetics tied their hammocks to the branches of a tree and went to sleep in them. Nilkanth, on the other hand, stretched himself on plain ground. A ferocious hyena came there at midnight, went round Nilkanth and finally sat under the banyan tree. The ascetics were frightened and began to pray to Nilkanth. At that time the ascetics were **focussed on Nilkanth**. He bestowed salvation on them.

Q.4 Answer ALL of the following, using one sentence (not just one word) for each answer. (Total Marks: 5)

 **Note: No mark for incomplete answer.**

1. Who was Ramanand Swami's principal disciple? (43/90)
A. Muktanand Swami was Ramanand Swami's principal disciple.
2. Which city had Naradji built and why? (6/11)
A. Naradji had built the city of Shripur as at this place Uddhavji, on being separated from Shri Krishna, had performed austerities.
3. Whom did Nilkanth Varni see before him when he opened his eyes from meditation? (1/1)
A. Nilkanth Varni saw Hanumanji before him when he opened his eyes from meditation.
4. Who told King Satradharma about the greatness of Nilkanth Varni? (28/51)
A. The gardener told the king Satradharma about the greatness of Nilkanth Varni.
5. Where did the householder bawa go and whom did he bring? (23/44)
A. The householder bawa went to mandir and brought Nilkanth Varni.

- Q.5 From the given options, place a tick (✓) in the box next to the correct ones. (Total Marks: 4)**

 **Note: One or more of the options may be correct. Full marks will be awarded only if all the correct options are chosen, otherwise no marks will be awarded.**

1. 2, 4 (17/30-31) 2. 4 (5/10)


- Q.6 Fill in the blanks. (Total Marks: 4)**

 **Note: Marks will be given only if both answers are correct.**

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Bochasan, Iadoos (36/72) | 2. kingdom, daughters (10/18) |
| 3. Vashishtha, Ramchandra (53/1) | 4. mahant, a shaligram (28/52) |

(SECTION-2: SATSANG READER PART-I, 6th Edition April - 2011)

- Q.7 In the sentences below, state who is speaking to whom and when. (Total Marks: 9)**

 **Note: Who is speaking 1 mark, to whom 1 mark and when 1 mark.**

1. "He is God, the very form of Parabrahman." (6/49)
 - Jivuba - (Her father) Abhel Khachar
 - When Abhel Khachar was ready to kill his daughter, God came forth from the murti, giving darshan as Chaturbhuj Vishnu, Abhel Khachar asked Jivuba, "My dear child, who is this that you worship?" then...
2. "Who is Munibawa?" (1/7)
 - Shriji Maharaj - Muktanand Swami
 - When Munibawa accompanied Brahmanand Swami to Gadhada, anxious to meet Maharaj, Muktanand Swami introduced him to Shriji Maharaj. Then...
3. "Your stay on earth will be rendered worthless." (4/36)
 - Muktanand Swami - Shriji Maharaj
 - Once, Maharaj became ill in Pachala and no remedies seemed to be working on them. Then...


- Q.8 Give reasons for the following (two to three lines each). (Total Marks: 4)**

1. **Shriji Maharaj appeared before Nirgundas Swami seated on his Manki. (7/64)**
 - A. While returning from Chhapaiya to railway station Nirgun Swami fell off his horse. He suffered injury to his abdomen and head, causing intense pain. The village people treated him but his pain would not lessen. Then he thought of Swamishri wishing to have his darshan one last time. He prayed. Soon, Shriji Maharaj appeared before him seated on his Manki. He passed his hand over Nirgun Swami, and then made him drink the milk which relieved Nirgun Swami's pain.
2. **Sundar Pagi refused to steal Maharaj's horse. (5/42)**
 - A. When Joban Pagi told Sundar to steal Maharaj's horse, Rojho, he blankly refused and said, "I have had his darshan. He is a man of miracles and he has a radiant appearance. He surely looks as if he could be God. I dare not toy with such a great man, for I fear the consequences."

- Q.9 Write short notes on 'Joban Pagi meeting Nilkanth varni.' (5/41) (in 15 lines). (Total Marks: 5)**

Nilkanth Varni looked simply resplendent. He was young and his long matted hair was tied in a knot on the top of his head. His thin body covered in only a loin cloth, he sat on the edge of a lake in Vartal. Believing him to be a great yogi, Joban Pagi came close and bowed before him. "How nice it would be if such a yogi were to stay with us," Joban thought. "I will give you a room," he promised the yogi. "Please stay here." The yogi replied softly, "I wish to go on a pilgrimage. But I will come to your home on the way back and will stay in your village." On enquiry, Joban learnt that the yogi had come to Vartal from Umreth after having travelled to various parts of the country. He offered the yogi a meal. Accepting the offer, the yogi came to to Joban's home. He cooked food using Joban's grains, offered the food to God and then ate. Soon after, he went to rest at the home of Devkaran Pagi, one of Joban's relatives. Upon awakening, the yogi left for Bochasan, promising that he would be back someday.

Q.10 Answer ALL of the following, using one sentence (not just one word) for each answer. (Total Marks:4)

 **Note: No mark for incomplete answer.**

1. Hearing Raiji's challenge, what did Joban talk about seeing? (5/42)
 - A. When Raiji boomed Joban, he said, "I have come to see how great your guru really is".
2. Why did Ashabhai obey Swamishri's wish not to go to Chhota Udepur? (8/72)
 - A. Ashabhai's heart was pierced by Swamishri's loving words and he felt his pains being removed before his very eyes, he obeyed Swamishri's wish not to go to Chhota Udepur.
3. Pleased by Dalpatram's poetic skills, what did Devanand Swami use to say? (2/19)
 - A. Pleased by Dalpatram's poetic skills, Devanand Swami used to say, "This is all due to Maharaj's grace."
4. What did Nirgun Swami always find? (7/67)
 - A. Nirgun Swami would always find and take up even menial services.

Q.11 Select the SIX correct sentences from below and write them in the correct story sequence in the boxes. (Total Marks: 6)

Topic: Shriji Maharaj caring for Shukmuni Swami

(1) Write the correct sentence numbers

2	3	5	7	8	12
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(2) Correct sequence of sentences

8	7	5	2	12	3
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Note: (1) 3 marks will be awarded in the correct sentence number only if all the six sentence numbers are correct and (2) 3 marks will be awarded only if all the sequence of sentence numbers are correct. Otherwise no marks will be given.

Note: (1) Correct sentence numbers: Give 3 marks only if six sentence numbers are correct in any sequence, otherwise no marks will be given. **(2) Correct sequence of sentences:** Give 3 marks if all sequence of sentence numbers are correct as per answersheet otherwise no marks will be given.

Q.12 Rewrite the incorrect sentences below in relation to the sentence heading. (Total Marks: 4)


 **Note: Marks will be awarded only if a sentence is written completely correct. Otherwise no marks will be awarded.**

1. **Sadguru Brahmanand Swami:** So, when the Guru approached them with the idea of having Abhaydanji study further, they readily agreed. Thus, with a Bania as his companion and with the blessing of all, Abhaydanji set out to learn Jyotish Shastra in Jamnagar. (1/1)
 - A. **Sadguru Brahmanand Swami:** So, when the Maharaja approached them with the idea of having Ladudanji study further, they readily agreed. Thus, with a Brahmin as his companion and with the blessing of all, Ladudanji set out to learn Pingal Shastra in Bhuj.
2. **Swami Yagnapriyadasji:** Yet, the scorpionbite's effect was too severe. Motibhai soon passed away. Losing his son was a blow Ishwarbhai simply could not bear. Though he consoled family, he was deeply grieved himself. (8/76-77)
 - A. **Swami Yagnapriyadasji:** Yet, the snakebite's effect was too severe. Desai soon passed away. Losing his son was a blow Ashabhai simply could not bear. Though he consoled others, he was deeply grieved himself. (8/76-77)
3. **Bhaktaraj Shri Jhinabhai Darbar:** Jhinabhai had a great disliking for life. Though being born and brought up amidst the luxury of a rajwadi family, he had a deep liking for material pleasure. In fact, he saw nothing other than misery even in the worst of sense pleasures. (4/31-32)
 - A. **Bhaktaraj Shri Jhinabhai Darbar:** Jhinabhai had a great liking for satsang. Though being born and brought up amidst the luxury of a royal family, he had a deep dislike for material pleasure. In fact, he saw nothing other than misery even in the best of sense pleasures. (4/31-32)

4. **Sadguru Devanand Swami:** Born in Barwala, near Pahelarpur, on Magshari amas, Samvat 1759, his mother name was Laluba. (2/17)
- A. **Sadguru Devanand Swami:** Born in Balol, near Dholka, on Kartik punam, Samvat 1859, his mother name was Benjiba. (2/17)

(SECTION-3: ESSAY)

Q.13 Write an essay on any ONE of the following. (in approximately 30 lines.) (Total Marks: 10)

 **Note: Essay is an independent original subject. In addition to following points many other point might be included. Examiner has to examin essay on the basis of originality, knowledge of sampraday, special analysis and point from any other scriptures.**

1. Ideal of youth: Nilkanth Varni

1. Number of young persons is more in the world and in India. Whereas compared to other countries, number of youth in India is quite much more.
2. How should be the youth? Dancing with the joy of youthfulness, with power or strength to break the rocks with their hands, alert. (Give examples of courageous, brave, faithful, patriotic, honest young persons in the past.)
3. Nowadays, the youth is following the western culture without thinking about the pros and cons. They are getting addicted to drugs and things which can ruin them. Bad habits of eating and drinking spoils the very precious lives. (Give examples of youth in India and abroad.)
4. Do they have any rolemodel? Is there anybody who can show them the right path. The answer is YES. Nilkanth Varni can be the ideal of youth. Qualities of Nilkanth Varni - firm in following the niyams of religion, free from lust, pushed away the enticement or temptations, control on mind and body, austerity etc. If the youth read about , think about the qualities and try to follow them, then they too can be like him.
5. They have the ideal like Nilkanth Varni. But is there anybody who guide them and help them to be like him? Yes, Brahmanswarup Yogiji Maharaj established the youth centres and tried very hard to make them flourish. He wrote the letters to them loved them a lot and pushed them up very affectionately to attain some of the qualities in the life of youth. In the same way, Pramukh Swami Maharaj also worked very hard and always helped them to walk on the right path, even more lovingly than their parents he cared for them and moulded their life. as a result of it the youth of BAPS is now become the ideal youth by the virtues they have woven in their life. (Write the incidents.)
6. Swamishri had got the IMAX film on Nilkanth Varni prepared in Delhi Akshardham that inspires lots of people and shows the path to make their life according to that. Infinite aspirants and youth are inspired by it. Even in future the forthcoming generations will get inspirations from it.
7. That's why we could celebrate sixty years of activities related to youth (Shashtipurti Yuva Mahotsav.) This shows that today and even in the coming era, Nilkanth Varni is and will be the ideal of our youth.

2. We are poor and uncultured, but you accepted us: Swamishri in adivasi regions

1. Adivasis are those who are totally backward and poor people. BAPS sadhus worked very hard in Bodeli and surrounding areas for the development of satang for ten years. All of them were very keen to celebrate the decade of development of satsang. They also wished Swamishri to come there. Even Swamishri was ready to accept their feelings.
2. But the organisers were confused about the arrangements for Swamishri's stay. All of them were worried about the health related problems due to Swamishri's age. Where Swamishri was coming to bless the devotees, there was no accommodation.

Swamishri was informed about his stay at the nearby village. Swamishri advised very truly that where the sadhus have worked hard for the betterment of the people, there should be accommodation thinking of their love and affection. According to his wish, the accommodation was planned in a house where construction was under process - even no doors or windows, no toilet bathroom. Sackcloth was used to cover the place for toilet. It was the cold months of February though Swamishri was very enthusiastic.

3. Assembly was planned in the village Khandiya Amadar at night. Around devotees from surrounding twenty five villages reached there on vehicles or even on foot to attend the assembly. Though the weather was cold, around three thousand devotees were present there in assembly. Swamishri showered his blessings, affection and happiness on them. Swamishri said in his blessings, God does not differ in small or big. God belongs to those who worship him. God visited Shabari's place also. God is pleased with the true feelings from the bottom of our heart. If our thoughts are pure, God is happy with us though you belong to backward class. If we walk some steps to God, he will walk infinite steps towards us.
4. They welcomed Swamishri - their saviour with tremendous joy and dance. The assembly came to an end at 12.35 with infinite enthusiasm. Swamishri faced such an inconvenience in this age. Swamishri had bath in open in very cold atmosphere. In the morning in Swamishri's puja the adivasi males sang kirtans and showed their innocent devotion. If there are or not any arrangements or comforts, for Swamishri all his devotees belong to him, so he never pays any attention to discomforts.
5. Even when Swamishri was at Atladara in Vadodara, he gave personal darshan to those 30 adivasi devotees and talked to them and made them happy. And promised them to visit and as he had promised, Swamishri visited their area/region in hot month of April and stayed there for 12 days. Even the weather remained favourable. Swamishri gave them the sweet memories for the whole life. Even in the Sunday assembly of Ahmedabad Swamishri praised the devotion of such poor but wise devotees. At the time of consecration of Chuli mandir, Swamishri faced many discomforts. Swamishri ate his breakfast sitting on a broken seat. As it was the sign of removing poverty of his poor devotees.
6. Swamishri expanded satsang in these regions facing immense hardships for twelve times. Swamishri set them free from addiction, superstitions and worldly desires and diverted them on the path of satsang. He converted them into Valmiki from Valiya. Those who wander in jungle, kill and then eat the animals, Swamishri honoured them as the adivasis. Those whose mouth were stinking from liquor, now chanting swaminarayan mahamantra. That's why praising Swamishri's innocence, purity and unselfishness, they sing, 'We are poor and uncultured, but you accepted us.'

3. Unique Gift From Pramukh Swami Maharaj: His Divine Holiness Mahant Swami Maharaj

His Holiness Mahant Swami Maharaj was born to Dahiben and Manibhai Narayanbhai Patel on 13 September 1933 (Bhadarva vadi 9, Samvat 1989) in Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh, India. A few days later, Brahmaswarup Shastriji Maharaj, the founder of BAPS, visited Jabalpur, blessed the newborn child and named him Keshav and revealed to Manibhai, "Your child will grow up to serve Satsang in a big way." His family lovingly called him Vinu. Vinubhai spent his formative years in Jabalpur, completing his primary and secondary education in an English-medium school. He was exceptionally brilliant and completed his 12th grade at the Christ Church Boys Senior Secondary School in Jabalpur. Thereafter, he turned with his parents to his native town of Anand, where he enrolled at the College of Agriculture. Despite his deep inner spirituality, his sharp intellect was inclined towards rational and logical reasoning. Only a great spiritual master could

penetrate his reasoning and awaken the dormant spiritual spark within him. In 1951-52, he came into the contact of His Holiness Yogiji Maharaj, the spiritual successor of Brahmaswarup Shastriji Maharaj. Impressed by Yogiji Maharaj's spiritual charisma and selfless love, he travelled with Yogiji Maharaj during his summer vacations. Yogiji Maharaj's love drew the young Vinubhai closer towards him. In 1956, Vinubhai graduated with a bachelor's degree in agriculture, and through his association with Yogiji Maharaj he decided to take the path of renunciation. On 2 February 1957, Yogiji Maharaj joyously gave him the parshad diksha and renamed him Vinu Bhagat. Once Yogiji Maharaj, while addressing some youths inclined towards becoming sadhus, said, "Because of Vinubhai 51 youths will take diksha. The punya [of that] will go to him. He will be the first [to take diksha]." Then, Yogiji Maharaj told him to accompany him in his vicharan to look after his daily correspondence and other services. For four years he stayed with Yogiji Maharaj and received spiritual training. On 11 May 1961, on the occasion of the Kalash Mahotsav of the BAPS Swaminarayan Mandir in Gadhada, Yogiji Maharaj gave bhagwati (saffron) diksha to 51 educated youths. Among them, Vinu Bhagat was the first to receive diksha and named Swami Keshavjivandas. At that time many observed that the name 'Keshav', given by Shastriji Maharaj when he was a child, had reappeared in Mumbai. Swami Keshavjivandas was appointed as their head (mahant) at Dadar Mandir. Hence, over time, he became respectfully known as Mahant Swami. Yogiji Maharaj used to frequently write to the newly initiated sadhus about the greatness of Mahant Swami, "All should remain under the instructions of Mahant Swami. If anyone feels troubled or worried tell Mahant Swami about it. He will solve it by giving spiritual knowledge." His outstanding virtues of austerity, selfcontrol, devotion, humility and service earned him the blessings and joy of Yogiji Maharaj and Pramukh Swami Maharaj. In 1968, Pramukh Swami's 48th birthday was celebrated in Yogiji Maharaj's presence at Dadar Mandir, Mumbai. In his address to the satsang assembly, Pramukh Swami spoke about the glory of Yogiji Maharaj and added, "I feel very peaceful about Yogiji Maharaj having prepared these [young] sadhus. My heart experiences peace on having the darshan of Mahant Swami. Just as sadhus and devotees felt peace on having the darshan of Sadguru Purushottamdas Swami, today, one feels peace on seeing Mahant Swami." In 1971, after the earthly departure of Yogiji Maharaj, Mahant Swami totally dedicated himself to Pramukh Swami Maharaj, the new guru, with the same devotion and allegiance he had for guru Yogiji Maharaj. His exposure to Pramukh Swami Maharaj's pure saintliness and spiritual glory had begun in 1951, when he first met him. Since 1971, as per the wishes and instructions of HH Pramukh Swami Maharaj, he has relentlessly travelled throughout India and abroad to inspire and strengthen satsang in countless devotees. He has also offered his services during the Sanstha's mega-festivals, in children and youth activities, the Akshardham projects, and other satsang activities. HH Mahant Swami Maharaj's profound discourses have enlightened countless devotees and well-wishers and motivated them to adopt pious, addiction-free lives. His saintliness and devotion to Bhagwan Swaminarayan and gurus Yogiji Maharaj and Pramukh Swami Maharaj have left lasting impressions on innumerable devotees. On 20 July 2013, in the presence of senior sadhus in Ahmedabad, Pramukh Swami Maharaj revealed Mahant Swami as his spiritual successor. Following the earthly departure of Pramukh Swami Maharaj on 13 August 2016, Mahant Swami Maharaj was declared as the sixth guru in the Gunatit Parampara tradition of Bhagwan Swaminarayan. HH Mahant Swami Maharaj now presides as the guru and spiritual guide of countless devotees and helms the worldwide BAPS sociol-spiritual activities fostered by HH Pramukh Swami Maharaj.

 **THE END** 