



# NEWS LETTER



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## MAAG MASSA:

Hundreds of devotees of Bhagavaan Gopinathji organized a month-long Jap-Homa at Jammu Ashram, during the auspicious month of 'Magamassa' in which 2 crore and 23 lac of Nam Mantras including "Bhagavaan Gopinathji Sahasranam" were recited in praise of the lord. Devotees thronged the Ashram early morning during this month braving the severe cold. It was an awe-inspiring experience and reminded us of the days when devotees in large numbers would circumambulate the Hari Parbat Hillock during the month of *Magamassa* prior to the exodus of Kashmiri Pandit community from the Valley. The prayers were held for the peace and the well-being of mankind. The month-long spiritual activity concluded on the 13<sup>th</sup> of Feb, 2006 at 4:00 p.m., which had started on the 14<sup>th</sup> of Jan, 2006 under the scholarly guidance of Pt. Keshav Nathji. The spiritual activity during this month was conducted between 6:30 a.m. and 7:30 a.m. everyday.

## LECTURE SERIES:

In order to promote Bhagavaan Consciousness, the Bhagavaan Gopinathji Trust undertook a programme in the shape of a series of lectures on "Our Spiritual Heritage" delivered by competent scholars during the months of Jan, Feb and Mar, 2006 on Sundays at the Jammu Ashram. The following speakers delivered their lectures on the topics indicated against each:-

1. Sh. Pran Nath Bhat "Gareeb" - *Upanishads & Bhagavad Gita*.
2. Swami Kumar Ji - *Bhagavad Gita*.
3. Prof. A.N.Dhar - My encounters with saints and how I came to Bhagavaanji.
4. Prof. B.L.Koul - *Kashmir Ki Sant Parampara* Aur Bhagavaanji.

5. Prof. B.L.Koul - *Kundalini* Yoga and Rupa Bhawani.
6. Lt. Col. R.K.Langar - Religion, Spirituality and Science.
7. Smt. Bimla Raina - Shaivism & Lalleshori.
8. Sh. Pran Nath Bhat "Gareeb" - Practical manifestation of Vedas.

There was an overwhelming response from the devotees to the holding of the lecture series based on "Our Spiritual Heritage". The lectures were well received by the audience.

## HORA ASHTAMI:

As usual, the Bhagavaan Gopinathji Trust organised and celebrated the "Hora Ashtami" on the 21<sup>st</sup> of Feb, 2006. Hundreds of devotees thronged the Ashram for night-long Jagran and offered prayers at the feet of the Master. A sizeable number of artists of repute presented their items and the hall reverberated with melodious bhajans; the audience listened in rapt attention and felt ecstatic in a spirit of pure devotion. The night-long prayers were offered for invoking the blessings of the "Mother Goddess" followed by mass prayers for peace and the well-being of mankind. The Jagran concluded with Bhagavaanji's Aarti at 6:00 a.m on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of Feb, 2006.

The event was also celebrated at i) Pamposh Enclave, New Delhi ii) Kharyar, Srinagar, Kashmir and various other centres and Satsang Mandals across the country.

## GURU GEETA RECITATION COMPETITION ON THE OCCASION OF NAVREH:

A huge congregation of devotees attended the annual function held at Jammu

Ashram on the 30<sup>th</sup> of Mar, 2006 to mark the first Navratra "Navreh Celebrations". The function started at 2 p.m. sharp. As a special event/ programme *Guru-Geeta* recitation competition was held on the occasion of 'Navreh' in which 24 competitors participated. This event was held with a view to promoting Bhagavaan Consciousness in the youth. The competitors were categorized as Junior (upto 6th standard), Senior (beyond 6th standard & upto 12th standard) and Others (beyond 12th standard) groups. Prof. P.N.Trisal, Prof. P.N.Madhup and Sh. O.N.Ganjoo acted as the Judges. The participants who bagged 1st and 2nd prize in the group beyond 12<sup>th</sup> standard are: Sh. Rohit Raina & Sh. Deepak Kumar Bhat respectively. In Senior group: Sh. Nikhil Tikoo, Ms. Manisha Reshi & Ms. Shikha Koul got 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize respectively. Ms. Sakshi Koul, Sh. Hitesh Pandita & Ms. Mokshi Koul got 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize in Junior group respectively. Certificates & *Bhagavaan Gopinathji Sahasranam* along with *Guru Geeta* book were given to the position-holders in each group and all other participants were given certificates and a *Guru Geeta* book each.



The function was presided over by Sh. Poshkar Nath Koul, a well known saint-poet. In his address, he was all praise for the organizers for holding such type of seminars that would have moral and educative influence on the youth.

Prof. A.N.Dhar, Chief Editor of our bi-annual journal 'Shuddhavidya' was felicitated by the Bhagavaan Gopinathji Trust for having got an award from J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Language for his book titled *Mysticism Across Cultures* and also for his dedicated services to the Trust. He was decorated with a shawl.

A vote of thanks was presented by the President of the Trust, Ms. Jai Kishori Patwari. She threw light on the specific instances of the ways the institution is carrying forward the mission of Bhagavaan Gopinathji.

Sh. M.K. Tikoo, Organiser of the Trust acted as the compere.

### ZANGTRAI:

An important festival of Kashmiri Pandit community, Zangtrai was observed on the 1st of April, 2006 at the Jammu Ashram as an auspicious day of great significance in which hundreds of ladies participated. On the occasion, twelve Kashmiri Pandit ladies were felicitated by the Bhagavaan Gopinathji Trust for the services they rendered in establishing the Trust alongside the Trustees. They were decorated with a shawl each. The names are given as under:



1. Late Smt. Dhanwati Fotedar W/o Late. Sh. S.N.Fotedar
2. Smt. Umashori Raina W/o Late Sh. Triloki Nath Raina
3. Smt. Durga Ji Koul W/o Sh. P.N.Koul
4. Smt. Mohan Pyare Tikoo W/o Sh. M.K.Tikoo
5. Smt. Shakti Turki W/o Sh. S.K.Turki
6. Smt. Pyari Teng W/o Sh. Badri Nath Teng
7. Smt. Posh Kuj Koul (Amma Ji) W/o Late Sh. Sarwanand Koul
8. Late Smt. Rani Moza W/o Sh. C.L.Moza
9. Smt. Ratna Ji W/o Late Sh. L.N.Revoo
10. Smt. Mohan Pyare Raina W/o Late Sh. Narayan Joo Raina
11. Smt. Durga Ji Chrangoo W/o Sh. O.N.Chrangoo

12. Smt. Prabha Wattal W/o Sh. Sohan Lal Wattal

Prof O.N.Chrangoo spoke at length on the significance of Zangtraï festival. Smt Janak Koul sang a hymn in the *Vanavun* tune in a melodious voice composed in praise of the Bhagavaan.

There was a brief session of devotional music on the occasion. The accomplished artists – Sh. Ravi Bhan, Sh Iqbal koul, Master Prayas Tukra and Smt. Naina Saproo presented melodious devotional songs on the occasion. The songs held the gathering captive and each artist was greeted with thunderous applause at the end of his/ her performance. All the activity was held on the lush green lawn of the Ashram Vaatika.

At the end, the President of the Trust exhorted the devotees to follow the teachings of the Bhagavaan in letter and spirit. She distributed a small packet of salt and Rs.2/= each among the ladies as is traditionally done. All the gathering was served a cup of tea as Prasad. Sh. M.K.Tikoo acted as compere. The *Zangtraï* function was also observed at the Ashrams at 1) Pamposh Enclave, New Delhi 2) Kharyar, Srinagar, Kashmir.

#### **EXPANSION OF THE KITCHEN BLOCK AT JAMMU ASHRAM:**

The expansion work of the Kitchen block, which was taken up in hand in the year, 2005 and the slab was laid on the 29<sup>th</sup> of Dec, 2005, is nearing completion. It will be ready for use on Mahayajnya day, which falls on the 29<sup>th</sup> of May, 2006. The newly constructed kitchen equipped with necessary facilities will meet the future requirements of the Trust.

#### **OBSERVANCE OF 'ZANGTRAI' AT PUNE:**

An important festival of Kashmiri Pandit community 'Zangtraï' was observed at Kashmiri Bhawan, Pune on the 1<sup>st</sup> of April, 2006. A good number of devotees especially ladies participated in the function in spite of living at far off places from the venue.

The programme started with *Pushap Archana* alongwith the recitations from *Bab Chalisa*, *Ashtothar Shatnam* and *Guru Geeta*.

Sh. Pran Kishore Koul, TV and Radio play writer, spoke at length on the significance of the festival and was all praise for the devotees of the Bhagavaan for organizing the festival at Pune. Sh. P.N.Kaul (Buju) gave blessings and *Ashirwad* on the Occasion. Sh. M.L.Ganju and Dr. Rawal also contributed in making the festival a success at Pune. A set of books written on the Bhagavaan was presented to Smt. Shanta Koul, a renowned Radio Kashmir announcer, on the occasion of Nari Divas.

Sh. Ashok Raina presented devotional songs on the occasion. His melodious voice enthralled the devotees and the whole atmosphere got charged up with the devotion and the gathering went into ecstasy.

It is pertinent to mention here that Sh. Pandita, Sh. Sanjay Koul, Sh. M.L.Kaul, Sh. Ravin Trakru, Sh. Pavanji, Sh. Virender Koul, and many others worked untiringly in making all the arrangements and ensuring the success of the event. Smt. Gayatri Ji took charge of the kitchen. The function concluded with the Bhagavaanji's Aarti. Light refreshment was served to the gathering.

At the end, Sh. P.N.Kaul (Buju) distributed a small packet of salt and Re.1/- each among the ladies as the tradition demands.

#### **A REPORT ON THE EXPANSION OF THE SRINAGAR ASHRAM:**

A new concrete structure has come up at a piece of land (donated to the Trust) adjacent to the Bhagavaan Gopinathji Ashram, Kharyar, Srinagar, Kashmir. The newly constructed three-storeyed building will



be available for use just before the Mahayajnya, 2006. The new structure could serve as a 'Yatri Niwas' for housing the outstation devotees for a couple of days.

The Bhagavaan Gopinathji Trust gratefully acknowledges the services that the

devotees have been rendering in propagating the Bhagavaan's message under trying conditions in the Valley. They deserve all praise for having worked steadfastly under hostile weather conditions in accomplishing the project that was undertaken by the Trust on the 7<sup>th</sup> of Nov, 2005.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### MAHAYAJNYA:

The annual *Mahayajnya* will be performed on the 29<sup>th</sup> of May, 2006 at Bhagavaan Gopinathji centres across the country and abroad. This annual event is held with extra-ordinary zeal and enthusiasm. Thousands of devotees attend the Yajnya. Prasad is served to all those present. The Yajnya actually begins on the previous evening and is accomplished by *Puran Aahuti* on the next day at about 01:00 p.m.

### PAINTING COMPETITION:

As usual, a painting competition will be held on the 18<sup>th</sup> of June, 2006 at 9 a.m. with a view to promote talent and Bhagavaan Consciousness in the youth. Hundreds of children are expected to participate in the competition

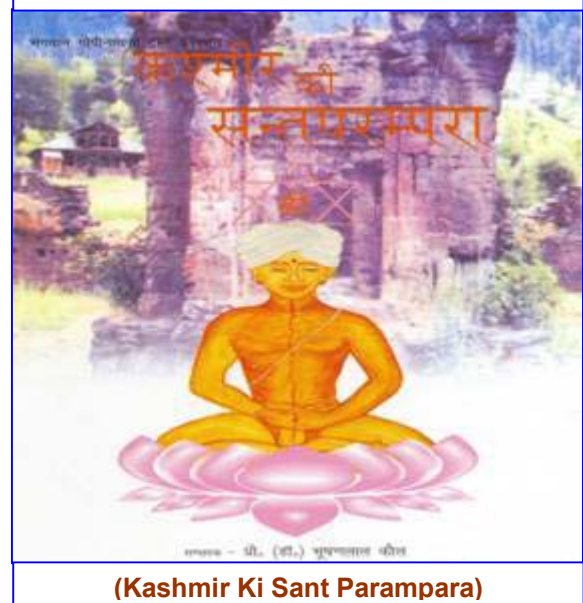
### MAHAJAYANTI:

The *Mahajayanti* will be celebrated on the 8<sup>th</sup> of July, 2006 at the various centres across the globe. The programme starts with the *Paaduka Poojan* (08:30 a.m.), i.e. worshipping of a symbolic *Paaduka* of Bhagavaanji. Then, a good number of sadhus are served Prasad and given *Dakshinaa* (cash offerings). Prasad is served to thousands of devotees on this day.

### GURU PURNIMA:

Another important festival, *Guru Purnima*, will be celebrated on the 11<sup>th</sup> of July, 2006 at 8 a.m. at Bhagavaan Gopinathji centres across the country and abroad. The event has a lot to do with the spiritual evolution of an earnest seeker. Disciples worship their respective Guru on this day. The function starts with the *Pushap Archanna* along with the recitations from *Ashtothar Shatnamawali* of Bhagavaan Gopinathji and concludes with the *Aarti*. Tea prasad is served to all present on the occasion after the conclusion of the programme.

### Forthcoming Publication of the Trust:



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