



NEWS LETTER



Vol. 1 No. 1

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EXHIBITION / SALE OF THE OFFERINGS TO BHAGAVANJI:

The Exhibition/ Sale of the offerings took place on the 4th of Nov, 2005 at 10 a.m. sharp at the Bhagavaan Gopinathji Ashram, Udaiwala, Bohri, Jammu. Almost all the offerings received including shawls, *pherans*, towels, *maalas* were put on exhibition/ sale on this day. Enthusiastic devotees started pouring in from early morning to have a look for themselves at the exhibited items and thereafter they made purchases.

BAL DIVAS:

The Bhagavaan Gopinathji Trust, as usual, observed the 'Bal-Divas' on the 25th of Dec, 2005 at the Bhagavaan Gopinathji Ashram, Bohri-Udaiwala, Jammu. Children from all walks of life, irrespective of whatever their religious faith was, thronged the Ashram premises right from 9 a.m. in the morning. It was gratifying to watch more than 1500 children participating in the event. The celebrations started at 10 a.m. with the inaugural address by Prof. O.N.Chungoo. He dwelt at length on the importance of 'Bal-Divas' and exhorted the children to cultivate good qualities in themselves. The 'Aarti' was conducted by Sh. S.K.Khordi with the children taking the lead. The following children, invited on the occasion, presented their musical items: Ms. Shivani Misri, Ms. Arshita Langoo, Ms. Shivasini Misri, Master Nikhil Zadoo, Ms. Kalpana Shalla and the other children from the audience were also invited to present their items on the occasion. The atmosphere was one of joy, bliss and gaiety. After the programme was over, gifts were distributed among the children and they looked very jubilant. They were in a festive mood while having their *prasad* in the lush green lawn of Bhagavaan Gopinathji 'Vatika'. Sh. M.K.Tikoo, organiser of the Trust, briefed the audience about the programmes and activities of the

Trust. The President of the Trust, Ms. Jai Kishori Patwari, presented the vote of thanks. Sh. T.K.Raina acted as the compere on the occasion. The function ended at 01:00 p.m.

The Bal-Divas was also observed at the Bhagavaan Gopinathji Ashram, Kharyar, Srinagar, Kashmir on the 25th of Dec, 2005. Around 300 children (including a good number from Muslim community) participated in the event. It is a big number considering the turmoil conditions in the Valley. The programme started at 3 p.m. in the afternoon. Gifts were distributed among the children and they looked very jubilant. At the end, light refreshment was served to one and all on the occasion.

Bal divas, as an annual event, was also observed at the Delhi Ashram in which around 100 children participated. Gifts were distributed among the children on the occasion.

Such programmes are organised with a view to inculcate moral and spiritual values in the youth.

A REPORT ON THE EXPANSION OF THE SRINAGAR ASHRAM:

The Bhagavaan Gopinathji Trust, established some decades back, has been carrying out religio-cultural activities/ programmes at Srinagar, Jammu, Delhi Ashrams, and elsewhere in the country and abroad, very vigorously during the past two decades.

The Trust restarted its activities at the Srinagar Ashram in the month of Oct, 1998. Thereafter the major repairs, renovations and improvements were executed. The reconstruction work of Srinagar Ashram was started on the 2nd of August, 2003 and now the reconstructed structure stands in place of the old one – this is a big achievement considering the continuing turmoil in the Valley. The Trust

had earlier close down the activities at the Srinagar Ashram when the turmoil was at its peak and the exodus of the Kashmiri Pandit community from the Valley took place.

In view of the significant increase in the number of devotees visiting the Srinagar Ashram from the J&K state and also from the other parts of the country and to cope with the rush of devotees on the festive occasions to the Srinagar Ashram, the Bhagavaan Gopinathji Trust has decided to purchase number of houses adjacent to the Ashram at Srinagar. This will go a long way in facilitating the religious activities at the Srinagar Ashram, as these houses fall within the ambit of the Ashram's expansion.

The Trust takes the opportunity to express its gratitude to the following:

Smt. Omashori Raina w/o Late Sh. Triloki Nath Raina for donating half portion of her three storeyed house to the Trust.

Sh. Surrinder Raina and Sh. Omkar Nath Raina sons of late Sh. Jia Lal Raina for donating their share to the Trust. The unoccupied three storeyed building was in a dilapidated condition.

A new concrete structure is now coming up at this spot for which foundation stone was



laid by the President of the Trust, on the 7th of Nov, 2005 in presence of the members of the Managing Body of the Srinagar Ashram besides the few Trustees (Sh.S.K.Khordi and Sh. A.K.Razdan) who had accompanied her from Jammu to the Srinagar and those Trustees residing in Srinagar. The new structure could serve as a 'Dharam Shalla' for housing the outstation devotees for a couple of days. One-half portion of Sh. Gudoo's house adjacent to the Srinagar Ashram has been

purchased through a sale-deed. The remaining half portion is already in possession of the Trust, purchased decades back.

Two storeys on the recently acquired house of Sh. Raina's have come up by the end of Dec, 2005 and the third storey is likely to get completed by the end of Feb, 2006, when the newly constructed three storeyed building will be available for use (before the Mahayajnya, 2006). It is mentionable here that the contractor, Sh. Mohd Yunis, deserve all praise for the efforts he is putting in to ensure speedy completion of the work undertaken by the Trust.

We also gratefully acknowledge the services that Sh. Ravi Sathoo has been rendering in carrying out the programmes and the activities of the Trust at Srinagar Ashram and also in the expansion of the Bhagavaan Gopinathji Ashram at Kharyar, Srinagar, Kashmir.

A VISIT TO SOME OF THE PLACES IN KASHMIR, WHERE BHAGAVANJI HAD STAYED DURING HIS LIFE-TIME:

A meeting of the Board of Trustees was held at the Bhagavaan Gopinathji Ashram, Kharyar, Srinagar, Kashmir on the 16th of Oct, 2005 for the first time since the mass exodus of the Kashmiri Pandit Community from the Valley in 1990. This gave the Trustees an opportunity to revisit most of the places where Bhagavaanji had stayed during his life-time. A group of Trustees including Sh. J.L.Malla, Bhagavaanji's nephew, and also accompanied by Sh. T.K.Shishoo, Designer, visited those places. They took the photographs of those places and also noted more relevant information about the Bhagavaan. This information collected would be suitably made use of in our forthcoming projects on the Bhagavaan. The names of the places are as under:

1. Gadood Bagh, Srinagar (where Bhagavaanji attained Mahasamadhi).
2. Ban Mohalla (Birth place of the Bhagavaan).
3. Dalhassanyar, Kanikadal (near Rupa Devi Sarda Peeth Girls School Raghunath Mandir).
4. Hari Parbhat (Sharika Peeth).
5. Pokhri bal.

EXPANSION OF THE KITCHEN BLOCK AT THE ASHRAM AT UDAIWALA, BOHRI, JAMMU:

In view of the phenomenal increase in the number of devotees visiting the Ashram on all days of the week and on the festive occasions, and to cope with the heavy rush of devotees, it was felt necessary to expand the existing structure of the block with the necessary provisions and facilities. The expansion of this block has been taken up in hand and the slab was laid on the 29th of Dec, 2005

LECTURE SERIES AT THE ASHRAM AT UDAIWALA, BOHRI, JAMMU:

In order to promote Bhagavaan Consciousness, the Bhagavaan Gopinathji Trust has undertaken a programme in the shape of a series of lectures on "Our spiritual Heritage" to be delivered by competent scholars in the month of January and February, 2006 on Sundays at the Bhagavaan Gopinathji Ashram, Bohri, Jammu. The programme starts at 3:00 p.m.

The following scholars have delivered the lectures on the topics indicated against each:

1. Sh. Pran Nath Bhat "Gareeb" has delivered a lecture on "Rishi Cult and the Gita Upanishads" on the 15th of January, 2006.
2. Swami Kumar Ji has delivered a lecture on the "Bhagavad Gita" on the 22nd of January, 2006

3. Prof. A.N.Dhar has delivered a lecture on "My encounters with saints and how I came to Bhagavaanji" on the 29th of January, 2006.

PHILANTHROPIC ACTIVITIES OF THE TRUST:

The Trust has been carrying out spiritually educative programmes and humanitarian activities (including help to the destitute, handicapped, ailing person and poor meritorious children) on a regular basis. The amount paid till Dec, 2005 of the current financial year on this account is as follows:

Destitute Aid	=	91,800.00
Education Aid	=	1,07,550.00
Handicapped Aid	=	27,200.00
Medical Aid	=	32,000.00
One Time Medical Aid	=	45,000.00

TOTAL	=	3,03,550.00
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A view of the rattan-deeps lighted on the occasion of Diwali at Jammu Ashram

UPCOMING EVENTS

HORA ASHTAMI:

The Hora Ashtami will be celebrated on Tuesday, the 21st of Feb, 2006 at the Ashram at i) Udaiwala, Bohri Jammu ii) Pamposh Enclave, New Delhi iii) Kharyar, Srinagar, Kashmir. There will be a night long Jagran and prayers will be offered at the feet of the Master to invoke the blessings of the "Mother Goddess" for the peace and well being of mankind. A sizable number of artists will present their items on the occasion. The programme shall start at 9 p.m. on the 21st of Feb, 2006.

LECTURE SERIES:

Prof. (Dr.) B.L.Kaul will deliver a lecture on the 12th and the 19th of Feb, 2006 at the Bhagavaan Gopinathji Ashram, Udaiwala, Bohri, Jammu in the series of lecture that has been undertaken by the Trust from the 15th of January, 2006. The programme shall start at 3:00 p.m. sharp.

ESSAY COMPETITION:

As has been our practice in the past, an essay competition will be held at the

Bhagavaan Gopinathji Ashram at Bohri, Udaiwala, Jammu on the occasion of "Navreh" on Thursday, the 30th of March, 2006. The topic is announced in advance. The competitors consist of three categories:

- i) of students upto 5th standard
- ii) of students beyond the 5th standard and upto 8th standard
- iii) of students beyond the 8th standard and upto 12th standard.

Those who secure the first three positions in each category are awarded prizes and certificates.

ZANGTRAI:

An important festival of Kashmiri Pandit Community, 'Zangtrai' will be observed on Saturday, the 1st of April, 2006 at the Ashram at) Udaiwala, Bohri Jammu ii) Pamposh Enclave, New Delhi iii) Kharyar, Srinagar, Kashmir. Hundreds of ladies participate in the event. It is an auspicious day of great spiritual significance so far as the cultural heritage of Kashmiri Pandits is concerned. The programme shall start at 2 p.m. sharp. There will be a brief session of devotional music on the occasion.

At the end, President of the Trust will, as usual, distribute a small packet of salt and

Re.1/- each among the ladies as the tradition demands.

RELEASE OF BOOK ON "SAINTS OF EMINENCE":

The Trust compiled the photographs of 82 saints alongwith the biographical material into a compact volume, which is now under print and is likely to be released soon. More biographical and other facts regarding the saints have been received which had to be incorporated in their bio-data, which delayed the release of the volume.

NEWS

It is a matter of immense pleasure and satisfaction for the entire family of the Bhagavaan that a life-sketch of the Bhagavaan will be depicted through pictures/ photographs in a hall, constructed for this purpose, at the Bhagavaan Gopinathji Ashram, Udaiwala, Bohri, Jammu. The project has been taken up in hand on the persistent requests from the devotees. In this hall, the places and energy centres where Bhagavaanji had stayed during his life time will be exhibited conspicuously.

TO OUR READERS

Suggestions with regard to the improvement in the contents and shape of the News Letter are welcome.

This is an attempt to keep our devotees abreast of the activities/ programmes of the Trust held/ to be held at various Centres across the country and abroad.

We also look forward to receive from the Organisers concerned, the details of the Programmes held at various Centres and Satsang Mandals of Bhagavaanji for publication in the coming issue of the News Letter. The reports covering the programmes should be mailed to the President of the Trust, Bhagavaan Gopinathji Ashram, Udaiwala, Bohri, Jammu.

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