

ॐ श्री महावीराय नमः



**The Yorkshire Jain Foundation  
and  
The Hindu Charitable Trust  
jointly celebrate**

**The 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of  
The Pratistha Mahotasva of  
(The Consecration Ceremony of)**

**BHAGWAN MAHAVIR SWAMI  
on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2006**

With the blessings of  
Muni Shree Nandighoshvijayji Gani  
Samanijis Prasanna Pragaya and Sambodh Pragaya

Master of Ceremony: Shree Jayeshbhai Shah  
of Jain Samaj Europe, Leicester  
Ablly assisted by Shree Ambrishbhai Pujariji  
and Shree Jagdishbhai Pujariji

*"Freedom from destructive emotions in reality is the  
true enlightenment. (Kashaya Mukti Kil Muktirev)"*

Ratna Mandir Suriiji

*"To reject the necessity of temples is to reject the  
necessity of God, religion and earthly existence."*

Mahatma Gandhi



## Programme

Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> October 2006

10.00 – 10.30 Breakfast

10.30 – 11.00 Mangal Pravesh

11.00 – 13.00 Snatra Puja

14 Dreams

56 Disha Kumari:

8 Bhumi Sudhhi, Kalash, Mirror,  
Chammer, Fans

4 Lamps, Raksha, Rakhdi, Alankar

Indra and Indrani (need Puja jodi)

Harinegameshi Dev (Shugoshan-gunt)

Dhvaja

(family of the late Babulal Trambaklal Sheth)

Arti

Mangal Divo

Shanti Kalash

Chaitya Vandan

Inauguration of the YJF website

Michammi Dukkadam

13.00 – 15.00 Lunch

**Venue: The Shree Hindu Mandir**

**36 Alexandra Road, Leeds LS6 1RF**

**Tel: 0113 275 7024, 0113 230 7106**

**directions <http://www.leedsmandir.org.uk>**

## INTRODUCTION

A Murti of a Tirthankara is used to aid the visualization of an enlightened being so that one can meditate and awaken one's own divine qualities. The final goal of such worship is supreme self – conquest leading to blissful state.

Our Murti is of Lord Mahavira (599BC – 527BC), the 24<sup>th</sup> Tirthankara. The Pratishtha of 7<sup>th</sup> October 2001 coincided with the official celebration of the 2600<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth. Our Murti is Darshaniya, which requires less intense daily worship in contrast to an Anjan Shalaka Murti. Our Chief Guest was Dr. L.M. Singhvi, Jain and Vedic Scholar, India's former High Commissioner in the UK and Chancellor of Jain Vishva Bharati. To date this is the only Chaitalaya in Yorkshire and will continue to provide a focal point for the generations to come.

## CEREMONY

### 1. Mangal Pravesh (Auspicious entry)

In this ceremony, the Anjan Shalaka Murti is of Shantinathji (the 16<sup>th</sup> Tirthankara) kindly loaned to us by Jain Samaj Europe for this ceremony. This Murti is carried through the threshold with a ceremony (pokhana) comparable to that performed for the ceremonial entrance of a Jain bride to her new home. The following welcoming chant is chanted throughout the procession:

**“Ohm Punyaham, Punyaham;  
PriAntanam, PriAntanam.”**

This translates broadly as “let all worshippers benefit from the punya (positive karmons) and let there be prosperity”.

### 2. Snatra Puja (Birth ceremony)

This worship is a re-enactment by lay people of a similar ceremony performed by Devas (gods) to

celebrate the birth of a Tirthankara. Firstly, the Darashinya Murti is "invoked" by performing this puja on an Anjan Salaka Murti. The idea is symbolically to light one lamp from another. Traditionally, Snatra puja is believed to have been performed by Devas (Gods) on Mount Meru (a mythological mountain which is at the centre of the Jain Universe) and therefore the presence of Indra (King of Devas) and Indrani. Their role is acted out by lay persons. The original text of this version of the puja was composed by Vir Vijayji in the 19<sup>th</sup> century (1797AD – 1852AD).

Pandit Vir Vijayji was born in Ahmedabad in 1773 AD. He joined the holy order (diksha) in 1792 AD. He was elevated to the status of pannyas (= pandit) in 1811 AD. He was then leader of the small group of panch-vrati Tapa Gacch sadhus known as samvegi. He died in Ahmedabad in 1852 AD.

**The main Mantra (stanza) is:**

**Shubh lagne Jina Janmiya, Narkima Sukh Jyot,  
Sukh Pamiya Tribhuvan jana, Huo Jagat Udhhot.**  
"The auspicious event of the birth of Tirthankara leads to bliss throughout the Universe including the hell, and the whole universe gets illuminated".

The ceremony takes place on a three-tiered silver pedestal (with one throne) which symbolises Mount Meru. This dramatic production enacts several events: the fourteen auspicious dreams dreamt by Tirthankara's mother-to-be at the time of conception; announcing his arrival to the Gods by Harinegameshi Dev, and followed by worship by Devas, heavenly beings.

This ceremony is followed by Eight Fold Puja of both the Murties:

1. Water and milk (Panchamrat) for the attainment of cleanliness
2. Sandalwood paste (chandana) for the attainment of purity

3. Flowers (pushpa) for freedom from passion
4. Incense (dhupa) for the attainment of great fame
5. A lamp (diva) for the attainment of omniscience
6. Uncooked rice (akshata) for the attainment of immortality
7. Sweets (caru) for the attainment of contentment
8. Fruits (phala) for the attainment of the fruit of total liberation (moksha).

### **3. Sattar Bhedi Puja (Flag-hoisting ceremony)**

Again we will use the Puja written by Vir Vijayji. In view of the time restriction, we are allowed to have only the ninth of the seventeen pujas included in the Sattar Bhedi Puja, performed annually at the anniversary of temples in order to purify the temple of all minor infringements (ashatnas) of the preceding year.

For all the seventeen Puja, the basic Mantra is as follows but the word "Dhvajam" (below) is changed according to the type of the seventeen puja. For example, in the seventh, it is flower puja so "Pushpmala" is substituted for the word "Dhvajam".

#### *Ninth Dhvaja Puja Main Mantra*

**Om Hrim Shri Prama Purushaya Parmeshvarai  
Janamjara Mrutyu Nivaryan Devadhidevaya  
Shrimate Shantinathaya Dhvajam Yajamahe Swaha.**

These Mantras pay homage to Shantinathji (the 16th Tirthankara) while performing the flag hoisting ceremony.

This is followed by Arti, Mangal Divo, Shanti Kalash and ChaityaVandan.

### **4. Shanti Kalash (Peace Pitcher)**

The Shanti Kalash is performed with the sanctified water used in ceremonial bathing of the statue of the idol for the wellbeing of the worshipers (in particular

for the fertility of the couple who perform it). (1) A metal pot is placed on the linked hands of a married couple. (2) Other worshipers join in to pour the sanctified water into the pot in an unbroken stream while one or more worshipers recite "Comprehensive Shanti" (Brhacchanti). (3) When the pot overflows, it is covered with auspicious green leaves and the opening closed with a coconut. These are wrapped in bright green cloth, which is secured around the neck of the pot by auspicious red thread. (4) The pot is garlanded with auspicious marigold flowers, and a female devotee places it atop her head. She leads a small procession in three circumambulations of the Jina image on its bathing stand. (5) The purified water is then bottled and circulated for sprinkling in the homes for removing all impurities and for welfare.

Chaitya Vandan then follows.

## 5. YJF Website

The YJF website will be then launched formally.

<http://www.yjf.org.uk>

Email: [info@yjf.org.uk](mailto:info@yjf.org.uk)

The whole ceremony concludes with "Michami Dukkadam" (asking forgiveness for any transgression) from the Yorkshire Jain Foundation (YJF) and the Hindu Charitable Trust.

## Acknowledgements

The YJF wishes to express gratitude to Jain Samaj Europe, Leicester, for their kind support; indeed, the YJF was formed on their initiative in 1987. We are also thankful to Professor John Cort (Denison University, USA) for providing various details.

## Reference

For some further details, please refer to the Souvenir Issue of the Temple, and John Cort's book "Jain in the World".

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