

Maheshwari Mahasabha of North America

Pariwar Newsletter – Holi Special



MMNA Southwest
Holi festivities at
Barsana Dhaam,
Austin

Upcoming events

- Gangaur is on March 29th
- Ram Navami is on April 3rd

Wish you a happy and colorful holi!!!

Holi is one of the oldest festivals of India and is the most vibrant of all. The festival is filled with so much fun and frolic that the very mention of the word 'Holi' draws smile and enthusiasm amongst the people. Holi also celebrates the arrival of Spring, a season of joy and hope.

Integrally entwined with Holi, is the tradition of 'Holika Dahan', which is actually lighting of bonfires. The ritual is symbolic of victory of good over evil

and has its root in the legend of demon king Hiranyakashyap who wished to end his blessed son, Prahlad's life with the help of his sister, Holika who burnt in the fire and no harm occurred to Prahlad. Since then the day is celebrated in victory of good over bad.

The National Executive Committee of MMNA wishes you a very happy and colorful holi.



of Gauri and Isar.

Rajasthani Gangaur

Gangaur is one of the most important and widely celebrated traditional festivals of Rajasthan. The word Gangaur is derived from two words 'Gan' a synonym of Siva and 'Gauri' of his consort Parvathi. The festival commences on the day following Holi and continues for about 2 weeks.

The ritual is performed with songs of Isar and Gauri (Shiva and Parvathi) and the varying of pots of water on the head. Women folks also make clay images

On the evening of the seventh day after Holi, unmarried girls take out a parade with ghudlia (an earthen pot with holes around and a lamp inside) on their heads. On the way they are gifted presents such as sweets, ghee, oil and cash. The ritual continues for a fortnight till the conclusion of the Gangaur Festival.

The festivity reaches to its peak during the last three days of the festival. On the last day colorful images of Gauri are taken out in procession and songs are sung about the departure of Gauri to her husband's house.



Quote of the month:

"Let us keep up the spirit and unity in our pariwar to move forward and help guide our youth."

- Kishor Lohiya,

MMNA National President

CONTRIBUTE YOUR ARTICLES

We request our MMNA community to contribute news and other articles to the newsletter. We especially encourage youngsters to contribute jokes and short stories.

E-Mail:

mmna@mmna.org

Web Site:

www.mmna.org

Ideas for MMNA Mini-Convention 2010

The National Executive Committee (NEC) of MMNA has started to have preliminary discussions for a mini-convention in year 2010. The committee is looking for suggestions on the location. Please share your thoughts with NEC by sending your email to knlohiya@yahoo.com.

NEC also welcomes any other suggestions that you may have for the convention.

Obituary

Amruta Mundade, daughter of Avinash and Sarla Mundade (Canton, MI), passed away peacefully at home on Tuesday February 17th afternoon at the age of 24. The Midwest Chapter in view of Rani's untimely departure and in her memory has decided to cancel its annual Gangaur Celebrations this year. Instead, they will be hosting a lunch at St. Leo's Soup Kitchen in Detroit on Saturday - April 11, 2009. Since this is a Easter weekend they will also be organizing an Easter Egg Hunt for the kids. Typically 300 to 500 people show up for lunch during the Easter weekend. Schoolcraft College will be helping in organizing this event.

Shri Laxminivas Mantri, father of Vinod Mantri (Houston, TX), passed away on January 13th in India. Laxminivasji was spiritual and down to earth person. He has played active role in many social organizations. He is survived by his wife, two sons and one daughter.

Shri Kushal Chandji Mundra, uncle of Arun Mundra, passed away recently with multi-organ failure followed by cancer. Dr. Mundra was a scholar from India at IOWA University. He had retired as Dean, Arts Faculty, JNVU, Jodhpur, India.

We offer our condolences to the families and pray to God to give them strength to cope with the loss.

Jokes Corner:

Why can't you write with a broken pencil?

Because it is pointless!

- Jay Tapadiya (CA), 10 years