

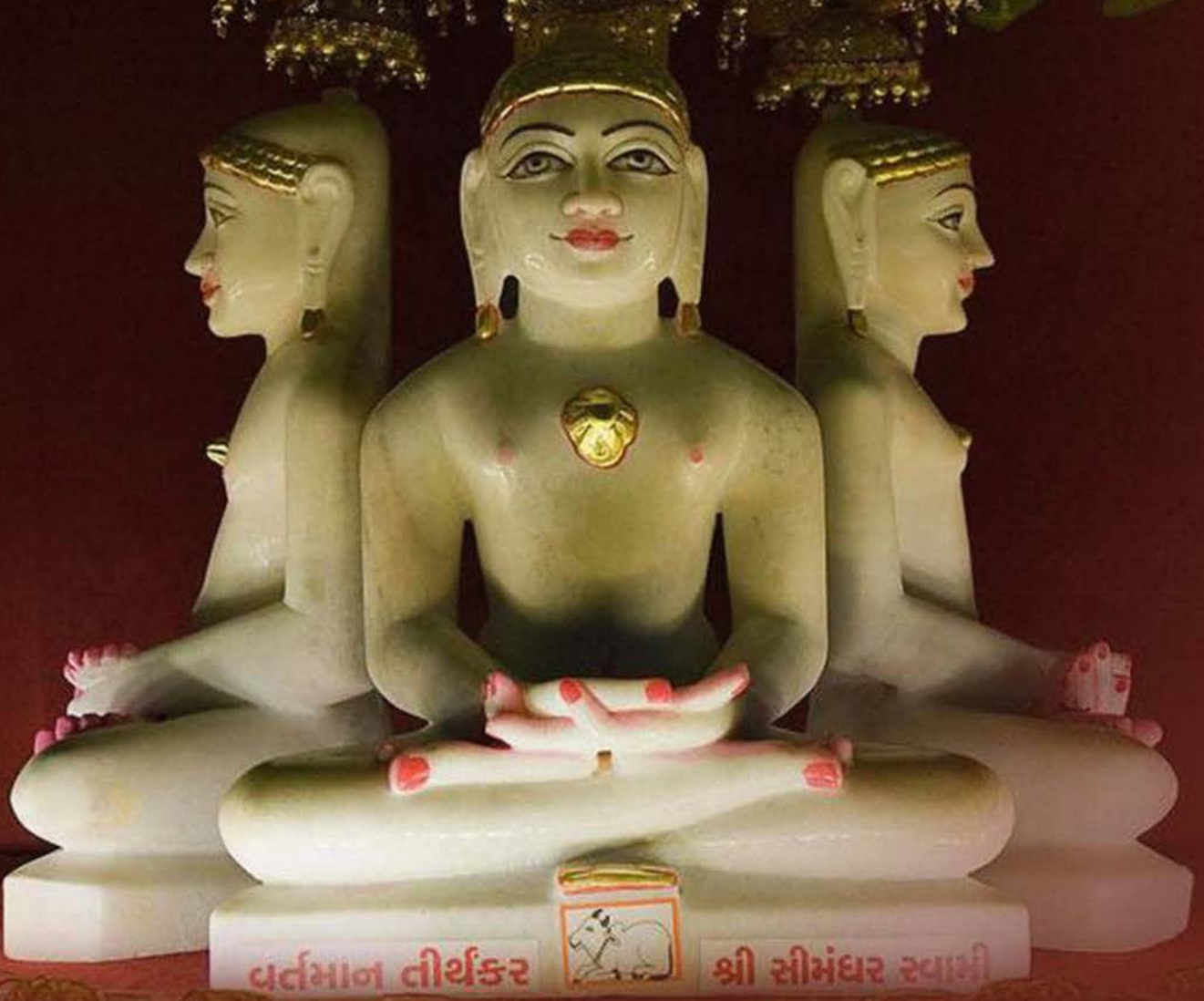
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# AKRAM

## Express



The Current Living Tirthankar - Shree Simandhar Swami

# The Current Living Tirthankar Shree Simandhar Swami

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## Akram Express

### Editorial

Friends,

The moment you hear the name of Lord Simandhar Swami, you might think that He is the Lord of the 'Jains'. But no, He is neither the Lord of the Jains nor the Vaishnavs. He is 'vitarag' (free from worldly attachments) Lord. The Lord can only be called 'vitarag' when He becomes free of partiality towards all religions.

So friends, let's find out more about Shree Simandhar Swami Bhagwan in this issue, and engage in the worship and devotion of this Supreme Lord.

-Dimple Mehta

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name of 'Mahavideh  
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# Introducing Shree Simandhar Swami

**Name:** Shree Simandhar Swami

**Father:** King Shreyans

**Mother:** Satyakidevi

**Region:** World of Mahavideh. Situated in the north-easterly direction; millions of miles away from Earth.

**Height:** 1500 feet (500 bows).

**Birth Mark:** Ox

**Time of Birth:** Shree Simandhar Swami was born between the reign of the following two Tirthankars of this world – Seventeenth Tirthankar Shree Kunthunath and eighteenth Tirthankar Shree Arahamath.

**Wife:** Princess Rukmanidevi

**Time of Renunciation and Absolute Enlightenment:**

Lord Simandhar Swami took renunciation from worldly life during the time when King Dashratha (Lord Rama's father) was the reigning king in this world. He lived the life of a sadhu (ascetic) for a thousand years during which all his karmas, which had carried faults such as anger, pride, lust, greed were exhausted and the Lord became fully omniscient and attained 'Keval Gnan' - full enlightenment. This took place on the thirteenth day before the full moon of the Chaitra month (the 6th month of Hindu calendar).

**Protecting Celestial Deities:** God Chandrayan Yakshdev and Goddess Panchanguli Yakshinidevi

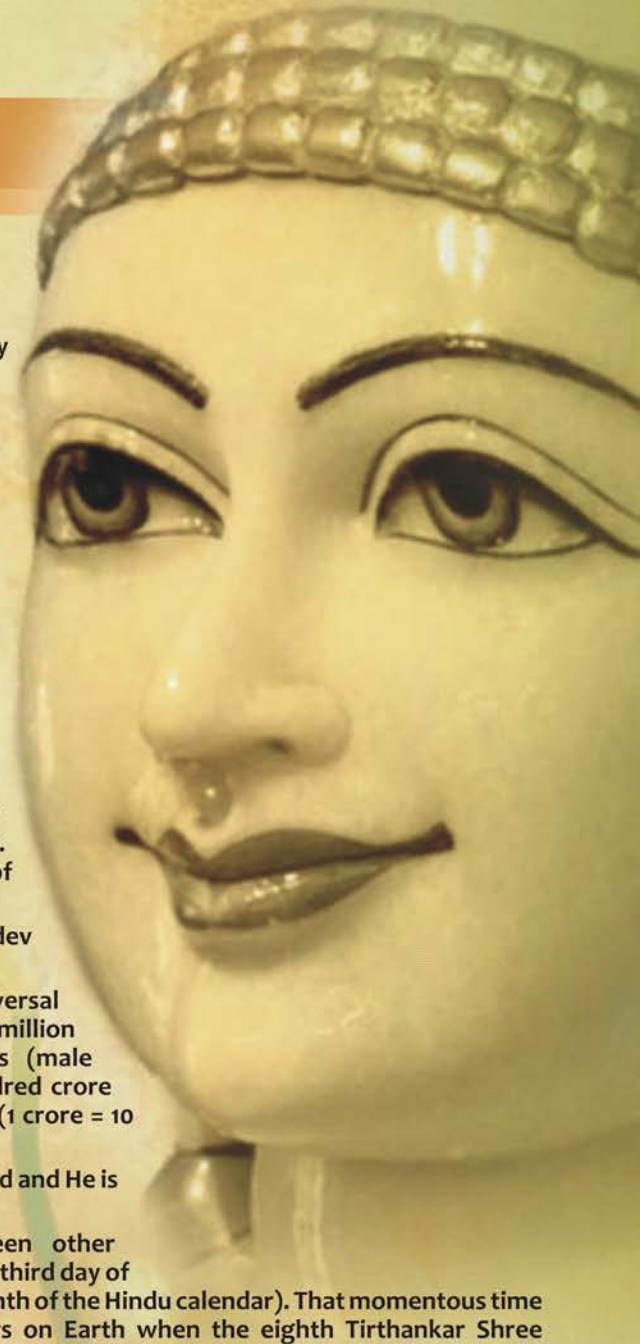
**Swami's family:** Surrendered at the feet of the Lord's universal work of salvation are 84 'ganadhars' (prime disciples), one million 'kevalis' (fully enlightened beings), 100 crore sadhus (male ascetics), 100 crore sadhvijis (female ascetics), nine hundred crore male devotees and nine hundred crore female devotees. (1 crore = 10 million)

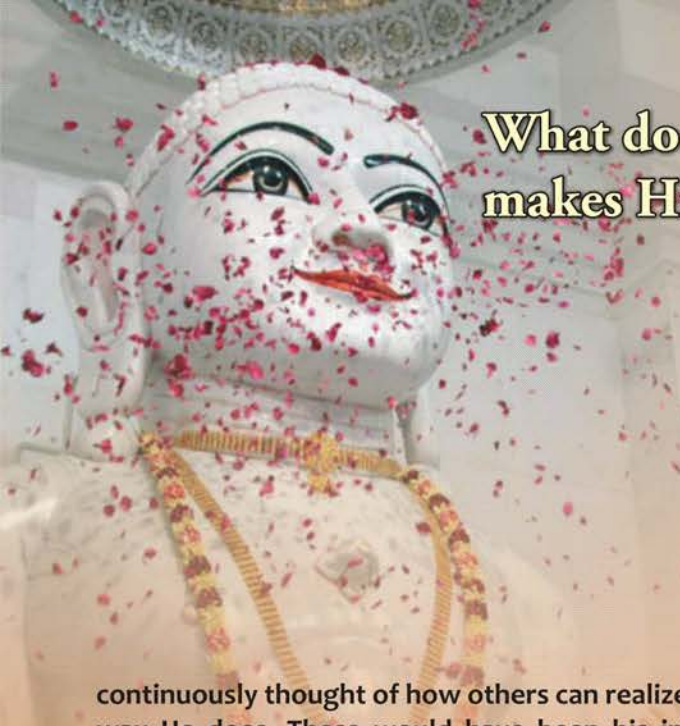
**Life span:** Right now Simandhar Swami is 150,000 years old and He is going to live for another 125,000 years.

**Time of Liberation:** Simandhar Swami and nineteen other Tirthankars at Mahavideh will attain final liberation on the third day of the full moon cycle during the month of Shraavan (10th month of the Hindu calendar). That momentous time will coincide with next cycle of twenty four Tirthankars on Earth when the eighth Tirthankar Shree Udhayaswami would have just attained 'nirvana' and the ninth Tirthankar Shree Pedhaada Swami will be walking on Earth.

(Tirthankar is the Lord who takes birth for the salvation of mankind)

Simandhar Swami is the current living Tirthankar. When we recite the Navkar mantra, we say 'Namoh Arihantanam'. 'Arihant' means the Lord who is currently existing in a living form and has already attained 'Keval Gnan' (full enlightenment). He is an enlightened being, who has conquered all the inner enemies such as anger, pride, deceit and greed. This supreme Lord is called 'Arihant'. The previous twenty-four Tirthankars have already attained moksha (ultimate liberation) so they are referred to as 'Siddhas'. So in the Navkar mantra when we say, 'Namoh Siddhanam', we bow down to them. We bind merit karmas, when we recite the names of the 'Siddha Bhagwan' and we can attain 'moksha' by worshipping the living Tirthankar. That is why we should worship Simandhar Swami.





## What does Tirthankar mean? What makes Him worthy of such a status?

The place where the Tirthankar wanders becomes a Tirth (place of pilgrimage). The land on which the Tirthankar sets his feet becomes an auspicious place. Therefore historians keep a record of all the places where the Lord has wandered. Later these places become pilgrimage sites. That is why the supreme Lord is called a 'Tirthankar'. From past few lives He would have constantly desired nothing but the salvation of people, continuously thought of ways in which others can get peace and happiness, and continuously thought of how others can realize their souls and experience eternal happiness the way He does. These would have been his intentions. As a result when He takes birth as a 'Tirthankar', the speech that comes out is without any attachment. This speech is called 'deshna'. It is as sweet as the sweetest of grapes! A person can at once change for the better upon hearing it!

The mere 'darshan' of Simandhar Swami can liberate a person!

## What does Simandhar Swami look like?

At present Simandhar Swami is 150,000 years old. He is very tall. His physical body is as high as 500 bows lined up one on top of the other! His body is just like ours, like that of humans on Earth. Just as Lord Rushabhdev is known as the Lord of the entire universe, Simandhar Swami too is known as the Lord of the entire universe. Tirthankars have ceased to be born here on Earth since last 2500 years; however, due to spiritually favourable conditions, Tirthankars are able to incarnate on Mahavideh Kshetra continuously. Simandhar Swami resides there at present. We cannot see him, but He can see the entire world.

The atoms that rise from the Lords body make people who are in his company feel a natural sweet fragrance emanating within them!

This is the Lord's final body before moksha. His attractiveness and charm are unmatched. It is a wonder of this universe. The exquisite beauty of the great Lord is beyond words and impossible to describe!

## What does Simandhar Swami do?

The Lord doesn't have to 'do' anything! His actions are dependent upon His 'Udaya Karma' (the unfolding of his karmas). His ego is completely gone and He remains in Gnan (absolute awareness) all day long. He has a lot of followers and devotees around him! They do his 'darshan' (to look upon with reverence) and the Lord gives 'deshna' (speech without any attachment).

# Why should we do Swami's darshan?

Lord Simandhar Swami is currently present for us. One can attain salvation by expressing obeisance to a living God. Simandhar Swami can lead one to salvation because he is a living God. The vibrations of His absolute, pure Self and atoms of his physical body would be floating around in the atmosphere. The presence of a living Tirthankar is extremely beneficial to us.

Since the last 2,500 years, Tirthankars have stopped taking birth on this Earth. Amongst the ones living today, Lord Simandhar Swami is residing in closest proximity to our planet Earth and the human race will be uplifted towards salvation through His obligations. We can be born on Mahavideh Kshetra by worshipping Him and after experiencing 'pratyaksh darshan' (devotional vision of the living Tirthankar), we can attain liberation.

All the Gods and Goddesses are present when we recite 'aarti' (devotional song) of Lord Simandhar Swami. The 'aarti' reaches Swami all the way to Mahavideh Kshetra. The Lord has to be present when we recite this 'aarti', irrespective of where we are!

## How should we do His darshan?

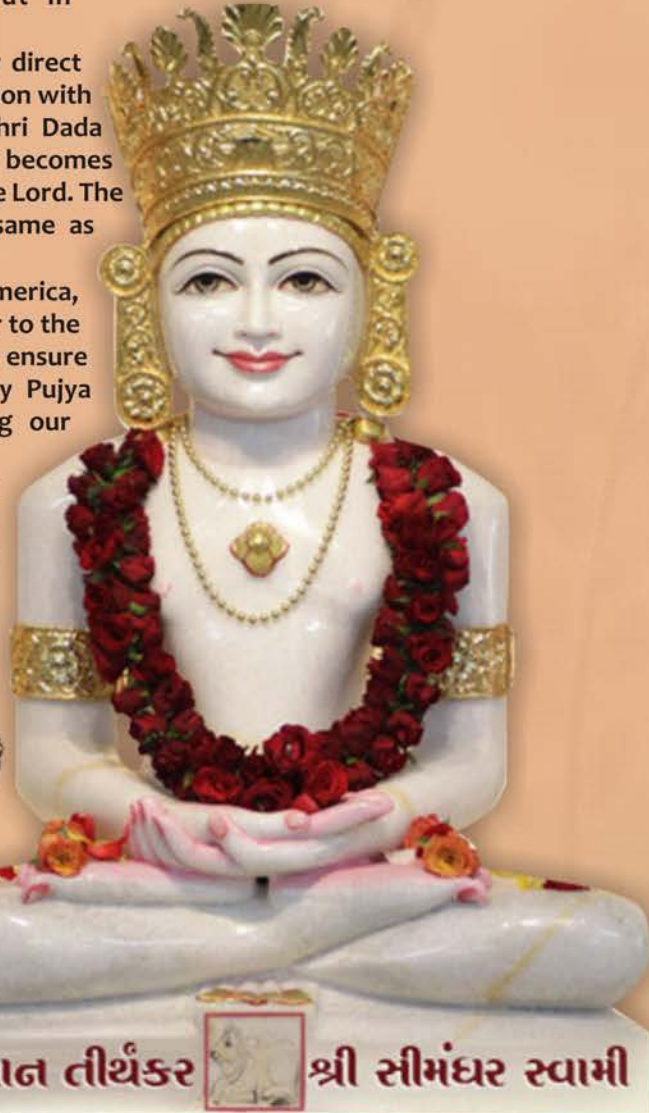
'With Dada Bhagwan as my direct witness, I offer my highest obeisance to Tirthankar Shree Simandhar Swami, who currently moves about in Mahavideh Kshetra.'

We use specific words, 'With Dada Bhagwan as my direct witness', as we haven't yet achieved a direct connection with Swami. Hence, Gnani Purush (Enlightened One) Shri Dada Bhagwan, who has a constant connection with Him becomes the medium through whom our obeisance reaches the Lord. The benefit we derive through this obeisance is the same as bowing down to Him in person.

For instance, if we want to send a letter to America, we cannot do so on our own. We hand over the letter to the postal services and it becomes their responsibility to ensure that the letter reaches the right address. Similarly Pujya Dadashri takes on the responsibility of delivering our obeisance directly to the Lord.

The early hours of the morning - between 4:30 a.m. to 6:30 a.m. is the most auspicious time for prayers. Our prayers reach Swami instantly during this time if we recite, 'In the presence of Dada Bhagwan as my witness, I offer my infinite obeisance to the current living Tirthankar Shree Simandhar Swami, who is moving about in Mahavideh Kshetra at present.' This early morning time before the sunrise is indeed an extraordinary time! There is no crowd at that time!

Those who are young should not let this opportunity go.



वर्तमान तीर्थंकर श्री सीमंधर स्वामी



## Gnanis say...

**Questioner:** Does it make a difference whether we worship Swami at home or in the temple?

**Deepakbhai:** Yes, it makes a difference! Life force has been instilled in the idol through a specific ceremony and there is also the protection from the celestial deities. Besides, the atmosphere in the temple is very pious and therefore the prayers done in the temple are very effective.

**Questioner:** But I do not like this idol worship. An idol is a non-living lifeless thing. Instead, we should help people who have problems. We waste so much time in the worship of idols and other rituals - what is the point of doing all these things?

**Deepakbhai:** There is a reason behind it. Whose idol is there in the temple? It is Simandhar Swami's idol. He is alive somewhere in the universe and is an embodiment of 'Keval Gnan'. We experience great happiness when we remember him.

Supposing you have your mother's photo and if I say to you that, 'It's only a piece of paper; it is a non living thing, why do you keep looking at it?' But don't you feel happy when you look at the photo? Then is it merely a piece of paper or your mother? If I ask you to tear it into pieces, won't you argue and say, 'She is my mother, I will not tear it.' Therefore, it is an idol. We remember them in that way, don't we?

Our grandparents might not be present, but don't we feel happy when we look at their photos? Or we can acknowledge their positive attributes and remember how helpful they had been in our lives. But Simandhar Swami is present somewhere and when we remember him, our thoughts reach him directly. What has he got to offer us? Absolute knowledge of the Self and eternal happiness. We can also derive pure knowledge and happiness through his 'darshan'.

When we do idol worship we get all the material comforts in our life because we do it with faith. We have faith in the idol. Our faith gives us the fruits. However, with Simandhar Swami's 'darshan', we become 'vitarag', 'nirvikar' (free from all attachments and passions). Only through His worship, our devotion for Him is cultivated, so we should worship Him.





## What connection does Simandhar Swami have with Bharat Kshetra (Earth)?

Simandhar Swami has karmic account with Hindustan. It is His bhaav (deep inner intent) to liberate mankind, and He is going to live for a long span of time!

Simandhar Swami has been around since the time of the 18th Tirthankar on Earth! All the past Tirthankars have confirmed this. As per their vision, the grace of Lord Simandhar Swami is constantly flowing for the people of this planet. That is why it seems as if the whole movement of 'Jagat Kalyan' (salvation of mankind) is Swami's own mission. So there must be some 'karmic' obligation from Swami's past life. Past karmic accounts always come into effect.

## Where is Mahavideh Kshetra? What is it like?

Mahavideh Kshetra is millions of miles away in the north easterly direction from Earth. Mahavideh Kshetra is divided into 32 parts and Simandhar Swami resides on the 8th such part in the kingdom of 'Pundrikgiri', the capital of Pushpakalavati.

Mahavideh Kshetra is indeed located in this universe, but it is impossible for anyone to physically go there due to extremely freezing zones between the planets.

The Tirthankars are constantly present on Mahavideh Kshetra, whereas on the Earth, they are born only during a specific time cycle. Right now Simandhar Swami is residing on the Mahavideh Kshetra.

Prevailing language in Mahavideh Kshetra must be 'Sanskrit'. But our prayers reach Swami even when they are recited in Gujarati. This is because of our firm devotion in his 'name'. We are definitely aware of his 'name'.

The lifespan on Mahavideh Kshetra is very long. Their physical body and feelings are same as us humans. However, their social behaviour is similar to the behaviour of people on Earth during the fourth time cycle which was spiritually elevated.

What is the difference between fourth and fifth time cycles? In the fourth time cycle there is unity of the mind, speech and action, whereas in the fifth time cycle this unity is broken. People do not say what they think and they do not do what they say, while in the fourth time cycle, people say and do exactly what is in their mind.



## Why do we worship Gods and Goddesses?

One has to attain the benevolence of gods and goddesses by keeping them happy. This is because the humans in this time cycle have lots of negative karmic accounts from their past lives. This means that in their past lives, they have either hurt someone or given them grief. We worship gods and goddesses to clear any claim from them so that they do not obstruct our path and help us to progress in this spiritual journey.

For instance - if we try and reconcile an old conflict with the people of a particular village, then the new friendship will enhance our progress. Similarly, by harbouring positive feelings towards all living beings, our path becomes clear.

The celestial gods and goddesses always protect the prevailing faith and help those who are on this path.

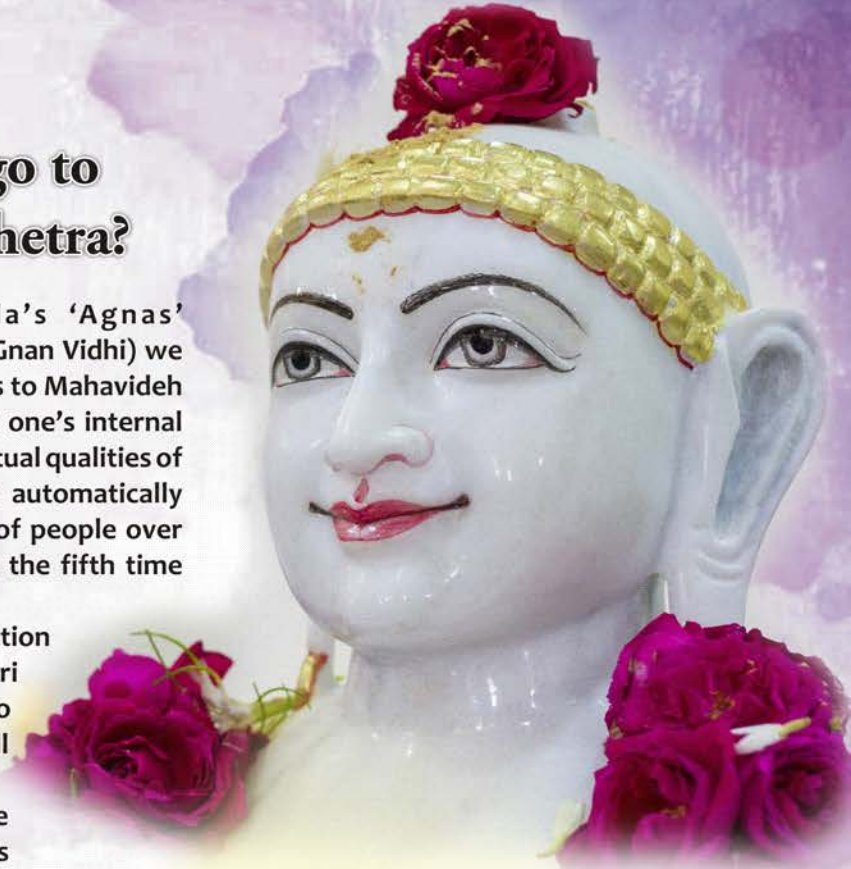


## How can we go to Mahavideh Kshetra?

When we follow Dada's 'Agnas' (instructions from the Gnani after Gnan Vidhi) we bind merit karma, which will take us to Mahavideh Kshetra. That is the natural law. As one's internal state becomes aligned with the spiritual qualities of the fourth time cycle, s/he will be automatically pulled there. Likewise if the traits of people over there start degrading like those of the fifth time cycle, they will be pulled here.

Puja Dadashri has connection with Simandhar Swami and Dadashri has also taken the responsibility to liberate all his mahatmas who will follow his 'Agnas'.

In Mahavideh Kshetra, all we have to do is remain in Swami's company and when we do His 'darshan', we will attain liberation.



## Can the 'Gnani' go to Mahavideh Kshetra?

Yes! The 'Gnani' can definitely go there, but not with his physical body. A ray of light emanates from the 'Gnani's' shoulder and reaches the place where the Tirthankar resides and returns with solutions to all questions! It is a different type of body which is in the form of light! But the Gnani cannot physically go back and forth.

Dada had a direct connection with Simandhar Swami, that's why he could get answers to some questions from Swami.



## Absolutely New and Different!

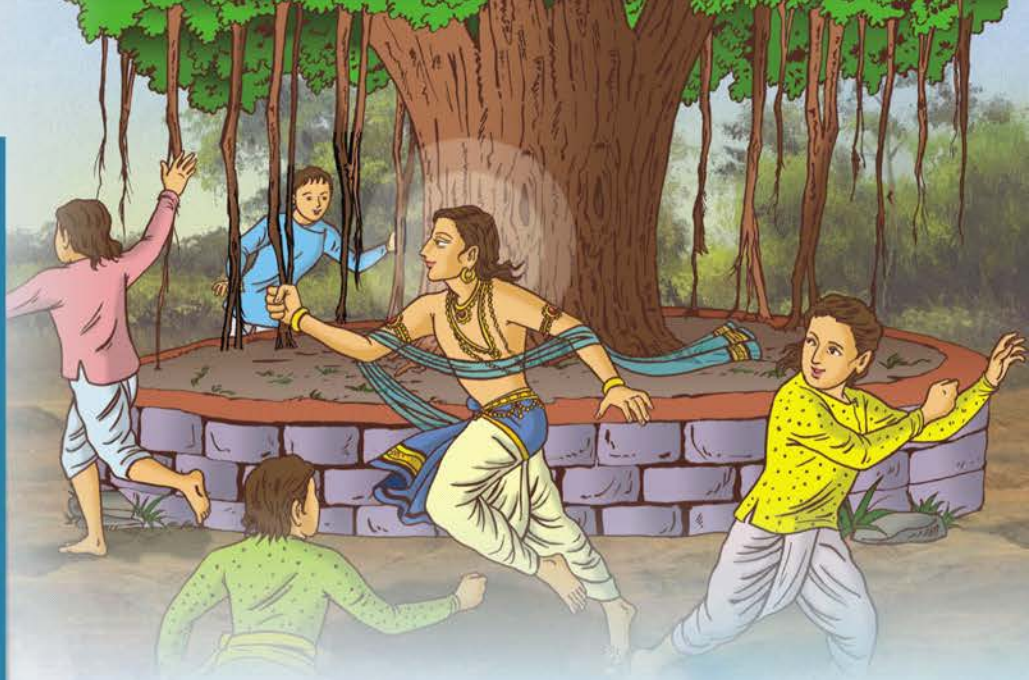


Soon after the birth of a Tirthankar, Indra Dev (leader of the demi gods) along with Celestial Gods take the new born baby to 'Mount Meru' (tallest mountain located in the centre of the universe) to celebrate His birth with great joy and jubilation. Gods and Goddesses sing and dance to the beat of musical instruments like drums, flutes and pipes and celestial horns. Indra dev takes the baby on his lap and bathes Him with milk.

Tirthankars have thirty four types of unique qualities and they differ from the other humans.



Celestial Gods assume the form of children in order to play with Him and ensure that He does not get influenced by bad company. No matter how much He plays He would not get tired or even break into a sweat.



Wherever the Tirthankar sets His foot, a lotus appears underneath to ensure protection; trees bend over and provide shade and even the thorns turn upside down so that the Lord doesn't get hurt. Gods and Goddesses gently fan him.



After the Lord attains 'Keval Gnan', the Gods set up a 'Samovasaran' which is religious assembly of a Tirthankar. A 'Samovasaran' is made up of three levels and each level has four doors.

- i. The first level is made up of silver and arrangement is made within this level to keep vehicles.
- ii. The second level is made up of gold and is designated to birds and animals.
- iii. The third level is crafted with precious gems and within this level are male and female ascetics, chief disciples, kings and emperors, celestial gods and goddesses and ordinary humans. In the middle of this level is the sacred Ashoka tree (evergreen tree). Behind the Lord is His bhavmandal (brilliant divine halo) and above Him is a three tiered canopy providing shade. The Lord always faces the east direction and the gods create a reflected image of the Lord facing other three directions so that everyone present can see the Lord's divine face. No one has a view of His back. This is called a chaumukhi (four dimensional portrait) of the great Lord. Seated on the throne, the Lord gives 'deshna'(Lord's speech which flows constantly for the salvation of people).

All the animals including tigers, rabbits, lions and lambs forget their violent and fearful nature and other animosities and sit side by side to listen to the Lord's 'deshna'. No one feels tired, hungry or thirsty. Everything becomes calm. The Lord's speech is phenomenal. Every living creature understands it in their own language.



A Tirthankar's hair, moustache-beard, nails and body hair do not grow.

-Wherever the Tirthankar goes, there is an abundance of fruits from all seasons.

- There are no diseases or illnesses up to a radius of '500 jojans' (4,000 miles) around Him.

- There is also no outbreak of insects, rodents or vermin.



No other living being is as meritorious in this whole universe as a Tirthankar. His atoms are of the highest quality. No wonder why some people even drink the water, which drips from Swami's 'Prakshaal' (daily cleaning of the idol)!





When does a Tirthankar's face light up in happiness? It happens when they see a Gnani, as they think very highly of the Gnanis. This is because the Gnani gets everyone ready for 'moksha'. He does all the hard work. The Tirthankars do not have to work hard. All those who are ready go to Him. The Gnani moulds everyone. In return the Tirthankar is always pleased with the Gnani.  
- Billions of Gods and Goddesses are always at the Lord's service.

There are no mechanical aircrafts in Mahavideh Kshetra; instead there are aircrafts that are operated by the mind. They do not need any type of fuel. Over here we have mechanical machines which can breakdown if they run out of fuel and one would say "The machine has stopped working."



# Test yourself!

From the list of Trimandirs given below - identify which Simandhar Swami belongs to that particular Trimandir.

Adalaj, Godhra, Bhuj, Rajkot, Dada Darshan, Bhadran, Surendrangar, Chalamni, Morbi



# Sweet Memories

Prior to the construction of 'Dada Darshan' building in Ahmedabad, Pujya Niruma, Pujya Deepakbhai, Aptaputras and Aptaputris (brahmachari bhaios and behnos), all lived in 'Varoon' apartments. But they soon started experiencing shortage of space as Dada's family grew. They decided to buy a new property and move out of this small apartment.

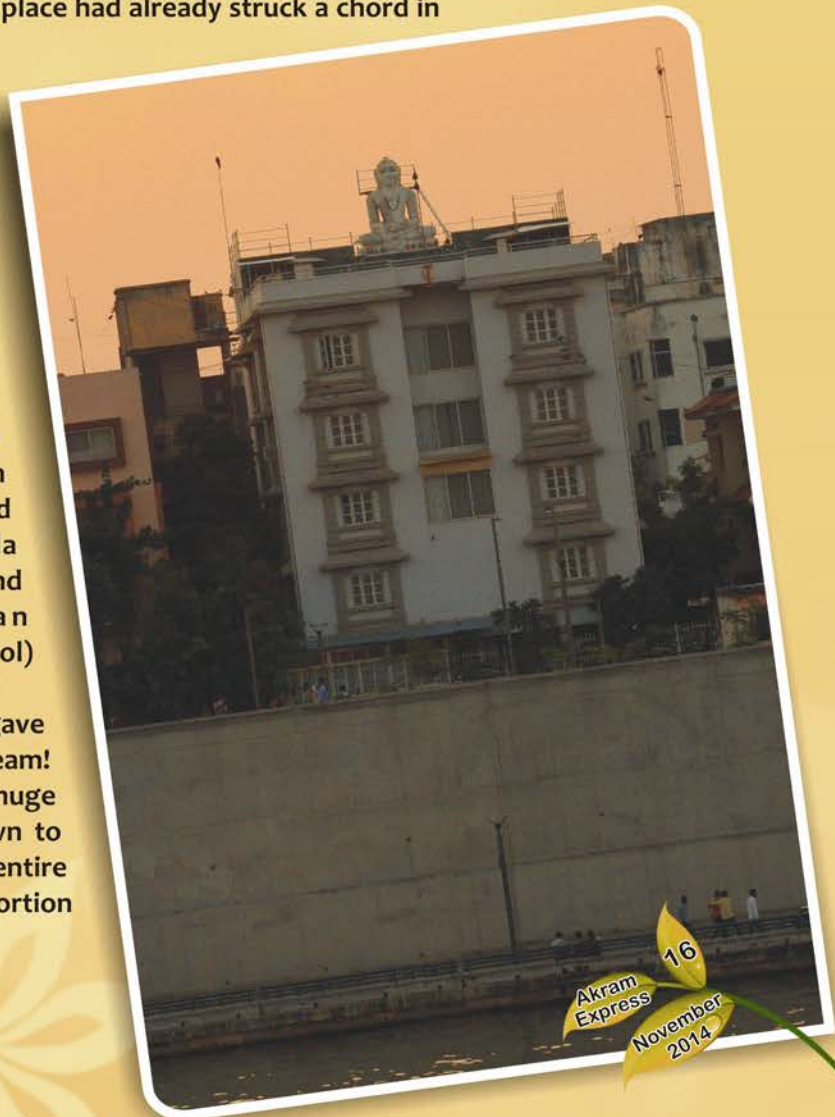
Niruma and the Aptaputras went to view various properties in Ahmedabad. However, they couldn't find anything appealing. Incidentally a mahatma showed the Aptaputras a plot located on the bank of the river. It was a small place, but the Aptaputras had an idea! They felt that if they could construct a building on that plot and subsequently place an enormous idol of Simandhar Swami on its terrace, then people crossing the bridge, or walking along the river banks would be able to do Swami's 'darshan'.

When the Aptaputras discussed this possibility with Niruma, she was very pleased with the suggestion. As the plot was quite small, the Aptaputras still carried on looking for another suitable place. But this place had already struck a chord in Niruma's heart!

After that Niruma had around fifteen dreams where she did 'darshan' of this enormous and magnificent Simandhar Swami seated on the building's terrace! Since then, deep within her she knew that a huge Simandhar Swami will definitely sit on the terrace of the new building. They had to face a lot of obstacles in acquiring the land, but in the end her dream came true! Dada Darshan was built on that plot and an extraordinary 'praan pratishtha' (instilling life in an idol) took place!

Simandhar Swami once gave darshan to Niruma in her dream! Swami's physical body was so huge that when Niruma bowed down to Swami, she realised that her entire body was equivalent to a tiny portion of Swami's big toe!

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This is an incident that involved a mahatma from Surendranagar. This mahatma owned some land and he was very keen to donate this for the construction of a Trimandir. He expressed his wish to one of the Aptaputras. When Niruma was informed that this mahatma intended to see her regarding this matter, she immediately arranged a meeting with the mahatma. During that time Niruma's health had deteriorated a lot. As a result another Aptaputra said to her that, "Niruma, we already have two Trimandirs, one in Adalaj and another one in Rajkot. At the moment you are not keeping too well and all of us want to be at your service and spend time with you. We are keeping occupied with the increasing amount of work and as a result your health is being neglected. Let us postpone this project for the time being. There will be many people wanting to donate their land for this good cause. We will look into it once your health has improved."

Niruma replied, "Yes, you are right. But I just want to meet him. I will not discuss anything about the land. Even if he insists, I will not say 'yes'. We will definitely look after my health first." The mahatma arrived. He poured his heart out to Niruma about his deep intent to use the land for building the Trimandir. Niruma agreed with him straight away, "Oh yes, yes. We must begin the construction of the Trimandir. Kindly meet the Aptaputras, show them the land and confirm everything."

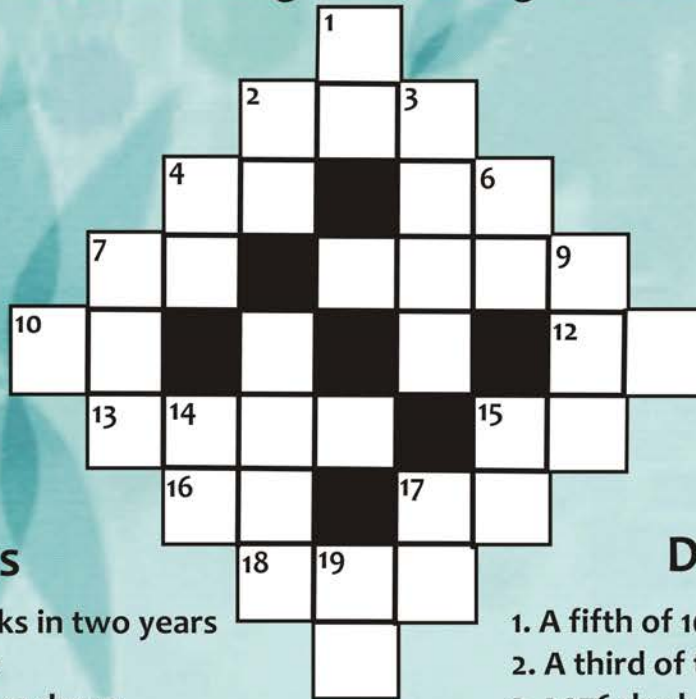
Once the mahatma had left, the astounded Aptaputra said to Niruma, "Niruma, you just told me that we are not going to start any new project and suddenly you turned around and confirmed everything! We are supposed to look after your health."

Niruma replied with a great spirit, "How can we say 'no' to any work related to Simandhar Swami, even if it is at the risk of Nirumben's health! From today onwards, I warn you never to hold up any work related to Swami's mission. Never say, 'no'; don't create any obstacles; there should always be a 'yes' from our side."

In the end a Trimandir was built in Surendranagar and it has the presence of the divine Lord as well!

# Let's Play...

Arrange the numbers according to the clues given across and down.

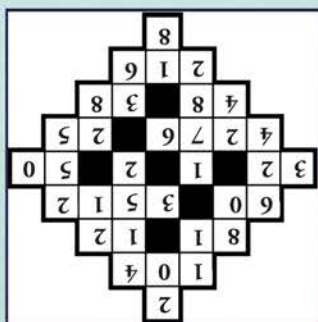


## Across

2. Number of weeks in two years
4. Nine times nine
5. 16 across minus 17 down
7. 10 across plus 15 down
8. 2153 re-arranged
10. A third of ninety-six
12. Half a century
13. 2674 re-arranged
15. 17 down minus 2 down
16. Number of hours in two days
17. Half of seventy-six
18. Three times seventy-two

## Down

1. A fifth of 100
2. A third of thirty-three
3. 2076 doubled
4. Four times 1 down
6. A quarter of eighty-four
7. Six times 2 across
9. Five times 51
11. Half of 3564
14. Two dozen
15. Seven times four
17. Half of seventy-two
19. A fifth of ninety



## Answers to Puzzles

Test yourself Answer : 1.Bhu!  
 2.Dada Darshan 3.Adalaj  
 4.Morbi 5.Godhra 6.Rajkot  
 7.Bhadran



# Aarti of Shree Simandhar Swami



## **Jai Simandhar Swami.... Prabhu Tirthankar Vartamaan...**

Salutations to Simandhar Swami....The Current Living Tirthankar...

## **Mahavideh kshetre vicharataa (2)....Bharat roonanu bandh... Jai Simandhar Swami**

Moving about at Mahavideh World (2)....with karmic connection to this world... Jai Simandhar Swami

## **Dada Bhagwan saakshiye.... pahonchaadu namaskaar... Swami pahonchadu namaskaar...**

With Dada Bhagwan as my witness... I am sending my salutations... Swami ... I am sending my salutations...

## **Pratyaksha fada paamu hun (2), maadhyam Gnan avataar... Jai Simandhar Swami...**

I receive the direct benefit (2)....through the medium of Dadashri, the embodiment of Gnan... Jai Simandhar Swami

## **Paheli aarti Swami ni, Om parameshti paamey... Swami Om Parameshti paamey**

The first aarti of Swami.... Reaches the Om Parameshtis (the ones who have gained the entry on the path to liberation).

## **Udaaseen vrutti vahey (2), kaaran moksha sevey... Jai Simandhar Swami**

Where there is no worldly interest (2)... and their sole intent is that of moksha... Jai Simandhar Swami

## **Biji arati Swami ni, Panch parameshti paamey... Swami Panch Parameshti paamey**

The second arati of Swami... is offered to the Panch Parameshti (the enlightened sadhus, teachers, principals, arihants and siddhas)... Swami Panch Parameshti...

## **Paramhans pada paami (2), gnan-agnan laney... Jai Simandhar Swami...**

They have attained the enlightened state (2) ... which separates Knowledge and ignorance... Jai Simandhar Swami



**Triji aarti Swami ni, ganadhar pada paamey... Swami ganadhar pada paamey**

The third aarti of the Swami...reaches the leaders of the Vitarraag Path of the Living

Tirthankar

**Nirashrit bandhan chhoote (2), aashrit gnani thaye... Jai Simandhar**

The bondage of having no one to care for me is broken (2)...now the Gnani has become my sole support...Jai Simandhar Swami

**Chauthi aarti Swami ni, tirthankar bhaavi... Swami tirthankar bhaavi**

The fourth aarti of the Swami reaches the future tirthankars... Swami Tirthankar bhaavi

**Swami sattaa Dada kane (2), Bharat kalyaan kare... Jai Simandhar Swami**

Dadashri holds the powers from Swami (2)...and the whole world benefits from the Knowledge of ultimate salvation...Jai Simandhar Swami

**Panchami aarti Swamini, kevada moksha lahe... Swami kevada moksha lahe...**

The fifth aarti of Swami seeks only the final liberation...only the final liberation...

**Param jyoti bhagavant hoon (2), ayogi Siddhapadey... Jai Simandhar Swami**

I am the absolute divine Light (2), on the path to the bodiless Siddha state.

**Ek samaya Swami khode jey, maathu dhaadi namashe... Swami maathu dhaadi namashe ...**

Whoever bows to the Lord, even for a fraction of a second...(Swami)... bows to you...

**Ananya sharanu swikaari ... (2) mukti padney varey...Jai Simandhar Swami**

Accepting his exclusive protection (2), attains final liberation... Jai Simandhar

Swami



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