



Ritambhara Vishva Vidyapeeth's

Malini Kishor Sanghvi College



A Tribute to our beloved President Dr. Shri Dipchandbhai Gardi

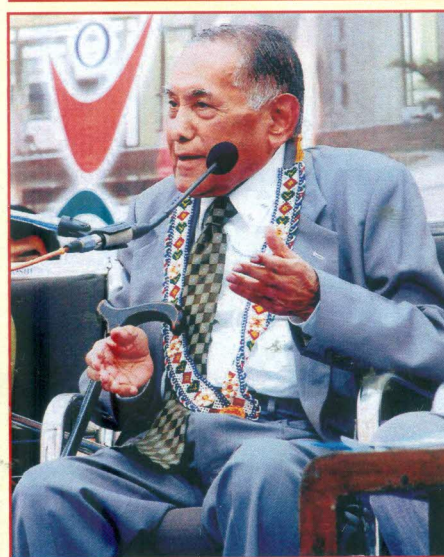
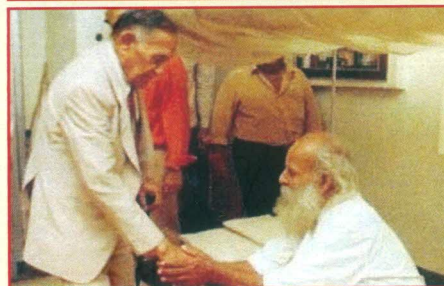
from

The Principal and Staff of Malini Kishor Sanghvi College



Few men in this world can rise above from their humdrum life and achieve success. Fewer still rise above the others to become iconic figures, and still few men rise so much that one has to look up to them. However only a Dipchand Gardi can be such a person, whose greatness lies not in his own achievements but, due to his awe-inspiring work for the poor, weak and needy who are the lowest strata of the society. Society may have shut its eyes and all its senses to their woes and pains but, Dipchandbhai offered them his helping hand, and his hand to wipe their tears and soothe their pain. Respect for diversity, compassion for all living beings and non possession have been the triad values of Jainism that had given Dipchandbhai the thrust and throttle in life.

It seems that he existed for charity. A man so deeply involved in charitable activities



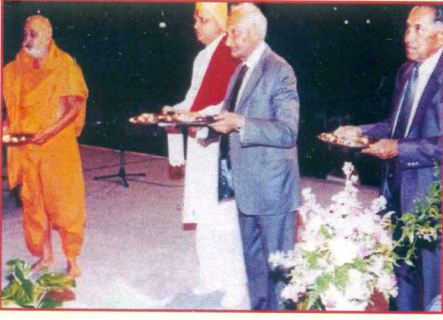
to claim "...no desire to go to heaven after death but, to be re-born again and again and dedicate my life in the service of the poor". A man whose motto was ...to help others live a better life.

Indeed he was a noble soul with a heart of gold who spent crores out of his wealth for the service of the community with a strong belief that 'God gives me more so that I can spend more for the poor and the downtrodden'. From praying to his family deity at the young age of 11, to grant him as much wealth so as to donate Rs.100 daily to the poor and the needy, he rose in his 'success' so high that he was donating at least Rs. One Lakh daily, till he breathed his last. Like a true 'Karmayogi', he was one who never craved for or desired any reward, as he saw his reward in the satisfaction that he derived from the profuse thanks in the eyes of those who were helped by his charity. Incidentally though, he was showered with innumerable rewards. Such that, such rewards were waiting in queue to be blessed, if and when, these were being offered to Dipchandbhai.

At the time he breathed his last, he still called himself a young man of 99. This speaks volumes about his zest for living, tremendous vigour and the desire to do more and more, nay, as much as possible in the service of mankind and other living beings.

It is impossible to mention and describe his plethora of charitable activities spanning the length and breadth of India. But a brief mention would be indicative of its spread:





Shri Dipchandbhai Gardi – A true 'Vaishnav jan'

- At the age of 99, he was connected with almost 600 organizations in his capacity as either, Chairman, President, Trustee or a Donor. These are either NGO's, Hospitals, Universities, Colleges, Schools, Orphanages, Religious organizations, Hostels, Self-help groups, Stray animal help centers, Cow-sheds, Organizations working for the differently-abled children, Handicapped children, Research organizations, Polytechnics, Agricultural research, Artists, funding of books etc. Apart from these organizations with whom he was regularly connected and many of these which commenced out of his financial contribution and to which he would regularly contribute, he had always risen to the occasion with liberal financial help to affected people during natural calamities like the earthquake in Kutch and the cyclonic floods in Odisha.
- He was always on the lookout of those who were only remotely likely to be recognized or helped by society and the government like adivasis, marginal farmers, prostitutes etc. and as soon as his heart cried for their sufferings, he opened up his purse strings for them.
- His sensitivity towards the needy can be evident just from a few examples:
 - a) He has funded a school 'SNEHALAYA SOCIAL TRUST' with a hostel attached, at Solapur (Maharashtra) exclusively for the children of prostitutes where around 400 children are provided with free schooling, mess and residence.
 - b) He is the President of Ritambhara Vishva Vidyapeeth, which runs 'Smt. Ruxmaniben Dipchand Gardi Kanya Shala', a residential school for adivasi girls of Saputara, District

Dang, Gujarat, where about 1050 adivasi girls receive free schooling, food and shelter up to class XII.

- c) He fully finances innumerable Hospitals in Ujjain, Indore, Saurashtra, Rajasthan, Bihar and many other places where there are no cash counters. Patients are provided free medical treatment and medicines not even charging them for expensive surgeries or advanced treatment.
- d) He strongly believed in education as a means of empowerment and this led him to contribute liberally to Saurashtra University (Rajkot – Gujarat), in funding for various courses/Departments/Laboratories/Libraries etc.

Although a devout Jain, a teetotaler and a pure vegetarian, he never differentiated between religion, beliefs, creed, caste or sex. These were meaningless to him.

He always claimed that he was a 'humble clerk' of God, and toiling for the upliftment of people whom the almighty wished to help. Proudly claiming that, he had never exercised all his life and never ever suffered ill health, he offered a handsome reward to anyone who could make him lose his temper.

These noble deeds of charity and philanthropy did not go unnoticed. A book 'VARDHAMAN' published by the Times of India and released by our ex-prime minister Shri A. B. Vajpayee, describes him as a 'Millenium Saint'. The more the rewards, the more humble was his attitude towards all. The highest awards and laurels have been offered to him in appreciation of his charity. To name a few:

- ★ Rajiv Gandhi Award (2004)
- ★ Gujarat Garima Award (2005)
- ★ Swarnim Gujarat Award (2011)
- ★ Girnar Award

To such a noble soul we bow down in all reverence. In the annals of history, he has been placed along with the likes of Bill Gates, Rockefeller, Baba Amte and such other personalities who are surviving or may have survived for certain years but, they gave away to life their worth of a thousand years. His memory shall remain in the hearts and minds of all those, whose life was changed by his deeds and who received endless gulps of water when they were dying of thirst.

For us – the staff of M. K. Sanghvi College, he was a father figure. He always gave a patient hearing and resolved our problems whenever there was a need. His void cannot be redeemed and we shall always miss him as we have lost our beloved President.

Mahatma Gandhiji's favorite 'bhajan' composed by the saint-poet Narsinh Mehta is apt for Shri Dipchandbhai:

“વૈષ્ણવ જન તો તેને કહીયે જે,
પીડ પરાઈ જાણે રે,
પર દુઃખે ઉપકાર કરે તોયે,
મન અભિમાન નવ આણે રે....”



In the August Company of the Leading Lights of the Era



With Former Presidents Shri K. R. Narayanan and Shri APJ Abdul Kalam



With Former Prime Ministers Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Shri Rajiv Gandhi



With Chief Ministers Shri Sharad Pawar (Former) and Shri Narendra Modi (Receiving 'Gujarat Garima' Award)



With Pope John Paul II



Being felicitated by Former MLA Smt. Jaywantiben Mehta and Former Sheriff Dr. Mohanbhai Patel

A Life-long journey, full of recognitions



Conferred D. Lit by Vikram University of Ujjain



Shri Rajiv Gandhi Award (2004) by Shri Ashok Gehlot (Former Chief Minister of Rajasthan)



With Padmabhushan Smt. Poornimaben Pakvasa (Didi) & Former Managing Trustee Shri Haribhai Dresswala



Like brothers in arms, two leading Philanthropists Gardi sir with Mafatkaka



With his sons Dr. Rashmikant and Shri Hasmukhbhai



Felicitating Principal Dr. Krushna Gandhi at her book release function.



Felicitating 'Didi', on her birth centenary celebration with trustees Shri Girishbhai Dresswala, Smt. Aartiben Mehta and Shri Kishorbhai Sanghvi at Saputara



On his 97th birthday, being wished by Prin. Smt. Pooja Kapur, Smt. Mandakini Jani, Dr. Sancheti, Prin. Dr. Krushna Gandhi, Shri Hasmukh D. Gardi and Smt. Surekha H. Gardi at Solapur.

Ritambhara Vishva Vidyapeeth

Shri Jitendra Mafatlal Mehta Educational Complex

Nirmaladevi Arunkumar Ahuja Marg, J.V.P.D. Scheme, Vile Parle (W), Mumbai - 400 049.