

Shree Tavdi Gramy Sudharak Mandal, New Zealand

(The Tavdi Village Improvement Association, New Zealand)

President: Naranbhai Budhia
Secretary: Javerbhai Naran

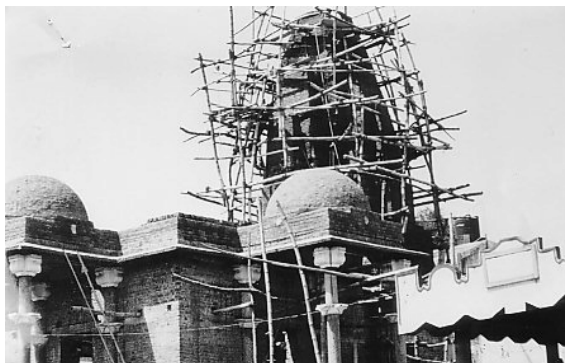
78 Falkirk Street, Seatoun
Wellington, New Zealand

Shree Ramji Mandir and Samaj Mandir Navsarjan Progress

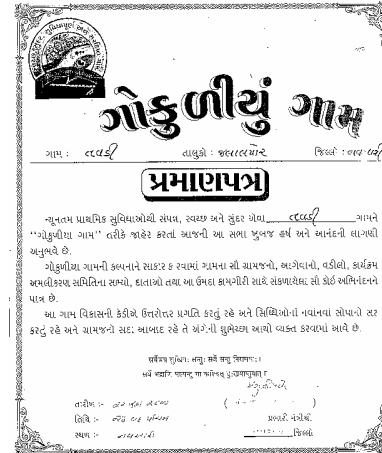
At a recent committee meeting, Vasambhai Budhia, and Ramanbhai Chhagan reported on the progress they had seen in Tavdi village from their visits to India.



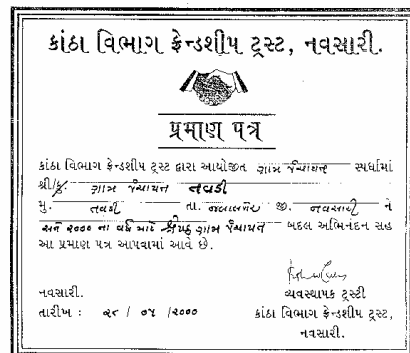
Javer Naran delivered a draft for Rs 200,000 to Naranbhai Makan for the new temple fund from NZ. He also delivered a donation collected from Christchurch and Wellington for Naranbhai Gaurishanhar (pujari) for his retirement. We also received the latest report from Naranbhai Makan Chairman of the Shree Ramji Mandir and Samaj Mandir Navsarjan committee. A considerable sum of money in rupees has also donated in Tavdi by Christchurch, Wellington and some Auckland Tavidiya.



By Christmas 2001 the building of the new Shree Ramji Mandir had reached 20 feet above ground level to the top of the walls. Preparation to lay the roof slab started in the New Year. Latest report on building progress is that the main gummat over the idols chamber is almost complete and preparation for the dome over the main hall of the mandir will start soon.



Tavdi village has won two prestigious awards recently. Gorkulyu Garm Award from the Gujarat Government and Shrest Panchayat Award from the Kantawebag Friendship Trust for the best Panchayat in our taluka.



The Sudharak Mandal AGM meeting was held in the village in January. The annual report of the Shi Tavdi Gramya Sudharak Mandal was received and in the election of officers Gireshbhai Nathu was elected chairman. Many of the other members of the committee were re-elected. The school committee that was set up by the school vali (parents) association was re-elected as the education subcommittee of the Sudharak Mandal. Some members of the past committee did not make themselves available for re-election.



Manubhai Morar Patel made a generous donation of Rs 240,000 (approx) for a new water filtration plant. A new building has been erected beside the village water well and a new filtering plant has been installed and is operating.



At this meeting Naranbhai (Maharaj) Gowrishankar was invited. I handed over to him Rupees 38,260 from NZ. This was a farewell gift from his friends in NZ. Vallabh bhai Morar from London also made a presentation to Naranbhai from UK Tavidiya.

Ramanbhai Hansji was elected benharif (unopposed) as the new Sarpanch in the in the recent Garm Panchayat elections. Gireshbhai Nathu did not seek re-election.

At the general meeting of the Tavdi Cricket Club a proposal to hold an International Cricket Tournament was proposed. This would coincide with the opening of the new Ramji Mandir. This may attract players from UK, USA, NZ, SA and Canada to attend this auspicious occasion.

This meeting sought permission to divert a pedestrian right of way from alongside the cricket ground. At a subsequent meeting, this request was refused which has meant that the cricket clubroom, which would have encroached the land boundary, has had to be deleted from the plan.





Over 50 people took part in a working bee called by the Tavdi Keduct Sahakari Mandal (Tavdi Farmers Co-op) to repair a water damaged cattle track. I was very pleased to see this well supported project near the Korchyu stream cattle bridge in the Koar.

Financial Report

The financial report from the Shree Ramji Mandir and Samaj Mandir Navsarjan committee is attached. It gives details of all income and expenditure for the project. The foundations had to go down to 10 ft below ground level, instead of the 6 ft foundation planned has meant some costs over-run.

The main points at 31 March are;
Total income to hand Rs 7,100,159
Total expenditure Rs 1,521,883
Funds in Bank Rs 5,578,276

List of donations received in Tavdi and in NZ is attached. If you have not yet made a donation, please call any member of the committee or you can send your donation directly to Tavdi.

General Meeting

**2.00 pm Sunday, 1 September
78 Falkirk Street, Seatoun**

We have \$25,658.00 in our mandir collection account, after sending Rs 200,000 (\$ 10,339) to India.

The committee proposes that we send the balance of our mandir collection to India in one lump sum. This is because of the current rate of exchange and excellent management and reporting we are seeing from Tavdi. As this is a change in direction from our previous motion we need to discuss this at a general meeting

This meeting will also discuss the collection of a membership fee. Membership fees pay for the cost of printing and posting these newsletters. The last membership fee was collected from Wellingtonians in the 80's. Our circulars are received by Tavidiyas all over NZ. Without a membership fee these newsletters are not possible.

Naran Budhia
President

Javer Naran
Secretary