

Countdown to Convention

As the LPS annual convention inches closer, we tell you what to expect and what not to miss...



Spiritual speaker: Munelal Maharaj

THE ANNUAL convention at Long Beach, California, promises to be everything that we have come to expect from Leuva events. From socialising and bonding with the community to connecting with other Leuva members, the Welcome Party on March 1 is an eagerly awaited event. Young Leuvas (age 18-22) will be treated to entertainment and activities on board an idyllic night cruise.

The two-day convention will also have a vendor-show with offerings from jewellers, hoteliers, utility manufacturers, investors, banks, insurance companies and retailers among others.

During the Breakout session on March 2, LPS community members will be treated with some thought-provoking lectures and discussion forums. One of the esteemed speakers is Shri Munelal

Maharaj, a famed spiritual leader and motivational lecturer. Originally from Trinidad, Munelalji is a popular and dynamic teacher who helps people live a fuller life with the aid of philosophy, moral guidance and practical lessons and stories. The author of motivational books such as *Jyotir Vigyaan* and *Death and the Soul's Journey*, he also has more than a dozen devotional music albums to his credit.

At the convention, Munelalji will be sharing his goal: promoting Hinduism as a dynamic, blissful, and incomparable pathway to better living, especially for the youth. He will talk extensively about living better and fuller in today's world, in a western civilisation and being able to apply the tenants of the religion to everyday life. 'Always keep inspired,' he says.

Taking the thought-provoking sessions forward will be Professor Babu Suthar, Lecturer in Gujarati at the Department of South Asia Studies, University of Pennsylvania. A popular teacher back home in India and a published poet and writer, Professor Suthar will be talking on '*Sahitya ane Manav Svabhav*' (Literature and human nature). 'The focus will mainly be on how literature reflects human nature and how it may affect our ability of creating literature, with examples from literature itself and biosciences,' he says.

A much sought-after speaker, Professor Suthar's charm lies in his ability to make his topics jargon-free and appealing all across age-groups.

Joining Professor Suthar will be author, researcher and critic Sitanshu Yashaschandra, a prominent and



Literary expert: Babu Suthar

renowned figure in Gujarati literature. Shri Yashaschandra has been awarded one of India's highest civilian honours, the Padmashree. A Fulbright scholar, his contribution to Indian literature and its contemporary history is remarkable and impressive. Shri Yashaschandra is also the writer of several critically acclaimed plays that have been received to much appreciation in India and abroad.

And while LPS members are being intellectually stimulated, there will also be quite a bit of official work to be done. The election for the new Board of Directors and new executive committee will take place, as will the handing-over ceremony where outgoing President Bhagubhai Patel will hand over the administrative responsibilities to incoming President DV Patel.



Place to be: The Long Beach Convention Center

Convention itinerary

March 1, 2008

Welcome Party: Social hour and Gaam meeting
Youth Activities: Night cruise

March 2, 2008

8am - 9am: Registration
9am - 12pm: General session
12pm - 6pm: Vendor show/Breakout session
6pm - 7:30pm: Social hour, dinner and entertainment
7:30pm - 8:30pm: Reception