



PRESS RELEASE

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TWO WORLD RECORDS BESTOWED UPON BAPS LEADER PRAMUKH SWAMI MAHARAJ 17 December 2007, Amdavad

On 17 December 2007, Michael Whitty, member of the main management committee of Guinness World Records came especially to India to present 2 new World Records to Pramukh Swami Maharaj on the occasion of his 87th Birthday being celebrated as the culmination of the 4-day BAPS Centenary Celebrations in Amdavad.

The Guinness World Records Book sells 100 million copies a year and it is household name worldwide. This is the first time that such a senior member of the Guinness World Records Management Committee personally came to present World Record Certificates in India.

The following world records were presented by Michael Whitty to Pramukh Swami Maharaj.

Most Hindu Mandirs Consecrated by a Single Person

HDH Pramukh Swami Maharaj, internationally revered spiritual leader and head of the BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha has created and consecrated, in accordance with Hindu rituals, a world record 713 mandirs (temples) in five continents between April 1971 and November 2007. Amongst these, the majestic ornately hand-carved Swaminarayan Akshardham in New Delhi stands apart as the largest in the temple in the world.

World's Largest Comprehensive Hindu Temple

BAPS Swaminarayan Akshardham in New Delhi, India, is the world's largest comprehensive Hindu temple. It measures 356 ft. long, 316 ft. wide and 141 ft. high, covering an area of 86,342 ft.². The grand, ancient-style, ornately hand-carved stone temple has been built without structural steel within five years by 11,000 artisans and volunteers. His Holiness Pramukh Swami Maharaj, revered spiritual leader of BAPS consecrated the temple on 6 November 2005. Akshardham showcases the essence of India's ageless art, borderless culture and timeless values.

The details of Senior Official, Mr. Michael Whitty are as follows:

- ? Member of Guinness World Record Main Management Committee,
- ? Head of Picture Media for Guinness World Records and responsible for all of the photography in the Guinness World Record Book
- ? Oversees Guinness World Record's marketing campaigns
- ? Official world record adjudicator for record attempts around the world