

**India Temple Association
Bal-Vihar Program
Handbook**

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INTRODUCTION

India Temple Association (ITA) has prepared this to provide broad guidelines. Guidelines cannot replace judgment, interpretation and analysis of individual situations.

1.01 *Vision*

Our vision for this program is to give our children the knowledge of Vedic Heritage and Culture to build a positive identity to lead a successful life in a challenging, non-homogenous society.

1.02 *Goals*

- To teach daily prayers for emotional security.
- To build character of our children by teaching Value system and Universal Dharma to enable them to lead a life that is free from inner conflicts.
- To teach Vedic heritage to show how applicable the Vedic knowledge is in modern times.
- To explain symbolic meanings of our Hindu Deities and forms of worship.
- To teach the reasons behind our meaningful Hindu rituals to live the spiritual life.
- To celebrate a few religious and cultural holidays to rejoice the life of Hindus when living away from India.
- To give the Vision of India – Land, people and heroes.

1.03 *Guidelines*

- The intent of these guidelines is to establish a consistent basis for the actions of ITA members.
- These guidelines will be changed as the circumstances change and the need arises.
- These guidelines are intended to evolve to meet changing requirements. Suggestions for improvements or updates are welcomed and can be emailed to the Treasurer.

MEMBERSHIP

2.01 *ITA Membership* – In order to participate in Bal-Vihar (BV) you must be members of the India Temple Association (ITA). BV program runs over two calendar years, September through June. You must be an ITA member for both years. See **attachment A** for the membership form; also available online at <http://www.indiatemple.org/Membership.pdf>. All checks are payable to *India Temple Association (in memo indicate ITA Membership)*. Membership dues are as follows:

- Individual one year \$15
- Individual five year \$60
- Family one year \$25
- Family five year \$100
- Family life \$1,000

Upon becoming a member you will be added to the ITA database and will receive ITA monthly newsletter “*Satsang Sandesh*”.

- 2.02 ***Bal-Vihar Membership*** – Registration forms are required to be completed each year. Annual BV membership dues are \$100 per child. See **attachment B** for the membership form; the form is also available online at <http://www.indiatemple.org/Membership.pdf>. All checks are payable to *India Temple Association (in memo indicate BV Membership)*.

Upon becoming a member you will be added to the BV database and you will receive an e-mail verification. All Bal-Vihar announcements and news will be communicated to you via e-mail. You will not receive any communications unless you register and have paid all dues in full. Should you have any concerns relating to this matter contact BV administrator Rina Patel.

- 2.03 All your membership dues and contributions are tax deductible.
- 2.04 Each child receives an ITA BV T-shirt and Bag upon registration.
- 2.05 Membership includes annual day fees for members and their extended families.
- 2.06 We are a small group of members who serve our community by providing leadership for our India Temple Association, we have no sophisticated means to collect dues beyond appealing to your sense of community responsibility. We depend upon your support, and we need your dues paid in full. If you are unable to pay the membership dues please contact Program Director Lata Pimplaskar or Treasurer, Rina Patel.

LOCATION

- 3.01 Please follow ***the*** attached program calendar. Program is held at the following two locations:
- India Temple Association – 25 E Tauton Ave, Berlin, NJ 08009, Ph: (856) 768-3134. Detail directions at <http://www.indiatemple.org/directions.html>.
 - Cherokee High School - 120 Tomlinson Mill Road, Marlton, NJ 08053, Ph: (856) 983-5140. Detail directions at <http://chsweb.lk12.nj.us/general/directions.htm>.

SCHEDULE 2009-2010

- 4.01 Schedule for 2009-2010 is as attached. See attachment C.

CALENDAR 2009-2010

- 5.01 BV program runs every second and fourth Sunday of each month beginning in September and ending in June. **See attachment D.**

#	Date	Location	Program
	9/13/09	Temple	Ganesh-Sarsavati puja
1	9/27/09	Cherokee HS	Regular session/Navratri-Dashera 9/19 – 9/28
2	10/11/09	Cherokee HS	Regular session
3	10/25/09	Cherokee HS	Regular session/Diwali on 10/17
4	11/8/09	Cherokee HS	Regular session
5	11/22/09	Cherokee HS	Regular session (Thanksgiving 11/26 – 11/29)
	12/13/09	Temple	Krishna puja/Gita Jayanti
	12/27/09	No session	Winter Holiday
6	1/10/10	Cherokee HS	Regular session
7	1/24/10	Cherokee HS	Regular session
	2/14/10	Temple	Shiva-Durga puja (shivratri 2/12)
8	2/28/10	Cherokee HS	Regular session
9	3/14/10	Cherokee HS	Regular session
10	3/28/10	Cherokee HS	Regular session (Ramnavmi 3/24)
11	4/11/10	Cherokee HS	Regular session (Easter 4/4)
	4/24/10	Burlington HS	Annual Day (Saturday)
	5/9/10	Mandir	Mothers Day / Holi celebration
	6/6/10	Arsha Vidya Gurukulum	Annual Trip
	6/13/10	Laurel Acers Park	Picnic (Sunday)

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Class structure

6.01 BV program consist of Religion and Culture curriculum that can be completed in eight years. Each progressive year is called a “group”. Following are groups based on school grade:

- Saagar KG and Grade 1
- Pavan Grades 2 and 3
- Aakaash Grades 4 and 5
- Agni Grades 6 and 7

Class work

6.02 Following is the class work for each of the groups listed above:

Group	Year 1	Year 2
KG & Grade 1: (Saagar) Stories From India Games & Activities	Class I - Prayers and Stories	Class I - Prayers & Stories
	Class II - Coloring & Drawing	Class II - Craft & Games

Grades 2 & 3: (Pavan) Stories from Puranas Vision of India	Class I - Stories of Gods and Goddesses	Class I - Lord Vishnu and His Ten Avataras
	Class II - Vision India	Class II - Vision of India
Grade 4 & 5: (Aakaash) Values and Dharma Mahabharata/ Ramayana	Class I - Mahabharata	Class I - Ramayana
	Class II – Choices and Dharma	Class II - Values
Grade 6 & 7: (Agni) Ishvara & Vedic Culture	Class I - Ishvara, Creation & Devataa	Class I - Vedic Disciplines and Literature
	Class II - Social & Cultural Issues (Dichotomy)	Class II - Resolving conflicts with Hindu ethics.

Attendance

- 6.03 Although the program is voluntary to participate, all students registered in the program are required to have a minimum of 70% of attendance for promotion to the next group and also for participating in BV annual day. Students are expected to arrive at all classes on time.

Tests

- 6.04 Proficiency tests for each level in the Religion and Culture classes will be conducted during the year according to the schedule in the curriculum.

Graduation

- 6.05 The graduation policy requirements are:
- Successful completion of Agni group including the preparation of an original project work and an essay.
 - Attendance.

Upon graduation each student will be presented with a trophy at the graduation ceremony.

Upward Feedback

- 6.06 Our goal is to provide the highest quality learning experience. Following the lead of educational institutions in this country, at the end of the Bal-Vihar year, we will provide all our students with an opportunity to provide their feedback in general and to specifically evaluate the courses and the teachers. This would allow us to modulate our curriculum and instructions based on the learning experience of our students.

ANNUAL DAY

- 7.01 Annual day is scheduled to be Saturday April 24, 2010. Location is determined to be Burlington High School, Burlington, NJ. The time and program details will be made available in the upcoming weeks. Please invite all your family and friends.
- 7.02 Format – Each program/presentation should have a minimum of 6 participants.
- 7.03 BV Booklet - We will be putting a booklet together for distribution on annual day. The book will contain children's writing on subjects learned during the year at BV. If you would like to have your child's writing published please contact TBD.

OTHER MATTERS

Yoga

- 8.01 Each student should bring his/her own yoga mat.

Pooja sponsors

- 8.02 To enhance the celebration and experience of Hindu culture for our children we give mahaprasad as lunch. We celebrate four events at the Mandir and this year we are seeking help from the community to sponsor mahaprasad for puja. Bal Vihar is seeking at least six families to sponsor children's puja and celebration by donating \$100 or more.

The dates and events are as follows:

9/13/2009	Ganesh & Sarswati puja	6 sponsors
12/13/2009	Geeta jayanti & Krishna puja	1 sponsor, seeking 5 more
2/14/2010	Shivratri Abhishekam	
5/9/2010	Mother's Day and Holi	

The Mahaprasad will be catered and the families' names (upon their permission) will be announced. Please contact Sangeeta Rashatwar at 856-424-4211 or sangeetarashatwar@gmail.com with the amount of your donation, the festival you would like to sponsor, and whether it is ok to announce your name.

Celebration of Religious Festivals at the mandir

- 8.03 Each student is required to bring a Pooja Thali for the religious celebrations at the mandir. The Pooja Thali should include the following: Thali, Coin or Krishna, Ganesh, bowl and a spoon. The other pooja items will be provided to you.

Field Trip

8.04 Field trip is scheduled on **June 6, 2010** at the Arsha Bodha Center, 84 Cortelyous Lane, Somerset, NJ 08873. Detail directions at <http://www.arshabodha.org>. The time and program details will be made available in the upcoming weeks.

Picnic

8.05 Picnic is scheduled on **Sunday June 13th, 2010** at the Mt. Laurel Park. Detail directions at <http://www.mountlaurel.com/lap.htm>. Do not miss the finale for the program year. Games, Foods, Fun and prizes for all! Send your suggestions for the games and other activities for children to play. Volunteers needed. If you are interested in participating please contact Dinesh Depani.

Stay connected

- 8.06 Check out our website at <http://www.indiatemple.org/>. Available online are:
- BV calendar
 - ITA newsletter
 - Read about the latest mandir happenings
 - ITA and ITA BV membership forms
 - Information about emergency closings, special events and other timely information.

ADMINISTRATION

Following are name and numbers for key contacts:

Title	Name	Phone Number	E-mail address
Director	Lata Pimplaskar	856-985-4785	latap@comcast.net
Secretary	Sangeeta Rashatwar	856 424-4211	sangeetarashatwar@gmail.com
Treasurer/Administrator	Rina Patel	856-313-5235	rjpatel13@yahoo.com

TEACHERS

Following are name and numbers for teachers:

Title	Name	Phone Number	E-mail address
Yoga	Babita Kapoor	856-424-9025	babitak@indiaclub.com
Sagar Group	Charu Seth	856-662-8754	charu_sheth@yahoo.com
Sagar Group	Sunitha Reddy	856-596-3215	sunithahreddy@yahoo.com
Sagar Group	Snigdha Garg	856-783-4692	snigdthag@comcast.net
Pavan Group	Chetna Giyanai	856-267-5598	giyananics@yahoo.com
Pavan Group	Nivedita Shukla	856-489-9004	nvshukla@comcast.net
Aakaash Group	Brinda Raghuvver	610-642-2875	brinda.raghuvver@lmco.com

Aakaash and Agni Group	Sharad Pimplaskar	856-985-4785	sharadpimplaskar@hotmail.com
Aakaash and Agni Group	Sangeeta Rashatwar	856 424-4211	sangeetarashatwar@gmail.com
Aakash and Agni Group	Lata Pimplaskar	856-985-4785	latap@comcast.net

OTHER VOLUNTEERS

Following are name and numbers for key volunteers:

Title	Name	Phone Number	E-mail address
Pooja Coordinator	Sangeeta Rashatwar	856 424-4211	sangeetarashatwar@gmail.com
Facility Coordinator	Sunitha Reddy	856-596-3215	sunithahreddy@yahoo.com
Annual Day	Falguni Modi and Deepti Goya		fkt73@yahoo.com deeptisgoyal@yahoo.co.in
Annual Trip	Praveen Garg	856-783-4692	Praveen24@comcast.net
Picnic	Dinesh Depani	856-429-7072	dennydepani@yahoo.com
Food	Nilang and Ashutosh	856-669-7957	pndalwadi@verizon.net

Please consider volunteering to be on a committee. Your talents and time will help build a stronger Indian/Hindu community. There are many ways you can use your talents at our Mandir.