



Satsang Sandesh

A monthly news magazine of

India Temple Association, Inc.

Hindu Temple 25 E. Taunton Ave, Berlin, NJ 08009
SOUTH JERSEY DELAWARE PENNSYLVANIA

Vol. 36 No. 12

Phone: (856) 768-3134

www.indiatemple.org

DECEMBER 2010

Religious Calendar

- Dec 1, Wednesday, Utpati Ekadashi
- Dec 17, Friday, Mokshada Ekadashi/ GITA JAYANTI Gita Path in temple
- Dec 20, Monday, Shri Dattatray Jayanti / Purnima
- Dec 31, Friday, Safala Ekadashi

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

Vishnu Sahasranama Parayanam

- Dec. 3rd Friday, 8P.M. to 9 P.M.

MONTHLY BHAJANS

- Dec. 17th Friday

8:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M.

Satya Sai Baba center of Medford.
Contacts: P.K. Prabhakar (856)-596-3147, Sessa Vemuri (856)-751-0867

Other Bhajan Groups have not been scheduled due to Christmas and New Year Holidays

ITA GENERAL BODY MEETING & ELECTION OF TRUSTEES

This will be held on December 12, 2010 at 6:00 PM after a SPECIAL BHAJAN PROGRAM by Chandan Mody, Nayna Patel, Devang Parikh, Aarti Shah, and students of Chandan Mody from 3:30 to 5:30 PM followed by MAHA PRASAD

Nominations along with completed election forms were invited from General Body members by November 30, 2010. Nominations will not be accepted after November 30, 2010. You must be a ITA member for year 2009 and 2010, must believe in ITA Constitution and must have worked at least for a year on any ITA Committees and willing to volunteer time and services for ITA. If there are less number of nomination forms received by the deadline, remaining vacancies may be filled by the Board in accordance with the By-laws.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HOW TO BECOME TRUSTEE OR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT BHULABHAI BHAKTA AT 856-983-0769

Following Trustees are eligible for re-election for additional three years term.

JAYESH PARIKH, MUKUND MODI, RAMESH VISHWANATHAN, DEVANG PARIKH, CHETNA GIYANANI, RADHA BODAPATI AND SUNITHA REDDY

Following Trustees are not eligible for re-election due to their three consecutive terms expiry by December 31, 2010

DIVYAKANT PARIKH

Following Trustee has resigned from the Board and vacancy may be filled for the remaining term by nomination and Board approval

PRAVEEN SHETH

ITA takes this opportunity to thank all outgoing Trustees for their dedicated support and looking forward to their continued support for the ITA activities.

SPECIAL PRAYERS :

ITA has a program whereby you can have prayers performed on your behalf every year on a special day in your life by pledging \$ 301. Also as per your request Shri. Bhupendra Shuklaji will perform a special pooja on your behalf, or the regular temple pooja performed on the designated day will be dedicated in your name. Below are the donors for this month.

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------|----------------------------------|---------|
| • Akshyabhai & Savitaben Patel | Dec. 01 | Jagdish Shah | Dec. 22 |
| • Pravina Gohel | Dec. 05 | Nagindas/Champaben Shah | Dec. 23 |
| • Maya & Mamta Kanzaria | Dec. 09 | Vijay & Asha Gupta | Dec. 25 |
| • Arun Maheshwari | Dec. 09 | Satish Shah | Dec. 25 |
| • Rajendra Pandya | Dec. 09 | Natwar Desai | Dec. 28 |
| • Dev Dani | Dec. 12 | Panambur & Mitra Kini | Dec. 28 |
| • Jelabhai Patel | Dec. 13 | Mahendra Toprani | Dec. 28 |
| • Rukmani Devi Tekrival | Dec. 15 | Kavita Gupta | Dec. 30 |
| • Jaysinh Chandriani | Dec. 18 | Naresh Talati | Dec. 31 |
| • Sheela Kapoor | Dec. 18 | Navin K. Gupta. Pramila Mitra, | |
| • K.S. Krishnan | Dec. 18 | Manibhai Patel, Raj Patel, Rajiv | |
| • Laxman P Singh | Dec. 18 | Verma | One Day |

CONDOLENCES

Revaben Bhakta, sister of our past president Bhulabhai Bhakta, passed away on November 20, 2010 in California, USA. ITA and its Board sincerely extend their condolences to Shri Bhulabhai and other family members.

Bal-Vihar Updates

Bal-Vihar celebrated Diwali in a joyous and festive ceremony on November 14, 2010. After a condensed instructional class lasting one hour, the children met in the cafeteria to perform the Laxmi Puja. Armed with their metal thalis, bowls, and spoons, they appeared enthusiastic and ready to learn. Lata Pimplaskar, not only instructed the children on how to individually perform the puja, but also helped the students create a Ganesha using Play-Doh and explained the significance of why we pray to Goddess Laxmi. Goddess Laxmi doesn't only represent the health and wealth; she also provides happiness through her blessings to Devotees. Over two hundred people, including parents and grandparents, attended this event. The celebrations were followed by a scrumptious lunch sponsored by Dineshbhai and Pushpaben Patel of Moorestown, New Jersey. Pictures of the event are posted on the ITA website. For the Holiday Season Bal Vihar children will be collecting/saving money to donate to "No Kid Hungry" organization.

If you are interested in sponsoring lunch at a Bal-Vihar session, please contact:

Chetana Giyanani at (732) 322-6212, Email: giyananics@yahoo.com.

Senior Citizens' Program

Thursday December 16, 6:30 p.m. to 9:15 p.m.

The Senior Citizens' Group invites all of you - age 50 and up - to join, support, and celebrate life with us. The new Executive Council will complete one year of existence by the end of this month. There will be a regular meeting on December 16 when the meeting schedule for the year 2011 will also be distributed. Our success, if any, is mainly due to the devotion and dedication of our volunteers & dinner sponsors, and generous support of guest speakers. We take this opportunity to appreciate and thank all those who joined and supported the association in 2010. More participation is desired; the strength is always in numbers! Please put aside the attitudes and egos that keep us apart and weak as a society. We need to work together for the common good; let us all serve as volunteers and remain committed to do our part to the best of our abilities.

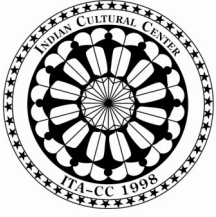
For more information about the program, activities, and to join the association, please contact Suraj Bhan Singh, by phone: (856) 582-5035 or e-mail (sbsingh1@hotmail.com) or Narsinh N. Sangani, by phone: (856) 435-2128 or e-mail (nnsangani@juno.com).

HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE

The Indian tradition calls for sharing a portion of our daily food with needy. We urge you to remember the less fortunate people when we are rejoicing with our friends and family during this time of holidays. As always we join hands with our Bal-Vihar Group, Youth Group, Senior Citizen Group and others to co-ordinate food drive to help the poor and needy during holiday season.

Special marked containers are kept at the front lobby of our temple in Berlin for packaged and canned non-parishable food. Collected food boxes are delivered to American Red Cross for the use of the fire victims. For more information, please contact Narendra Amin at 856-429-8761 or Binduben Shukla at 856-768-3134.

Please do not drop outdated or nearly expiring packaged items.



Indian Cultural Center (ICC)
(Non-Profit Tax Exempt Organization, Tax ID # 22-3579469)
www.iccofsj.org
"Dream Becoming a Reality!"

UPDATE FROM THE ICC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Many behind the scenes activities have taken place since our groundbreaking ceremony with regard to our new Indian Cultural Center. Sometimes it may seem as though nothing is happening, but rest assured, much has been accomplished. It has also been a while since we updated you, so we want to take this opportunity to keep you informed of ongoing activities.

Concerning our ICC project, we encountered some water and sewer issues which have consumed considerable time. Suffice it to say they are now resolved after working with the fire marshal and a township municipal engineer. We should be able to apply for water and sewer connection permits within the next couple of weeks, after which we expect our final building plans will be reviewed and approved. We have also hired a construction manager, and construction timelines have been finalized. We expect to clear ground in preparation for construction early next spring. We have also acquired construction funding as a backup in case we experience any shortfalls in finances which threaten to stall the project at any point during construction. With your help, we hope to obtain donations so we will not need to use any outside funding.

We know many of you are somewhat uneasy about the economy. But our ICC project is where it is today because of your generosity and support. Most of you give as a part of your own spiritual discipline and commitment to the temple and our culture. It is you who sustain us when times are economically difficult. While we gratefully acknowledge your past commitment and support, both moral and financial, we appeal to you to continue your patronage in the coming years.

So far many families have generously pledged significant financial support for our new center. We now need continue to pull together all pledges and available financial resources. That is why we are asking you to lead the way, set a positive example and honor your promise. We need you to pay your pledge now so we can begin construction and move forward quickly.

We want every family from our Indian Community to have proud sense of personal ownership in the new cultural center. What a lasting gift it will be for your children and grandchildren. We are very grateful for every dollar pledged toward this worthy project. We hope you will encourage your friends, family and neighbors to also participate as donors so we can more quickly reach our financial goal. And end-of-year donations are especially timely with respect to tax planning and deductions.

We thank you for your generosity, faithfulness and continued commitment to this project. Achieving our shared dream would not be possible without your support. Please take advantage of your tax-deductible donation before year end. Send your donation and/or the balance of your pledge funds to ITACC, c/o Manu Dadhania, 34 Callison Lane, Voorhees, NJ 08043. We encourage you to visit our website www.iccofsj.org regularly for up-to-date community information. Feel free to also contact any board member should you have questions, concerns, ideas or suggestions.

Prayer Hall Floor Reinforcement and Social Hall Renovation

With the help of Narendrabhai Amin, Jagdish Shah and Divyakant Parikh, ITA had completed these renovations prior to the Pran Pratishtha Celebrations. ITA will appreciate **SPONSORSHIP** of following Expenses:

STEEL BEAMS	\$7000	CARPENTRY	\$9000	NEW CEILING	\$2000
ELECTRICAL WORK	\$6500	PAINTING ENTIRE TEMPLE	\$5500	FLOOR FINISH	\$500
KITCHEN STOVE	\$500	PRAYER HALL CAMERA	\$400	MISCELLANEOUS	\$1500

Sponsorship need not be for the full amount. Sponsorship of \$500 or more will be recognized with the name plate on a Plaque.

Gita Jayanti Celebration

Bhagvad-Gita is the divine discourse spoken by the Supreme Lord Krishna Himself and is the most popular and well known of all the sacred scriptures from ancient India. Always being revered as a true source of spiritual knowledge it reveals the purpose and goal of human existence. In Bhagavad- Gita, chapter 10, verse 20, the Supreme Lord reveals that He manifests as the immortal soul within each and every living entity. No where else within any other religious scripture is this information available.

The Bhagavad- Gita is considered by eastern and western scholars alike to be among the greatest spiritual books the world has ever known. In a very clear and wonderful way the Supreme Lord Krishna describes the science of self-realization and the exact process by which human beings can establish their eternal relationship with God. In terms of pure, spiritual knowledge the Bhagavad- Gita is incomparable. Its intrinsic beauty is that its knowledge applies to all human beings and does not postulate any sectarian ideology or secular view. It is approachable from the sanctified realms of all religions and is glorified as the epitome of all spiritual teachings. This is because proficiency in the Bhagavad- Gita reveals the eternal principles which are fundamental and essential for spiritual life from all perspectives and allows one to perfectly understand the esoteric truths hidden within all religious scriptures.

**ITA will celebrate this in our temple on December 17, Friday from 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM
by chanting the whole Gita in Sanskrit.**

**For more information, please call
Shri Shuklaji at 856-768-3134**

Or

Mahendra Toprani at 856-751-8278

NEW ITA WEB SITE

WWW.INDIATEMPLE.ORG

ITA recently launched its new website with useful information for the community.

You can now take advantage of modern technology and use the web site having the following features:

- Book temple and/or services
- Enroll your children for Bal-Vihar and/or Youth Program
 - Take a look at upcoming events
 - Read Temple's History
- See yourself or your family/friends in photo gallery of various events
- Be familiar with other programs of ITA and contact appropriate teachers/chair person for enrollment
 - Know your Trustees and Executive Committee Leaders
- Download various forms for membership, facility rental, scholarship application, puja services
 - Use pay pal feature for any and all needed payments, including donations
 - Find out important days from Calendar of Current Hindu Year

ITA Board appreciates Jatin Mehta and his business team for successfully launching this new Web Site for our community. Without dedicated Trustees' participation and Rina's coordination, this would not have been possible this year. Board also extends its sincere appreciation to Narendrabhai Amin for providing Mandir history and various Program Chairs for supplying appropriate information.

PLEASE USE THIS WEB SITE FOR ROUTINE COMMUNICATION AND NEEDED INFORMATION



LET'S CONNECT: Reader's corner!

ITA would like to hear from you!

We would like to know your thoughts, your ideas and even constructive criticism! This is your community space, a place for your voice, for all to hear. Please let us hear from you!

Sloka for Lord Ram

***“Sri Rama Rama Raameti, Rame Raame Manorame
Sahasra Naama Tat Tulyam, Rama Nama Varaa-nane ” (3 Times)***

Meaning:

Lord Shiva said to Parvati "I meditate upon Sri Ram as Sri Rama Rama Rama, the thrice recital of Sri Ram's name is equal to Recitation of the thousand names of Lord Vishnu" (Vishnu Sahasranama).

Programs for Your Spiritual Growth

YOGA ABHYAS FOR HEALTH HAPPINESS & GOD REALIZATION:

A program for adults on yogasana, pranayam & meditation.

First Sunday: 9:30 AM—11:30 AM at our Temple in Berlin

Contact: Virendra Gupta @856-424-9313

GITA STUDY GROUP:

Every Tuesday and Wednesday 8—9PM

at our Temple in Berlin

Contact: Sharad Pimplaskar @856-985-4785

BHAJANS & STUTI:

Every Friday 7:30—9:00PM

Contact: Shree Shuklaji 856-768-3134

Regular Programs for Children and Youth

BAL VIHAR: A program for children (ages 5-13) to have a positive Hindu Identity in the diverse community of USA. 2nd & 4th Sunday @ 10:00 –1:00 PM

Contact: Lata Pimplaskar 856-985-4785

Rina Patel 856-313-5235 for registration and location

YOUTH PROGRAM: A program for young adults (ages 13-18) and parents. 2nd & 4th Sunday at 10:30AM—1:00 PM at our Temple in Berlin.

Contact: Sharad Pimplashkar at 856-985-4785; Sangeeta at 609-685-2755 or Sunitha at 856-596-3215

CREATIVE ART WORKSHOP

1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday @ 9:30 AM at our Temple in Berlin

Contact: Narendra Amin 856-429-8761

Shree Shuklaji will be available for religious services on request. To schedule religious services please contact Smt. Sangeeta Rashatwar (856-424-4211), or Smt. Anoo Joshi at 856-616-2460.

TEMPLE FACILITIES USAGE FEE:

*Prayer Hall: \$200.00 Social Hall: \$300.00 (\$50 for non-member surcharge)

Please check temple availability at www.indiatemple.org; Scroll to the bottom of the page and click on the link "Temple Availability" Please contact Smt. Sangeeta Rashatwar (856-424-4211), or Smt. Anoo Joshi at (856-616-2460) for temple bookings.

This fee is in addition to the Puja Service Fee below.

PUJA SERVICE ** AT THE TEMPLE OUTSIDE

Satyanarayan Puja	\$ 101.00	\$ 151.00
Havan/Grah Shanti	\$ 151.00	\$ 251.00
Vastu Puja	At house only -	\$ 201.00
Engagement Ceremony	\$ 101.00	\$ 201.00
Grah Shanti	\$ 201.00	\$ 301.00
Wedding Ceremony (See new Rental Policy) per day	\$ 351.00	
Anniversary Celebration	\$ 101.00	\$ 151.00
Seemant	\$ 101.00	\$ 151.00
Namakaran/Annaprashan	\$ 101.00	\$ 151.00
Kesh Mundan Puja	\$ 101.00	\$ 151.00
Upanayan/Yagnopavita	\$ 201.00	\$ 251.00
Birthday	\$ 101.00	\$ 151.00
Shraddha	\$ 101.00	\$ 151.00
Special Puja	\$ 101.00	\$ 151.00
Final(Antim) Rites	\$ Voluntary donation	
Archana(Panchopachar)	\$ 15.00 -	

DIRECTIONS

- Tacony Bridge: 1. NJ route 73S.
2. Stay on 73S for about 12-13 miles and follow sign for East Taunton Ave. on your right
- Ben Franklin Bridge: 1.Route 30E to NJ route 70E
2.Right on NJ route 73S, drive about 7 miles and follow sign for East Taunton Ave. on your right.
- Walt Whitman Bridge: 1. I-295N. 2.Exit 29-A for route 30E to Berlin Twp. Turn left on East Taunton Ave.
- Delaware Memorial Bridge: I-295N. Follow C.2.
- Central and North Jersey: NJ turnpike south.
Exit 4 for route 73S. Drive about 10-11 miles and follow sign for East Taunton Ave. on your right.

* Includes temple facilities, PA system

** Additional \$25.00 for non-ITA members

** Additional \$25.00 for outside Tri-County

Please note that 50% of the listed cost of Puja **performed outside the temple** goes to Pujari in addition to his regular salary.



India Temple Association, Inc.

25 E. Taunton, Berlin, NJ 08009

EDITOR:

Ramesh Viswanathan

127 Europa Blvd

Cherry Hill, NJ 08003

PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP IF IT SHOWS "EXPIRED" IN ADDRESS LABEL

President

Divyakant Parikh
856-768-3369

Vice President

Kamlesh Dave
856-751-6541

Gen Secretary

Rina Patel
856-258-6670

Treasurer

Harshad J Patel
856-829-6282

Religious Services

Facility rental

Temple Manager

Sangeeta Rashatwar
856-424-4211

Darshan Schedule

Morning

7:30 am – 12:30 pm

Evening

6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Aarti

12:00 Noon

8:00 pm

Time may change during
special occasions

*Please use the front door
and ring the bell if locked*

Please check appropriate items from the following and mail it to

Hindu Temple, 25 East Taunton Ave., Berlin, NJ 08009 Attn: Mr. N. Amin

I would like to join India Temple Association. I am / We are remitting the membership dues
(please select one) Individual one year (\$ 15) _____ Family one year (\$ 25) _____
Individual five year (\$ 60) _____ Family five year (\$ 100) _____
Life (\$ 1000) _____ TOTAL AMOUNT \$ _____

I am adding additional donations:
____ Poojari Fund ____ Scholarship Fund ____ Life-time Services ____ Temple Renovations
____ Seva Samiti Fund

I am relocating to following address

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____