



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. 37 No. 2

Phone: (856) 768-3134

www.indiatemple.org

FEBRUARY 2011

Religious Calendar

Feb. 8, Tuesday -
Vasant Panchami /
Shree Saraswati Pooja

Feb. 14, Monday -
Jaya Ekadashi

Feb. 17, Thursday -
Purnima

Feb. 27, Sunday -
Shri Satyanarayan Puja in our
Mandir (3:30-6:30 pm)

Feb. 28, Monday -
Vijaya Ekadashi

March 2, Wednesday -
Maha Shivratri
Celebration in our Mandir

Monthly Activities

Vishnu Sahasranama Parayanam
Feb. 4, Friday, 8-9 pm

Monthly Bhajans

Pushti Mandal of Voorhees

Feb 11, Friday, 8-9 pm

Contacts:

Dhiraj Saparaia 856-287-1415

Priti Shah 856-467-9148

Satya Sai Baba of Medford

Feb. 18, Friday, 8-9 pm

Contacts:

P.K. Prabhakar (856)-596-3147

Sesha Vemuri (856)-751-0867

Shree Ji Bhajan Group

Feb. 25, Friday, 8-9 pm

Contact:

Urmi Upadhyia 856-424-9328

Charu Sheth 856-662-8754

Dear members and supporters,

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as your new ITA president, and tell you how honored I am to have been given this great privilege to serve our Indian community in a greater capacity. I want to thank outgoing president, Divyakant Parikh, for the nomination – as well as the Board of Trustees for electing me to this new leadership role. As many of you know, I have been an active part of ITA for several years in capacities as secretary and treasurer. I am excited for this increased opportunity to help guide our organization into the next decade.

Central to my leadership role will be to proactively help make the temple a central lifestyle venue for our entire Indian population – from the smallest child to our eldest member. With your help, I hope to implement processes and infrastructure that will preserve our unique heritage and propel us into the future for decades to come.

I want to encourage all trustees, committee chairs and members, and the Indian community as a whole to continue to take ownership in the temple, and participate in the myriad of cultural activities. I look forward to the completion of our new Indian Cultural Center, and all the cultural activities, events and educational functions we will host in our wonderful new facility with the full support of the Indian Temple Association.

Thank you all for your support.

Rina Patel

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, at your request, Shri. Bhupendra Shuklaji will perform a special puja on your behalf, or the regular temple puja performed on the designated day will be dedicated in your name. Below are the donors for this month.

• Sushil Bhatnagar	Feb. 03	Neel Kadakia	Feb 17
• Akshay Amin	Feb. 06	Surendra Bagaria	Feb 19
• Narendra Amin	Feb. 06	Ghanshyam Dave	Feb 20
• Kiran Doshi	Feb. 07	Maya & Mason Doshi	Feb 20
• Naresh Talati	Feb. 07	Gopal Patel	Feb 23
• Rushikesh Parghi	Feb 13	Priti Patel	Feb 23
• Jadev Gajera	Feb 14	Champak Patel	Feb 25
• Vaishali & Rajubhai Patel	Feb 16	Manoj Shah	Feb 26
• Jagdish & Maya Shah	Feb 16	Samit Desai	Feb 28

Condolences

Vijay Shroff's mother, Ramilaben Kishor Shroff, 69, passed away suddenly on December 26, 2010. ITA and its Board extend their sincere condolences to the Shroff family.

Sharad Gandhi's mother, Ammaji, 99, passed away on January 24, 2011. ITA and its Board extend their sincere condolences to Gandhi family.

Bal-Vihar Updates

by Divya Giyanani

Bal-Vihar started the year off with a great number of children eager to learn, even though the weather for the day was cold and blustery. Although it was a regular session, most of the Annual Day information regarding possible items and signups were also provided. If you would like to become a Bal-Vihar food sponsor, please contact Nilang Dalwadi at pndalwadi@verizon.net. Mark your calendar for Bal-Vihar Annual Day on Sunday, April 10, 2011. Details are forthcoming.

Senior Citizens' Program

Thursday, February 17, 6:30 pm to 9:15 pm

Our meeting will be devoted to general discussion as well as reminiscences of some long-time senior members. Smt. Sushilaben Kothari will talk about her observations on Mumbai, the largest, bustling metropolis of India. Also, Shri Laxmi Chowdhury will give a presentation with colorful pictures of his recent tour of China, Tibet, India, Nepal, Dubai, Jordan and Egypt, where he and Mrs. Kanti Chowdhury spent about eight weeks. This will be very informative.

For further information about the meeting, or to join the association, please contact Suraj B. Singh, (856) 582-5035 or sbsingh1@hotmail.com; or Narsinh N. Sangani, (856) 435-2128 or nnsangani@juno.com.

SatyaNarayan Puja for All

We will have Shri SatyaNarayan Puja/Katha on Sunday, February 27th from 3:30 pm to 6:30 pm, followed by Maha-Prasaad at Berlin Mandir. If you would like to participate in this puja, please contact Binduben Shukla at (856) 768-6785, Ghanshyam Dave at (856) 596-7531, or Kamlesh Dave at (856) 751-6541. Participation is open to all. We suggest a donation of \$51.

ITA Youth Updates

by Sujay Desai

In January, we had two youth sessions. On January 9, we started off with some stretches and yoga, and we had a special guest visitor filling in for Sharad uncle. His name was Dr. Dev Gupta and he talked to us about different places to visit in India. We mostly talked about different temples in northern, southern, eastern and western India. During our activity, each of us students discussed where we ourselves have traveled to in India when we visited, since all of us have visited India at least once. Because it was our first session of the new year, we chanted a slogan that although it was very short, we chanted it 108 times which made it auspicious. Lunch that day was sponsored by Hemandri and Monish Patel.

During our most recent session on January 23, we again did stretches and yoga asanas under the instruction of Harish uncle. We had a cooking class that day which took up most of our time. We learned how to make Handvo and Chikki under the guidance of Mrs. Geeta Choksi, who did most of the cooking. After this, Sangeeta Auntie taught us about the four pursuits which were Dharma, Kama, Artha and Moksha. We mostly learned about saints, who they are, and different saints who lived in India. Lunch that day was sponsored by Madhu and Jnanendra Ray.

ITA Seva Samiti – January 2010 Report

Family Matters – Surviving Spouses Support Group: This group continues to provide friendship and support to its 35 members who meet approximately every four weeks. Last month's meeting was dinner at the neighborhood Olive Garden. The next group meeting is a bus trip to Atlantic City for some fun and relaxation, and if it is not freezing cold, they may brave the boardwalk!

Family Matters – Funeral Service Guidance and Support: Charu Sheth advises that the group reaches out to grieving families with phone calls to offer help in their time of need. Their assistance may involve something as simple as bringing cooked food, since family members may not be up to the task or performing bhajans to relieve their sorrow and bring some measure of peace and comfort.

Seva Samiti bhajan group visited the senior Daycare Center in Pennsauken, New Jersey where their soulful bhajans were much appreciated.

Seva Samiti wishes all readers of the Satsang Sandesh a very Happy New Year and urges everyone to consider volunteering for any of the ongoing projects such as the Refugee Resettlement Program and Visiting Elderly Residents Program. The details and progress of these projects have been previously reported. You can contact Sunitha Reddy at sunithahreddy@yahoo.com or (856) 596-3215 for further information.

ITA Scholarship Guidelines

India Temple Association (ITA) will award five scholarships to high school seniors whose parent(s)/guardian(s) are current ITA members of good standing. Applications will not be considered for students whose parents are not ITA members. At its discretion, the committee may change the number of available scholarships and the value of each scholarship based on the number of qualified applicants. All ITA Board/Scholarship Committee decisions will be final and not subject to any questions or litigation.

All submissions must be postmarked by March 1, 2011. Please mail the following information and supporting documents to:

Scholarship Committee
25 East Taunton Ave.
Berlin, NJ 08009

1. Completed application form.
2. Grade Point Average (GPA) – 15% weight points.
3. In-school extracurricular activity summary i.e. music, dance, leadership, student council, sports, cultural groups, etc. – 15 weight points.
4. Participation in activities related to Indian culture, i.e. participation in ITA-sponsored activities such as the youth program, painting etc. A consistent attendance record will be given preferential treatment among equally qualified candidates) – 15% weight points.
5. Community services i.e. volunteering at nursing homes, hospitals, walkathon, etc. – 15% weight points.
6. Three copies of an essay (maximum of two typewritten pages) on any of the following topics. – 40% weight points.
 - A) At a time when the world is most vulnerable to political, economic and social crisis, how can our religion play a unifying or a divisive role?
 - B) What is the moral responsibility of youth in making the world a peaceful place?
 - C) Relevance of rituals in Hindu worship.

Rubric

Essays must be written by students in their own words using correct grammar and syntax. They should be thoughtful, articulate, well developed and persuasive. Students should provide relevant details in support of their viewpoint. Plagiarism will result in immediate disqualification.

If you have any questions, please contact Radha Bodapati at (856) 983-6212.

Prayer Hall Floor Reinforcement and Social Hall Renovation

With the help of Narendrabhai Amin, Jagdish Shah and Divyakant Parikh, ITA completed these renovations prior to the Pran Pratishtha Celebrations. ITA is looking for **SPONSORS** for the following expenses:

STEEL BEAMS	\$7,000	CARPENTRY	\$9,000	NEW CEILING	\$2,000
ELECTRICAL WORK	\$6,500	PAINT ENTIRE TEMPLE	\$5,500	FLOOR FINISH	\$500
KITCHEN STOVE	\$500	PRAYER HALL CAMERA	\$400	MISCELLANEOUS	\$1,500

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

Donors for Above Renovations

ITA sincerely appreciates donations for renovations from Sudha and Nandkishor Wankawala, Hansa and Maganbhai Kanzaria, and Diane and Akshay Amin.



MAHA SHIVRATRI CELEBRATION

March 2, 2011

Berlin Hindu Mandir, Berlin, NJ

ITA will celebrate this event
with Abhishek of Lord Shiva from
10:30 am to 1:00 pm

Also, there will be Rudrabhishek and Abhishek performed
in the afternoon from 4:00 pm to 7:30pm.

From 7:30 pm onwards, we will have Bhajans
followed by Aarti at 9:00pm



ITA WEB SITE

WWW.INDIATEMPLE.ORG

We are pleased to welcome you to the newest version of our temple's web site. The site now contains many new features. One of the key components of the site is the ability to subscribe. Subscribed users will receive **e-alerts** that notify you of new messages containing emergency notifications, periodic information and when new content is available in specific areas of the site. Also, take advantage of the following:

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

If due to inclement weather or emergency any of the regular programs are cancelled, notice will be announced and published on our website immediately.

PLEASE USE THIS WEB SITE FOR ROUTINE



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!

Shanti Mantra

*“Om Sahanaa Vavatu Sahanau Bhunaktu, Saha-veeryam Karavaa-vahai
Tejasvi-naa-vati Tamastu-maa vidh-vishaa-vahai, Om Shanti Shanti Shanti-hi”*

Meaning:

May He protect both of us. May He nourish both of us. May we both acquire the capacity (to study and understand the scriptures). May our study be brilliant. May we not argue with each other. Om peace, peace, peace.

Programs for Your Spiritual Growth

YOGA ABHYAS FOR HEALTH HAPPINESS & GOD

REALIZATION: A program for adults on yogasana, pranayam & meditation.

First Sunday: 9:30 -11:30 am at our temple in Berlin

Contact: Virendra Gupta @ (856) 424-9313

GITA STUDY GROUP:

Every Tuesday & Wednesday, 8-9 pm at our Berlin temple

Contact: Sharad Pimplaskar @ (856) 985-4785

BHAJANS & STUTI:

Every Friday, 7:30-9:00 pm

Contact: Shree Shuklaji (856) 768-3134

Regular Programs for Children and Youth

BAL VIHAR: For children (ages 5-13) to promote a positive Hindu identity in the diverse U.S. culture.

2nd & 4th Sunday @ 10 am - 1pm

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, 10:30 am - 1 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. Chetna Giyanani (856-267-5598), or Smt. Anoo Joshi at 856-616-2460.

TEMPLE FACILITIES USAGE FEE:

*Prayer Hall: \$200 Social Hall: \$300. (\$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. Chetna Giyanani (856-267-5598), 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	\$151
Havan/Grah Shanti	\$151	\$251
Vastu Puja	At house only -	\$201
Engagement Ceremony	\$101	\$201
Grah Shanti	\$201	\$301
Wedding Ceremony (See new Rental Policy) per day	\$351	
Anniversary Celebration	\$101	\$ 151
Seemant	\$101	\$ 151
Namakaran/Annaprashan	\$101	\$ 151
Kesh Mundan Puja	\$101	\$ 151
Upanayan/Yagnopavita	\$201	\$ 251
Birthday	\$101	\$ 151
Shraddha	\$101	\$ 151
Special Puja	\$101	\$ 151
Final(Antim) Rites	\$ Voluntary donation	
Archana(Panchopachar)	\$15 -	

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
25 East Taunton Avenue
Berlin, NJ 08009

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

President

Rina Patel
(856) 258-6670

Vice President

Devang Parikh
(856) 809-0241

Gen Secretary

Sangeeta Rashatwar
(856) 424-4211

Treasurer

Harshad J Patel
(856) 829-6282

Religious Services

Facility Rental

Temple Manager

Chetna Giyanani
(856) 267-5598
Anoo Joshi
(856) 610-2460

**Darshan
Schedule**

Morning

7:30 am – 12:30 pm

Evening

6 pm - 9 pm

Aarti

12 pm
&

8 pm

Times 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 (\$1,000) _____ 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: _____