



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. 3

Phone: (856) 768-3134

www.indiatemple.org

MARCH 2011

Religious Calendar

March 2 Wednesday
Maha Shivratri
Celebration in Mandir

Friday, March 18, 2011
Amalaki Ekadashi

Saturday, March 19, 2011
Holi/Purnima
Celebration in Mandir

Sunday, March 20, 2011
Dhuleti

Wednesday, March 30, 2011
Pap Mohini Ekadashi

Monthly Activities

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

Monthly Bhajans

Pushti Mandal of Voorhees
Mar 11, Friday, 8-9 pm
Contacts:
Dhiraj Saparaia (856) 287-1415
Priti Shah (856) 467-9148

Satya Sai Baba of Medford
Mar. 18, Friday, 8-9 pm
Contacts:
P.K. Prabhakar (856) 596-3147
Sesha Vemuri (856) 751-0867

Shree Ji Bhajan Group
Mar. 25, Friday, 8-9 pm
Contact:
Urmi Upadhy (856) 424-9328
Charu Sheth (856) 662-8754

Maha Shivratri

Maha Shivratri generally falls on the fourteenth day of the dark fortnight of Phalgun (February- March) and is dedicated to the worship of Lord Shiva. He is said to have performed the Tandava Nritya, a dance about the primordial creation, preservation and destruction, this night. Maha Shivratri is universally observed by all pious Hindus with fasting, singing of bhajans, recital of Sanskrit shlokas, offering of prayers, flowers, fruits and food that is specially prepared in honor of the deity and his divine consort, goddess Parvati.

The Puranas contain many stories and legends describing the origin of this festival. According to one, during the Samudra Manthan, a pot of poison emerged from the ocean. This terrified the Gods and demons as the poison was capable of destroying the entire world, and they ran to Shiva for help. To protect the world from its evil effects, Shiva drank the deathly poison but held it in his throat instead of swallowing it. This made his throat turn blue, and he was given the name Neelakanta, the blue-throated one. Shivratri is the celebration of this event by which Shiva saved the world. According to another legend in the Shiva Purana, on the 14th day in the dark half of the month of Phalgun, Shiva first manifested himself in the form of a Linga, and this day is especially auspicious and is celebrated as Maha Shivratri.

Worshipping Shiva on this day is believed to bestow one with happiness and prosperity. Maha Shivratri is thus not only a ritual but also a cosmic definition of the Hindu universe. It dispels ignorance, emanates the light of knowledge, makes one aware of the universe, ushers in the spring after the cold and dry winter, and invokes the supreme power to take cognizance of the beings that were created by Him.

Save These Dates

- **March 19, Saturday-Holi Celebration-Puja in the Mandir at 6:30 PM followed by Musical Program-Bal Vihar, and Youth participation is recommended.**
- **March 20, Sunday-Dhuleti Celebration at 12:00 noon-After lunch at 12 noon, children and youth will play colors on Mandir's parking lot at 1 PM.**
- **March 27, Sunday, Bhajans by Chandan Modi's students in our Mandir at 7 pm.**
- **April 10, Sunday, Bal Vihar Annual Day.**
- **April 9 & 10, Saturday and Sunday-Akhand Ramayan-Begins at 10 am on Saturday and ends at 1:30 pm on Sunday in our Mandir.**
- **April 12 Tuesday-Ram Navami Celebration in Mandir at 6:30 pm.**
- **April 16, Saturday-Cheti Chand-Sindhi New Year in Mandir at 4 pm.**

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.

• Chopra Raj and Anita	Mar 01	Patel Harshad	Mar 12
• Mehta Jashwantlal	Mar 01	Hudson Nishtha & James	Mar 14
• Pillalamarri Lakshmi	Mar 01	Gandhi Rima	Mar 15
• Desai Anisha	Mar 08	Panda Dhiraj	Mar 15
• Gupta Shashi	Mar 08	Hudson Troy	Mar 17
• Pimplaskar Sharad	Mar 09	Sheth Jaysukh	Mar 19
• Patel Chandubhai	Mar 11	Desai Dinesh	Mar 20
		Shah Vinnu	Mar 23

Condolences

Madhu Gandhi's father, Om Suri, 91, passed away February 11, 2011 at the age of 91. ITA and its Board extend their sincere condolences to the Gandhi family.

Bal-Vihar Updates

Bal-Vihar parents are encouraged to enroll their children for the Holi Puja in our Mandir on Saturday, March 19. On Sunday, March 20, Bal-Vihar children will play Dhuleti on Mandir's parking lot at 1:00 pm. Before color playing, lunch will be provided at 12 noon. All parents please notify your children's teachers and/or coordinators for Dhuleti participation.

Bal-Vihar Group sincerely appreciates generous food sponsorship for February 13th Bal-Vihar session by Dr. Nirmala and Kumarasamy Sevlam. If anyone wants to become a Bal-Vihar food sponsor, please contact Nilang Dalwadi at pndalwadi@verizon.net

Bal-Vihar Annual Day Invitation

Come one, come all! Friends and family are invited to attend the Bal-Vihar Annual Day, a collection of dances, skits, and shlokas performed by the Bal-Vihar students to exhibit what they have learned throughout the year. Annual Day will be held on Sunday, April 10, 2011. The show will start promptly at 11 am and will be followed by lunch at 1:00 pm. Do not miss this opportunity to see the vast talent that constitutes the Bal-Vihar kids! Annual Day location is at Lenape High School, Marlton, NJ.

Senior Citizens' Program

Thursday March 10, 6:30-9:15 pm

Thursday March 24, 6:30-9:15 pm

The highlight of these two meetings is as follows:

On March 10, we have invited Drs. Naresh & Karuna Sharma of Edison, NJ for bhajans. This will be held in the prayer hall. Dr. Naresh Sharma is a disciple of late Ustad Nanhekhani of Agra Gharana, from Ahmedabad, India.

On March 24, Dr. Pradip Patel will cover some aspects of preventive medicine. With preventive measures such as, adult vaccinations, laboratory tests for cholesterol, timely screenings, and medical exams, you can find health problems early when treatment works best and keep many maladies from getting worse.

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

Special Bhajans by Chandan Modi's Students

We all know Chandan Modi has been training local children and teenagers for Indian Music. He has been giving programs for last few years in our general body meeting. On Sunday, March 27, 2011, Chandan and his students are going to provide a special bhajan program at 7:00 pm. ITA invites everyone to support this program and request young parents to bring their children to instill passion for Indian music. Your encouragement to these young artists will bring new generation in our Mandir and fulfill the dreams of our founders.

Seva Samiti

Community Service: Refugee Resettlement Program

We are pleased to report the ongoing success of this program. Hina Desai, Sunitha Reddy and Vijaya Surya started by working with a family in Atlantic City in the Spring of 2010. They helped the family set up their home, taught them how to shop wisely, spent time with the teenaged children to stress the importance of supporting their mother, and assisted in other ways to help them adapt to their new environment. This family moved to Pennsylvania at the end of the summer to be with their extended family. Since then, these volunteers have offered support to a family in Somerdale. This family consists of the husband, wife and their five year old child. Our team is assisting them by registering them at the post office, securing library cards, teaching them simple reading in English, and otherwise providing support and assistance for life here. Recently, both parents found jobs and are on the path to realizing the American dream of earning their own way and setting up a home.

We are currently looking for other families to support and help in the new year. As part of this project, we will be starting a language assistance program for refugee children, to be conducted by our own young people. Another mini-program will involve our young volunteers helping to sort out the donation center. These community service hours can be counted towards school requirements. Please contact Hina Desai at 856-424-1934 or Sunitha Reddy at 856-596-3215 for additional information.

Community Service: Visiting Elderly Residents of Berlin Virtua Rehab Center

This is another ongoing project where volunteers can help elderly residents complete some daily tasks or enjoy games at the center. These residents look forward to companionship and contact with the community at large. The people who have volunteered for this report that they get as much satisfaction and enjoyment as do the residents! Gita Gandhi can be reached at (856) 988-9140 to answer questions or provide 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 April 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 to 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

Donors for Above Renovations

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

Elements of Dances

Dance is a physical and visual art form, which has an immediate and massive impact on the spectator. The various Indian forms act like a window to India's rich cultural reservoir. Dance is the form of art, wherein the body is used as a medium of communication. Indian dances have played an influential role in many other realms of art including poetry, sculpture, architecture, literature, music and theatre.

The earliest archaeological evidence of Indian dance, which dates back to 6000 BC, depicts a beautiful statuette of a dancing girl. Bharata's Natya Shastra (which was written between the 2nd century B.C. and 2nd century A.D) is the earliest available thesis on dramaturgy. All forms of Indian classical dances owe allegiance to Natya Shastra, which is believed to be the 'fifth Veda' of the Indian culture.

According to a popular belief, Brahma, the Creator of the World, combined literature from the Rig Veda, songs from the Sama Veda, abhinaya (expression) from the Yajur Veda and rasa (aesthetic experience) from the Atharva Veda, to form natya (what we today call dance). It explains the nuances of dance, giving stress on mudras (hand formations) and their meanings, the kind of emotions and their categorization.

Apart from the abhinaya and the performance of rasa, the audience is amused by the attire and ornaments of the artist. The majority of Indian classical dance forms are focused on the depiction of the nine rasas (Navarasas or the emotions), which includes Hasya (happiness), Krodha (anger), Bhibasta (disgust), Bhaya (fear), Shoka (sorrow), Viram (courage), Karuna (compassion), Adbhuta (wonder) and Shanta (serenity).

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
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!

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

	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:

Kamlesh Dave
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

General 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) 616-2460

**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: _____