



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. 38 No. 7 Phone: (855) MYMANDIR (855-696-2634) www.indiatemple.org JULY 2012

Religious Calendar

- **July 14 Saturday**
Kamika Ekadashi
- **July 20 Friday**
1st day of Shravan Mas.
Rudrabhishek in Mandir
- **July 23 Monday**
Nag Panchami / Rudrabhishek
in Mandir
- **July 25 Wednesday**
Shitala Satam
- **July 29 Sunday**
Putrada Ekadashi
- **July 30 Monday**
Rudrabhishek in Mandir
- **August 1 Wednesday**
Nariyeri Punam
- **August 2 Thursday**
Raksha Bandhan / Shravan /
Upakarma Prayog
- **August 6 Monday**
Nag Panchami /
Rudrabhishek in Mandir

Monthly Activities

July 6, Friday

- **Vishnu Sahasranama
Parayanam**
Kshama Raghuveer (610) 642-2875

July 8, Sunday: Bhajan

Sandhya: Classical bhajans performed by Chandan Modi and his students at 5 PM

Monthly Bhajans

July 20, Friday, 8-9 p.m.

- **Satya Sai Baba of Medford**
P.K. Prabhakar (856) 596-3147
Sesha Vemuri (856) 751-0867

July 27, Friday, 8-9 pm

- **Shree Ji Bhajan Group**
Urmi Upadhya (856) 424-9328
Charu Sheth (856) 662-8754

From the desk of ITA President

Please welcome our new priest, Shri Sudhir Jha, who joined our Mandir on June 1. He is knowledgeable in both North and South Indian rituals and Poojas. Shri Shuklaji continues to remain our senior priest, and will continue to nurture and mold Shri Sudhir Jha in his new position.

We are having Satyanarayana Pooja on July 3, which also happens to be Guru Purnima day, from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. followed by Aarti and Maha Prasaad. Please see the details on Page 3. Our intention is to conduct this Pooja on all full-moon days. Please stay tuned for more such events to follow.

Should you have any suggestions to conduct other rituals/Poojas or anything along these lines, please do not hesitate to contact Shri. Ghanshyam Dave at Ghanu44@aol.com or Rina Patel at rjpatel13@yahoo.com.

Thank you
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.

- | | | | |
|----------------------|---------|----------------|---------|
| • Vinu Patel | July 01 | Kiran Bhatt | July 24 |
| • Vinod Mehta | July 12 | Mahesh Dixit | July 24 |
| • Ramesh Upadhyay | July 13 | Amardeep Patel | July 24 |
| • Asha Gupta | July 18 | | |
| • Arun Maheswari | July 18 | | |
| • Pratima Parikh | July 19 | | |
| • Vijay & Asha Gupta | July 22 | | |

Condolences

Smt. Brij Rani Gupta, respected mother of Dr. Ramesh Gupta passed away in her home in Kanpur, U.P. India on May 8, 2012. She was 85 yrs. old.

Shri. Kantibhai Vaidya Jani, Harsha Pandya's father (Dilip Pandya's father-in-law) passed away at the age of 90 in Rajkot, Gujrat, India on June 1, 2012.

Shri Chaganlal Maisuria passed way on June 19, 2012.

ITA and its Board extend their sincere condolences to Dr. Ramesh Gupta, Dilip Pandya, and Bharatbhai Maisuria's families.

Senior Citizens' Program

Thursday July 12, 6:30 to 9:15 pm and Thursday July 26, 6:30 to 9:15 pm

July 12: Memory Loss, Dementia, and Alzheimer's Disease: As we age, few of us may lose the ability to speak more coherently and even begin to need help with routine daily activities. Abnormal changes occur in the brain affecting memory, thinking, language, and behavior. The symptoms are often viewed as normal part of aging and the early stages of a progressive brain disease with no cure may go undiagnosed! We have invited Mr. Tri Nguyen of Alzheimer's Association to talk about the basics: Memory Loss, Dementia, and Alzheimer's disease. It is time to learn the facts. We will hear about the causes and risk factors, stages of disease, treatment, and much more.

July 15: Picnic: A picnic for senior citizens has been arranged at the Washington Lake Park, Sewell 08080. Vegetarian lunch, tea, watermelon, and roasted corn will be served. Charges: \$6 per person.

July 26: Gazal Night with Sri Chandan Modi: There will be a special musical program by the talented artist group of our community. Sri Chandan Modi along with his chosen students will present gazals of our favorite maestros: Sri Jagjit Singh, Sri Pankaj Udhas, Sri Anup Jalota, Sri Bhupinder Singh, and Ustad Gulam Ali. Sri Modi will be assisted by Aditya Deshmukh on violin, Ankit Deshmukh on keyboard, and Aditya Pillai, Sevan Shah, & Pranil Trivedi on *Tabla*. The young artists have been practicing for months to make the evening enjoyable and memorable for the seniors.

Contact Info: Suraj Bhan Singh; sbsingh1@hotmail.com (856) 582-5035

Bal-Vihar and Youth Update

ITA _Bal Vihar Program will begin on Sept 9th 2012

Time: 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Location: Cherokee High School in Marlton, NJ

Teaching Vedic Heritage Giving Our Children Positive Identity!

Five groups of Bal Vihar:

Prithvi Pre KG for 4 years old only. This group will learn about gods, chant shlokas and bhajans, stories and arts & crafts.

Saagar KG and 1st graders: KG: Stories and forms of Shiva, and Three goddesses, Arts and Crafts. 1st graders: 10 stories from Ramayana.

Pavan 2nd and 3rd graders: 2nd: Story of India. 3rd: Puranic Tales.

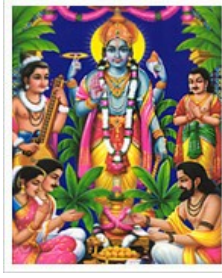
Aakash 4th & 5th graders: 4th: Mahabharata Part II 5th: Dharma _ understanding universal values such as Satyam, Ahimsa.

Agni 6th & 7th graders: Principles of Hinduism.

Registration will begin August 1st, 2012, and will be on first come first served basis. Registration is limited to 225 children. There will be a nominal fee of \$100.00 per student. The parents must become ITA members to enroll their children. The fees include cost of lunches, Pujas and festivals. There will be additional cost for the Annual Day. All donations are welcome. For more information call: Lata Pimplaskar @ 856-985-4785 or latap@comcast.net

Youth Program will commence on Sept. 09, 2012 starting from 10:00 AM to Noon. Please register early.

Satyanarayan Pooja



Performing Satyanarayana Pooja showers prosperity and abundance in one's life - it blesses the childless couple with progeny, the needy with material gains and business holders with blessings to prosper in their businesses. It is also performed in households before commencing auspicious events, such as weddings, birthdays etc. Lord Satyanarayana, the chief deity of this Pooja is an extremely benevolent form of Lord Vishnu. "Satya" means Truth or Dharma and "Narayana" is another name for Vishnu. During this Pooja, people worship Lord Satyanarayana by reciting his story – Satyanarayan Katha. This story was originally narrated by Lord Vishnu himself to the Sage Narada for the benefit of mankind. The devotees customarily undergo fasting (Satyanarayana vratam) while performing this Pooja. The Pooja starts with a prayer to Lord Ganesha, the remover of all obstacles, followed by the Pooja for the 9 planets, the Navagrahas. Following these, Lord Satyanarayana is invoked by chanting mantras and performing Archana using flowers. In the form of Prasad many varieties of food are offered.

Proposed time: 6:30 PM to 9 PM followed by Aarti & Maha-Prasad (on weekdays)
Weekend timing 3 PM to 5:30 PM followed Aarti & Maha-Prasad

- July 3rd (Tuesday) - Guru Purnima - (Gauri Vrat also starts)
- Aug. 1st (Wednesday) - Nariyeli Purnima
- Aug. 31st (Friday)
- Sept. 29 (Saturday)
- Oct. 29 (Monday) - Sharad Purnima
- Nov. 28 (Wednesday)
- Dec. 28 (Friday)

It is the breakthrough day, most of the people were enlightened during the full moon day and it is considered the time of high vibrations and spiritual upliftment. Much positive energy showers this time and opens the way of divine kingdom. July 3 rd is also GURU-PURNIMA - per Shastra - Gurur Brahma Gurur Vishnu, Gurur devo Maheshvara, Gurur Shakshat Parbrahma tasmai shree Guruve Namah

ITACC COMMUNITY DAY CELEBRATION

On Sunday, June 24th the ITACC celebrated Community Day at the site. By the God's grace the weather was perfect and the participation was overwhelming. More than 450 people including children came and enjoyed the Bollywood music by talented local artist and terrific food from local restaurants. All guests were impressed by the progress on the center and the completion of the foundation, floor. They were also impressed by the truck-loads of steel beams – promising more progress in the near future. Steel work is expected to start in 1st week of July and will be completed in 40 to 60 days. Clearly, our Cultural Center is no longer dream but is fast becoming a reality.

Cultural Center Board respectfully asks you to do your fair share and be a part of this historical event in South Jersey. Our Cultural Center is not just for us to enjoy, but will be enjoyed by many future generations yet to come.

Cordially
ICC Board

ITA Scholarship: First Prize Winner's Essay—Ms. Kavya Bodapati

Do we really need a God?

For thousands of years, human beings have encountered events that are often unexplainable, and have turned to a higher power to help them through times of need. Throughout history, people have often accepted the fact that some things are out of their own control and have turned their fate over to God. This can be seen in many different religions, most prominently in Judaism, Hinduism, Christianity, and Islam. In Christianity, followers must put their faith in God and trust the Lord. They pray to God to show them the correct path to lead a just life. Similarly, followers of Islam abide by their holy book, the Qur'an, which communicates the words of God and shows them the righteous path of life. Judaism preaches that its followers follow God's path of loving and caring for one another in order to achieve unity amongst mankind. Lastly, Hindus believe that God, in many forms, is the creator, preserver and destroyer of the universe. God, who is all pervasive, omnipresent and omnipotent, imparts knowledge to those who seek answers, leading them on to a path of a fulfilled life.

God is needed to help people who are seeking answers to questions, both big and small. Questions such as "why are we here?" and "where did we come from?" have been asked for centuries, with no definite answers, even with all of the advancements in science. Because of the proof-less nature of these topics, there was no clearer answer than that God, or a higher power, had played a role in making the universe what it is. Seventeenth century philosopher, Blaisé Pascal, suggested that, because God's existence cannot be proven or disproved, "there is much to be gained from wagering that God exists and little to be gained from wagering that God doesn't exist". Pascal's Wager ultimately states that belief in God's existence can only improve a person's life by allowing them to feel secure in the fact that a higher power is watching over them. Therefore, disbelief in God will leave people feeling hopeless and alone in times of struggle. When people feel a sense of loss of control in their lives, they turn to God to help them through rough times.

Historically speaking, prayers to God have helped oppressed groups and people find peace and achieve freedom and justice. Just the prayers to God for His blessings give them the strength to fight for their cause. An illustrious example of a person who deeply believed in spirituality to reach his goal of justice is Mahatma Gandhi. Gandhi ji, who was greatly influenced by the Bhagavad Gita, felt that one could attain self-realization by "dedicating all activities to God, and by surrendering oneself to Him, body and soul." Gandhi ji firmly believed that one who prays to God selflessly will be helped and protected. In fact, he believed so strongly in the power of God to protect His devotees that he stated, "One who has any Faith in God should be ashamed to worry about anything whatsoever."

There is no single answer to why we really need God. However, in the words of a spiritual preacher, it is because of "humanity's overall longing for something beyond what we see. It's this longing that causes people to turn to religion for answers" and therefore to God for guidance. Simply put, we as human beings need a higher power to put our faith in and to lead us through the unknown, whether it is specific questions or life itself. As for me, starting a new life in college and away from home this fall, I will always feel secure with the belief that in moments of stress I can find solace in praying to God and believing that he will lead me in the right direction. Swami Vivekananda beautifully sums up the philosophical question on why we need God: "All that is real in me is God; all that is real in God is I. The gulf between God and me is thus bridged. Thus by knowing God, we find that the kingdom of heaven is within us".

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 a.m. at our temple in Berlin

Contact: Virendra Gupta @ (856) 424-9313

GITA STUDY GROUP:

Every Tuesday & Wednesday, 8-9 p.m. at our Berlin temple

Contact: Sharad Pimplaskar @ (856) 985-4785

BHAJANS & STUTI:

Every Friday, 7:30-9 p.m.

Contact: Shree Shuklaji (856) 768-6785

Regular Programs for Children and Youth

BAL VIHAR: For children (ages 4-13), to promote a positive Hindu identity within the diverse U.S. culture.

2nd & 4th Sunday @ 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Contact: Lata Pimplaskar (856) 985-4785, Bhavesh Patel 1-855-my-mandir ext 3, Rina Patel (856) 313-5235 for registration and location

YOUTH PROGRAM: A program for young adults (ages 13-18) and parents. 2nd & 4th Sunday, 9:45 a.m. - 1 p.m. at our Temple in Berlin.

Contact: Sharad Pimplaskar at (856) 985-4785 or Sangeeta Rashatwar at (856) 424-4211

CREATIVE ART WORKSHOP

1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday @ 9:30 a.m. at our temple in Berlin

Contact: Narendra Amin (856) 429-8761

PUJA SERVICE CHARGES, TEMPLE FACILITIES USAGE FEE AND OTHER CHARGES:

The following provides list of applicable charges and fees.

Shri Shuklaji will be available for religious services on request. Please check temple availability at www.indiatemple.org;

Click on "CALENDAR tab" and, from drop-down menu, Click on "EVENT/RENTAL CALENDAR". **Please contact Smt. Chetna Giyanani or Smt. Anoo Joshi at 1-855-MY-MANDIR Ext 1 for the booking of the Temple Facilities and/or scheduling of Puja Services by Shuklaji.**

PUJA SERVICE	INSIDE TEMPLE	OUTSIDE TEMPLE	Following listed fees and charges are in addition to the charges listed for Puja Services
Archana (Panchopachar)	\$11	N/A	<p><u>TEMPLE FACILITIES USAGE FEE</u> Prayer Hall: \$200 Social Hall: \$300</p> <p><u>OTHER CHARGES</u></p> <p><u>MILEAGE TIER</u> \$0 for 1 - 25 mile radius \$51 for 26 - 100 mile radius \$101 for 101 - 150 mile radius \$151 for 151 - 200 mile radius</p> <p><u>NON-MEMBER</u> \$51 for non-member surcharge</p>
Vahan (Vehicle) Puja	\$21	N/A	
Namakaran/Annaprashan	\$51	\$101	
Birthday	\$51	\$101	
Shraddha	\$51	\$101	
Anniversary Celebration	\$101	\$151	
Seemant	\$101	\$151	
Kesh Mundan Puja	\$101	\$151	
Sodashopchar, Kalash Puja, Punyah-Vachan or Blessings	\$101	\$151	
Satyanarayan Puja	\$121	\$151	
Engagement Ceremony	\$101	\$201	
Havan/Grah Shanti	\$201	\$251	
Vastu Puja - outside service only	N/A	\$251	
Wedding Grah Shanti	\$201	\$301	
Wedding Ceremony per day	\$301	\$351	
Upanayan/Yagnopavita	\$251	\$301	
Antim Rites (Funeral Service)	Voluntary Donation		\$151 for 151 - 200 mile radius
Uttar Kriya per day - outside service only	N/A	\$101	
Yagna/Laghu Rudra - outside service only	N/A	\$351	
Navchandi Yagna - outside service only	N/A	\$651	

NOTE: Charges and availability of other Puja Services not listed above may be discussed with Smt. Chetna Giyanani at 1-855-MY-MANDIR Ext 1

DIRECTION TO BERLIN TEMPLE

A. From Tacony Bridge:

Take NJ route 73S; drive for about 12 - 13 miles and follow signs for East Taunton Avenue. Temple is on your right

B. From Ben Franklin Bridge:

Take route 30E to NJ route 70E to NJ route 73S, drive for about 7 miles and follow signs for East Taunton Avenue. Temple is on your right

C. From Walt Whitman Bridge or Delaware Memorial Bridge:

Take I-295N to Exit 29-A for route 30E to Berlin Twp. Turn left on East Taunton Avenue

D. From Central and North Jersey:

Take NJ Turnpike South. Exit 4 for route 73S. Drive for about 10 - 11 miles and follow signs for East Taunton Avenue on your right



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PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP IF IT SHOWS "EXPIRED" OR YEAR MARKED
2011 OR EARLIER IN ADDRESS LABEL

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Darshan Schedule

Morning

7:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Evening

6 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Aarti

12 p.m. & 8 p.m.

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. M. Kanzaria**

I/We would like to join India Temple Association and I/We are remitting the membership dues
(please select one) Individual or Family one year (\$51) _____
Individual or Family five year (\$151) _____
Life (\$1,001) _____

I/ We are seniors, age 65 and above and would like to join India Temple Association. I am/We are
remitting the membership dues
(please select one) Individual or Family Five year (\$25) _____
Life (\$101) _____

I am adding additional donations:
_____ Scholarship Fund _____ Lifetime Seva (\$301) _____ Temple Renovations
_____ Seva Samiti Fund _____ Bal Vihar Fund _____ Youth Fund

I am relocating to the following address

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____