

**THE CONSITUTION OF THE  
INDIA TEMPLE ASSOCATION, INC.**

**ARTICLE I: NAME**

The name of the organization will be "India Temple Association" (ITA). The word "Association" in the charter shall be interpreted to imply "India Temple Association". The term "Hindu Temple & Cultural Center, Delaware Valley" also refers to the Association.

**ARTICLE II: PLACE**

The principal place of meetings shall be at the Hindu Temple on 25 E. Taunton Avenue, Berlin, New Jersey 08009.

**ARTICLE III: OBJECTIVE**

The primary Objectives of the India Temple Association are:

- A. To maintain places of worship and centers for cultural activities;
- B. To provide a platform for religious and cultural activities through which the Hindu religion, philosophy and way of life may flourish;
- C. To form a charitable and educational organization that will promote social, cultural, and religious understanding based on peace, love, justice, truth, and harmony; engender friendship and goodwill among all people; and perform social services such as, but not limited to providing free medical help to needy families, providing educational grants/loans to needy families, providing social services to the elderly, conducting educational/guidance programs for children to teach them good family and social values;
- D. To follow the teaching of the Bhagavat Gita, Vedic and Vedantic texts, Bhagvatam and Puranas, Ramayana, Mahabharata, Yoga abhyasa, and other Hindu traditions and scriptures with acceptance of all names and forms of God as the manifestations of the Absolute; and
- E. To continue to remain as a non-profit institution under the New Jersey non- profit corporation act and a federal tax-exempt organization under the Internal Revenue Code.

## **ARTICLE IV: PROHIBITIONS**

- A. No part of the net earnings or other funds of the Association shall inure to the benefit of, or distribution to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except when the Association through due process and in accordance with Section 4958 of the Internal Revenue Code determines that reasonable compensation for services or goods is appropriate. Such rendered goods or services should be consistent with furtherance of the Objectives set forth in Article III of this Constitution.
- B. No substantial part of the activities of the Association shall be the carrying on of propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation and the Association shall not participate in or intervene in (including the publishing and distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for public office.
- C. The Association also shall not conduct activities that would cause the Association to lose its status as an exempt entity under 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law) or cause contributions to the Association to no longer be deductible under section 170 (c) (2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law).

## **ARTICLE V: CORE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The Core Executive Committee of this Association shall include at least 5 members including, a President, at least one (1) Vice- President, and one (1) Treasurer. The remaining members of Core Executive Committee should be as defined in the By-Laws of this Association. The role and responsibilities of the Core Executive Committee shall be outlined in the By-Laws of this Association.

## **ARTICLE VI: BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

The Board of Trustees shall consist of a maximum of twenty-four (24) elected members. Trustee eligibility and election procedure shall be defined in the By-Laws of the Association. The Board of Trustees shall direct all the policies of the Association. The role and responsibilities of the Board of Trustees will be defined in the By-Laws of the Association.

## **ARTICLE VII: MEMBERSHIP**

Any person of legal age who agrees with the Objectives of the Association as defined in Article III (above) and meets and maintains the criteria for a Member in Good Standing as described in the By-Laws may be a Member.

## **ARTICLE VIII: GENERAL BODY AND AMENDMENTS**

- A. The General Body shall consist of all Members of the Association in good standing. The Core Executive Committee shall keep a current list of Members in Good Standing. This list should be approved by the Board of Trustees annually, or more frequently as deemed necessary by the Board of Trustees. This approved list will be deemed to be the full and complete list of the Members constituting the General Body of the Association.
- B. Only the General Body, as the primary organ of the Association, shall be empowered to ratify any amendments to the Constitution or By-Laws of the Association. The Board of Trustees can propose amendments to the By-Laws or Constitution and present these Amendments to the General Body for ratification. The Board of Trustees must seek ratification of any proposed amendments to the By-Laws or Constitution at or before the next Annual Body Meeting.
- C. Except as specified elsewhere in the Constitution, ratification of amendments to the Constitution and/or By-Laws of the Association requires a two-thirds affirmative vote from participating Members in Good Standing and also requires that at least 10% of total eligible Members in Good Standing cast a vote (quorum). General Body Members must be provided at least 30 days' notice of a vote where amendments to the Constitution or By-Laws are to be voted upon and Members also must be provided access to proposed amendments to the By-Laws and/or Constitution. The General Body Meeting location, time and date should meet a standard of reasonableness. Articles I & II of the Constitution can be amended only by a 2/3 majority of the total Membership of the Association.

## **ARTICLE IX: FUNDING FOR ACTIVITIES**

Separate committees shall conduct the religious and social activities of the Association. The funds for social and charitable activities will be collected, tracked and spent separately from the funds collected for the religious and for the cultural activities. The Board of trustees may authorize funds collected for specific cultural or charitable activity to be disseminated for that purpose, without prejudice, to a duly authorized association organized for such purposes to the extent that it does not conflict with the objective outlined in Section III (E) of the Constitution.

## **ARTICLE X: DISSOLUTION**

In the event that the Association is no longer deemed viable, the Board of Trustee may vote to dissolve the Association. The dissolution resolution would require 85% or greater affirmative vote of the Trustees in good standing. Upon dissolution of the Association, the Board of Trustees shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all liabilities of the Association, dispose of all of the assets of the Association exclusively for the purpose of the Association in such manner, or to such organization(s) organized and operated exclusively for Hindu religious, educational, charitable, or scientific purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization(s) under section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), as the Board of Trustees shall determine. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the Superior Court, Chancery Division, of the county in which the principal office of the Association is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization(s), as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.