



Satsang Sandesh

India Temple Association, Inc.

Hindu Temple, 25 E. Taunton Ave, Berlin, NJ 08009
(Non-Profit Tax Exempt Organization, Tax ID # 22-2192491)

Vol. 47 No. 4 (855) MYMANDIR (855-696-2634) www.indiatemple.org APRIL 2020

Religious Calendar

- 3-May Mohini Ekadashi
7-May Buddha Jayanti (year 2644) / Satyanarayana Puja
16-May Sunderkand Path
18-May Aparna Ekadashi
30-May American Cancer Relay
2-June Nirjala Ekadashi / Bheem Agiyaras /
2-June Shri Gayatri Jayanti / Satyanarayana Puja
2-June Saint Kabir Jayanti
17-June Yogini Ekadashi

Temple Hours

Closed
Until further notice
Phone: (856) 768-3134

Satyanarayan Puja

May-7 (Online)

Sunderkand Path

May-16 (Online)

See live Aarti and Events

Subscribe to ITA's YouTube channel - <https://www.youtube.com/user/>

Events

As a result of COVID-19, all Temple events and programs on or before May 31st have been cancelled. The pujaris will also not be performing any pujas at the Temple or outside of the Temple. The Temple is currently closed and we will reopen the temple when it is safe to do so. In the meantime we will continue to stream various events over the internet and provide access to event recordings on ITA's YouTube channel. These actions are being taken to protect the community. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation during these uncertain times. We will continue to update the Temple community via emails.

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 or Shri Sudhir Jhaji 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.

Nanu Maisuria	2-May	Sushil & Kamala Chandra	19-May
Narendra H Amin	5-May	Sharad Pandya	19-May
Harendra Dave	5-May	Upendra & Rekha Shah	25-May
Rajubhai Patel	5-May	Mahesh Dixit	26-May
Shreyansi M Shah	8-May	Tejas & Priti Patel	26-May
Sudhaben Patel	9-May	Siddhi Vasa	26-May
Bhal Patel	10-May	Pooja & Jayesh Khatiwala	27-May
Iti Bar	11-May	Naresh & Amita Talati	27-May
Narsinh Sangani	15-May	Ishvar Patel	28-May
Natwarlal Contractor	16-May	Nishtha Patel-Hudson	28-May
Ruchi Talati Shah	16-May	Monil & Dipti Pandya	29-May
Mahendra Jaiswal	17-May	Jayanti & Kalaben Patel	29-May
Upendra & Rekha Shah	17-May	Jayant Pandya	31-May

VIKRAM SAMVAT 2076 / 2020 CALENDAR AVAILABLE ONLINE AT
<https://www.indiatemple.org/>

PROGRAMS FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH, HEALTH, HAPPINESS & GOD REALIZATION

Vishnu Sahasranamam and Lalitha Sahasranamam will be recited on 1st Friday of each month starting at 10:30 AM.
Please recite from home to receive blessings

Satya Sai Baba of Medford Bhajans 3rd Friday of each month from 8-9pm on Zoom
Contact P.K. Prabhakar (856) 596 3147/ Sessa Vemuri (856) 751 0687 for details.

Bhajan Sandya by SJ Bhajan Mandali Group led by Venu Gopal Verma.

Bhagavat Gita Study organized by Sharad Pimplaskar (856) 466 1430.

ITA Senior Social Group

Contact Vinita Ganju (609) 744 8558 to learn about online activities.

Yoga and Pranayama Classes at Berlin Mandir

Program currently cancelled

Contacts: Dr. Veena Gandhi (856) 816 4095 & Hina Desai (856) 435 9148

Condolences

Shri K.V. Viswanathan, father of Temple Trustee Shri Ramesh Viswanathan, passed away on April 13th, 2020. He is survived by his 2 children, four grand children and one great grand daughter. ITA and its trustees extend their sincere condolences to Viswanathan family.

Smt. Kamalaben Keshavlal Patel, mother of ITA member Kalaben Jayanti Patel, passed away on April 23rd, 2020 at the age of 90. She is survived by eight children, sixteen grand children and seventeen great grand children. ITA and its trustees extend their sincere condolences to Patel family.

ITA Founding member Shri Ashvin M. Shah of Wilmington, DE, passed away on April 25th, 2020 at the age of 79. He is survived by his wife Devyani, 2 sons and four grandchildren. ITA and its trustees extend their sincere condolences to Shah family.

Smt. Neera Arora, mother of ITA member Varun Arora, passed away on Sunday April 26 at the age of 69. She is survived by her husband, 2 sons and three granddaughters. ITA and its trustees extend their sincere condolences to Arora family.

PROGRAMS FOR SENIORS BY HSC OF NJ

The 2 HSCSJ meetings in the month of May have been cancelled due to Corona Virus (COVID 19) concerns and advisory from the Government Agencies - Virendra K. Gupta & HSC EC Team

2020 I.T.A. SCHOLARSHIP

Purpose: To support the I.T.A. community by giving scholarships to graduating senior students who have demonstrated dedication and significant contribution to the I.T.A.

Description: Up to two scholarships worth \$1000 each will be awarded to graduating high school seniors whose families are current members of the I.T.A. Each will be renewable for up to 3 additional years based on meeting maintenance criteria and available funding. The scholarship can be used at a 2 or 4-year accredited institution for undergraduate studies related to tuition or books only.

Eligibility:

- * Applicant's family must be a current I.T.A. member
- * Demonstration of engagement at the Temple **will be weighed heavily:** examples are participation in Balvihar -Youth Program, volunteering at the Temple, participation in ITA sponsored events such as fundraising, cultural programs and community events, etc.
- * Applicant must be a current senior at a local high school with plans to enroll full-time in an accredited 2 or 4 year college in the United States.
- * A completed application form

Contact: Amit Patel at amitmpatel75@gmail.com or 301-785-1170 for details and scholarship application form.

SENIOR APPLICATION DEADLINE: Postmark by June 1, 2020

RENEWAL APPLICATION DEADLINE: Postmark by June 1, 2020

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Jai Shri Krishna!

It is with great sadness that I report COVID-19 impact has reached South Jersey and it's devastating effects will only become more pronounced as infections rise. We already have some community members that are infected and are fighting for their lives and others that have lost the fight and passed away. For them, I ask you pray for their rapid recovery and eternal peace. For those of you that are vulnerable, as a result of age or a medical condition (as I am), I ask that you stay vigilant and focused. Avoid placing yourself in risky situations even for short window. This disease does not take even a minute's pause and neither can your caution.

We have hundreds of doctors, nurses, other health professionals and essential workers in our community. They and their families are making daily sacrifices. They are on the frontlines, selflessly serving and saving others while exposing themselves and their families to the risks of this disease. They are heroes. Please pray for God to give them the strength and resilience to continue to deliver their best while managing the stress and sadness that comes with situations when their best is not enough. Reach out to them, their spouses and kids with kinds words of appreciation and concern. It is an easy gesture of gratitude for those that are able to sit safe at home to offer those that are facing incredible daily challenges.

For our part, the ITA is continuing to adapt and to find new ways to fulfil its mission during this unconventional time. We have continued to help those that need help with groceries, medicines and errands. We have mailed masks to seniors and community members who need them. We have launched the ITA YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/user/indiatemple) and are broadcasting live Aarti and daily prayers. We are also leveraging this channel to provide helpful educational and social content to seniors and lessons for our Balvihar program. Over 200 people visit the site daily. We are also resuming the weekly Senior meeting over Zoom. On April 19th, we held our first Balvihar session over Zoom. We had 15 classes, 250 students, and over 30 teachers delivering our curriculum live. We are also piloting Free Remote pujas starting this month. If you are interested in being part of our test, please contact Anoo Joshi at (856) 577 3631.

In times of crisis, it is critical for us to contribute to the broader community. Based on this goal, the ITA is partnering with a different local charity every month to bring visibility and raise funds for their cause. We are asking members with the ability to donate to support these charities along with the ITA and a donor that will match at least \$2,500 of member donations. Our hope is that every month, collectively we will raise \$5,000-\$10,000 for these worth causes. In April, we raised over \$19,000 for South Jersey Food bank. I am proud of the generosity that our community has demonstrated and appreciative of the matching donors help. This month, we are supporting Cathedral Kitchen which delivers meals to low income children, elderly and unemployed. Additional details to follow in forthcoming email.

If you are in need of assistance or know someone that is, please have them reach out to any member of the Executive Team and we will do our best to support them or connect them to helpful resources in a confidential manner. Regardless of the duration of these extraordinary circumstances, the ITA will continue to do our best to serve the community and fulfill its mission. If you have any concerns or are interested in joining us in service, please feel to reach out to me.

Sincerely,
Pankaj Desai, ITA President
psdyes1961@gmail.com / (609) 332-3947

ITA Balvihar Program Enrollment for 2020/21 Year Start May 16th

Purpose: To teach Vedic Heritage and Indian Culture to children (Pre-K to 8th Grade).

Additional Program Details: https://www.indiatemple.org/bal_vihar.php

Timing: 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM two Sundays a month starting on September 20th and ending on May 2nd

Location: Marlton Middle School (150 Tomlinson Mill Road, Marlton, NJ)

Fees / Enrollment: (ITA MEMBERSHIP REQUIRED)

May 16th to June 1st Early Enrollment: \$174

After June 1st: Regular Enrollment: \$211

Space in the program is **VERY** limited. We encourage community members to enroll early. Please explore the Balvihar webpage for the calendar, curriculum and greater program details.

The website is https://www.indiatemple.org/bal_vihar.php

Questions? Email bvadmin@indiatemple.org or call Samir Patel at 201-657-8661.



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Vijesh Darji

855-my-mandir x 716
facility@indiatemple.org

Audit / Compliance
Bhumika Kundu

856-577-4925
audit@indiatemple.org

Temple Hours

Monday - Friday

9 am - 1 pm

4 pm - 8:30 pm

Saturday & Sunday

9 am to 9 pm

Aarti

12 pm & 8 pm

Times may change during
special occasions

**If back door is locked,
please try front door, ring
bell or call
(856) 768-3134.**

Send address changes or Membership renewals to:

ATTN: VP of Information at 25 E. Taunton Ave. Berlin, NJ 08009 or email vpinfo@indiatemple.org

PUJA SERVICE & TEMPLE RENTAL FEES

Shri Shuklaji /Shri Sudhirji perform religious services on request. Please contact Anoo Joshi at (855) MY-MANDIR Ext 715 to schedule a Puja Service or Rental of Temple facilities.

<u>Puja Services</u>	<u>MEMBER</u>		<u>NON-MEMBER</u>	
	Inside Temple	Outside* Temple	Inside Temple	Outside* Temple
Archana	\$11		\$11	
Vahan Pooja	\$25		\$25	
Namkaran/Annaprashan	\$51	\$101	\$101	\$151
Birthday	\$51	\$101	\$101	\$151
Shradha	\$51	\$101	\$101	\$151
Anniversary Celebration	\$101	\$151	\$151	\$201
Kesh Mundan	\$101	\$151	\$151	\$201
Satyanarayan Pooja	\$121	\$151	\$201	\$251
Engagement Ceremony	\$101	\$201	\$151	\$251
Havan/Graha Shanti	\$201	\$251	\$251	\$301
Vastu Pooja-Outside Only		\$251		\$301
Wedding per day	\$401	\$501	\$501	\$551
Upanayan/Yagnopavit	\$251	\$301	\$301	\$351
Uttarkriya Per day -Outside Only		\$151		\$201
Yagna/laghu rudra-Outside Only		\$351		\$401
Navchandi Yagna-Outside Only		\$651		\$701
Antim Kriya		No Charge		No Charge

*\$.58/ mile charge applied when puja requires greater than 20 miles of travel.

In addition to their base salary, Pujaris receive 50% of Outside Puja Services payment as compensation.

Facility Rental Fees

	<u>Member</u>	<u>Non-Member</u>
Prayer Hall Rental	\$201	\$251
Social Hall Rental	\$301	\$351