



# Satsang Sandesh

## India Temple Association, Inc.

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

Vol. 64 No. 1 Phone: (855) MYMANDIR (855-696-2634) www.indiatemple.org DECEMBER 2015

### Religious Calendar

- December 6 Sunday  
• Utpatti Ekadashi  
December 12 Saturday  
• Margashirsha  
December 21 Monday  
• Mokshada Ekadashi / Geeta Jayanti  
• Geeta Paath in Temple  
December 24 Thursday  
• Shri Duttathej Jayanti / Purnima

### Monthly Activities

- Kshamatemple@gmail.com  
December 19, Saturday  
• Sunderkand Path 10am  
December 24, Thursday  
• Shri Satyanarayan Pooja 6pm

### Monthly Bhajans

- December 18 Friday 8-9 pm  
• Satya Sai Baba of Medford  
P.K.Prabhakar 856-596-3147  
Sesha Vemuri 856-751-0867

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## General Body Meeting and Election of Trustees Sunday, December 13, 2015 at 4:00 PM

- Bhajans from 4:00 to 5:30 PM  
President's Opening Speech followed by Key Trustees' presentation of certain important ITA activities  
Question/Answer session from the floor  
Election Committees' Findings and Results  
Aarti and Trustees' Sponsored Dinner

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### 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.*

• Akshaybhai & Savitaben Patel	Dec 01	Nayan Shah	Dec 21
• Pravina Gohel	Dec 05	Jagdish Shah	Dec 22
• Snehlata Jani	Dec 09	Nagindas/Champaben Shah	Dec 23
• Maya & Mamta Kanzaria	Dec 09	Vijay & Asha Gupta	Dec 25
• Arun Maheswari	Dec 09	Satish Shah	Dec 25
• Rajendra Pandya	Dec 09	Natwar Desai	Dec 28
• Dev Dani	Dec 12	Panambur & Mitra Kini	Dec 28
• Akshay Nandakumar	Dec 12	Mahendra Topran	Dec 28
• Jelabhai Patel	Dec 13	Kavita Gupta	Dec 30
• Rukhmanidevi Tekrival	Dec 15	Amita and Naresh Talati	Dec 31
• Jaysinh Chandriani	Dec 18	Navin K. Gupta, Pramila Mitra	One Day
• Sheela Kapoor	Dec 18	Manibhai Patel, Raj Patel	One Day
• K.S. Krishnan	Dec 18	Rajiv Verma	One Day
• Laxman P Singh	Dec 18	Navin Gupta	One Day
• Naresh Talati	Dec 20		

### **Condolences**

Girishbhai Kothari passed away in Singapore at age 92, who was INA (Indian National Army) Officer and father of Seva Samiti volunteer Shobha Jhonsa and Sadhana Kothari. ITA and its Board extend their sincere condolences to their families.

### **From Me to You**

Pranams!  
The question of rebirth, or life after death, has remained an enigma through the ages. Human knowledge is hardly capable of answering all the problems that life foreshadows. Today we have a perpetual demand for concrete evidence. The obvious answer is to wait until one dies and then one will know for sure!

The doctrine of cause and effect and the consequent inevitability of rebirth has been the core of the Hindu philosophy. A question naturally arises, if one is to believe that his/her present life is resultant of the actions done in his/her previous birth, what was it that caused that previous birth? Well, another previous birth. But what was the cause of that birth, again?

One way is have to fall back upon the law of evolution and say that in the long, distant past we had been once animals and from those strata of life we became human beings. But the question would again arise that in order to justify the theory of cause and effect, there must have been some cause as well to be born as human beings, and since animals have no intellect to judge between virtues and vice, how could we be held responsible for our birth into the family of human kind? It does not matter; let us tentatively accept that God must have been the original cause responsible. But, believing in the theory of cause and effect, how indeed, could God be so unjust and undeniably become the original cause for all the suffering, conflict and unhappiness that we must undergo, born as we are as human beings?

There is no answer for the original cause. The best course is: Be good and do good, believe in a good conscience and respect the worthiness of the individual and the ethics of life, leaving the rest to God. Thought decides action and action decides destiny. Let us therefore cultivate noble thoughts and render every possible service towards our Mandir.

धन्यवादः  
Ramesh Viswanathan

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**Senior Citizens' Program**  
**Hindu Senior Citizens of South Jersey**

**Friday, Dec. 4 (Annual Function)**

Starting at 4 pm until midnight is going to be a grand function with special performances and entertainment. The program will be held in the main hall of ICC. The program includes cocktails, HSCSJ presentations such as introducing the new officers for the next term, skits by senior members. This will be followed by welcoming of invited dignitaries, dinner and music performance by artists visiting from India. We expect a large audience of about 300 persons at the occasion. The entry is limited to HSCSJ members and special invitees. The HSCSJ members need to pre-register. The \$10 tickets are already sold. All the remaining tickets are for \$15 per person. For further information please contact Ram Arora <ram.arora1942@gmail.com>. The program is co-sponsored through the generosity of Dr. Rajendra Patel.

S. Gambhir  
President HSCSJ

## Monthly Pujas at Mandir



It is a pleasure to read Sunderkand Path on Saturday December 19, at 10am and to perform Satyanarayan puja on Thursday December 24, at 6pm at our Temple with family and friends.

We invite you to join us and perform Satyanarayan puja every Purnima day with family and friends and receive the blessings of Almighty God. Donations are welcome. Suggested donation is \$ 31. It is followed by Mahaprasad generously sponsored by Indian Villa.



Please join us for Sunderkand Path held on third Saturday of every month followed by Mahaprasad generously sponsored by Gagan Palace.

Jai Krishna, Kshama

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## Uddhava Gita Study

Starting: December 1, 2015.; Time / Place: Tuesdays 8 PM – 9PM, ITA Temple, Berlin, NJ

Besides Bhagavat Gita, there are many “Gita’s” in our scriptural literature and all of them are worth reading for a student of Vedanta. Each one of them is a discourse of Upanishadic teachings. Of these other Gitas, Uddhava Gita holds a particular significance for a person who already is a devotee of The Lord but is confused about what makes it meaningful and its goal. Bhakti is more than devotion. In the vision of The Lord presented in Uddhava Gita, Bhakti takes on a greater significance. The teaching is even more important for us because of the very place in Shri Bhagavatam where it appears.

As Bhagavan Shri Krishna is about to conclude his Avatar on this earth with the self-destruction of the Vrishni clan at Prabhasa, His childhood companion, cousin, and Bhakta, Uddhava, follows Him to a lonely place and pleads Him not to leave. What follows is a beautiful, heartening, enlightening and the final teachings of the Lord to His dearest devotee. This, one of the final chapters of Shri Bhagavatam, is worth learning for every devotee of Lord Krishna and even the most ascetic Vedanta student who may have intellectually accomplished the study of the Vedas and yet may have missed its very glue to the human heart. As Shri Shankaracharya has said, Jnanam without Bhakti is like a wick burning in a lamp without the oil.

Please come and join in the study of this unique Gita study at our temple starting Tuesday, December 1, 2015 at 8:00 PM. For more information, please contact Sharad Pimplaskar at (856) 985-4785 or, sharad.pimplaskar@gmail.com.

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## Senior Social Group

Senior Social Group(SSG) will meet every Tuesday at 1pm in the Social Hall at Berlin Temple. Please contact Mr. Bhulabhai Bhaktaji at [8569830769](tel:8569830769) for details.

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## GOOD NEWS

The Board of Trustees (BOT) is very pleased to announce the purchase of adjoining property at 61 Haynes Avenue, Berlin, NJ. Prior Trustee Boards were trying to purchase this property and, in the year 2000, had officially granted approval for such a purchase to increase the number of parking spots and create two separate residences for our fulltime Pujaries. Finally, the current BOT overwhelmingly approved such a purchase and took possession on August 3, 2015.

Preliminary meetings with township officials, solicitor and engineer were very promising. Our team is working on to getting the site plans prepared and approved. Recently, we cleared the rear areas of both the properties and took advantage of open land during our Pran Pratishtha celebration. BOT will provide further updates as they become available.

## General Body Meeting – Format

To our respected community members,

Pranams. As informed earlier, our general body meeting will commence on December 13 – Sunday starting 4:00 pm with Bhajans. Around 5:30 pm, the regular business will begin. Mentioned below is the format that will be adhered to.

The President will give an opening speech – a very brief one and then he will invite some of the key folks to talk about their contributions this year for the betterment of our Mandir. The following trustees will take the stage.

Bhavesh – Talk about Bal Vihar – the paradigm shift in the way BV is conducted now

Govind/Jagdish/Harshad – Accounting and reconciliation of all the membership items

Charu/Kshama – The programs and the success

Divyakant – Purchase of property, Pran Pratishta, and Pujari services

Devang – Navratri

Lalit/Praveen – Youth

Shobna – Treasury items

Seva Samiti Updates

Throw the floor open for questions-answers session

We will make every effort to respond to all the queries. In the event, we are unable to answer any of the queries due to the constraints of time, the members are requested to direct their queries via email to any of the trustees and these will be answered in a timely manner.

Election committee will present the findings of the election of the trustees to the new board of ITA.

This will be followed by dinner, one that is sponsored by the current board of trustees.

Last but not the least, I and our trustees bow to you all for giving us the opportunity to serve you to the extent possible.

Jai Shree Krishna

Ramesh Viswanathan

Seat	Zone	Zone Service notes	Eligible for re-election – renewal of Seat / Zone  Y – Trustee is eligible to be re-elected N – Trustee is ineligible for re-election of additional term. Maximum of 3 consecutive terms served.
1	East	Dhiraj Panda	N
1	West	Govind Modi	N
1	Open	Pankaj Desai	N
1	South	Kshama Raghuveer	Y
1	Open	Charuben Sheth	Y
1	North	Ashvin Patel	Y
1	Open	Prahlad Patel	Y
1	Founding	Jagdish Shah	Y
1	East	VACANT	Term 2015-2017

## Youth Group by Raj Saraiya

Youth Session 3 was another fun and lively meeting. We started the meeting off by talking about how Diwali was upcoming, and we discussed traditions that our families perform for Diwali. We talked about the significance of Diwali, and how important of an event it is for Indian People. Next, we did a little bit of yoga, and then jumped right into the main activity for the day- a debate. The debate was coordinated by a former youth participant- Amisha Vadalía. She had come up with a list, with many ‘situational’ questions that made us really think about what side we would choose. After choosing our side, we had to justify our reasons, and explain why the other side was not suitable. There were many questions, such as:

1. Would you rather be doing something you love, with a low income, or doing something you hate, with a very high income?
2. Should America be stricter with border control?
3. Would you rather be really tall, or really short?
4. What should America do about the Syrian Immigrant Crisis?
5. Should violent video games be banned?

There were many more questions and all were very fun and engaging. After the questions, we all gathered up and discussed our day once again. We ended our day by eating tacos from taco bell. All in all, Session 3 was a blast!

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## BAL VIHAR SESSION OF NOV.22<sup>ND</sup>, 2015 by Sriram Kiron

We had our regular Balvihar session on Nov.22, 2015. Students from 4<sup>th</sup> grade onwards stay for the prayers and yoga session, while kids from Pre-K through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade go to their respective class rooms first and do the yoga session later. We started off our session by chanting our prayers. Malathi Aunty then recapped about what we were talking about in our previous session. We talked about what we are made up of, our intellect, our mind and our physical body. She then told us a story about a boy called Gopala , who would call upon Krishna with devotion when he was scared of the dark forest on his way to school , and Krishna would come daily whenever he called him and help him get through the dark forest. This story shows us that whenever you call upon God with devotion, God will come to your rescue. After this , we did Yoga Session with Babita Aunty, which was very energizing. We then headed off to our classrooms. At 12.10 pm, we all gathered together for the aarthy session . The third and fourth graders performed aarthy this week. After aarthy, we all headed off for lunch; it was Pavbhaaji this week for lunch. We all enjoyed our lunch !! We had an eventful and fun-filled Balvihar session.

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### *A note to our community*

*If you are not receiving the ITA event/emergency bulletins via our established ITA temple Yahoo group E mails, please send your request to Ramesh Viswanathan at [rameshv@iitbombay.org](mailto:rameshv@iitbombay.org). You will be receiving an invitation to subscribe to this group and once you accept the invite, your E mail address will get added. Thank you  
Please note that ITA has never sold or made available the E mail addresses to anyone.*





## 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 Mandir

Contact: Surendra Sheth@ (856) 985-3700

### GITA STUDY GROUP:

Every Tuesday & Wednesday, 8-9 pm at our Mandir

Contact: Sharad Pimplaskar @ (856) 985-4785

### BHAJANS & STUTI:

Every Friday, 7:30-9 pm

Contact: Shree Shuklaji or Shri Sudhirji (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 am - 1 pm

Contact: Malathi Shankar (856) 424-7849, and Bhavesh Patel 1-855-my-mandir ext 3 for registration and location

**YOUTH PROGRAM:** A program for young adults (ages 13-18) and parents. 2nd & 4th Sunday, 9:45 am - 1 pm at our Mandir.

Contact: Praveen Garg at (856) 783-4692 or Sangeeta

Rashatwar at (856) 424-4211

### CREATIVE ART WORKSHOP

1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday @ 9:30 am at our Mandir

Contact: Sudha Patel (856)489-4065

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

**The following provides list of applicable charges and fees.** Shri Shuklaji /Shri Sudhirji will be available for religious services on request. Please note that 50% of the listed cost of Puja performed outside the temple goes to Pujari in addition to his regular salary. Please check temple availability at [www.indiatemple.org](http://www.indiatemple.org); Click on "CALENDAR tab" and, from drop-down menu, Click on "EVENT/RENTAL CALENDAR". **Please contact Shri. Divyakant Parikh at 1-855-MY-MANDIR Ext 1 for the booking of the Temple Facilities and/or scheduling of Puja Services by Shuklaji or Sudhirji.**

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	
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	
Sunderkand Path	\$151		
Wedding Grah Shanti	\$201	\$301	
Wedding Ceremony per day	\$301	\$351	
Upanayan/Yagnopavita	\$251	\$301	
Antim Rites (Funeral Service)	Voluntary Donation		
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	
			<b>TEMPLE FACILITIES USAGE FEE</b>
			Prayer Hall: \$200
			Social Hall: \$300
			<b>OTHER CHARGES</b>
			<b>MILEAGE AND TRAVEL TIME TIER</b>
			\$0 for 1 - 25 mile radius
			\$51 for 26 - 100 mile radius
			\$101 for 101 - 150 mile radius
			\$151 for 151 - 200 mile radius
			<b>NON-MEMBER</b>
			\$51 for non-member surcharge

**NOTE: Charges and availability of other Puja Services not listed above may be discussed with Smt. Charu Sheth 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



# India Temple Association, Inc.

25 E. Taunton, Berlin, NJ 08009

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1-855-my-mandir x 710  
president@indiatemple.org

## Vice President

Lalit Patel  
1-855-my-mandir x 711  
vp@indiatemple.org

## General Secretary

Bhavesh Patel /  
Govind Modi  
1-855-my-mandir x 712  
gs@indiatemple.org

## Treasurer

Shobna Daga  
1-855-my-mandir x 713  
treasurer@indiatemple.org

## Religious Services

### Facility Rental

### Temple Manager

Charu Sheth  
Divyakant Parikh  
1-855-my-mandir x 1  
manager@indiatemple.org

## Darshan Schedule

### Morning

7:30 am - 12:30 pm

### Evening

3 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 REVIEW YOUR ADDRESS LABEL AND RENEW YOUR  
MEMBERSHIP BASED ON EXPIRATION DATE OR SUPPORT ITA WITH YOUR  
ENROLLMENT IF YOU ARE NOT IDENTIFIED AS A MEMBER**

**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: \_\_\_\_\_