



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. 52 No. 1 Phone: (855) MYMANDIR (855-696-2634) www.indiatemple.org JANUARY 2015

Religious Calendar

January 4 Sunday

- **Satyanarayana Puja in Mandir**

January 14 Wednesday

- **Makar Sankranti / Pongal in Mandir**

January 15 Thursday

- **Shattila Ekadashi**

January 17 Saturday

- **Sundarkand Paath in Mandir**

January 30 Friday

- **Jaya Ekadashi**

Monthly Activities

January 02, Friday

- **Vishnu Sahasranama Parayanam @ 8 pm**
Kshama Raghuveer (707) 332-3400

January 4, Sunday

- **Shri Satyanarayan Pooja**

January 17, Saturday

- **Sunderkand Path 10am**

Monthly Bhajans

January 16, Friday 8-9pm

- **Satya Sai Baba of Medford**

P.K. Prabhakar (856) 596-3147

Sesha Vemuri (856) 751-0867

Satyanarayan Puja

Sunday January 4, 2015 at 3:30pm

We will have Shri SatyaNarayan Puja/Katha in the New Year followed by Maha-Prasad. If you would like to participate in the this puja, please contact Kshama Raghuveer at (707) 332-3400. Participation is open to all.

Makar Sankranti / Pongal Celebration

Wednesday January 14, 2015 at 7 pm in Hindu Temple

Sundarkand Paath

Saturday January 17, 2015 at 10 am

We will have Sundarkand Paath on Saturday, January 17, 2015 at 10 am, followed by Maha-Prasad. Please join us.

Marathi Saad celebrates Makar Sankranti - Haldi KumKum

Saturday January 17, 2015 at 4-8 pm in Hindu Temple

Makar Sankranti festival, unlike other Hindu festivals, is not dependent on the position of the moon, but on position of the sun. On this day, the sun enters the zodiac sign of Capricorn(Makar radhi) from which the festival name is derived.

This is a special day for the women in Maharashtra when married women are invited for a get-together called 'Haldi-Kunku' (literally meaning turmeric and vermilion) and given gifts. Typically, women wear black sarees or black coloured outfits on this occasion.

Marathi Saad are proud to announce its 3rd 'Haldi-kunku' celebration for ladies and young girls. Also along with Haldi Kunku we have few other fun activities to make this day enjoyable for every lady. All ladies interested in participating in this celebration kindly RSVP by 01/10/2015 at MarathiSaad@gmail.com in order to ensure food arrangements and to receive evite for the Haldi Kunku alongwith all event details."

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.

• Dilip Guharoy	Jan 02	Anil Desai	Jan 20
• Mulchand Giyanani	Jan 05	Vinod Patel	Jan 20
• Milan & Monica Gupta	Jan 14	Shailen Patel	Jan 24
• Kusum Kumar	Jan 14	Narendra Amin	Jan 28
• Divyakant Parikh	Jan 14	Ravin Patel	Jan 31
• Ashvin-Devayani Shah	Jan 18		

**Hindu Senior Citizens of South Jersey
January 2015 Meeting Announcement
Venue – ICC**

**(Only one meeting on fourth Thursday during wintry months of January, February, and March)
Thursday, January 22**

The program will start with *aarti* at 6:30. In our inaugural meeting for the New Year 2015, our schedule is as follows:

- 7 – 7:10 pm Announcements
- 7:10 – 7:30 India's Republic Day Celebrations
- 7:30 – 8:15 Lecture on Indo-American Relations
- 8:15 – 9:00 Dinner ?

We are in the process of confirming the speaker's name for the lecture on Indo-American Relations. If the program will end with dinner or else will start with tea/coffee with snacks depends on the response we receive to our five-coupon plan. Those who want to opt for dinner after the meeting are requested to deposit a check of \$25 for the first five dinners @ \$5 per meal. The implementation of the dinner plan is predicated on 100 members signing up for the plan. We will also send an email to all those whose emails are on our list about the coupon plan.

S. Gambhir
President HSCSJ

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.

**Bhajan Sandhya
By Little Star of South Jersey
Sunday Jan 18, 2015
3-5 pm**

Best Students of Chandan Modi aged 15 and under perform Classical and light Bhajans for your pleasure. All are invited. Light dinner served afterwards. Please contact Dannybhai Saparia at dannysaparia@verizon.net

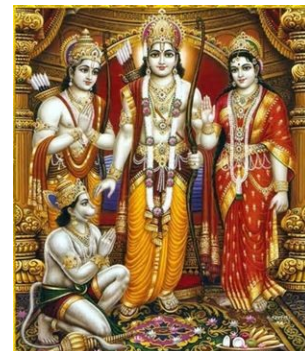
Monthly Pujas at Mandir

It is a pleasure to perform Satyanarayan puja on Sunday January 4 at 3:30 and read Sunderkand Path on Saturday January 17, at 10 am 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. Mahaprasad generously sponsored by Gagan Palace.
Jai Krishna, Kshama



**Marathi Saad celebrates Makar Sankranti - Haldi KumKum
Saturday January 17, 2015 at 4-8 pm in Hindu Temple**



Dear Members,

At the General Body Meeting held November 23, 2014. Election Committee (EC) comprised of Rina Patel, Bhulabhai Bhakta (ex-ITA presidents) and Surendra Gambhir, president of SJ Senior Citizen's Group conducted elections for ITA board of trustees. At the outset, we, the election committee, would like to reiterate that we are an independent body as enshrined in our constitution, a body that is not subject to the whims and fancies of some individuals of the general community be it whether they are from advisory board, past trustees and as such. Given the magnitude of the responsibility and the tasks given, the EC is striving hard to be discharge its roles in an impeccable manner, one that is seen as fair and unbiased to every member. Our task is not made easy by the frequent criticisms by a few select members that seem to diminish the authority of this election committee.

It was heartwarming to see the huge turnout for our general body meeting wherein the members and their families voted to choose the trustees for the years 2015-2017. We sincerely thank you all for gracing the occasion with your presence and exercising your right to vote.

Needless to add, unless you vote and express your opinion(s), we cannot move forward to creating and sustaining the kind of nurturing environment, our temple provides. So once more, please accept our mucho thanks to each and every one of you.

Here are the candidates who made it to the board of trustees after the counting and verification of the ballots.

The newly elected trustees are:

- North Zone: Praveen Garg
- South Zone: Ramesh Viswanathan
- East Zone: No candidates
- West Zone: Bhavesh Patel
- Founding/Life: Divyakant Parikh
- Open: Harshad Patel, Surendra Sheth, Dhiru Saparia

JSK

Rina Patel

On Behalf of Election Committee

Letter to the Editor

Dear Sagar Desai,

I read your Scholarship-winning essay in the December Issue of Satsang Sandesh.

I commend your courage to question the 'Karma' theory of Hinduism. That is a very good starting point. Now, you must probe how man got the idea of God. How and why our ancestors got the notion of many gods – Agni, Vayu, Varuna, Maruta, Manmatha, Brahma, Vishnu, Shiva and so on and on. Yet, we have 'Ekam sadvipra bahudha vadanti.' These are very interesting topics. The more you probe, the more you understand; and, the more delighted you feel.

You are right, we must respect our elders. But, we cannot assume that whatever our elders say as truth or correct. For Example: Swami Vivekananda was a great man, a great scholar and a great philosopher. He once said, "Where reason ends, there religion begins." It sounds very profound. But, wait. Reasoning or man's quest for knowledge about Nature and natural phenomena never ends, because knowledge is infinite! So, where and how can religion begin? There are many such examples.

If you like, you may write to me at ramroja@gmail.com. Wish you all the best. CMR Uncle

ITA Yuva Darshan by Rashmi Devadiga

On December 14th, the youth started class with shlokas and yoga. We then read the Hanuman Chalisa and discussed specific sections of it and how they can be applied to our lives. This eventually lead to the question, what's one thing that you wish was different in our culture. We came across answers dealing with a lot of family time and not enough time with friends and also the stereotype that most Indians want their children to become lawyers, doctors and engineers. We talked about how parents only do this to look out for the future of their children even if it the child has no interest in the field. We then continued to talk about colleges and jobs. Soon after, it was time for Aarthi, after which we had pizza for lunch.

Thank you Praveen Uncle for another great Youth session! Jai Shree Krishna!



Pay it forward - by Chetna Giyanani

The youth program instills and encourages the habit of giving back to the community. Youth and balvihar students provide community service to various community organizations, which opens up many leadership opportunities for the students to explore and take up responsibility.

Every academic year each student volunteer receives:

- A certificate from Seva Samiti - India Temple Association,
- A letter from India Temple Association detailing their community service participation stating the number of hours volunteered at each event and the total number of hours volunteered for the academic year
- A letter of community service confirmation from the various community service organizations.

On December 14th 2014, this program distributed their 2013-2014 academic community service certificates and letters to all the volunteers. The 2013-2014 academic year highlights were:

95 – The number of volunteers in our Youth Community Service Program

887 hours – Total hours of community service provided by ITA Youth/ Balvihar volunteers.

Here is a brief summary of the events that the students volunteered at:

- At the Evesham Township's July 4th parade, volunteers decorated our float, danced, and handled the music at
- At Generations Plus, an Adult Day Care Center in Pennsauken, youth are welcome to volunteer Mon-Friday 2pm -7pm. They serve snacks and dinner, socialize with senior citizens, assist them with games and Bingo, do light housekeeping and provide 1:1 companionship.
- Our youth help at the Hindu Mandir Events organized by India Temple Association. They have volunteered at the
- Camden County Board of Freeholders & the Voorhees Cultural Diversity Team celebrate the International Day every year. Our youth participate here by setting up a display table showcasing India, performing Indian cultural dances, participating in the parade of countries, and helping serve food in the cafeteria.
- American Cancer Society's Relay for Life is another event that the youth give back to the community by volunteering and fund raising at the event.
- Balvihar & Youth Updates in the monthly Satsang Sandesh are written by none other than the balvihar and
- At the Sai Group's – "Feeding the Homeless in Philadelphia Program", youth prepare sandwich bags for the homeless. Together, students prepared 1400 sandwiches. And this year, that number has increased to over 3000 sandwiches and we are only half way in!!
- At the Kite and Color Festival of the Friends of India Society's our youth volunteer by helping the organizers in setting up and handling different activities at the event.

Here are the Top 10 Community Service Volunteers of 2013-2014 Academic Year

Roshan Giyanani – 95 hours

Ankita Prajapati – 31 hours

Khusbu Prajapati – 31 hours

Yamini Nalla – 26.5 hours

Pinal Dalwadi – 24 hours

Diya Goyal – 24 hours

Rashmi Devadiga -23 hours

Neal Prajapati – 23 hours

Bijal Prajapati – 22 hours

Kaxa Prajapati – 22 hours

Kudos, and a big thank you to all the student volunteers for their contributions. Remember to Volunteer and Give Back just like this beautiful quote says ... "I've learnt that you shouldn't go through life with a catcher's mitt on both hands; you need to be able to throw something back." - Maya Angelou. Under Lata Pimplaskar & Seva Samiti-The Service Group of India Temple Association, Chetna Giyanani runs the Youth Community Service Program. For questions or to participate in this program email chetnatemple@gmail.com.

Balvihar by Sriram Kiron

Our Balvihar session of Dec. 14, 2014 went great ! We started by chanting prayers. An aunty called “Savitri Aunty” visited us from Arsha Vidya Gurukulam, just to be with us. She was very inspiring. First, she taught us all a song called “I am just like you” which said that even though we are kids from different states of India and spoke different languages at home , we are all the same. It was a great song to learn and sing together.

After this, the kids from 5th to 8th stayed in the hall and all the other kids went to their classes. We stayed with Savitri aunty and she told us a story of Shivaji. After listening to the story, we acted it out and we had to act out the story when we all assembled later for everyone to see. After us, the kids till 4th grade assembled and had a session with Savitri aunty. She taught them a very nice english song on Lord Ganesha and she told them a story, and they had to act it out, too. We all assembled after our regular classes, and the younger kids all sang the song on Ganesha. We, then, acted out our play on Shivaji and it was not too bad, even though we had just then heard the story and rehearsed only once.

After us, the younger kids enacted their play about a young man who was so attached to his dirty hat and had to finally get rid of it, to retain his friends. It was very funny. Everyone enjoyed it. After aarti, we all headed off to the cafeteria for our pizza....we were all very hungry !!

Today’s session of Bal vihar was definitely very different and unique, thanks to Savitri Aunty. We all thank her for having shared her wealth of knowledge and experience with us and hope she comes and visits us again.

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 post-marked by March 31, 2015 Please mail the following information and supporting documents to: Scholarship Committee, 25 East Taunton Ave., Berlin, NJ 08009. Alternatively, you can also submit online by going to <http://www.indiatemple.org/scholarship.php> or email the documents to Dr. Surendra Gambhir at sg@gambhir.net

- Completed application form.
- Grade Point Average (GPA) – 15% weight points.
- In-school extracurricular activity summary i.e. music, dance, leadership, student council, sports, cultural groups, etc. – 15% weight points.
- 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.
- Community services i.e. volunteering at nursing homes, hospitals, walkathon, etc. – 15% weight points.
- Please choose one topic and submit three duplicate copies (typed and double spaced), not exceeding two pages - 40% weight points.

The topics are: 1. Indian Diaspora: what to preserve and what to let go from our heritage?2. How to Prepare for a Happy and Successful Future?3. Hinduism is the Universal Religion of 21st Century – A Critique
Rubric

Essays must 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.

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: Virendra Gupta @ (856) 424-9313

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: 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 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: 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 /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; Click on "CALENDAR tab" and, from drop-down menu, Click on "EVENT/RENTAL CALENDAR". **Please contact Shri. Harish Shelat 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	
			TEMPLE FACILITIES USAGE FEE
			Prayer Hall: \$200
			Social Hall: \$300
			OTHER CHARGES
			MILEAGE AND TRAVEL TIME TIER
			\$0 for 1 - 25 mile radius
			\$51 for 26 - 100 mile radius
			\$101 for 101 - 150 mile radius
			\$151 for 151 - 200 mile radius
			NON-MEMBER
			\$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



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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: _____