



Satsang Sandesh

A monthly news magazine of

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. 45 No. 1 Phone: (855) MYMANDIR (855-696-2634) www.indiatemple.org MAY 2014

Religious Calendar

May 1 Thursday

- Shri Parshuram Jayanti

May 2 Friday

- Akha Trij/Akshya Tritiya

May 3 Saturday

- Bal Vihar and Yuva Darshan Annual Day

May 4 Sunday

- Shri Aadya Shankaracharya / Shri Ramanujacharya Jayanti

May 10 Saturday

- Mohini Ekadashi

May 14 Wednesday

- Shri Buddha Jayanti / Purnima / Satyanarayan Katha

May 24 Saturday

- Aparajita Ekadashi

Monthly Activities

Smt. Kshama Raghuveer
(707) 332-3400

May 2, Friday

- Vishnu Sahasranama Parayanam

May 14, Wednesday

- Shri Satyanarayan Katha on Purnima Day @6 pm

May 17, Saturday

- Sunderkand Path 10am

Monthly Bhajans

May 16, Friday, 8-9 p.m.

- Satya Sai Baba of Medford

P.K. Prabhakar 856-596-3147

Sesha Vemuri 856-751-0867

May 23, Friday, 8-9 pm

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

Upcoming Programs in May

Dr. Ram Kamaldasji sermon on "SUNDERKAAND" From Ramayana Monday, April 28 to Friday, May 2, 7pm-8:30pm; Saturday May 3, 10:30-12pm, followed by mahaprasad

Bal Vihar and Yuva Darshan Annual Day

Saturday May 3, 10am at Thomas E. Harrington Middle School

Asian Indian Professional's Medical Education Meeting on Sunday, May 11 at ICC

Shri Buddha Jayanti / Purnima / Satyanarayan Katha Wednesday May 14 at 6 pm followed by mahaprasad

Sundarkand Paath

Saturday May 17 at 10 am followed by mahaprasad

Ghulam Ali Concert (Shaam-e-Gazzal with the king of Gazzal) on Friday, May 30 at ICC

ITA Seva Samiti walks with American Cancer Society in the Relay for Life of Marlton at Cherokee High School Saturday May 31 from 2pm-Midnight

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	May 02	Sushil & Kamala Chandra	May 19
• Narendra H. Amin	May 05	Sharad Pandya	May 19
• Harendra Dave	May 05	Mahesh Dixit	May 26
• Rajubhai Patel	May 05	Priti & Tejas Patel	May 26
• Shreyansi M. Shah	May 08	Siddhi Vasa	May 26
• Sudhaben Patel	May 09	Pooja & Jayesh Khatiwala	May 27
• Bhal Patel	May 10		
• Iti Bar	May 11	Isvar Patel	May 28
• Narsinh Sangani	May 15	Nishta Patel-Hudson	May 28
• Natwarlal Contractor	May 16	Dipti & Monil Pandya	May 29
• Naresh Talati	May 16 & 27		
• Mahendra Jaiswal	May 17	Jayanti & Kalaben Patel	May 29
• Upendra & Rekha Shah	May 17, & 25	Jayant Pandya	May 31



Monthly Pujas at Mandir

It is a pleasure to perform Satyanarayan puja and read Sunderkand Path 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



BalVihar and Yuva Darshan Annual Day

Come one, come all! Friends and family are invited to attend the BalVihar and Yuva Darshan Annual Day, an amalgam of dances, skits, and shlokas performed by the Bal-Vihar and Youth students to exhibit what they have learned throughout the year. Annual Day will be held on Saturday, May 3th, 2014, 10am, at Thomas E. Harrington Middle School.

ITA Yuva Darshan By Sanjana Kondapalli

Youth session on March 23rd began with a recitation of mantras. It was a peaceful way to start the youth session. As usual, we continued our morning with yoga and meditation with Praveen Uncle. We finished aarathi and lunch early because we were going to play Holi. We had an Indian lunch, instead of the regular pizza. Afterwards we played Holi. We all enjoyed throwing colors on each other.

The first activity on April 13th's youth session was the recitation of mantras. We then performed 30 minutes of yoga and meditation. Those made us feel refreshed! In our activity time, Chetna Auntie talked to the Youths about doing community service and what to do to prepare for college. Along with that she talked about the Relay for Life walk-a-thon for the American Cancer Association at Cherokee High School. It is an event that anyone can register for. There will also be fun activities there like face painting. You can contact Chetna Auntie at chetnatemple@gmail.com for more information. After this, we discussed details of our upcoming Annual Day, which is being held on Saturday, May 3. We finished the day with aarathi and lunch.

ITA Seva Samiti update

by Sadhna Kothari

Please take note of our new community outreach program, **Golden Shield**.

We are in the process of formulating the outline and specifics.

Mission Statement: The aim is to identify community members who can benefit from a little help from us, to give them

a leg up and on the road to a better future. We have an opportunity here to change lives.

Process: Seva Samiti will carefully review a pool of candidates and write to them privately to determine if some assistance from our community is warranted. Based on the response(s), the next step will be an interview. The program will provide real life skills, not just monetary contributions.

As we flesh out the details for this program, some criteria that will come into play are:

Our current areas of expertise to serve

Allocation of amount per person; Demarcating how the funds will be disbursed and in which areas

The program is in its infancy – planning stage. If you have volunteered for like programs and have ideas to share, we would love to hear from you.

Program contacts: Sunithah Reddy at sunithahreddy@yahoo.com or Lata Pimplaskar at latap@comcast.net

Seva Samiti continuing programs:

Sandwich bags for the homeless: Hina Desai hinamdesai@hotmail.com

Youth program: Chetna Giyanani chetnatemple@gmail.com

Funeral services: Charu Sheth charu_sheth@yahoo.com

JAI SHREE KRISHNA



Dear members and supporters,

The mission of the Indian Temple Association is to maintain both a place of worship and a center for cultural activities that provides a platform for through which the Hindu religion, philosophy, and way of life may flourish for current and future generations. We rely on your generous donations of time and money to fulfill this mission.

The ITA hosts the following programs and activities to fulfill our community vision.

WHAT DOES YOUR MANDIR DO?

For Children and Youth:

Bal-Vihar and Yuva Darshan meets on the 2nd & 4th Sundays during the school year. These programs are geared towards promoting a positive Hindu identity in our younger generations.

Mandir Art Classes meet on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays to learn various art forms.

Annual ITA Essay Scholarship awards \$2500 in college scholarships for graduating high school seniors who submit themed essays by the March 31st deadline.

Graduation Yagna - is held in June to commemorate graduations at all levels, from elementary school to medical school.

For Adults:

Weekly Gita Classes are held on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Hindu Senior Citizens Club meets twice a month at the Mandir for education, field trips, food, and fellowship.

Yoga Class is held on the 1st Sunday of each month and is open to all.

For the Community:

Monthly Celebrations: Satyanarayan puja on the full moon; Sunderkand Paath on 3rd Saturdays; Bhajans on Fridays twice a month.

Festival Celebrations: New Year's Day Japa, Vasant Panchmi Saraswati Puja, MahaShivratri, Holi, Ram Navmi Akhand Ramayana Paath, Hanuman Jayanti, Cheti Chand, Shravan, Rudrabhishek, Janmashtmi, Shri Ganesh Chaturthi, Pran Pratishtha in September, Navratri Arti and Garba, Durga Ashtmi Havan, Sharad Purnima, Karva Chauth, Anna Koot, Lakshmi Puja, Vikram Samvat New Year

Discourses: from Swamis such as Swami Yogatmananda - Vedanta Society of Providence, Dr. Ramakamal Das Vedantaji Maharaj, Swami Veditatmadanda - Arsha Vidya Gurukulam, Swami Bramharupananda - Vedanta Society Washington

Community Seva: ITA Seva Samiti provides education and assistance in many areas to our families in need. ITA Seva Samiti has funeral support services, mental health awareness and counseling. We help one life at a time by providing help to individuals or families in our community in times of crisis. We also fundraise for disasters at home and abroad. We raised money for Uttarakhand flood victims and our holy pilgrimage site of Kedarnath, the abode of Lord Shiva. We walk with the American Cancer Society, host funding drives for Be the Match – Bone Marrow Donation and South Asian Marrow Association of Recruiters (SAMAR). We feed the homeless through our sandwich preparation program.

WHY SHOULD I DONATE?

The ITA is a volunteer organization. There are no paid administrative staffers. However, on our payroll, we have two fulltime priests and one part-time priest with full benefits. We keep you informed through our monthly newsletters, and website. We mail yearly Hindu calendars. All of the above events cost significant amounts of money, and the ITA needs your help to continue providing these services to our community.

Each year we seek to provide more opportunities for all age groups to participate in activities designed to promote pride in our Hindu heritage and culture. Your donations help make all of the ITA's work possible.

WHERE DO WE NEED FUNDS?

The ITA is looking for funding for scholarships (\$2,500.00), temple renovations, event-specific donations, festival celebrations, charity, and general maintenance of the organization.

There are holidays and festivals we would like to celebrate and are actively seeking organizers and fundraisers for. These include:

Lohri	Saraswati Puja
Holi (colors and powders)	Janmashtmi
Dashara (Raavan creation)	Diwali (fireworks)
Gita Jayanti Mahaprasad	Navratri Garba (puja)

The Mandir is also in need of renovations. In 2013, the ITA was able to fix over \$1,300.00 in renovation costs; in 2014, there is still an unmet need of \$11,600.00. These needs include:

Tiling (\$1,500.00)	LED lighting updates (\$1,120.00)
Ceiling upgrades (\$2,300.00+)	

The ITA is open to all donations to any part of the organization.

HOW DO I DONATE?

There are 3 ways to donate. All your donations are tax deductible. Our tax ID is 22-2192491

Visit our website www.indiatemple.org and complete the form at the bottom of the home page. Click on Donate to pay using PayPal.

Make your check payable to "ITA". Designate your donation in the memo section. Mail it to the Mandir address: ITA 25 E. Taunton Ave. Berlin, NJ 08009

Donate cash: enclose in an envelope with your name, address, phone, email, amount, any preference on the use of your donation. Visit the Mandir and deposit the envelope in the Hundi.

HOW DO I BECOME A MEMBER?

Types of Membership:

Yearly membership for singles or families: \$51.00

Five-year membership for singles or families: \$151.00

Lifetime membership for singles or families: \$1,001.00

Five-year membership for 65 and above: \$25.00

Lifetime membership for 65 and above: \$101.00



Indian Cultural Center (ICC)

(Non-Profit Tax Exempt Organization, Tax ID # 22-3579469)

www.iccofsj.org

1-855-iccofsj

“Our Dream has become a Reality!”

Indian Cultural Center of South Jersey celebrates Grand Opening with 1000+ attendees over 2 days by Ravi D Goel

The Indian Cultural Center of South Jersey (ICC) hosted a 2-day Grand Opening which was one for the ages. The ICC was conceived in the 1980s and faced numerous challenges at early potential locations throughout South Jersey. An ideal 19-acre land parcel on Route 73 in Evesham, NJ was donated to the ICC by Mrs. Kirti and Dr. Prahlad Patel in 2001. Under the leadership of Evesham Mayor Randy Brown and broad support from township, planning board and community leaders, a beautiful \$4.5 million structure and campus was conceived and created which will serve as the home of Indian American cultural events for generations. Mayor Brown led the community in the ribbon cutting ceremony which was instantly shared via video with the ICC's 770+ Facebook supporters worldwide.

The two-day Grand Opening included the unveiling and dedication of “Laxmi Narayan” painting by artist Narendra Amin. Mr. Amin has served the community for more than 40 years by teaching students and donating many paintings and murals to the local Indian Temple Association in Berlin, NJ. His “Gallery of Saints” collection in the local Hindu temple is a testament to philosophers and thinkers across the ages. Many rooms in the ICC have original paintings by Narendra Amin, and the second floor paintings of Indian dancers harken to a Degas-like vision to inspire the young dancers, artists and musicians in the ICC today. Saturday's events included the singing of the American “Star Spangled Banner” and the Republic of India's “Jana Gana Mana.” Numerous performances by Drexel Dandiya, Rutgers SAPA fusion, Lavani (Marathi) and Board Street Baadshahz lit up the ICC stage. A dinner for 500+ attendees was followed by a special Bollywood entertainment program by Javid Raza and Saoujanya Madabhushi.

Sunday's program included dance performances by a number of superbly talented dance organizations. Performers brought the spirit of Indian dance and music from across many genres and dialects. A highlight was to watch dancers on stage as other dance troupes watched from the side, a tribute to broad talents and passion. The finale to the weekend was an Indian classical music performance by Nitin Mitta (Tabla), Jay Gandhi (Bansuri) and Amab Chakrabarty (Sarod). Three passionate performers honored every corner of the ICC Grand Ballroom's acoustics and a most inspiring space.

The magnificent ICC building is now a hub of many social, cultural and educational activities for the Indian community. Few of the upcoming events and ongoing programs at the ICC are as follows:

Upcoming events at ICC

- Asian Indian Professional's Medical Education Meeting on Sunday, May 11th 2014.
- Ghulam Ali Concert (Shaam-e-Gazzal with the king of Gazzal) on Friday, May 30th 2014 – **Tickets are on sale now at the ICC website www.iccofsj.org. Early bird discounts are available for next two weeks.**
- Gujarati Kavya Sangeet Samaroh 2014 with Prithvi Gohil, Gaurang Vyas and other artists from India (Full Gujarati Arts, Culture, Music, songs and comedy) on Saturday, June 7th 2014 – Please buy your tickets at <http://samanvayusa.ticketleap.com/snj/>

On-going Programs at ICC

- SAT Classes at every Sunday
 - Ladies Bhangra & Garba Fitness Program every Wednesday from 6:30PM to 8:00PM.
- Senior Citizen's program every 2nd and 4th Thursday.

We are adding 10+ new members every week to the ICC Facebook Page (Indian Cultural Center of South Jersey). Please invite your friends and family to be members of the ICC Facebook page to remain update about ICC. We encourage you to share the ICC page in your news feed.

The ICC continues to have informal Open House and tours on Sundays 11 am - 12 pm. ICC is open on Tuesday – Sunday 10am – 12noon, 6pm – 9pm and during any events.

Please call us at **1-855-ICCOFSJ (422-6375)** or visit our website www.iccofsj.org for more information or questions.

A dream realized. And the best is yet to come.

President
Dr. Dhiraj Panda
(855) 422-6375 Ext. 1

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Dr. Prahlad Patel
(855) 422-6375 Ext. 2

Secretary
Naresh Talati
(855) 422-6375 Ext. 0

Interim Treasurer
Manu Dadhania
(855) 422-6375 Ext. 6

India Temple Association Cultural Center, Inc. (ITA-CC), 820 Route 73 South, Marlton, NJ 08053

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 Mandir

Contact: Virendra Gupta @ (856) 424-9313

GITA STUDY GROUP:

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

Contact: Sharad Pimplaskar @ (856) 985-4785

BHAJANS & STUTI:

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

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 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Contact: Ramesh Viswanathan (856) 489-1830, 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 Mandir.

Contact: Praveen Garg (856) 783-4692 or Sangeeta Rashatwar at (856) 424-4211

CREATIVE ART WORKSHOP

1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday @ 9:30 a.m. 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 check temple availability at www.indiatemple.org; Click on "CALENDAR tab" and, from drop-down menu, Click on "EVENT/RENTAL CALENDAR". **Please contact Smt. Charu Sheth or 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	<p><u>TEMPLE FACILITIES USAGE FEE</u> Prayer Hall: \$200 Social Hall: \$300</p> <p><u>OTHER CHARGES</u></p> <p><u>MILEAGE AND TRAVEL TIME TIER</u></p> \$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>NON-MEMBER \$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	
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	

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.

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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: _____