



Satsang Sandesh

Revised

India Temple Association, Inc.

Hindu Temple, 25 E. Taunton Ave, Berlin, NJ 08009
SOUTH JERSEY ♦ DELAWARE ♦ PENNSYLVANIA

Vol. 40 No. 12 Phone: (855) MYMANDIR (855-696-2634) www.indiatemple.org DECEMBER 2013

Religious Calendar

December 13 Friday

- Mokshada Ekadashi / Geeta Jayanti
- Geeta Paath in Mandir @9:30 AM

December 16 Monday

- Purnima / Shri Duttatrey Jayanti
- Satyanarayana Puja in Mandir

December 21 Saturday

- Sundarkand Paath in-Mandir

December 28 Saturday

- Safala Ekadashi

Monthly Activities

December 06, Friday

- Vishnu Sahasranama Parayanam @8:00 PM
Kshama Raghuvver (610) 642-2875

December 16, Monday
Shri Satyanarayan Pooja
@6:00 PM

December 21, Saturday
Sundarkand Path @ 10:00 AM

Monthly Bhajans

- December 20 Friday, 8-9 p.m.
- Satya Sai Baba of Medford
P.K. Prabhakar (856) 596-3147
Sesha Vemuri (856) 751-0867

Namaste Members,

Mandir is a place of solitude, silence, solace, meditation, worship, celebration, and joyous gatherings. Every month on full moon, you partake in Satyanarayan puja. Every third Saturday, you read Sunderkand Paath and sing bhajans. Twice a month, you come to listen to bhajans on Friday nights. Monday nights, you learn and discuss the works of Swami Vivekananda, in his 150th year anniversary. Many of you attend Senior Citizen meetings with various educational seminars on Thursday nights. Our Youths are here on Sundays learning about Hinduism and its application to their daily lives. But now, I invite and urge all of you, our members, to attend and participate in our mandir's governance. Once a year, you have a special opportunity to be involved in the governance of our mandir, at the upcoming General Body Meeting. Previously mentioned in last month's "Special Edition" of Satsang Sandesh newsletter, this General Body Meeting will be a chance for you to be engaged in our mandir by voting on the future board of trustees and voicing your concerns. **I invite, and in fact, urge all of you to attend this very important meeting on Sunday December 15th. The agenda for the meeting is as follows:**

1. From 3:30 – 5:30 pm, a melodious music program will be presented by Chandan Modi group and local artists.
 2. Elections for the 2014-2016 Board of Trustees will be conducted by Rina Patel, Election Committee Chair.
 3. A motion to ratify the changes in the By-Laws to Article I – Membership and Article VIII – Advisory Board will be made by Rina Patel, ITA Parliamentarian, to change:
 4. Article I - Membership. Changes to this article were made in 2010. Changes simplify membership structure. The full details were mailed in the "Special Edition" of Satsang Sandesh and are available on the ITA website, www.indiatemple.org.
 5. Article VIII - Advisory Board - Changes to this article were made in 2012. Changes define the role of Advisory Board. The full details are available on the ITA website, www.indiatemple.org.
- Sangeeta Rashatwar, Chairman of the current Board of Trustees, will provide a "State of the Association" message. This report will apprise you of the most important activities and actions that the Board and Association took this past year. It will also provide you with a blue print of plans being considered by your trustees. A report on the financial status of the association will be provided by Harshad Patel, Treasurer. There will be an opportunity for the discussion of new Business from the floor. Dinner is sponsored by your Board of Trustees.

Hope to see you all.
Yours in Humble Service,
Sangeeta Rashatwar

Special Prayers

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------|-------------------------------|---------|
| • Akshaybhai & Savitaben Patel | Dec 01 | Jagdish Shah | Dec 22 |
| • Pravina Gohel | Dec 05 | Nagindas/Champaben Shah | Dec 23 |
| • Snehlata Jani | Dec 09 | Nayan Shah | Dec 21 |
| • 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 Toprani | Dec 28 |
| • Jelabhai Patel | Dec 13 | Kavita Gupta | Dec 30 |
| • Rukhmanidevi Tekrival | Dec 15 | 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 |

Condolences

Naranji Morarji Patel, the father of our founding member, Niruben (Jelabhai Patel) passed away on October 19 2013 in Portland Maine. Shri Perraju Rentala, a resident of Voorhees passed away on November 11, 2013 at the age of 77.

ITA and its Board extend their sincere condolences to Patel and Rentala's families.

Senior Citizens' Program Thursday December 12, 6:30 pm to 9:15 pm

This note is written and submitted on 10th of November for publication in *Satsang Sandesh*, December 2013 Issue. By the time it reaches you, we would have elected the new Executive Council of our Association and celebrated the Annual Function. We are obviously relaxed now and it is time for immersing in spirituality!

For us, living piously means following *Dharma* principles and the 10 *Yamas* (Restraints) and 10 *Niyamas* (Practices or Observances); basically these dos' and don'ts are common sense codes or ethical guidelines of *Upanishads* and moral imperatives. All of us have three qualities: *Sattva*, *Rajas* and *Tamas*. Also, our beliefs, practices, and traditions may be summed up in four aims of human life: *Dharma* (Rightousness, Religious Duty), *Artha* (Prosperity, Pursuit of Wealth through legal means), *Kama* (Pleasure, Desire, Enjoyment), and *Moksha* (Ultimate Liberation, Enlightenment, Renunciation). We learned all these while growing up in India.

For today's meeting, we have invited Sri Surendra Gambhir, our member, to have an "**Interactive Evening of Hindu Classical Thoughts**". We will explore native genius of Hindus that shapes their vision of self, society and universe. We will attempt to examine central ideas enshrined in the scriptures and try to differentiate between what is factual and what is symbolic. Our interactive discussion may include aspects that relate to our everyday life – relationship of microcosm (*vyashti*) or Individual with macrocosm (*samasthi*) or the Whole Universe; fourfold goal of life; *yamas* and *niyamas*. We will end with discussing meaning and significance of *Gayatri mantra*, and some other important Sanskrit verses that we recite day after day.

Reminder: Our Dues are going up! Beginning January 1, 2014, the Life Membership will go up from the current \$ 20 to \$ 50 and the Yearly Membership to \$ 5. Our membership is for Hindus, age 50 and above.

Contact Information: Suraj Bhan Singh (856) 582-5035 sbsingh1@hotmail.com

Free Notary Service

The following ITA members provide free notary service to our community.

- Ghanshyam Dave of Marlton, (H) 856-596-7531 ghanu44@aol.com
- Raman Modhera of Voorhees (H) 856-424-5509 rvmodhera@gmail.com
- Dalpat Patel of Columbus (H) 609-298-2724 imperialin@aol.com
- Suraj B Singh of Washington Township (H) 856-582-5035 sbsingh1@hotmail.com

ITA sincerely thanks them for providing such service free of cost.



ITA SEVA SAMITI UPDATE By Sadhna Kothari

The meeting of Seva Samiti principals on Thursday, November 7th served to reaffirm our mission of providing assistance to those in need and to set the agenda for the upcoming year of service.

Please take note of our continuing and new programs and seize the opportunity to lend your hand as a Seva Samiti volunteer by contacting Lata Pimplaskar at latap@comcast.net or 856-985-4785:

* Sandwich program to feed the homeless in Philadelphia as published previously. For more details, please contact Hina Desai at hinamdesai@hotmail.com or 856-424-1934.

* Winter drive to collect new packaged blankets, hats and gloves in conjunction with the Sai Group. You can drop your items off in the large box in the Mandir's vestibule.

* New immigrants and friends in need Outreach program to sign up qualified individuals/families for assistance with special needs and pujas – contact Sunitha Reddy at sunithahreddy@yahoo.com

* Funeral services assistance – contact Charu Sheth at charu_sheth@yahoo.com

* Youth program – contact Chetna Giyanani at chetnatemple@gmail.com

A couple of recent Seva Samiti programs were 1. Rajen Vakil's discourse on the meaning and chanting of Gayatri Mantra on August 25th and 27th and 2. Bone Marrow Drive on October 12th at the Moorestown High School.

If you missed these events, be sure to check out this section in future issues of the Satsang Sandesh, so that you don't miss out again!!

ITA Yuva Darshan

Sanjana Kondapalli and Yamini Nalla

As usual, the youth session of October 27, began with everyone reciting shlokas led by Priest Shri Sudhir Jha and Praveen Uncle. Today we also learnt some new shlokas to add to what we already knew. Next, we spent some quality time doing yoga conducted by Praveen Uncle which helped us relax. Additionally, it helped us achieve a peace of mind for 30 minutes which is sometimes difficult to get in today's busy world. Last session we discussed the 4 duties of a Hindu in general and had decided to go in depth about each one in the upcoming sessions. Therefore in today's session we focused on dharma as part of the educational aspect of youth. This session was highly informative, and it helped us thoroughly understand the meaning of dharma. In our activity time, we decided to play a traditional game of capture the flag. This session was the first time this year in which we went outside in the fresh air to do our activity, which was very refreshing to all of us. Everyone truly had a great time playing this strategic game. Later, we all went back inside and concluded the session with aarthi. Last but not least, the youth is grateful to Dhayabhai and Sushila Patel Ji for providing us with such a delicious and fulfilling lunch. I hope you all enjoyed another great Diwali this year with your family and friends!

The Youth program session on November 10th began traditionally with the usual shlokas lead by Praveen Uncle. Yoga was done by all kids to sharpen our minds and help us connect spiritually to ourselves. Some parents even joined us to attain the benefits of yoga too. We continued our discussion of the four goals of life from our last session. In today's session, we discussed about the second of the four goals of life, artha. Artha means wealth, for which we commonly pray for to Goddess Lakshmi. Thanks to Praveen Uncle for that insightful discussion circle. Our activity time was used on organizing our future activities and plans to make them successful. We decided on a few activities that would satisfy everyone's requests. As traditionally as it started, the session ended with aarthi. There was a strong feeling of unity as we all chanted the mantras together. Today's lunch consisted of Dorito tacos from Taco Bell, making this the first time our lunch brought food from a fast food restaurant. Good job to the food committee for planning this lunch. It was yummy food enjoyed by all.

"This Diwali let us give thanks for all we hold dear: Our health, our family, our friends and to the grace of God which never ends." This quote said by someone reminds me of the true meaning of Diwali and I hope it does the same for you.

Copied from website: <http://www.diwaligiftsideas.com/wishes/diwali-quote-and-quotations.html>

Bal Vihar Field Trip—Vaikunth Hindu Jain Temple, Galloway
(Sunday, October 27) - Ramesh Viswanathan



Three school buses: Children, parents, grandparents, teachers, and dedicated volunteers.

It was a sunny day and the weather God cooperated with us in ensuring we had a perfect outing - start to finish.

The Vaikunth Hindu Jain Temple had an array of deities - Lord Venkateshwara, Durga, Lakshmi, Saraswathi, Hanuman, Shiva, Ganesha, Radha - Krishna, Mahavir, the Navagrahas, Hayagreeva, Modheshwari Mata, Ram Darbar, Ghantakaran Mahavir, and Homa Kund (not sure if I covered all the deities!).

The temple itself is in a serene setting with the some of the deities spread out in different locations in a sizeable area.

The hosts were very gracious in welcoming us and had made elaborate preparations to enlighten us about their activities - some of their youth talked about their Bal Vikas and chanted the slokas they learn every Saturday. They gave a slide presentation on what they typically learn and why they enjoy attending Bal Vikas and were quite eager to take questions from the audience. Never knew that the same community can chant the slokas (that we typically chant in our own Bal Vihar) set to different tunes :-); nevertheless, the bottom line was the devotion with which they sung and that is the key to reaching God. Not to give up, some of our own BV children chanted slokas too....was especially pleased to hear a Tamil song/sloka "Pillayare Vaarum, Pillay endru...." by Vidya Shukla's son....took me down memory lane.

The hosts had arranged some fun games for our children while we took a stroll around the various halls.

At some point of time (around 12 noon for me), the law of diminishing returns started taking effect and I (for one) was glad when compensated with a nice Indian meal!!!!

After this delicious lunch, my prayers had more vigor and energy and it was very refreshing to see the two teachers of this Mandir standing at the entrance of the temple (either side) thanking us with a Namaste as we were exiting.

Sweet, elegant, serene, and blissful.

That about sums up our trip



Bal Vihar
Vikram Meyyappan



We started off November with another auspicious Bal Vihar session - the Diwali (festival of lights) Session. Since it was Diwali, of course, we had many special events. All the kids and parents were dressed up in beautiful Indian clothing. We, as always, chanted slokas and mantras. After this, Lata ji talked elaborately about the five auspicious days of Diwali - Dhanteras, Choti Diwali or Narak Chaturthi, Lakshmi Puja, Govardhan Puja and Bhai Duj. Priests Sudhir ji & Shukla ji and Ramesh uncle performed the Pancha Upachara puja for Goddess Lakshmi. After the puja, everyone received prasad.

Later during the day, the kids went to their respective classes. Instead of the normal routine, we made arts and crafts. All the kids enjoyed making these crafts while learning the significance of Diwali.

During this session, we did not have yoga, but we had Garba. Most of the parents and kids were dancing to the music. It was an enjoyable recreational activity.

For lunch, we had authentic Indian food. We had poori, aloo subzi, samosa, sweets and shrikand. Everybody appreciated the delicious food.

Thanks, Lata ji and all the teachers for another fun-filled day at Bal Vihar.

Announcement - Gita Jayanti

All are invited to Gita Recitation at the Berlin India Temple location on Friday December 13th, 2013 from 09:30 Am to 1 PM. The Aarti will be followed by Prasaad.

Also, invited by GITA MAHATMAY are All DEVAs, RISHIs, and YOGIs. Lord Krishna has also invited GOPAs, GOPIs and NARADJI. Come and enjoy good company and collect PUNYA for your ancestors too!

Indian Cultural Center

Our Dream Has Become a Reality!



Well, the sight we have been waiting for and dreaming about for almost 2 decades, has become a reality, and construction of our own cultural center is almost at the finish line. Finally, our community's dream of having our Cultural Center has become a reality!

Final coat of black top on the parking lot has been applied, sanding and speckling of the walls has been completed, all the utilities are in working order and paint rollers are now working around the clock to put finishing touches of our magnificent building. This 20,500 square foot multipurpose building, on pristine 18+ acres property, in the heart of Indian community is now ready to open the doors to South Jersey Indian community.

We invite all Indian community members to join us in **Vastu Puja (Griha Pravesh) on Sunday, December 15th beginning at 10 AM** and celebrate this historical mile stone for the entire community. Pictures of the center are worth thousand words but, visiting the center is an experience, difficult to put it in words.

We thank everyone who has come forward and donated generously to preserve and enrich our culture, values and heritage for future generations to come. If you have not already done so, at this juncture, time is now for you to do your part, and pledge and fulfill your pledge. If you have already completed your pledge, we value your generosity and we respectfully ask you to consider donating additional funds. Take advantage of 2013 tax deductions by making donation before December 31st.

We would love to have everyone become an ambassador for our Cultural Center. Help us spread the word about ICC to your friends, family and neighbors to donate to our center. We want every Indian family to take ownership in this long awaited community project.

ICC is looking for qualified candidates for executive director position, who will take care of daily operations of the ICC. Interested candidates should email their resume to dkpanda1@gmail.com before December 15th.

www.iccofsj.org

1-855-ICCOFSJ

820 Route 73 South, Evesham Township, 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: 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 a.m. - 1 p.m. 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 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 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 | | \$151 for 151 - 200 mile radius |
| 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



India Temple Association, Inc.

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Darshan Schedule

Morning

7:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Evening

3 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Aarti

12 p.m. & 8 p.m.

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: _____