



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. 39 No. 10 Phone: (855) MYMANDIR (855-696-2634) www.indiatemple.org OCTOBER 2013

Religious Calendar

October 05 Saturday

• Shri Sharadiya

Navaratrarambh

October 12 Saturday

• Durgashtami—Havan in Mandir

October 13 Sunday

• Vijayadashami (DASHERA)

October 15 Tuesday

• Pshankush Ekadashi

October 18 Friday

• Sharad Purnima / Satyanarayan Katha

October 22 Tuesday

• Karak Chaturthi/Kadva Choth

October 30 Wednesday

• Rama Ekadashi

November 01 Friday

• Dhan Terash-Dhan Puja in Mandir

November 02 Saturday

• Kali Chaudash/Narak Chaturdash

November 03 Sunday

• Diwali—Laxmi Puja /

• Annakoot in Mandir

Monthly Activities

October 04, Friday

• Vishnu Sahasranama Parayanam @8:00 PM

Kshama Raghuvver (610) 642-2875

October 18, Friday

Shri Satyanarayan Pooja @6:00 PM

October 19, Saturday

Sundarkand Path @ 10:00 AM

Monthly Bhajan

October 18 Friday, 8-9 p.m.

• Satya Sai Baba of Medford
P.K. Prabhakar (856) 596-3147
Sesha Vemuri (856) 751-0867

October 25, Friday, 8-9pm

Shree Ji Bhajan Group
contact: Urmi Upadhyay (856) 424-9328; Charu Sheth (856) -662-8754



NAVRATRI 2012

October 05 through 12, and October 19

Further details are included inside this edition of Satsang Sandesh

Diwali Celebration at Berlin Mandir

DHAN TERAS PUJA

Friday, November 01, 6:00 p.m.

Please call Kshama Raghuvver at 610-642-2875 or

Binduben at 856-768-6785 to participate as PUJA

YAJMAN



DIWALI CELEBRATION W/ANNAKOOT

Sunday, November 03 from 5:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Initiation of Diwali Celebration will be with **Laxmi Puja** at 6:00 p.m. Upon completion of Puja, Temple will host Bhajan Program along with **ANNAKOOT**.

FIRST AARTI: 8:00 P.M. ****SECOND AARTI: 9:30 P.M.

Please call Binduben at 856-768-6785 if you are planning to bring Annakoot Prasad. Appropriate items will be allocated for offering and presentation. Please bring Prasad in sufficient quantity to serve 25 people.

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.

• Patel Dupta	Oct 01	Pandya Surina	Oct 14
• Patel Dahyabhai & Taraben	Oct 02	Gupta Renu	Oct 18
• Dave Kamlesh & Vrinda	Oct 05	Patel Dahyalal & Sushila	Oct 21
• Shah Mosmi	Oct 06	Patel Piyush	Oct 23
• Patel Kusum N.	Oct 08	Patel Chandrika	Oct 24
• Gandhi Vijay	Oct 10	Gupta N. K.	Oct 26
• Patel Dahyabhai & Taraben	Oct 13	Goyal Arjun	Oct 29
• Dave Jitendra	Oct 14		

Condolences

Rekhaben Harish Shelat and Rajeshbhai Bhatt's father Shri Kanchanlal Bhatt passed away on September 24 at age 87.

ITA and its Board extend their sincere condolences to Bhatt's family.

Senior Citizens' Program

Thursday October 17, 6:30 pm to 9:15 pm and Thursday October 31, 6:30 pm to 9:15 pm

Teerth Yatra: A group of 56 seniors enjoyed a two-day bus excursion last month to three temples: Hindu Jain Temple at Monroeville (suburb of Pittsburgh) which is operated by Hindu Temple Society of North America, Sri Venkateswara Temple modeled after the Tirupati Temple in India, and Govinda Temple of New Vrindaban, West Virginia. Baring a few inconveniences, the trip was safe, worth-taking, and enjoyable. Many of our members, notably, Aruna Kondal, Manju Gupta, Dipika Shah, Vinod Satija, Ram Arora, Urmil Arora, Vijay Pandya, Jayshree Patel, Sushil Bhatnagar, Manjuben Raval, Kirti Dube, Mrs. Sharma and others entertained us with melodious *Bhajans*, songs, jokes, and *Antaksari*. As usual, a variety of snacks were distributed by many families for all to enjoy. This trip was solely supported by contributions from the participants.

Oct. 17: Ear, Nose, & Throat (ENT) Problems: Currently, there is a great deal of specialization in medical sciences, with over three dozen recognized medical specialties treating us from head to toe. Otolaryngology is one of these, involved in diagnosing and treating Ear, Nose, and Throat problems. This is an important field; it covers some of our critical sense organs. We have invited Dr. Ashmit Gupta, MD, MPH (son of our member Dr. Dev Kumar Gupta) to enlighten us on conditions for which seniors should consult the ENT specialist. Some of us suffer from motion sickness, balance problems, ringing in ears, dry mouth, runny nose, nasal allergy, swallowing problems, and a host of other more serious maladies such as deafness and throat cancer. The list is long. Dr. Gupta will advise us on the proper care of nose and throat and on simple remedies for common problems. The decision to choose an ENT specialist, schedule regular checkups, and make emergency visits, when required, should not be put off.

Oct. 31: Visit to North-West National Parks – USA & Canada: Our member Sri Ranjit Banerjee is a year-round traveler of the world. Whenever he is not in New Jersey, he is participating in some tours and on return, he brings a great amount of photos of his visits. One of his recent interesting travels has been to the north-west region of North America. He will present the pictorial tour of this fascinating region and encourage you to visit these parks. His coverage may begin with the attractions of the city of Seattle; the cruise to Victoria, British Columbia, and visit to the world famous Butchart Garden; then to Glacier National Park, Banff National Park, Jasper National Park, and end with the Vancouver city tour. Sri Banerjee will provide you with helpful tips on the trip to this region. So get relaxed, take a good seat and enjoy his presentation.

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

Free Notary Service

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

- 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.

Bal Vihar 2013 - 2014

We had a an auspicious start to our Bal Vihar on September 08. After the chanting of Slokas and Mantras by the children and parents, A big Ganapathi idol was brought to the hall to the accompaniment of "Ganapathi Papa Morya" chant by every one. our Priest Sudhir-ji conducted Ganesh Pooja for the assembled audience. The hall was packed with children and parents, all in complete focus to the task at hand, that of performing the pooja to the Lord.

The priest explained the proper way to perform the pooja and ended it by chanting Ganapathi Atharvaseeresham.

This was followed by a speech by our teacher Bharatji commemorating the fallen heroes of 9/11. Following this, we had a great presentation by two fire fighters, one of whom was an ex-Bal Vihar student. They explained and demonstrated the various tasks that a firefighter does and at the end took questions from the audience; quite a few eager children asked some very relevant queries to which the fire fighters patiently answered.

And the students went to their individual class rooms. Finally, we had a great Indian lunch.

A great start to our Bal Vihar. We all missed Lata-ji our chair person for Bal Vihar.

ITA Seva Samiti update

Sadhna Kothari

Rajen Vakil led a two part session on the proper technique for chanting of Gayatri Mantra on August 25 and 27th this year, as invited by Hina Desai on behalf of ITA Seva Samiti. Both sessions were well attended and the response was excellent.

Mr. Vakil thoroughly explained and demonstrated the special rhythmic breathing necessary for the correct enunciation of all the syllables of Gayatri Mantra. He also related some of the history of the development of the Sanskrit language, including the reverberations and sounds of the words. Each word and cadence was broken down, to show us that Gayatri Mantra has the premier position in the menu of shlokas, because all fifteen of the Sanskrit syllables are contained therein. When recited with this 3SRB breathing rhythm as taught by Shri Tavaraiji, the truth and power of the Mantra are revealed and unleashed.

Here are a couple of comments coming out of this program:

“We have been reciting Gayatri Mantra from the time that we were young children but never really understood why this was such a universally loved and revered Mantra until now...” and “These sessions reinforced our pride in our Vedic heritage...”

It was truly a wonderful opportunity to understand the deep meaning and reasoning behind the Gayatri Mantra.

Art Gallery of Shri Narendra Amin

ITA offers art classes run by one of our founding members, Narendra Amin. Mr. Amin began these classes in May 1985. He is a fantastic artist and creates beautiful sculptures. He has painted portraits of various saints for the Saints Gallery at the temple. He creatively imparts history and religion in the form of art to the young people in his classes. Over 200 children have taken his classes over the past 25 years.

Mr. Amin's art has enriched lives of his students and those who take the time to appreciate his work. It is my pleasure to circulate Mr. Amin's beautiful website within our community.

Please click on the link <http://narendraamin.com> to enjoy Mr. Amin's art gallery.



FREE event for all!
Come join **INDIA TEMPLE ASSOCIATION**
On Saturday, October 12, 2013 from 12-5pm at the
INTERNATIONAL DAY
Eastern Regional School – Gymnasium
1401 Laurel Oak Road, Voorhees NJ



At the “INDIA” booth you will find
Art, Culture, Ethnic Food & more
Come visit us, share our culture with the rest of the world,
& explore other cultures too!

For more details or to volunteer contact
Chetna Giyanani (856)520-8706 chetnatemple@gmail.com



India Temple Association's Seva Samiti
brings you yet another opportunity to SAVE A LIFE!
BONE MARROW DRIVE
Saturday, OCTOBER 12th, 2013 ---- 8:30PM -12:30PM
350 Bridgeboro Rd, Moorestown High School, Moorestown NJ

Right now some patients from our community are battling life-threatening diseases like leukemia. An illness so critical, the only hope for cure is a marrow/blood cell transplant. As per statistics from Leukemia Lymphoma Society,

Approximately every 4 minutes someone is diagnosed with leukemia, lymphoma or myeloma. Finding a matching donor for a transplant is not always easy, or even possible. Since tissue types are inherited, patients from the same race are more likely to find an appropriate match within the same community. **Today there simply are not enough viable donors registered to help these patients.**

The National registry has over 10.5 million registered potential donors, but only 30% are from the South Asians and other minorities in this pool. 50% of our patients do not find a matched donor for a cure, and lose their battle with this fatal blood disease.

Some useful information is available on www.samarinfo.org, www.bethematch.org. **Rarely are you called upon to help a fellow human being in so dire a need.** All healthy individuals between the ages of 18 and 44 years are eligible to register. If you have been tested earlier, you are in the registry and do not have to be tested again. The South Asian Marrow Association of Recruiters Inc (SAMAR) a partner of the Be The Match registry will be available to register you.

Please note: Only a SWAB SAMPLE is collected from the inside of your cheek using a cotton swab!

**For more details, or to volunteer please contact Chetna Giyanani (856)520-8706
chetnatemple@gmail.com**

COME, JOIN THE REGISTRY! TOGETHER WE CAN HELP & BRING A SMILE BACK TO LIFE!

ITA Scholarship—Fourth Place Winner—Mr. Sarth Mehta

Role of Hindu Temples in USA

At face value, Hindu temples have a singular role in the United States: a place of worship for practicing Hindus to gather together. Yet the role of Hindu Temples far exceeds just the outward appearance of a religious building. As the number of Indians living in the United States has rapidly risen in the past ten years, Hindu Temples play an increasingly important role in the United States. True, they are houses of worship, but Hindu Temples act more as links- links that tie together religion and culture, links between American born-Indians and Indian culture as well as Hinduism, and links between members of the Hindu community living in America.

In a more personal light, I can absolutely owe my cultural awareness and my identity as an Indian to my parents, and the Berlin Temple. Some of my earliest memories involve spending time- every other Sunday to be exact- at Bal Vihar at the Berlin temple. Even more so than creating ongoing and lasting friendships and introducing my family to the South Jersey Indian community, the temple was providing me with a vital link to Indian culture and Hinduism. Since Hinduism is so entwined with Indian culture, simply attending the Temple and being a part of Bal Vihar gave me the chance to develop spiritually as a Hindu and culturally as an Indian. In learning shlokas, yoga, stories from Hindu mythology, and the basic concepts of Hinduism, I was given a comprehensive education in religion and spirituality far beyond any I could have received through school or by listening at home. As a result, I was able to fully develop my own identity as a Hindu and an Indian living in America. Temples like the one in Berlin give Indian children in America a chance to connect with their culture, and parents a tool with which they can educate their children.

Furthermore, Hindu Temples also form connections between members of the Hindu community. Take South Jersey's very own India Temple Association (ITA). Using the Berlin Temple as a foundation, the ITA seeks to provide temple services and cultural education for members of the Hindu Community. In doing so, the ITA gives members of the South Jersey Hindu community an opportunity to not only practice their faith but also form bonds with other Indians and Hindus living nearby. In organizing monthly activities and Bhajans as well as Seva Samiti community service projects, the Temple lays the foundations for a strong network of Hindus. As a result, the temple fosters a greater sense of connection between Indians and fosters the creation of new friendships and families. This kind of community organization is, of course, not exclusive to South Jersey: examples of such temple organizations and programs exist everywhere. They display the crucial role that Hindu temples have in creating and fostering bonds between members of local Indian communities.

At the end of the day, Hindu Temples play an extremely important role in the United States. We often call the United States the "great melting pot" of the world, where different cultures of the globe merge together to form something uniquely American. However, upon closer examination, the United States is more like a "tossed salad" where different "ingredients", different cultures and nationalities come together to form a new uniquely American dish while simultaneously retaining their individual flavors. In providing a foundation for Indian children to learn more about Indian culture and religion to develop their own cultural identity, in creating links that create a tightly knit, highly active community, Hindu Temples ensure that even in the midst of the chaos of that "tossed salad", we retain the unique flavors of India.

Music Recital—October 26th 4:00 PM

Smt Sanhita Nandi is a renowned Hindustani Classical exponent from Kirana Gharana, and has received great recognition and reviews for her recent performances in India's prime music festival and around the world. For more details, please visit her website: www.sanhitanandi.com.

Sanhita's students are going to perform at our Hindu temple on October 26th at 4:00 PM followed by Mahaprasad for all.

***Temples, Organizations, Community Centers, and Individual Families
Participate in the
SRI VISHNU SAHASRANAMA (VSN) PARAYANA
for Viswa Shanti and Kalyanam***

**On Saturday, October 5, 2013, Starts at
0930 AM EST, 0830 AM Central, 0730 AM Mountain,
0630 AM Pacific, and 0330 AM Alaska/Hawaii**

VSN Satsang: The VSN chanting format for the Global VSN Satsang is as follows:

**VSN Purva Peethika ---- Once (Above Start Time)
VSN Stotram ---- Five Times
VSN Uttara Peethika ---- Once**

This is followed by the Sri Lakshmi Astotharam, and other activities (archana, naivedyam, aarati, etc.) of the temple, organization, or community center.

We will recite it at our Berlin Temple and start at 930 AM. It will be followed by Mahaprasad.

**Satyanarayan Puja
Friday October 18th 6:30 pm**

We have been having Satyanarayan Puja every full moon day at the Temple. When this falls on a weekday, puja starts at 6 pm and when it is on a weekend, it starts at 3:30 pm. Please join us as Yajman or join the august assembly on **Friday October 18th at 6:30 pm**.

We would like to thank all friends and family who are joining us for the puja. We appreciate and extend our thanks to **Indian Villa** who will sponsor Maha Prasad for all upcoming Satyanarayan Poojas. If you have any questions or would like to RSVP, please **contact Kshama Raghuvver at 610-642-2875 or Kshama500@yahoo.com**.

**Sunderkand Path
Saturday Oct 19th 10 am**

We have Sunderkand path every 3rd Saturday at 10 am which is followed by Mahaprasad. Please join us this month on Saturday October 19th 10 am.

We appreciate and extend our thanks to **Gagan Palace** for sponsoring the Maha Prasad for all Sunderkand Paths. Please join us and feel the difference. It will be a pleasure to see more children participating and receiving Blessings. If you have any questions or would like to RSVP, please **contact Kshama Raghuvver at 610-642-2875 or Kshama500@yahoo.com**.

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: Sharad Pimplaskar at (856) 985-4785 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	<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



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Darshan Schedule

Morning

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

Evening

6 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: _____