

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. 5 Phone: (855) MYMANDIR (855-696-2634)

www.indiatemple.org

MAY 2013

Religious Calendar

May 05 Sunday

 Varuthini Ekadashi / Shri Vallabhacharya Jayanti Celebration in Mandir

May 12 Sunday

• Shri Parshuram Jayanti

May 13 Monday

 Shri Ramanujacharya Jayanti/ Akha Trij

May 15 Wednesday

• Shri Shankaracharya Jayanti

May 18 Saturday

 Bal Vihar and Yuva Darshan Annual Day

May 21 Tuesday

Mohini Ekadashi

May 24 Friday

• Purnima/Satyanarayan Katha

May 25 SaturdayShri Buddha Jayanti/Purnima

June 2 Sunday

• Graduation Day—Yagna June 4 Tuesday

• Apara Ekadashi

Monthly Activities

May 03, Friday

• Vishnu Sahasranama Parayanam: Kshama Raghuveer (610) 642-2875

May 04, Saturday

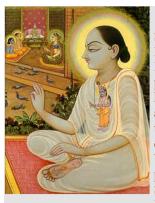
- Sunderkand Path @ 10:00 am May 24, Friday
- Shri Satyanarayan Puja/ Katha on Purnima Day
 @6:00 PM in our Mandir

Kshama Raghuveer (610) 642-2875

Monthly Bhajan

May 24, Friday, 8-9pm Shree Ji Bhajan Group contact:

Urmi Upadhyay (856) 424-9328; Charu Sheth (856) -662-8754



Vallabh Jayanti Celebration

Shri Mahaprabhuji is the founder of religious sect called Pushtimarg. He was born in the year 1478 A.D. at a Champaranya village near Raipur in Madhya Pradesh. He is one of the foremost Indian philosophers taking the rank amongst the first class Acharyas who has expounded the school of Shuddha-advaita. Vallabhacharya heralded a new era of Bhakti-Marga, which teaches unswerving love toward God admitting everyone in the fold, irrespective of sex, cast or nationality. Pushti Marga, the path of grace as founded by Shri Vallabhacharya is very easy to follow as a way of life by common people. Once you commit yourself to God by ritual of "Brahma-Sambanth", God takes care of you unconditionally. He takes you to Pushti Marga by his teaching of Shrodas-Grantha. In Pushti Margs,

Bhakti is not a means, but an end. It is also called Premlakshana Bhakti. Shri Vallabhcharya's other works include Anu-Bhashya (Commentary on Brahma Sutra), tattva Dipa Nibandha and Subodhini (Commentary on Bhagavata). Vallabha regards Shrimad Bhagavata as the most authentic work on knowledge of God.

The Hindu Temple in Berlin will celebrate Vallabh Jayanti on Sunday, May 05, 2013 from 3:30 to 6:00 PM. There will be a chanting of Pusti marg's Yamunasthaka, and other "PĀTHA", followed by melodious Kirtans. Mahaprasad will be served after Aarti at 6:00 PM.

The Wednesday Gita Satsang Group and friends will sponsor the event at the Temple. If you are interested in taking part in the event, please call Bharti Sidhwad (424-5876), Kirti Doshi (424-8046), or Amita Desai (751-2321).

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.

•	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

Condolences

Bhikubhai Darji's brother-in-law Natwarlal Darji (sister's husband) passed away on April 9.

Shri Ashalal Chhotalal Shah, Father-in-law of ITA founding member shri Vijaybhai Gandhi and father of Daxaben, passed away at age of 87 years on April 11, 2013 in Mumbai, India.

Dr. Ajay B. Patel, brother-in-law of Ambarish Patel and brother of Alpa Patel, passed away at the age of 40 years on April 24, 2013, In Chicago, IL.

ITA and its Board extend their sincere condolences to Darji, Chhotalal, and Patel's families.

An Appeal from ITA

Dear Member:

We have some good news and we need your help.

We have enjoyed our Mandir at the current location for over 30 years. It has provided us a serene place to worship, learn about Hinduism, and enjoy various activities sponsored by the ITA that brings us together as a community. We have unmatched ambience. Deities, paintings, and murals adorn our walls. We are truly blessed. But during this period our membership has grown and our demographics have changed.

Your Board of Trustees has been considering the various issues facing us to accommodate the current needs of our community. We have come across a possibility that may make our dreams come true. A piece of land adjacent to the current ICC parcel has become available. What is more, much of the work for zoning and other aspects have been done already. We feel confident that with good relationship cultivated by ICC with the Township, we are in a good position to secure the necessary variance and other approvals. The land has easy access (Route 73) and we have additional parking available with ICC. There is considerable synergy with ICC being literally within walking distance to satisfy the various needs of our community be it social, religious, or cultural. At this preliminary stage, our best estimate is that the new facilities will cost about \$2,000,000 to 2,500,000.

The alternative is to expand the present temple facility, to purchase the adjacent house and develop parking and other necessary renovations at the cost of approximately \$800,000 plus \$300,000 to buy the adjacent properties.

The Board of Trustees (BOT) and the Ad-hoc Committee for the study of Temple Expansion (TES) have concluded that the best option for us would be to build a temple to meet our needs near (adjacent/ within walking distance of) the ICC.

After considering all the facts, the BOT recommends purchasing the land adjacent to ICC instead of expansion of the existing facility.

Our constitution wisely foresaw the need to involve membership in any major change. A change in the place of worship requires the approval of two-thirds of its members.

The BOT recommends a YES vote on this issue. We are seeking your vote at this time before we complete the purchase of this parcel of land. We are planning to make an offer for this land contingent on the approval of the Zoning Board and the approval of two-thirds of our membership. We have reason to anticipate substantial donations from interested members of the community if we follow through with this proposal.

We appreciate your returning the duly completed attached ballot (given on the next page) at your earliest.

From ITA Board of Trustees,

Sangeeta Rashatwar, President

FACT SHEET

Why should we buy new land and move Mandir to a new location?

Will provide more space to accommodate growing needs

Modern building with newer facilities

Better location than a residential neighborhood

Additional parking spaces

What are the facts about the new proposed location?

Address: 820 Rt 73 South

Marlton, NJ

(Same location as the new ICC)

Acreage: 4.1 Acres

Buildable: 3.1 Acres

Acreage

Maximum: 7,410 square feet (gross)

Building Size

Parking

Spaces: 65

Land Cost: \$850,000

(Estimated)

Appraised: \$1,100,000

Value

(Estimated)

Assessed: \$867,000

Value 2012

PURCHASE SUBJECT TO COMPLETION OF ZONING VARIANCE SITE PLAN AVAILABLE AT THE MANDIR

Senior Citizens' Program

Thursday May 9, 6:30 pm to 9:15 pm and Thursday May 23, 6:30 pm to 9:15 pm

Asthma and other Allergic Problems of seniors: Many elderly people have moderate to severe asthma that has been under-diagnosed or under -treated. Asthma is a well-known allergic condition with inflammation of airways of the lungs; their swelling and narrowing leads to recurrent episodes of chest tightness, shortness of breath, wheezing, and coughing. Besides the allergens, asthma is also triggered by factors such as emotions, stress, cold weather, exercise, or infections.

The immune system, our defense against invading pathogenic microorganisms, sometimes is oversensitive and behaves erratically: It reacts to some things (allergens) that do not bother most of the people. Common allergens are tree pollens, grasses, weeds, mold spores, dust mites, animal dander, insect stings, foods and medicines. The reaction causes the release of cytokines and histamine leading to allergic symptoms such as itchy eyes, runny nose, nasal congestion, sneezing, skin rashes, wheezing, swelling, diarrhea, or asthma. This is allergy. Allergy is described as a hypersensitivity disorder resulting in inflammatory response. Allergies make you feel sick and occasionally a severe life-threatening reaction (anaphylaxis) may occur. Both your genes and environment are involved.

On **May 9**, our guest speaker for this topic is Dr. Mahendra Dadhania MD, board certified in Allergy & Immunology. He will cover asthma and other allergic problems of seniors and go over important tests for diagnosis, medical treatment, complications, and prevention and will answer your questions.

Nuclear Energy: Nuclear energy (also known as atomic energy) is used for generating electricity. In USA, about 1/5th of electricity consumed is nuclear in origin. Currently, the fission process is carried out with efficient use of uranium-235. It is estimated that the energy from one gram of uranium is equivalent to that from about three tons of coal. In the reactor, the sustained nuclear fission process produces enormous heat that is harnessed to produce steam. The steam is used to turn turbines that power a generator. The generator creates electricity. Though nuclear plants do not pollute environment, they are subject to accidents like Chernobyl and Fukushima.

We have invited Sri Dahyabhai K. Patel, engineer by profession, past president of ITA, and our member, to talk about the hot topic of nuclear engineering on **May 23**. He will explain how nuclear power plants work and produce electricity for use in our homes. He will also go over the important advantages and disadvantages of current nuclear energy.

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

Graduation Ceremony at Berlin Mandir Sunday June 2, 2013 @ 3:00 PM

It is that time of the year when students graduate and reach specific milestones in their lives. The temple plans a celebration for graduates at all levels, starting from the primary school all the way up to colleges and universities, on Sunday June 2nd, 2013, starting at 3:00 PM at the temple. The festivities will begin with a Puja of all the deities at our Mandir. The festivities will conclude with a prize awarded to each graduate and will be followed by Aarti and Mahaprasad (dinner) by about 6:00 PM.

It is a Hindu tradition to start any celebration with Puja (worship) of God. Each graduate seeks God's blessings for health, wealth, prosperity and happiness as he/she prepares for the next challenge of life. It is said that Puja performed with sincerity and devotion pleases the Gods/Goddesses, who in return bless the seeker to a successful life.

In a spiritual sense, Pujas are performed to enable people to make a sacrifice of all their bad thoughts and actions, as fickleness, hatred, stealing and foolish stubbornness are not considered natural traits of human beings. Pujas are physical actions symbolic of inner human quest to get rid of these tendencies and bring about the natural human traits of righteousness and moral/ethical behavior. A Puja is also considered to propel humans to refine their lives by worship of deities, establishing unity (oneness) with god and by helping less privileged in the community through charitable contributions.

If your family is interested in participating, please RSVP to Ramesh Viswanathan at rameshv99@gmail.com or Sangeeta Rashatwar at sangeetarashatwar@gmail.com by May 24, 2013. Suggested donation is \$51.00 per family.

Discourse by Dr. Ramakamal Das Vedantaji Maharaj at our Mandir

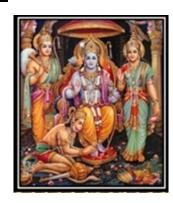


Topic: PAROPKAR SUBSE UTTAM DHARM

Sunday - June 16 -4 pm- 6 pm; Monday, June 17- 7 pm - 8:30 pm; Tuesday, June 18 - 7 pm - 8:30 pm; Wednesday, June 19 - 7 pm - 8:30 pm; Thursday, June 20 - 7 pm - 8:30 pm Friday, June 21, 7 pm - 8:30 pm Saturday, June 22 - 10am - 12 Noon, followed by Maha Prasad.

Bal Vihar Program





Lata-ji talked about the significance of Rama Navami (Lord Ram's birthday). The festival of Ram Navami is celebrated as the birthday of the Hindu God Rama, who is believed to be one of the incarnations of Lord Vishnu. According to the Hindu calendar, it falls on the ninth day of the Chaitra month, which is the spring season. Though Rama Navami is a major festival which celebrates birth of Lord Rama, it is widely celebrated by the worshippers of Shiva, too. It is considered auspicious to undertake a fast on the day of Ram Navami, in the name of Rama. The objective of the fast is not to ask for special favors of the deity, but to seek perfection as a human being.

The very first lines of the Shri Venkateshwara Suprabhatam (below) are from the original Valmiki Ramayana. Sage Vishwamitra says these lines in the Bala Kaanda section of Ramayana to wake up Prince Rama who is sleeping in a hermitage at the confluence of the rivers Ganga and Sarayu.

"Kowsalya supraja Rama Poorva sandhya pravartate Uttishtha nara-shar doola Kartavyam daiva manhikam"

(Oh Rama, the great son of Kausalya, Twilight is approaching in the East. Wake up, oh courageous man, its time to perform the daily divine rituals)

Bal Vihar and Yuva Darshan Annual Day

Come one, come all! Friends and family are invited to attend the Bal-Vihar and Yuva Darshan Annual Day, an amalgam of dances, skits, and shlokas performed by the Bal-Vihar students to exhibit what they have learned throughout the year. Annual Day will be held at Thomas E. Harrington Middle School, 514 Mount Laurel Rd, Mount Laurel, NJ 08054 on Saturday, May 18th, 2013 at 10:30 AM.

ITA Yuva Darshan By Sona Dadhania

On Sunday, March 24th, the Youth had their first session in one month after the successful Youth ski trip, which was very enjoyable. We had a regular session that began with shlokas led by Sharad Uncle. After, the youth had their yoga and meditation lesson, which was led by Praveen Uncle today in place of Harish Uncle. The youth then retreated to the social hall, where we had a very interesting lesson on Sanskrit and writing the language, and our Sanskrit lesson was taught by Sharad Uncle. For the activities part of the session, the youth discussed our upcoming annual day on May 18th and discussed many of the different items that the youth themselves will be choreographing and presenting. After our activities session, the youth participated in the Aarti and finally ate a delicious lunch. The youth would like to thank our teachers, the parents, and our lunch sponsors for yet another successful youth session.

On Sunday, April 14th, the Youth had a regular session at Cherokee High School instead of the Mandir, since the Mandir was celebrating Navratri that week. As always, the session began with shlokas led by Sharad Uncle that were followed by yoga and meditation lessons taught by Harish Uncle. After finishing yoga, the youth went to one of Cherokee's classrooms for our lesson taught by Sharad Uncle. Our lesson was on the ongoing festivities of Shat Chandi Yagna at our Mandir that was taking place that same week, which taught the youth plenty of information we weren't aware of. We continued our discussion from the last session on the upcoming youth annual day for our activity. After our discussion, we did Aarti and were then served a delicious lunch by the dads of Bal-Vihar. The Youth would like to thank our teachers, the parents, and Bal-Vihar for graciously hosting us this week and serving us lunch as well.

ITA Seva Samiti update

Sadhna Kothari

We get many requests for charitable donations in our email and regular mail and after awhile, we tend to skip past these to get to the next piece of mail. We understand, we get it. There are so many demands on your time, but you also know that there are many less fortunate who need our help. Please consider volunteering with ITA Seva Samiti – contact Lata Pimplaskar at latap@comcast.net or 856-985-4785.

We look forward to hearing from you!

The Sai Group has been providing food for the needy/homeless in Philadelphia for 23 years, an impressive and laudable effort. ITA Seva Samiti is now working with the Sai Group on this project and with the ever increasing number of the disadvantaged, we urge you to join this effort.

Here is how to get started with the **Sandwich program**:

Invite friends in your circle to make 50 brown lunch bags (vegetarian) once every 2-3 months. Each bag should contain one peanut butter and jelly sandwich, one cheese sandwich with mustard, one apple or orange and one juice box. The other option is for each bag to have one bagel with cream cheese, one apple or orange and one juice box.

These 50 lunch bags need to be transported to the home of the Prabhakar family at 7 Ridgemount Drive, Marlton New Jersey (856-596-3147) on the Friday before the second and fourth Saturday of the month.

The food is distributed on the street, at 19^{th} and Vine Street in Philadelphia, between 8:30-9:30 am on the second and fourth Saturday of the month.

Anyone wishing to participate in the food distribution in Philadelphia is welcome to do so.

Please call Hina Desai at 856-424-1934 if you need more information or wish to join an existing group.



INDIA TEMPLE ASSOCIATION'S SEVA SAMITI

brings you yet another opportunity to walk for a great cause!

JOIN OUR TEAM as we walk in the

American Cancer Society's Relay for Life of Voorhees

Friday, May 31st, 2013
6pm—Midnight
Eastern Regional High School 1401 Laurel Oak Rd, Voorhees NJ

To sign up and for more details contact

Chetna Giyanani at <u>chetnatemple@gmail.com</u> (856)520-8706 Lata Pimplaskar at <u>latap@comcast.net</u> (856)985-4785

Please join us with friends and family and take part in the Events at our Temple in June..

Upcoming Programs in June

Sunday, June 2nd - Graduation Pooja @3:00 PM Saturday, June 15th - Sunderkand Path @ 10:00 AM Sunday Jun 16th - Saturday Jun 22nd - Dr. Swami Ramkamaldasji Sermons Sunday, June 23rd - Satyanarayan Puja

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 Smt. Chetna Giyanani 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	
Vahan (Vehicle) Puja	\$21	N/A	
Namakaran/Annaprashan	\$51	\$101	
Birthday	\$51	\$101	TEMPLE FACILITIES USAGE FEE
Shraddha	\$51	\$101	Prayer Hall: \$200
Anniversary Celebration	\$101	\$151	Social Hall: \$300
Seemant	\$101	\$151	
Kesh Mundan Puja	\$101	\$151	
Sodashopchar, Kalash Puja, Punyah-Vachan			
or Blessings	\$101	\$151	OTHER CHARGES
Satyanarayan Puja	\$121	\$151	
Engagement Ceremony	\$101	\$201	MILEAGE AND TRAVEL TIME TIER
Havan/Grah Shanti	\$201	\$251	
Vastu Puja - outside service only	N/A	\$251	\$0 for 1 - 25 mile radius
Sunderkand Path	\$151		
Wedding Grah Shanti	\$201	\$301	\$51 for 26 - 100 mile radius
Wedding Ceremony per day	\$301	\$351	\$101 for 101 - 150 mile radius
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	NON-MEMBER
Yagna/Laghu Rudra - outside service only	N/A	\$351	
Navchandi Yagna - outside service only	N/A	\$651	\$51 for non-member surcharge

NOTE: Charges and availability of other Puja Services not listed above may be discussed with Smt. Chetna Giyanani 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



President

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Vice President

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Harshad J Patel 1-855-my-mandir x 713 treasurer@indiatemple.org

Religious Services Facility Rental Temple Manager

Magan Kanzaria Chetna Giyanani Harish Shelat 1-855-my-mandir x 1 manager@indiatemple.org

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

India Temple Association, Inc.

25 E. Taunton, Berlin, NJ 08009

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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
emitting the membership dues
(please select one) Individual or Family Five year (\$25)
Life (\$101)
I am adding additional donations:
Scholarship FundLifetime Seva (\$301)Temple Renovations
Seva Samiti Fund Bal Vihar Fund Youth Fund
I am relocating to the following address
Last Name: First Name:
Address:
Telenhone: F-mail: