



# Satsang Sandesh

A monthly news magazine of

## India Temple Association, Inc.

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

Vol. 38 No. 6 Phone: (855) MYMANDIR (855-696-2634) www.indiatemple.org JUNE 2012

### Religious Calendar

#### June 1 Friday

- Nirjala Ekadashi/
- Bhim Ekadashi
- Shri Gayatri Jayanti

#### June 4 Monday

- Vat Savitri Purnima
- Shri Kabir Jayanti

#### June 15 Friday

- Yogini Ekadashi

#### June 29 Friday

- Gauri Vrat Starts

#### June 30 Saturday

- Dev Shyani Ekadashi

#### July 1 Sunday

- Jaya Parvati Vrat Starts

#### July 3 Tuesday

- Guru Purnima/Gauri Vrat  
Concludes

#### July 5 Thursday

- Jaya Parvati Vrat Concludes

### Monthly Activities

#### June 1, Friday

- Vishnu Sahasranama  
Parayanam

Kshama Raghuveer (610) 642-2875

### Monthly Bhajans

#### June 15, Friday, 8-9 p.m.

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

#### June 22, Friday, 8-9 pm

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

### Exciting news!

Early in 2011 due to the rapid expansion of our community, the Board identified the need for a second priest. As a result, the Darshan committee did an extensive research in the selection process and -- after exhaustive search -- finally located a highly qualified young priest, who is currently living in Seattle, Washington.

His name is Sudhir Jha and he is a North Indian Hindu Priest. We are so pleased, that Sudhir Jha fulfills all our temple requirements and fits the job description as though it were written for him. Here are only a few specifics.

- Sudhir Jha has 12-plus years of experience as priest.
- He is well versed in performing all Hindu religious Pujas, Purva and Aparahna ceremonies.
- He also speaks very good English, Hindi and Gujarati.
- He can also perform various services in these languages.
- In short, he is young, energetic and computer literate, and – with the qualifications, he would be able to help out administratively with temple affairs.

In short, we believe Sudhir Jha will be a huge asset to our Temple and we know you will all look forward to greeting him when he arrives, by the end of the month in May. Please take a moment to introduce yourself, so he can begin to feel at home. I know you will come to appreciate him, as I have.

**Rina Patel—ITA President**

### 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.*

- |                                 |         |                            |         |
|---------------------------------|---------|----------------------------|---------|
| • Dunthur & Yedahalli Uttaswamy | June 02 | Hemali & Vaishali Kothari  | June 13 |
| • Kartik Patel                  | June 04 | Dahyalbhai & Taraben Patel | June 13 |
| • Meghan & Melanie Patel        | June 04 | Santosh Khurana            | June 19 |
| • Milan Patel                   | June 06 | Rushikesh Parghi           | June 21 |
| • Bharat Gandhi                 | June 07 | Ishvar Patel               | June 22 |
| • Dinesh Patel                  | June 08 | Kalavati Desai             | June 29 |
| • Ramesh Gupta                  | June 12 | Kartik & Dupta Patel       | June 29 |
| • Rushikesh Parghi              | June 12 | Rushikesh Parghi           | June 25 |

## Condolences

Vinaychandra Sheth, Dr. Amita Talati's father (Naresh Talati's father-in-law) passed away in India on April 26.

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

### Senior Citizens' Program

Thursday June 14, 6:30 pm to 9:15 pm and Thursday June 28, 6:30 pm to 9:15 pm

The highlights of the program are as follows:

**Genesis of the universe:** Mythology is the study/collection of myths (closely linked to religion), and regarded as true accounts of the remote past by many cultures including our own. There is a distinction between myths and fables, however. Hindu Mythology is also a collection of timeless, traditional narratives (stories) as contained in Hindu scriptures: Epics, *Vedas*, *Puranas*, and *Upnishads*. These narratives provide four basic functions, namely, mystical, cosmological, pedagogical, and sociological. On **June 14**, our member Sri Surendra Gambhir PhD, a retired professor from the Univ. of Pennsylvania, will talk about the *Genesis of the Universe in Hindu Mythology and Modern Science*. There are many stories about the origin of the universe (creation myths), Gods, Goddesses, and anti-god forces in Hindu scriptures; some of these have striking similarities with those of other world cultures as well as with modern science.

**Bharatnatyam:** We are inviting Miss Priya Ranganath again this year to present the national dance of India - Bharatanatyam on June 28. This dance was greatly admired by the audience present and it would be another opportunity for those who had missed it. Priya has performed her art at numerous venues. Her tutor is Smt. Roopa Nayak.

**Picnic:** A picnic has been arranged on July 15 from 10 AM to 3 PM at the Washington Lake Park, Sewell for the recreation of our members. Lunch, tea, roasted corn, and watermelon will be served. Charges: \$6 per person.

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



### Youth Program By Sona Dadhania



The final session of youth for the 2011-2012 year on May 13, 2012 was a very special one, as we dedicated it to our mothers for Mother's Day and also celebrated Holi, albeit belated. As always, the session started up with Shlokas led by Sharad Uncle. After Shlokas, each youth gave a 2 minute presentation about poems, stories, and more dedicated to their mothers; the youth presented them in front of everyone in order to show how much they cared about their mothers. Then, Chetna Auntie came and talked to us about various volunteering projects, such as the Cancer Walk and India Day that we can all engage in; we then completed the surveys detailing our experience this year at youth. For our activity, the youth organized the activities for the India Day Festival for Camden's Kids Alley on May 20th, and we distributed the activities among the many youth, all of whom were volunteering at India Day. This gave us yet another opportunity to volunteer in our Indian community. Some of the activities that we planned and manned were arts and crafts, dance, ring toss, and pin the tail on Hanuman. After our activity, we went downstairs for a delicious lunch, which the youth served to the parents for a change. A big thanks to Shyama and Ram Nair and Twinkle and Narendra Prajapati for a great lunch. After lunch, the youth enjoyed a colorful Holi festival and every single one of us was covered from head to toe with colors given to us by Sangeeta Auntie; it was a wonderful and colorful way to end the year. The youth would like to offer thanks to all of our teachers and parents for a great year at Youth, and we hope Youth can be this terrific next year as well. We hope to see all of the youth and Agni graduates at youth next year. We can't wait until next year!

Arsha Vidya Center of South Jersey and India Temple Association  
welcome you to two-day public discourse on

**“Action and Reaction”**

by

**Sri Swami Veditatmananda Saraswati**

**on June 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012 (Monday and Tuesday), 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm**  
at the Berlin Mandir



Sri Swami Veditatmananda, a foremost disciple of Sri Swami Dayananda Saraswati, is a well known and highly respected teacher of Vedanta in both India and around the world. Swamiji expounds Vedanta with simplicity and directness that make it easy to assimilate. Having lived in the United States, Swamiji is familiar with the lifestyles in India and the West, and reaches out to everyone with equal ease. Every year, Swamiji spends several months teaching at the Arsha Vidya Gurukulam in Saylorsburg, PA. In India, Swamiji conducts various programs to disseminate the knowledge of the scriptures at Tatvatirtha, Adhyatma Vidya Mandir in Thalej near Ahmedabad, and gives talks on the Upanishads and the Bhagavad Gita all over Gujarat.

For more information about Swamiji’s discourse, please call Sharad Pimplaskar at (856) 985-4785 or Malathi Shankar at (856) 424-7849.

## **Member Recognition**

ITA would like to recognize Drs. Asha and Ramesh C. Gupta, member of Hindu Senior Citizen group for their donation of chairs to our temple. On behalf of the members of ITA, we thank them for their support and generosity.

## **Bal-Vihar Update**

**ITA \_Bal Vihar Program will begin on Sept 9<sup>th</sup> 2012**

**Time: 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM**

**Location: Cherokee High School in Marlton, NJ**

*Teaching Vedic Heritage Giving Our Children Positive Identity!*

### **Five groups of Bal Vihar:**

- Prithvi Pre KG for 4 years old only. This group will learn about gods, chant shlokas and bhajans, stories and arts & crafts.
- Saagar KG and 1<sup>st</sup> graders: KG: Stories and forms of Shiva, and Three goddesses, Arts and Crafts. 1<sup>st</sup> graders: 10 stories from Ramayana.
- Pavan 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders: 2<sup>nd</sup>: Story of India. 3<sup>rd</sup>: Puranic Tales.
- Aakash 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> graders: 4<sup>th</sup>: Mahabharata Part II 5<sup>th</sup>: Dharma \_ understanding universal values such as Satyam, Ahimsa.
- Agni 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> graders: Principles of Hinduism.

**Registration will begin August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012**, and will be on first come first served basis. Registration is limited to 225 children. There will be a nominal fee of \$100.00 per student. The parents must become ITA members to enroll their children. The fees include cost of lunches, Pujas and festivals. There will be additional cost for the Annual Day. All donations are welcome. For more information call: Lata Pimplaskar @ 856-985-4785 or [latap@comcast.net](mailto:latap@comcast.net)

### *Indian Cultural Center Announces Major Donation*



*Rina Patel, Treasurer and Manu Dadhania receiving donation check from Drs. Anu & Kamaldeep Momi*

Indian Cultural Center (ICC) received major donation in the amount of \$150,000 from Drs. Anu & Kamaldeep Momi. While handing over the check, Drs. Momi said "This is a very proud moment for our family and we are very happy to be doing our part in fulfilling our community's dream of having our own cultural center". As we are slowly progressing towards the completion of construction, the need for adequate funding is critical for the completion of our Cultural Center. "This major donation from Drs. Momi at very critical juncture of construction is very much appreciated by the entire community and we thank them for their generosity and believing in our shared dream" Manu Dadhania said.

As younger generations rise to play an ever-stronger role in the American society and, especially, in our Indian-American heritage – leaders emerge who exemplify everything we can be and want to be and, thus, become the bellwether for all of us to emulate and follow. Drs. Anu and Kamaldeep Momi have not only become two of the critical providers for our center whose incredible generosity has given the building of our new cultural center a giant step forward toward fruition, but they have – most certainly – set the direction and the example for all of us to follow. "One example," said, Rina Patel, President of our ITA, that the Momis' have set for those of us who, like me, are of their generation is that – while having children whose college educations have yet to be expended – they have the confidence and the generosity to donate lavishly to our common betterment now at this critical time for the building of our new Indian Cultural Center. While most of us," continued Patel, "cannot afford such a massive donation to our future, we can all follow in their footsteps, with perhaps a smaller stride."

With this donation we are now approaching 3 million dollars in pledges. This is certainly a great achievement for the South Jersey Indian community. From the conception of having our own cultural center till today, we have made significant progress towards fulfilling our dream. As you are all aware, we have completed foundation and floor of the building and majority of the site work has completed. Once the steel is fabricated and delivered, you will be able to see rapid progress of the building. Now there are no official hurdles and it is up to all of us to complete this project and open the doors to community.

As in the past, we urge all the community members to get involved in this much-needed Center and the time is now for everyone to come on board. We need every Indian family living in and around South Jersey to get involved and take pride in having a one-of-a-kind Cultural Center in our area.

As always, we are keeping the affairs of ICC transparent to the community. Answers to many of the construction related questions have been posted on our website [www.iccofsj.org](http://www.iccofsj.org) for your review. Should any of you have any further questions or concerns please contact Dhiraj Panda or Ashvin Patel for clarification of any and all issues.

We invite everyone to visit the site every Sunday, from 11AM to Noon (weather permitting) and experience the construction progress. Also, please continue to visit our website [www.iccofsj.org](http://www.iccofsj.org) to monitor progress of this project

[www.iccofsj.org](http://www.iccofsj.org)

1-855-ICCOFSJ



## *India Temple Association \_ Seva Samiti*

**Has JOINED HANDS to WALK with  
American Cancer Society's**

Relay for Life in Voorhees



**Come JOIN HANDS with the ITA Seva Samiti Team**

**On Friday, June 8<sup>th</sup> 6pm – Midnight**

**Pick your time 6-8, 8-10, 10-12PM or walk all hours!!**

AT Eastern Regional High School,  
1401 Laurel Oak Road, Voorhees, NJ 08043

**SIGN UP** with Chetna at [Chetnatemple@gmail.com](mailto:Chetnatemple@gmail.com) or

Lata at 856-985-4785

## Seva Samiti India Day, May 20, 2012

On Sunday, May 20, 2012, the Seva Samiti Service Group held its Annual Day / India Day at Cherokee High School in Marlton, NJ from 11am to 3pm raising funds for Kids Alley of Camden, NJ. The event showcased the different regions of India: North, East, West and South with colorful displays from each of the regions featuring their culture, fashion, famous people and their food. The event was attended by many people. During the event, Voorhees Mayor Michael Mignogna gave a quick speech on how he was "pleased" to see that the Seva Samiti Service Group was raising funds for a local Camden based charity. Mayor Mignogna had grown up in Camden, so this was near and dear to him. The event also featured various dances from both the Youth Group and the Bal Vihar students and featured a dance company. The event had various games for children, henna painting, impromptu Garba dancing by some of the volunteers, a silent auction for people to bid on gifts and gift cards and just some good old fashioned fun. The food was amazing, the regions beautifully displayed and fun was had by all that came. The Seva Samiti Service Group thanks all those that attended and volunteered for this event.

Here are some memorable pictures capturing the essence of this event.



## 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 temple in Berlin

Contact: Virendra Gupta @ (856) 424-9313

### GITA STUDY GROUP:

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

Contact: Sharad Pimplaskar @ (856) 985-4785

### BHAJANS & STUTI:

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

Contact: Shree Shuklaji (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 Temple in Berlin.

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 temple in Berlin

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 will be available for religious services on request. Please check temple availability at [www.indiatemple.org](http://www.indiatemple.org);

Click on "CALENDAR tab" and, from drop-down menu, Click on "EVENT/RENTAL CALENDAR". Please contact Smt. Chetna

Giyanani or Smt. Anoo Joshi at 1-855-MY-MANDIR Ext 1 for the booking of the Temple Facilities and/or scheduling of Puja Services by Shuklaji.

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	<b><u>TEMPLE FACILITIES USAGE FEE:</u></b>
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	
Satyanarayan Puja	\$121	\$151	
Engagement Ceremony	\$101	\$201	
Havan/Grah Shanti	\$201	\$251	<b><u>OTHER CHARGES</u></b>
Vastu Puja - outside service only	N/A	\$251	\$51.00 for outside 25 mile radius
Wedding Grah Shanti	\$201	\$301	\$51.00 for non-member surcharge
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. Chetna Giyanani @ (856) 433-8909**

### **DIRECTION TO BERLIN TEMPLE**

#### **A. From Tacony Bridge:**

Take NJ route 73S; drive about 12-13 miles and follow sign for East Taunton Ave. Temple on your right

#### **B. From Ben Franklin Bridge:**

Take route 30E to NJ route 70E to NJ route 73S, drive about 7 miles and follow sign for East Taunton Ave. Temple 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 Ave.

#### **D. From Central and North Jersey:**

Take NJ turnpike south, Exit 4 for route 73S. Drive about 10-11 miles and follow sign for East Taunton Ave. on your right.



# India Temple Association, Inc.

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PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP IF IT SHOWS "EXPIRED" OR YEAR MARKED  
2011 OR EARLIER IN ADDRESS LABEL

## President

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### Facility Rental

### Temple Manager

Chetna Giyanani

Anoo Joshi

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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**

**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: \_\_\_\_\_