



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. 37 No. 12 Phone: (855) MYMANDIR (855-696-2634) www.indiatemple.org DECEMBER 2011



Religious Calendar

Dec 6, Tuesday

Mokshada Ekadashi

GITA JAYANTI

Bhagvad-Gita Path in Temple

Dec 10, Saturday

Shri Dattatray Jayanti

Purnima

Dec 21, Wednesday

Shri Safala Ekadashi

Jan 1, 2012, Sunday

Satyanarayan Puja at temple as
Part of New Year Celebration

Monthly Activities

Dec 2, Friday

Vishnu Sahasranama Parayanam

Monthly Bhajans

Dec 9, Friday, 8-9 p.m.

Pushti Mandal Bhajan Group

Dhiraj Saparia (856) 287-1415

Kiran Doshi (856) 424-8046

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

Satya Sai Baba of Medford

P.K. Prabhakar (856) 596-3147

Dec 11, Sunday

3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

SPECIAL BHAJAN PROGRAM

**Chandan Modi, Students
and Local Artists**

**Before General Body Meet-
ing and Trustees Election**

GITA JAYANTI Celebration at Berlin Mandir

December 6, Tuesday @ 6:30 p.m..

Bhagvad-Gita is the divine discourse spoken by the Supreme Lord Krishna, Himself, and is considered by eastern and western scholars alike to be among the greatest spiritual books the world has ever known. In a very clear and wonderful way, the Supreme Lord Krishna describes the science of self-realization and the exact process by which human beings can establish their eternal relationship with God. The whole Gita will be recited in Sanskrit. For more details, please call Shuklaji at 856-768-6785 or Mahendra Toprani at 856-751-8278.

ITA GENERAL BODY MEETING & ELECTION OF TRUSTEES

The meeting will be held on December 11, Sunday at 6:00 P.M. after a SPECIAL BHAJAN PROGRAM by Chandan Modi, his students and local artists from 3:30 P.M. to 5:30 P.M.

Treasurer's and President's reports will be presented to the General Body. Election may or may not be held, depending on the number of nominations received for available vacancies by the November 30, 2011 deadline. As usual, upon completion of meeting, MAHA PRASAD, sponsored by 2011 Trustee Board, will be served in social hall. Everyone is invited to enjoy Bhajans, learn about Democratic Administration of our Temple and leave with a great taste of Maha Prasad.

January 1, 2012 Celebration at Berlin Mandir

SATYANARAYAN PUJA/KATHA, 2:00 TO 4:00 P.M.

ITA has planned this as an annual event to be celebrated every year, beginning in the year 2012. It is the most auspicious way of beginning a new year that can fill our hearts and minds with positive energy. Participation is open to all. Donations of \$51.00 or more will be appreciated. Prasad will be served at the conclusion of PUJA/KATHA. Those who are interested to participate are requested to contact Binduben at 856-768-6785 or Ghanshyambhai at 856-506-7531.

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.

• Akshaybhai & Savitaben Patel	Dec 01	Jagdish Shah	Dec 22
• Pravina Gohel	Dec 05	Nagindas/Champaben Shah	Dec 23
• 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
• Jelabhai Patel	Dec 13	Mahendra Toprani	Dec 28
• Rukhmanidevi Tekrival	Dec 15	Kavita Gupta	Dec 30
• Jaysinh Chandriani	Dec 18	Naresh Talati	Dec 31
• Sheel Kapoor	Dec 18	Navin K. Gupta, Pramila Mitra	One Day
• K.S. Krishnan	Dec 18	Manibhai Patel, Raj Patel	One day
• Laxman P Singh	Dec 18	Rajiv Verma	One Day

Condolences

Smt. Revaben Ambalal Parekh, mother of Pravin Parekh, passed away on October 26, 2011 at age 82. ITA and its Board extend their sincere condolences to the Parekh family.

Smt. Shanta Devi Daga, mother of Kishor Daga, passed away on October 27, 2011. ITA and its Board extend their sincere condolences to

Senior Citizen's Program Thursday December 15, 6:30 pm to 9:15 pm

We will have only one meeting/month during December, January, and February. The last meeting of 2011 is on December 15 when the female members of our group will present a variety of topics for information and entertainment. Each topic will be of a very short duration. We had a similar program by the male members on July 21 and was a hit. Hopefully, this presentation will match or exceed the previous one!

The presenters are: Sarvshrimati Sushila Kothari (Temple Wealth in Kerala), Pratibha Joshi (*Maharastraki Sant Vani Parampara*), Kshama Raghuvver (Interesting Experiences), Usha Gupta (Health & Wellness Resources), Hansaben Shah (Hope). Besides, there will be poem recitation and *Bhajans* by Kamla Chandra, Nalini Bhavnani, Hansaben Kanzaria, Taraben D. Patel, Shantaben Movalia, and Charulata Sheth.

For more information about the program, activities, and to join the group, please contact:

Suraj Bhan Singh, by phone: (856) 582-5035 or email (sbsingh1@hotmail.com) or
Narsinh N. Sangani by phone: (856) 435-2128 or email (nnsangani@juno.com).



Bal-Vihar Program

At the last meeting, Bal Vihar children enjoyed the regular classes and at the general session they learned new prayers / shlokas and heard the story of *Pundalika and Vithoba*. Vithoba is the form of Krishna that's worshipped in the state of Maharashtra. 'Vit' means brick, and the one who stands on a brick is *Vithoba*. Krishna awaits His devotee on a brick because the devotee was attending to his parents.

As soon as the theme for Annual Day was announced as the 'Festivals of India,' and children and parents excitedly began discussing the plans for the show.

We thank **Jay and Yamini Patel** for sponsoring the lunch on Nov. 13th 2011.

The next session will be on Sunday, Dec. 11th at Cherokee High School in Marlton, NJ.



VITHOBA
KRISHNA

UPDATE ON TULSI VIVAH CELEBRATION

So far this celebration was understood as a pure Gujarati event. However, when our own Trustee Mrs. Chetna Giyanani and her family participated in this year's celebration, it was realized that the event is more for Hindu community than just Gujarati families. Mr. and Mrs. Shyam Giyanani adopted Tulsima and Mr. & Mrs. Harshad Patel adopted Vishnudev. Both in-laws brought their adopted children in Wedding Mandap where Shri Shuklaji conducted a real wedding ceremony. From this day onwards all Hindus were permitted to begin weddings in their own families. People had a great deal of fun singing wedding songs and a few lucky ones had their chances to give personal advice in Tulsima's ears. Binduben's beauty shop made a big difference in Tulsima's dress up. Those who could not make it in this final event of the year will have to eagerly wait until November 24, 2012.

ITA Board appreciates Chandan Modi and Jayesh Raval for their musical support and all those who supported this program for its continued success. ITA also appreciates Dilip and Harsha Pandya's standby services of providing decorations and garlands during every major occasion of our temple, including this event. Food was prepared and catered by our routine volunteers for many events in our temple. ITA is proud of the following Volunteers, who prepared and brought food for all attendees of this auspicious occasion (Names listed in alphabetical orders of their last names):

Dave Nikunjana, Giyanani Chetnaben, Gusani Anjanaben, Khatiwala Daxaben, Khatiwala Hansaben, Pandya Malvikaben, Parikh Meenaben, Parikh Pratimaben, Patel Ashaben, Patel Bhavnaben N, Patel Chandrikaben J, Patel Daxaben D, Patel Ilaben P, Patel Jignaben, Patel Jyotiben P, Patel Pushpaben A, Patel Rashmikaben, Patel Shardaben, Patel Shushilaben B, Patel Vibhaben, Prajapati Hinaben, Raval Binaben, Shah Niranjnanaben, Shukla Binduben

OTHER COMMUNITY EVENT

India Association of South Jersey (IASJ) has planned its Annual Dinner with entertainment program on December 3, 2011 at Frances Demasi School in Marlton, NJ. Please contact Mr. Raman Modhera at 856-424-5509 for further details.

HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE

The Indian tradition calls for sharing a portion of our daily food with the needy. We urge you to remember the less fortunate people when we are rejoicing with our friends and family during this time of holidays. As always, we join hands with our Bal-Vihar Group, Youth Group, Senior Citizen Group and others to coordinate the food drive which will help the poor and needy during the holiday season. Special marked containers are kept at the front lobby of our temple in Berlin for packaged and canned non-perishable food. Collected food boxes are delivered to Organizations directly helping disaster victims and homeless.

Please do not donate outdated or nearly expired packaged items.

For more information, please contact Narendra Amin at 856-429-8761 or Binduben Shukla at 856-768-6785.

Youth Program

By Sona Dadhanian and Sabrina Patel

On October 23, 2011, we had a very special session as the community celebrated Diwali. After our daily prayers, led by Sharad Uncle, we had our yoga and meditation session taught by Harish Uncle. Then, we had a nice chanting session where all of the kids were able to chant together successfully. Then, the youth went to the Social Hall for a lesson on materials, knowledge, and Ishvara taught by Sharad Uncle. This was a unique session in that there were two observers, students from Rowan University, who came to learn about Hinduism as part of their project for their course - "Religion in America". We all did our best to teach them as much as we could about the Hindu culture of which we are very proud. Thank you to Harish Uncle and Sharad Uncle for teaching us these lessons. After this, we had our activity, and in the celebration of the new year and the festival of lights, the youth created lanterns to light up the temple. We were taught and helped by Sangeeta Doshi who also used to attend Bal Vihar and Youth classes at the temple. The kids split up into pairs and using paper, sparkles, and designs crafted beautiful transparent lanterns. As the finishing touch, Sangeeta Didi attached a light inside so that at night inside the temple, visitors can see the light from the lanterns. Thank you to Sangeeta Didi for coming in to help us on such a terrific project. In total, we had a very informational and unique session where we celebrated our beloved culture during the festival of lights, Diwali. A big thank you to our lunch sponsors this session, Geeta & Vipul Bhat and Yamini & Naresh Patel.

On November 14, 2011, we had our fourth youth session of the 2011-2012 year. As always we started off with the daily prayers directed by Sharad Uncle. With some new faces in class, we had another quick "introduction game", which was promptly followed by yoga and pranayama taught by Harish Uncle. Then, we had a brief chanting session which was done in groups of two-three people. After doing so, we went downstairs to the Social Hall and had our dharma lesson with Sharad Uncle. During this lesson, we discussed the views of life. Thanks to Harish Uncle and Sharad Uncle for those informational lessons.

Instead of having a group discussion, we had a guest speaker come and talk to us about Big Brothers and Big Sisters. Big Brothers Big Sisters (also known as BBBS) is an association that helps less fortunate kids get a good support system. Former Bal Vihar graduate, Sangeetha Subramanian is a very dedicated member of this support group, and she came to educate our youths on how we can help others in our community. Being part of such a rich and value oriented Indian Community is truly a blessing for kids our age; we have the support of family and friends that many children lack. Therefore, Ms. Subramanian suggested we try to make a difference for those who are underprivileged. As of right now, there is an event called "Bowl For Kids" set up for Saturday & Sunday April 21 & 22, 2012; which will benefit the participants of BBBS in the Burlington, Camden, and Gloucester Counties. To support this cause, the youth group is working on setting up a 'youth bowling team'; anyone who is interested is welcome and encouraged to join. The admission price is \$20 per person which will cover food and bowling needs, and for more information you can go to www.bowlforkids.net. Ms. Subramanian has also offered to help the members of the youth group come up with their own professional fundraising event in the future. We truly thank Ms. Sangeetha Subramanian for informing us about the Big Brother Big Sister Program and will try our best to help those in need. Thanks also go out to Dr. Nilesh & Mrs. Sangeeta Doshi who sponsored our pizza lunch. Overall, we had a very productive and educational youth session. Hari Om.

Vedanta and Bhagavad-Gita Study

Dear Friends, we are conducting Vedanta and Bhagavad-Gita study at the temple on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. It is never too late to join in and enjoy group discussions. On Tuesday, November 15th, we started our discussions on a new text, Bhaja Govindam, by Shri Shankaracharya. The Bhagavad-Gita classes are held on Wednesdays. Please join in. For more information, call Sharad Pimplaskar at (856) 985-4785.



FOUNDATION STONE CEREMONY



OUR ICC---OUR DREAM

PLEASE CALL FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS

856-287-0361 856-981-2580 856-905-2580 or 855-ICCOFSJ

Further information available at WWW.ICCOFSJ.ORG

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 5-13), 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,

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;

Scroll to the bottom of the page and click on the link "Temple Availability", then click on "CALENDAR tab" and, from drop-down menu, click on "EVENT/RENTAL CALENDAR". Please contact Smt. Chetna Giyanani (856-433-8909) or Smt. Anoo Joshi (856-616-2460) for the booking of the Temple Facilities and/or scheduling of Puja Services by Shuklaji.

Please note that 50% of the listed cost of Puja performed outside the temple goes to Pujari in addition to his regular salary.

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	<u>TEMPLE FACILITIES USAGE FEE:</u>
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	<u>OTHER CHARGES</u>
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) 267-5598

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 MARK
2011 OR EARLIER IN ADDRESS LABEL

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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 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 _____ Special Prayer (\$301) _____ Temple Renovations
_____ Seva Samiti Fund _____ Bal Vihar Fund _____ Youth Fund

I am relocating to following address

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____