

Satsang Sandesh

A monthly news magazine of

India Temple Association, Inc.

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

No. 4 Phone: (856) 768-3134

www.indiatemple.org

APRIL 2011

Religious Calendar

April 4, Monday CHAITRI New Year Gudi Padvo/Ugadi

Vol. 37

April 5, Tuesday--CHETI CHAND (Celebration in Temple on April 16)

April 9 & 10, Saturday/Sunday AKHAND RAMAYAN in Temple

April 12, Tuesday– RAM NAVMI Shri Sahajananda Jayanti Celebration in Temple

April 14, Thursday Kamada Ekadashi

April 15, Friday-- Tamil New Year

April 17, Sunday HANUMAN JAYANTI/Purnima Celebration in Temple

April 28, Thursday Varuthini Ekadashi Shri Vallabhacharya Jayanti (Celebration in Temple on May 7)

Monthly Activities

April 8, Friday, 8-9 pm Vishnu Sahasranama Parayanam

Monthly Bhajans

April 15, Friday, 8-9 pm Pushti Mandal of Voorhees Contacts: Dhiraj Saparaia (856) 287-1415 Priti Shah (856) 467-9148

April 22, Friday, 8-9 pm Satya Sai Baba of Medford Contacts: P.K. Prabhakar (856) 596-3147 Sesha Vemuri (856) 751-0867

April 29, Friday, 8-9 pm Shree Ji Bhajan Group Contact: Urmi Upadhya (856) 424-9328 Charu Sheth (856) 662-8754

Dear Members and Supporters,

The eyes of the whole world are on Japan in the wake of the earthquake and tsunami that has devastated much of Japan. Food and water is in short supply, thousands of people are stranded, and millions of homes and businesses are without power. Relief organizations are now on the scene, and our government is on the scene through the military forces who are actively engaged in the massive humanitarian effort. Ground assessments liken the devastation in Japan to that of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki during World War II. Virtually every spiritual group from small town local churches to major religious organizations is answering the call to care for the people of Japan. Without our help, many more people may die.

It is our spiritual and compassionate duty, both as individuals and as a community, to join in this worldwide humanitarian effort. Because the need is so great, ITA has set up a Japan relief fund similar to what we have done for past disasters. We will collect funds that will be distributed to international relief agencies already on the ground in Japan. Many of you are already contributing in other ways individually, but we feel that a consolidated effort as a community can have more of a positive impact as history has shown time and again.

We are coordinating this effort with our ITA Seva Samiti to raise the funds, and have formed an ad hoc committee, to oversee distribution of funds. Committee members include, Rakesh Kohli, Joint General Secretary, Kiran Desai, Advisory Board Chair and Subhash Rashatwar, Seva Samiti Natural Disaster Committee Chair.

We would ask that you make all checks payable to ITA and marketed Japan Relief Fund on the memo line. Please send all checks to the temple, 25 E. Taunton Ave, Berlin, NJ, 08009. You can also make an online donation to the Japan Relief Fund through our website at www.indiatemple.org.

Thank you all for your support.

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.

- Ashok Barbaria
- Urmila Gujrathi
- Narendra Bhatt
- Kevin Gandhi
- Surendra Sheth
- Savitaben Patel
- Dipti/Monil Pandya
- Upen Shah
- Vaishali Patel
- Siddhi Vasa

Apr 02 Savitri Goel Apr 16 Apr 02 Arpana & David Brunt Apr 19 Apr 03 Shailendra Desai Apr 19 Apr 03 Arny & Deepal Patel Apr 20 Apr 04 Yogendra B Choksi Apr 22 Apr 06 Nimisha & Rajen Jain Apr 22 Apr 08 Samir Khurana Apr 22 Apr 12 Ramchandra Rao Apr 25 Apr 13 Hansa H. Kothari Apr 28 Apr 15

Condolences

Shri Bharat Gajjar, Past President and Founding Member, passed away on February 25, 2011.

Our ITA Vice-President Devangbhai's mother, Prabhavatiben Parikh, 95, passed away on March 5, 2011.

ITA and its Board extend their sincere condolences to the Gaijar and Parikh families.

Remembering Shri Bharat Gajjar

Although Mr. Bharat Gajjar was one of the founding members and a past president, he will always be remembered as a dedicated volunteer and a devoted, compassionate advocate of ITA. For many of us, he represented ITA during those salad days. Not only he served as the President of the Board of Trustees, but he also actively orchestrated its growth. Our current constitution is based on the first constitution that he drafted, and is responsible, in many aspects, for harmony among the diversity of our congregation. He also brought structure to Bal-Vihar and other activities, and participated in other community activities that fostered the values of Hinduism.

Mr. Gajjar religiously conducted services for ITA every third Sunday for many years starting in early 70's. He would travel all the way from Delaware to conduct Puja and inspire us with his devotional singing. He invited scholars to lecture following Puja and help the congregation learn about Hindu philosophy and build a cohesive Hindu community in the South Jersey area. He took an active part during Pran Pratishtha and other several special occasions. Bharat Gajjar touched many hearts by his devotional services to the ITA and Hindu community. He was a true Karmayogi and a caring and compassionate soul. On behalf of the South Jersey Hindu community, ITA and it's Board, we pray for the eternal peace of his soul.



Bal-Vihar the best place to be! By Divya Giyanani

Bal-Vihar celebrated Maha Shivratri on February 27, 2011 with a traditional puja performed by the students. Program Director, Lata Pimplaskar, taught the meaning and significance of this religious Hindu festival to the

students. This was followed by a Bharatanatyam dance performance by Bal-Vihar teacher Divya Giyanani, a student of Smt. Krithika Rajagopalan, the artistic director of Natya Dance Theatre. The dance, an offering in the joy of Shiva and Parvati's union, began with a Shloka on the divine energy Shiva followed by a Thillana in praise of the goddess Parvati. Bhajans, aarti, and a sumptuous lunch concluded this session of Bal-Vihar.

Bal-Vihar Annual Day will be held on Sunday, April 10th, 2011 at Lenape High School, 235 Hartford Rd., Medford, NJ. The show starts promptly at 11 am and will be followed by lunch at 1 pm.

To sponsoring food for the upcoming Annual Day or for any other sessions, please contact Nilang Dalwadi at <u>pndalwadi@verizon.net</u>.

Upcoming sessions of Bal-Vihar - Mothers Day, Field Trip, and Picnic !!!

Taja Khabar' from Youth Group By Sujay Desai

We had only one youth session in February, and that was because the weekend of our session was the youth ski trip. During the first session, we stretched and did some breathing techniques and yoga, and then had a lesson on "Gunas", or qualities of life. The three kinds of Gunas, are Satva, Rajas, and Tamas. These describe human tendencies and different types of foods are associated with each quality as well. Afterwards, we had a discussion on an upcoming volunteer project. As a group, we decided that we would do activities with refugee kids. Later, we had lunch provided by Hina and Vasant Prajapati.

Two weeks later, on a Saturday, we had our annual youth ski trip. Everyone got together and we took a bus ride to Blue Mountain in Palmerton, PA. The ride was well over two hours, and most of us rented skis from the resort. Everyone had a lot of fun skiing even though half of us were beginners. Later in the day, after lunch, a bunch of us went tubing which was also very exciting, because we got to go in large tubes in groups. While skiing, most of us stayed on the smaller slope, while some of our more experienced skiers tried out the bigger slopes. We spent the entire day at Blue Mountain, and ordered pizza for dinner which we ate on the way home. Overall, it was a great experience.

ITA Seva Samiti Updates



We welcome Subhash Rashatwar as the new Chair for the **Natural Disasters** committee of Seva Samiti. Subhash is well known to many of you as a resident of Voorhees, a family man, and a dedicated community leader who has been involved with Bal-Vihar, the youth group, and many other activities and projects.

He comes in at a critical moment, as the horrific images of the triple disaster in Japan – earthquake, tsunami and the nuclear threat – flicker across our TV screens from half a world away. Seva Samiti will be making a concerted effort to reach out to the devastated people of Japan, with prayer support and donation drives.

Previous issues of the Sandesh have outlined the committees and projects of Seva Samiti. We need your support and assistance to help in any way that you are able to participate. Our ongoing refugee resettlement effort (Hina Desai 856-424-1934) and nursing home visitation program (Gita Gandhi 856-988-9140) need weekly and biweekly volunteers. We have leader-ship position vacancies within our youth program, Maitri for singles, and Saath support group for parents with physically or mentally challenged children.

While we continue to be busy and engaged in the hustle and bustle of daily life, it is important to remember that we are part of a much bigger whole. So giving out to those in need, whether our time, skills or material goods, uplifts us all and builds up our community.

Please contact Lata Pimplaskar at (856) 985-4785 with any questions or suggestions.

Senior Citizen's Program

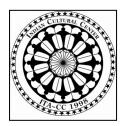
Thursday April 7, 6:30 pm to 9:15 pm Thursday April 21, 6:30 pm to 9:15 pm -

Both the meetings will highlight important medical issues of seniors.

On April 7, Dr. Vijay Singh, MD will present the topic of Rheumatoid Arthritis, a chronic, autoimmunemediated inflammatory disease that causes pain, swelling, and stiffness of joints. It involves joints like fingers, wrists, elbows, feet, ankles, and knees. Rheumatoid arthritis usually presents bilaterally and affects women more than men. It can have variable course including flareup of symptoms. If treated appropriately, then disease remission can be achieved. Dr. Singh will discuss the pathogenesis, pathology, prognosis, complications, and treatment.

On April 21, Dr. Anju Nayar, MD will discuss Hypnosis (derived from the Greek word hypnos meaning sleep), techniques of Self Hypnosis and Hypnotherapy for the management ofstress, anxiety, depression, chronic pain, and smoking cessation/substance abuse. Hypn osis works by reaching the subconscious mind to reprogram it to have positive results, such as inducing a state of relaxation in stressful situations. The National Center of Complementary and Alternative Medicine classifies hypnotherapy under the category of MIND-BODY INTERVENTION. In general, such interventions enhance the mind's capacity to affect bodily functions and thus the symptoms

For more information about the program, activities, and to join the group, please contact Suraj Bhan Singh by phone at (856) 582-5035 or e-mail (sbsingh1@hotmail.com), or Narsinh Sangani at (856) 435-2128 or e-mail (nnsangani@juno.com).



Indian Cultural Center (ICC)

(Non-Profit Tax Exempt Organization, Tax ID # 22-3579469) www.iccofsj.org

"Dream Becoming a Reality!"

ICC Announces Beginning of Construction

Dear Friends:

The wait is finally over!

After what seemed like an eternity, we are pleased to announce that construction of our long awaited Indian Cultural Center (ICC) will begin next month. The ICC has cleared all the regulatory hurdles, and construction plans have received the final stamp of approval from Evesham Township. Over the next few weeks, you will begin to see a barrage of construction vehicles going in and out of our ICC site.

"We will first clear ground and start site work which will take few months to complete," said Construction Committee Chair Mr. Ashvin Patel, P.E. Once the underground work is completed and the foundation is laid, our beautiful building will start to take shape. Our Construction Manager, Mr. Divyakant Parikh, estimates it will take 12-16 months to complete the entire project.

We invite you all to attend an unforgettable night of laughter with the King of Comedy, Raju Shrivastav, on Saturday, April 23rd, 2011 at Overbrook High School in Pine Hill, NJ. ICC, in association with the India Temple Association, India Association of SJ, Gujarati Samaj of Tri-State, Bengali Cultural Society and N.I.C.E. will host this event. We will be delighted if you can bring your friends and family to attend this event which will benefit our Cultural Center. "After a long – at times depressing - journey through a barrage of approvals, we need a night of comedy to lighten up our minds as we begin our construction," said Dr. Dhiraj Panda, ICC President.

As far as finances go, construction costs are estimated to total \$4 million for the entire project. So far we have received pledges for about \$2.4 million from many generous families, most of whom have fulfilled their pledge obligation. "That leaves us at the half way point, not quite to the finish line," remarked Dr. Manu Dadhania, Fundraising Chair.

At this stage, we need each community member's support to finish. If you have already made a pledge, we respectfully ask you to donate the balance of your pledge soon. We also ask you to encourage your friends, family, and neighbors to participate as donors so we can quickly reach our financial goal. If you have not yet pledged, now is the time to search your soul and open your check book to ensure that our Indian culture, heritage and values are not only preserved, but enriched for many generations. We want every family from our Indian Community to have a proud sense of personal ownership in the new cultural center. With your help, we hope to obtain adequate donations, so we will not need to use outside funding.

We are now stepping out to build our own center for cultural activities. It is now time for YOU, as a member of the community, to come forward and help us succeed! We encourage you to visit our website <u>www.iccofsj.org</u> regularly for up-to-date community information. Feel free to also contact any board member should you have questions, concerns, ideas, or suggestions.

Sincerely, ICC Board of Directors

A dream closer to reality!



Indian Cultural Center (ICC)

In association with . Gujarati Samaj of Tri-State . India Association of SJ

HOUSE OF ENTERTAINMENT presents

 Bengali Cultural Society N.I.C.E.

presents unforgettable night of laughter by RAJU SHRIVASTAV to mark beginning of construction of ICC

Date: Saturday April 23, 2011

Time:

7:30 pm Doors open at 6:00 pm

Place: **Overbrook High School** 1200 Turnersville Rd Pine Hill, NJ

Tickets: \$20, \$ 40 & VIP **Open seating**

India Temple Association Cultural Center, Inc. (ITA-CC) 25 E Taunton Road Berlin, NJ 08009

For tickets or more information contact: Dr. Sanjay Gupta Niti Chhaya 856-313-7911

Dr. Manu Dadhania	856-287-0361
Dr. Dhiraj Panda	856-981-9221
Dr. Prahlad Patel	856-905-2580

Yash Gohil Indranil Sardar K. D. Patel

fter performing 4,000 shows globally King of Comedy

Visit www.iccofsj.org 856.784.4564 856-232-9612 856-489-1391 856-313-6741

Akhand Ramayana Path



SRI RAM NAVAMI

Date: April 12, Tuesday, 7 pm

Sri Ram Navami celebration will commence at 7 pm with special Pooja for Rama Parivar, followed by Bhajans and Aarti at 9 pm.

Sindhi New Year-CHETI CHAND

The Sindhi community will celebrate their **New Year** on **Saturday**, **April 16th** beginning at 3:30 pm at the Berlin Temple. All are welcome to attend. For further inquires please contact Sheela Alwani at (856) 768-5351.

SRI Hanuman Jayanti

Date: April 17, Sunday, 4 pm

Sri Hanuman Jayanti celebration will commence at 4 pm with special Pooja for Shri Hanumanji followed by Hanuman Chalisa, Bhajans and Aarti.

Vallabhacharya Jayanti

Date: May 7, Saturday, 3 pm

The Hindu Temple in Berlin will celebrate Vallabh Jayanti on Saturday, May 7, 2011 from 3-6 pm. There will be a chanting of Pusti marg's Yamunasthaka, and other "PĀTHA", followed by melodious Kirtans. Mahaprasad will be served after the 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, or in giving Seva, please call Minu Desai (797-9444), Kirti Doshi (424-8046), or Amita Desai (751-2321).

Membership Appeal

Dear members and supporters,

The mission of ITA is to promote religious and cultural unity among our community. We rely on your support so we can continue to pass on our strong cultural heritage from generation to generation. Our activities and events are important to our community. Each year we seek to provide more opportunity for all age groups to participate in activities designed to promote pride in the heritage unique to our Indian culture. But we need your help.

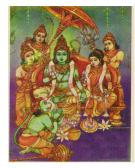
I am asking all our members to become ambassadors, and encourage non-members to become more active in ITA programs by signing up as members. I would also encourage those with expired memberships to consider renewing for five years or even becoming life members. Many of you with children in Bal Vihar would benefit from longer membership renewal since your kids may potentially have few years of Bal Vihar and five years of youth program participation ahead of them. We have made the process easy with our new online renewal process.

New life members will receive two free season tickets for Navratri for the year in which they become life members. New 2011 life members will also receive a free Pran Pratishtha 25th Anniversary coin, and free registration for one student in Bal Vihar or the youth program. Beginning on May 1, 2011, single membership will be eliminated; yearly membership for singles or family will be \$51; five-year single or family membership will be \$151; and life membership will be \$1,001. Membership will also be based on actual enrollment date rather than by calendar year.

I strongly encourage you to promote ITA activities and events, encourage non-members to join ITA, renew your membership before it expires, and become more active in community events. Increasing our membership will also serve to give our congregation increased political strength. Together we can preserve our religious and cultural heritage, and pass it on to our children, and our children's children.

Rina Patel ITA President





Dr. Ram Kamaldasji's Sermons Date: May 15, Sunday to May 21, Saturday Topic: Philosophy of Bhagwad, Highlighting Examples from Chapter 10 and 11

Sunday, May 15, 6:30 to 8 PM

Monday, May 16 to Friday, May 20, 7 to 8:30 PM

Saturday, May 21, 10 AM to 2 PM

Dr. Ram Kamaldasji, a resident of Varansi, India, is an expert speaker. He has captured the hearts od devotees allover India and many parts of the world, including but not limited to devotees in UK, Germany, Fiji, New Zealand and USA. He has written and published several books, such as Bhakti Path, Vedanta Pravah and Manas Vedanta. Having Ph. D. in Upnishads and MA in Hindi, he is an internationally known Kathakar. He was invited in 2000 for and by the United Nations Religious Conferenceand it is our great fortune that he has blessed our congregation and South Jersey community since then. Please do not miss this opportunity. For further information call Rakesh Kohli @ 856-751-8688.

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 am at our temple in Berlin Contact: Virendra Gupta @ (856) 424-9313

GITA STUDY GROUP:

Every Tuesday & Wednesday, 8-9 pm at our Berlin temple Contact: Sharad Pimplaskar @ (856) 985-4785

BHAJANS & STUTI:

Every Friday, 7:30-9 pm Contact: Shree Shuklaji (856) 768-3134

Regular Programs for Children and Youth

BAL VIHAR: For children (ages 5-13) to promote a positive Hindu identity in the diverse U.S. culture. 2nd & 4th Sunday @ 10 am - 1pm 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, 10:30 am - 1 pm at our Temple in Berlin. Contact: Sharad Pimplaskar at (856) 985-4785; Sangeeta at (609) 424-4211 or Sunitha at (856) 596-3215 **CREATIVE ART WORKSHOP** 1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday @ 9:30 am at our temple in Berlin

Contact: Narendra Amin (856) 429-8761

TEMPLE FACILITIES USAGE FEE:

Social Hall: \$300. (\$50 for non-member surcharge). Additional fees apply for PUJA SERVICES as per *Praver Hall: \$200 the below listed Puja Services types and Puja location..

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 Givanani (856) 267-5598) or Smt. Anoo Joshi (856) 616-2460) for the booking of the Temple Facilities and/or scheduling of Puja Services by Shuklaji.

PUJA SERVICE **	<u>AT THE TEMPLE</u>	<u>OUTSIDE</u>	DIRECTIONS
Satyanarayan Puja	\$101	\$151	A. Tacony Bridge: 1. NJ route 73S.
Havan/Grah Shanti	\$151	\$251	2. Stay on 73S for about 12-13 miles and follow sign for East
Vastu Puja At house only	- \$201		Taunton Ave. on your right
Engagement Ceremony	\$101	\$201	B. Ben Franklin Bridge: 1.Route 30E to NJ route 70E
Grah Shanti	\$201	\$301	2.Right on NJ route 73S, drive about 7 miles and follow
Wedding Ceremony(per da	y) \$351		sign for East Taunton Ave. on your right.
Anniversary Celebration	\$101	\$151	C. Walt Whitman Bridge: 1. I-295N. 2.Exit 29-A for
Seemant	\$101	\$151	route 30E to Berlin Twp. Turn left on East TauntonAve.
Namakaran/Annaprashan	\$101	\$151	D. Delaware Memorial Bridge: I-295N. Follow C2.
Kesh Mundan Puja	\$101	\$151	E. Central and North Jersey: NJ turnpike south.
Upanayan/Yagnopavita	\$201	\$251	Exit 4 for route 73S. Drive about 10-11 miles and follow
Birthday	\$101	\$151	sign for East Taunton Ave. on your right.
Shraddha	\$101	\$151	
Special Puja	\$101	\$151	
Final(Antim) Rites	\$ Voluntary donat	tion	* Includes temple facilities, PA system
Archana(Panchopachar)	\$15 -		** Additional \$25.00 for non-ITA members (\$51.00 from
			May 1, 2011)
			** Additional \$25.00 for autoida Tri County

** Additional \$25.00 for outside Tri-County

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



President **Rina** Patel (856) 258-6670 president @ indiatemple.org

> **Vice President** Devang Parikh (856) 809-0241 vp@indiatemple.org

> **General Secretary** Sangeeta Rashatwar (856) 424-4211 gs@indiatemple.org

Treasurer Harshad J Patel (856) 829-6282 treasurer@indiatemple.org

Religious Services Facility Rental Temple Manager Chetna Giyanani (856) 267-5598 Anoo Joshi (856) 616-2460 manager@indiatemple.org

Darshan Schedule

Morning 7:30 am - 12:30 pm

> Evening 6 pm - 9 pm

Aarti 12 pm & 8 pm

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

EDITOR: **Kamlesh Dave** 25 East Taunton Avenue Berlin, NJ 08009 Editor @indiatemple.org

PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP IF IT SHOWS "EXPIRED" IN ADDRESS LABEL

Please check appropriate items from the following, and mail it to Hindu Temple, 25 East Taunton Ave., Berlin, NJ 08009 Attn: Mr. N. Amin

[] I would like to join India Temple Association. I am	/ We are remitting the membership dues
(please select one) Individual one year (\$15)	Family one year (\$25)
Individual five year (\$60)	Family five year (\$100)
Life (\$1,000)	TOTAL AMOUNT \$
I am adding additional donations:	

Poojari Fund Scholarship Fund Life-time Services Temple Renovations

Seva Samiti Fund

I am relocating to following address

Name:

Address:

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____