



Satsang Sandesh

India Temple Association, Inc.

Hindu Temple, 25 E. Taunton Ave, Berlin, NJ 08009
(Non-Profit Tax Exempt Organization, Tax ID # 22-2192491)

Vol. 53 No. 1 (855) MYMANDIR (855-696-2634) www.indiatemple.org JANUARY 2025

Religious Calendar

10-Jan Putrada Ekadashi
11-Jan Shani Pradosh
13-Jan Purnima
14-Jan Makar Sankranti,
Uttarayana, Pongal
25-Jan Shat Tila Ekadashi
29-Jan Amavas/Amavasya

Satyanarayan Puja

Monday, January 13th — 6 PM

Sundarkand Paath

Saturday, January 18th — 10 AM

VIKRAM SAMVAT 2081 / 2025

Calendar is available Online at <https://www.indiatemple.org/>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- For security reasons, we will be keeping the Temple's doors locked. When visiting the Temple during open hours, please dial 856-768-3134 to be admitted. Also when leaving the Temple, please make sure that the door closes completely behind you.
- For Satyanarayana Puja participants: Please provide your name to Kruti Lodhavia @ 856-577-3631 few days prior to puja for planning.

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. Shri Sudhir Jhaji 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.

Dilip Guharoy	2-Jan	Anil Desai	20-Jan
Mulchand Giyanani	5-Jan	Vinod Patel	20-Jan
Milan & Monica Gupta	14-Jan	Shailen Patel	24-Jan
Kusum Kumar	14-Jan	Narendra Amin	28-Jan
Divyakant Parikh	14-Jan	Ravin Patel	31-Jan
Ashvin-Deviyani Shah	18-Jan		

Temple Hours

Saturday & Sunday

9:30AM - 12:30 PM
5:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Monday to Friday

10:30 AM to 12:30 PM
5:00 to 8:00 PM

Entry through
Front Door Only
(856)768-3134

PROGRAMS FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH, HEALTH, HAPPINESS & GOD REALIZATION

<https://indiatemple.org/contact.php>

Vishnu Sahasranamam & Lalitha Sahasranamam will be recited on 1st Friday of each month starting at 10:30 AM
In-Person Only

Bhagavat Gita Study organized by Sharad Pimplaskar (856) 466-1430
Every Tuesday - 10:45 AM - Weekly
Join Zoom Meeting: Meeting ID: 818 2564 6955; Passcode: 173521

Announcement: ITA Gita Study Group will start reading of Ishavasya Upanishad with Shankrara Bhashyam beginning September 10, 2024. Ishavasya Upanishad is one of the smaller Upanishads from Shukla Yajurveda and is first of the ten principal Upanishads commented on by Shri Shankaracharya. Though small it presents a complete Vedanta treatise on Self-Knowledge. Everyone interested in the study of our original scriptures is invited to join these sessions. These are weekly sessions on Zoom every Tuesday from 10:45 AM to 12:00 Noon.

ITA Senior Social Group- Currently meeting weekly
Contact Vinita Ganju (609) 744 8558 for additional information.

PROGRAMS FOR SENIORS BY HSCSJ

There will be only one daytime meeting in the month of January 2025.

This is a daytime meeting, NOT in the evening.

January, 14, 2025 at 12:15 PM at ICC

Evesham Township Fire District will be doing a Fire safety presentation on Household Fire Safety measures. Our presentation will focus on the following:

- Home fire escape planning
- Smoke alarms, smoke alarm placement, and testing
- Carbon monoxide alarms
- Cooking safety
- General fire safety measures
- Wildfire prevention measures
- Use of fire extinguishers

Snacks will be served. Please note that we will try to accommodate Jain/Swaminarayan snacks with advance notice of 48 hours prior to the meeting.

For more information, please visit www.hinduseniors.org.

Bharti Shah
President, HSCSJ

MAKAR SANKRANTI—HALDI KUMKUM (kumkum)

Wednesday, January 15, 2025 at 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM



ITA celebrates Makar Sankranti - Haldi KumKum, ladies only celebration, at Berlin Hindu Temple.

LADIES ONLY event—Please RSVP by Jan 10th using below link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0E4CA4AA22A2F49-54199829-makarshankranti>

- Please wear Black Saree or Black Outfit preferably (OK to Wear any other Dark Color)
- Please Bring a Wrapped Gift up to \$5 for 1 Lady

For questions, please contact:

**Leena Hardikar @ 856-261-8067, Sangeeta Rashatwar @ 609-685-2755,
Vinita Ganju @ 609-744-8558 or Anoo Joshi @ 856-577-3631**

General Body Meeting, 2025-2027 Trustee Election & Trustees Appointments

Dear Members,

We would like to thank the Members who attended the GBM this Saturday and voted. An informed and engaged Membership is crucial for the long-term viability and success of the ITA. The ITA Leadership Team spends a great deal of time and effort preparing for the GBM. If are interested in reviewing the Team's GBM presentation, please go to: https://mcusercontent.com/3e8835cc5e98b8b0d082a5294/files/984914f2-9dba-784c-5ba3-f641303646be/ITA_2024_General_Body_Meeting_FINAL.pdf

General Body Trustee Election Results

After verifying and counting the cast ballots, the ITA Election Committee has certified that **Chirag Kansagra, Anoo Joshi, Naylesh Shah, Sarita Prabhakar, Gopal Patel, Bhawna Sharma and Jagdeep Talwar** were the duly elected to the 2025-2027 Trustee Term. These seven individuals received the greatest number of votes and a sufficient number of votes to exceed the Majority of Quorum Threshold. Majority of Quorum Threshold, which is defined in ITA By-Laws, is the minimum number of votes that a candidate must secure in order to be to elected.

The Election Committee is an independent body as defined by our By-Laws that oversees the ITA's Trustee Election Process. The Election Committee is expected to operate free from influence from the general community, Advisory Board, or Trustees. Given the importance of the responsibility, the Election Committee strives to discharge its responsibility in an impeccable, fair and unbiased manner. The 2024 Election Committee is comprised of Vidya Shukla (CEC, VP Events & Trustee), Pankaj Desai, (Advisory Board Trustee) and Samir Patel (Trustee & Election Chair). The Election Committee conducted the 2024 ITA Trustee elections per guidelines outlined in the By-Laws. Nine candidates stood for seven open 2025-2027 Term Trustee seats.

Advisory Board Trustee Election

On November 14th, the ITA Advisory Board conducted their annual meeting and elected **Ramesh Viswanathan** to serve as Advisory Board Trustee for the 2025-2027 Trustee Term.

Newly Appointed Trustees

Subsequent to the Election, the ITA Trustees held a special meeting on December 15th. Using the power provided in Article II Section 7 of the By-Laws, the Trustees respectively, appointed **Milind Shroff and Ritesh Shah** to the open 2024-2026 and 2023-2025 Term Trustee seats.

Jai Shree Krishna,

- Samir K. Patel
on behalf of the ITA Election Committee & Trustees



EDITOR
Brinda Raghuvver
 Editor@indiatemple.org

Executive Committee

President
Anoo Joshi
 1-855-my-mandir x 710
 president@indiatemple.org

VP of Programs
Vinita Ganju
 1-855-my-mandir x 711
 vpprograms@indiatemple.org

VP of Com. & Info.
Naylesh Shah
 855-my-mandir x 712
 vpinfo@indiatemple.org

VP of Events
Vidya Iyer
 855-my-mandir x 713
 vpevents@indiatemple.org

Treasurer
Chirag Kansagra
 855-my-mandir x 714
 treasurer@indiatemple.org

Pujari Services Manager
Kruti Lodhavia
 855-my-mandir x 715
 pujaservices@indiatemple.org

Facility Manager
Vijesh Darji
 855-my-mandir x 716
 facility@indiatemple.org

Audit / Compliance
Bhumika Kundu
 856-577-4925
 audit@indiatemple.org

BALVIHAR PROGRAM

New Student Enrollment for 2024/25 is CLOSED

Purpose: To teach Vedic Heritage and Indian Culture to children (Pre-K to 8th Grade).

Details: Explore website for detailed curriculum by grade and general schedule.
https://www.indiatemple.org/bal_vihar.php

Timing: 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM on designated Sundays

Dates: 16-17 Sundays starting in Sept. & Ending in May.

Location: Marlton Middle School (150 Tomlinson Mill Road, Marlton, NJ)

ITA MEMBERSHIP REQUIRED

Become a member: www.indiatemple.org

Enrollment:

Regular Enrollment (May 17th through June 1st): \$TBD

Late Enrollment (After June 2nd): \$TBD

Fees are NOT REFUNDABLE for any reason.

Space in the program is VERY limited. We encourage community members to enroll early.

PUJA SERVICE & TEMPLE RENTAL FEES

Shri Sudhirji perform religious services on request. Please contact Kruti Lodhavia at (855) MY-MANDIR Ext 715 to schedule a Puja Service or Rental of Temple facilities.

<u>Puja Services</u>	<u>MEMBER</u>		<u>NON-MEMBER</u>	
	Inside Temple	Outside* Temple	Inside Temple	Outside* Temple
Archana	\$21		\$21	
Vahan Pooja	\$25		\$25	
Namkaran/Annaprashan	\$51	\$101	\$151	\$201
Birthday	\$51	\$101	\$101	\$151
Shradha	\$51	\$101	\$151	\$251
Anniversary Celebration	\$101	\$151	\$201	\$251
Kesh Mundan	\$101	\$151	\$151	\$201
Satyanarayan Pooja	\$151	\$200	\$251	\$301
Engagement Ceremony	\$101	\$201	\$201	\$301
Havan/Graha Shanti	\$201	\$251	\$301	\$301
Vastu Pooja-Outside Only		\$251		\$351
Wedding per day	\$401	\$501	\$551	\$600
Upanayan/Yagnopavit	\$251	\$301	\$351	\$401
Uttarkriya Per day -Outside Only		\$151		\$251
Yagna/laghu rudra-Outside Only		\$351		\$400
Navchandi Yagna-Outside Only		\$651		\$700
Antim Kriya		No Charge		No Charge

*IRS defined per mile charge applied for pujas outside of Temple.

In addition to their base salary, Pujaris receive 50% of Outside Puja Services payment as compensation.

Facility Rental Fees

	<u>Member</u>	<u>Non-Member</u>
Prayer Hall Rental	\$251	\$301
Social Hall Rental	\$351	\$401

Send address changes or Membership renewals to:

ATTN: VP of Information at 25 E. Taunton Ave. Berlin, NJ 08009 or email vpinfo@indiatemple.org