



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. 54 No. 8 (855) MYMANDIR (855-696-2634) www.indiatemple.org AUGUST 2026

Calendar

- 9-Aug Kamika Ekadashi
10-Aug Soma Pradosh
12-Aug Amavas / Amavasya
13-Aug 1st Day of Shravan Maas
Rudrabhishek in Temple
10AM-Noon & 5-7:30 PM
15-Aug Sundarkand Paath
17-Aug Rudrabhishek in Temple
10AM-Noon & 5-7:30 PM
Nag Panchami
19-Aug Shitla Satam
23-Aug Putrada Ekadashi
24-Aug Rudrabhishek in Temple -
10AM-Noon & 5-7:30 PM
25-Aug Bhaum Pradosh
28-Aug Naryari Punam
Rakshabandhan
Satyanarayana Puja
31-Aug Rudrabhishek in Temple
10AM-Noon & 5-7:30 PM

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

Satyanarayan Puja
Friday, August 28 - 6PM

Sundarkand Paath
Saturday, August 15 - 10AM

VIKRAM SAMVAT 2082 / 2026

Calendar will be available soon 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 \$401 for members and \$451 for non-members. 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.

Amita Desai	5-Aug	Charu & Jaysukh Sheth	17-Aug
Shailendra Desai	5-Aug	Dilipkumar Patel	17-Aug
Mahesh Tekrival	7-Aug	Ghanshyam Dave	17-Aug
Tejas Patel	8-Aug	Snehal Sindvad	17-Aug
Nagraj Lingraju	10-Aug	Maganbhai Kanzaria	18-Aug
Shree Khaitan	10-Aug	Tejash Patel	20-Aug
Mahesh Dixit	11-Aug	Babubhai Patel	24-Aug
Akshaykumar Patel	15-Aug	Mitul Kanzaria	26-Aug
Kiran Desai	15-Aug	Sangita & Pareshtalati	27-Aug
Nisarg Shah	15-Aug		

PROGRAMS FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH, HEALTH, HAPPINESS & GOD REALIZATION

<https://www.indiatemple.org/contact-us.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

No the first meeting of the month in lieu of the picnic.

Sunday, August 9, Washington Lake Park, picnic:

It's the perfect opportunity for us to relax in nature, enjoy delicious food, play games, share laughter, and create lasting memories with friends. Whether you're reconnecting with old friends or meeting new ones, this promises to be a day filled with fun, friendship, and community spirit.

Please note: August 9 is Ekadashi. A selection of Farali food will be available for those observing the fast.

We look forward to spending a wonderful day with HSCSJ members!

Second Meeting: Tuesday, August 25

Guest Speaker: Dr. Amishi Parekh

Topic: "Lifestyle Habits for Healthy Aging"

Dr. Amishi Parekh, MD, MPH, is a primary care physician with Jefferson Health specializing in evidence-based management of chronic conditions, women's health, and dermatology. She earned her medical degree (MBBS) from Mahatma Gandhi Missions Medical College and holds a Diploma in Dermatology and Venereology from Balabhai Nanavati Hospital in India. She completed her Master of Public Health in Health Management & Policy at Drexel University and recently finished her Internal Medicine residency training at Suburban Community Hospital. Dr. Parekh brings a wealth of clinical and research experience to her practice and our community.

Lalji Bhimani

President HSCSJ, on behalf of EC team

CONDOLENCES

It is with a heavy heart that we share the sad news that Shri Champakbhai Parbhbhai Patel, age 81, passed away on Saturday, July 11th, 2026 in India. He is survived by his wife, Ranjan; sons, Sandip & Jaydip; daughters-in-law, Rushina & Malti; grandchildren, Misha, Kajal, Deven & Mahee; sister, Ramila; and brothers, Ashok & Jagdish.

It is with a heavy heart that we share the sad news that Smt. Madhukanta D. Shah, age 86, passed away on Friday, July 24, 2026. She is survived by her sons, Prasant Shah & Deven Shah; daughters, Amita Doshi & Namita Ghelani; daughter-in-laws, Manisha Shah & Sehal Shah; son-in-laws, Kumar Ghelani & Tushar Doshi; grandchildren, Prem, Parth, Chirag, Jigar, Neil, Nishi & Shailee; and great grandchildren, Ahrav & Raya.

The ITA and its Trustees extend their sincere condolences to the Patel and Shah, Doshi & Ghelani families. We pray that her soul may find peace and that God gives strength to her family and friends to cope with this heartfelt loss.

ITA SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEES

We are proud to announce the recipients of this year's ITA Scholarships: Muskaan Batra, Piya Dattani and Rudra Patel. ITA scholarships are awarded to graduating high school seniors who have demonstrated commitment to Indian Culture, Hinduism and the ITA Community. Applicants' academic performance, activities & interests, reflections & suggestions related to their ITA experiences, letters of recommendation, and/or need are some of the considered criteria.

Muskaan Batra graduated from Cherry Hill High School East and will attend Rowan University, where she will major in Biological Sciences as part of the prestigious BS/MD program with Cooper Medical School. Muskaan first became involved with ITA as a second-grade Balvihar student and later returned as a Student Leader, teaching 5th grade students about the Mahabharata. Through her years of service, she contributed an impressive 382 volunteer hours to our organization. Outside of ITA, Muskaan served as editor of her high school newspaper, co-founded and co-led the Road to Med Club, co-versed over the Connect 4 Cancer Club, and participated as a student researcher in both New Jersey's Governor's School of Engineering and Technology and Cooper Medical School's MEDacademy summer program. We congratulate Muskaan on her outstanding accomplishments and wish her continued success in her future medical career.

Piya Dattani graduated from Cherokee High School in Marlton and will attend the Georgia Institute of Technology to study Computer Engineering. Piya began her Balvihar journey as a kindergarten student and later served as a Student Leader for five years, beginning in eighth grade. During that time, she taught 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade classes while also volunteering at Annual Day and Children's Navratri events. Piya dedicated an extraordinary 494 volunteer hours to ITA—one of the highest totals we have seen from a Student Leader. Beyond ITA, she was deeply involved in her school's Robotics Team, serving as Software and Technical Director, co-founded and served as president of the UNICEF Club, led the String Ensemble as president, and competed as a varsity tennis player. We congratulate Piya on her exceptional achievements and thank her for her remarkable dedication to our community. We wish her continued success at Georgia Tech and beyond.

Rudra Patel graduated from Cherokee High School in Marlton and will attend the University of Pennsylvania, where he will major in Mechanical Engineering. Rudra joined Balvihar as a fourth-grade student and spent all four years as a Student Leader teaching 6th grade Indian History. He also played a key role in planning and implementing the 6th Grade Charity Project that culminates during Annual Day. Through his dedication and leadership, Rudra contributed 391 volunteer hours to ITA. In high school, he served as an executive board member and robot operator for his school's Robotics Team and completed a cybersecurity internship with the New Jersey Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Cell (NJCCIC). He also enjoys aerospace, biking, and skiing. We congratulate Rudra on his many achievements and wish him every success as he begins his studies at Penn.

We congratulate Muskaan, Piya and Rudra on their recent graduation and scholarship award, thank them for their contributions to ITA and Balvihar, and wish them the best as they enter college in the Fall. We hope that they continue to remain active in serving our community and the world.

ITA COMMUNITY SERVICES AWARD

The ITA is proud to announce this year's Service Award recipients. This award is given to Student Leaders and Youth Community Service Group members for their exemplary volunteer service to the ITA. Student Leaders are Balvihar graduates that have returned to serve as assistant teachers in the program. Youth Community Service Group members volunteer at ITA and at community service events. ITA truly appreciates their hard work, dedication and positive impact on the community.

Awardees

Aarna Ladwa	Ishaan Gupta	Piya Dattani	Saanvi Joshi
Aashray Shah	Krishi Patel	Pranav Nathan	Sahasra Mandala
Ahana Iyer	Krivi Narula	Radika Dudda	Saishruti Mathankrishnan
Ansh Jaggi	Kunal Khandhar	Rajveer Patel	Shresta Mandala
Ansh Soni	Lithi Rajkumar	Risha Shukla	Taran Bommu
Arjun Shah	Manthan Mehta	Rishima Parekh	Vivek Patel
Darsh Gajera	Monil Patel	Riya Kansagra	Yasha Asokaraju
Divya Gupta	Nihar Dadhania	Roma Soni	Yuti Kataria
Harshvi Patel	Parv Chikani	Rudra Patel	



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BALVIHAR PROGRAM

New Student Enrollment for 2026/27 Open

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:

Late Enrollment (After June 2nd): \$275

Detailed Information Available at:

<https://www.indiatemple.org/balvihar.php>

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	\$25			
Vahan Pooja	\$25			
Namkaran/Annaprashan	\$101	\$151	\$251	\$301
Birthday	\$101	\$151	\$151	\$201
Shradha	\$101	\$201	\$251	\$351
Baby Shower	\$101	\$201	\$251	\$301
Anniversary Celebration	\$151	\$201	\$251	\$301
Kesh Mundan	\$151	\$201	\$201	\$251
Satyanarayan Pooja	\$201	\$301	\$351	\$401
Rudrabhishek Pooja	\$201	\$301	\$351	\$401
Engagement Ceremony	\$201	\$301	\$301	\$401
Havan/Graha Shanti	\$251	\$351	\$401	\$451
Vastu Pooja-Outside Only		\$351		\$451
Wedding per day	\$501	\$601	\$651	\$701
Upanayan/Yagnopavit	\$351	\$401	\$451	\$501
Uttarkriya Per day -Outside Only		\$251		\$351
Yagna/laghu rudra-Outside Only		\$401		\$451
Navchandi Yagna-Outside Only		\$701		\$751
Annual Special Prayers	\$401		\$451	
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	\$401	\$451
Social Hall Rental	\$501	\$551

Send address changes or Membership renewals to:

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