



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. 47 No. 4 (855) MYMANDIR (855-696-2634) www.indiatemple.org JUNE 2020

Religious Calendar

2-June Nirjala Ekadashi/
Bheem Agiyaras / Shri Gayatri
Jayanti

5-June Satyanarayana Puja /
Saint Kabir Jayanti

17-June Yogini Ekadashi

1-July Devshyani Ekadashi /
Gauri Vrat Starts

3-July JayaParvati Vrat Starts

5-July Guru Purnima /
Satyanarayana Puja /
Gauri Vrat Concludes

8-July JayaParvati Vrat Concludes

16-July Kamika Ekadashi

Temple Hours

Closed
Until further notice
Phone: (856) 768-3134

Satyanarayan Puja

June-5 Friday (Online)

Sunderkand Path

June-20 Saturday (Online)

VIKRAM SAMVAT 2076 / 2020 CALENDAR AVAILABLE ONLINE AT
<https://www.indiatemple.org/>

UPCOMING EVENTS

The risks associated with Covid-19 / Corona virus continue to increase as the prevalence of cases grows. The Temple is currently closed and we will reopen the temple when it is safe to do so. The pujaris will also not be performing any pujas at the Temple or outside of the Temple. In the meantime we will continue to stream various events over the internet and provide access to event recordings on ITA's YouTube channel. These actions are being taken to protect the community. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation during these uncertain times. We will continue to update the Temple community via emails.

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 or 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.

Dunthur & Yedahalli Uttaswamy	2-Jun	Dahyabhai & Taraben Patel	13-Jun
Kartik Patel	4-Jun	Santosh Khurana	19-Jun
Meghan & Melanie Patel	4-Jun	Rita Dube	21-Jun
Milan Patel	6-Jun	Rushikesh Parghi	21-Jun
Bharat Gandhi	7-Jun	Ishvar Patel	22-Jun
Dinesh Patel	8-Jun	Rushikesh Parghi	25-Jun
Ramesh Gupta	12-Jun	Kalavati Desai	29-Jun
Rushikesh Parghi	12-Jun	Kartik & Dupta Patel	29-Jun
Puttaswamy Hemali & Vaishali Kothari	13-Jun		

SAVE THE TEMPLE MONEY! GO DIGITAL!

Email: vpinfo@indiatemple.org to convert to a digital only subscription.

PROGRAMS FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH, HEALTH, HAPPINESS & GOD REALIZATION

See ITA Website on ways to Join Meetings Online

Vishnu Sahasranamam and Lalitha Sahasranamam will be recited on 1st Friday of each month starting at 10:30 AM.
Please recite from home to receive blessings

Satya Sai Baba of Medford Bhajans 3rd Friday of each month from 8-9pm on Zoom
Contact P.K. Prabhakar (856) 596 3147/ Sesha Vemuri (856) 751 0687 for details.

Bhajan Sandya by SJ Bhajan Mandali Group led by Venu Gopal Verma.

Bhagavat Gita Study organized by Sharad Pimplaskar (856) 466 1430.

ITA Senior Social Group

Contact Vinita Ganju (609) 744 8558 to learn about online activities.

Yoga and Pranayama Classes at Berlin Mandir

Program currently cancelled

Contacts: Dr. Veena Gandhi (856) 816 4095 & Hina Desai (856) 435 9148

Condolences

Smt. Saraswathi Venkata, wife of ITA's founding member - Raman Venkata, passed away due to heart attack on Thursday April 30 at the age of 70. She is survived by her husband, two daughters, Shanti and Geeta and son Shrinivas. May God rest her soul in peace and give strength to her family members to cope with this unexpected loss. ITA and its trustees extend their sincere condolences.

Smt. Kantaben Desai passed away on Tuesday May 19 at the age of 81. She was mother of Ketkiben Dadhania & mother-in-law of Manubhai Dadhania, President of Indian Cultural Center. May God rest her soul in peace and give strength to her family members to cope with this unexpected loss. ITA and its trustees extend their sincere condolences.

PROGRAMS FOR SENIORS BY HSC OF NJ

The 2 HSCSJ meetings in the month of June have been cancelled due to Corona Virus (COVID 19) concerns and advisory from the Government Agencies - Virendra K. Gupta & HSC EC Team

2020 Balvihar Program Graduates

The ITA and Balvihar congratulate and recognize the following students for graduating from the Balvihar Program this year. We are proud of their commitment to our culture and religion. We hope that we imparted them with knowledge, faith, and appreciation for their roots. We wish them success in their future endeavors and encourage them to remain tethered to their heritage.

Anay Bhut	Mahek Patel	Shubham Gupta
Aniha Bhut	Milan Patel	Tvisha Dalwadi
Arav Misra	Milani Parikh	Urvi Mahajan
Armaan Gupta	Mohit Pathak	Vaman Rajagopal
Gia Gupta	Praveen Prabakaran	Varsha Patel
Karina Gupta	Puja Patel	Vidhi Patel
Kavin Deivaprakash	Rohan Vijay	Vijay Upadhyay
Kavya Parikh	Saagar Shah	
Krishna Bhagat	Sara Soni	

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Jai Shri Krishna!

We hope that you are well and remaining careful. Due to the precautionary efforts of the government and fellow citizens, we have fared much better against COVID epidemic than feared and appear to be experiencing an improvement in terms of infections, hospitalization and deaths. Governmental institutions are slowly loosening limitations on the operations of organizations. As many of you know, I long to walk into the Mandir and do darshan. We are closely monitoring the changes and have established a Committee of Trustees and Volunteers to develop a plan for how the Temple could resume in-person activities when allowed. Our priority will be safety of Pujaris and community members. One of our Pujaris and the most of the visitors to the Temple are older than 60 years of age group and have a significantly greater mortality risk if they contract COVID. As a result we will move more cautiously than other institutions. Please be patient and understanding of our circumstance. If you are interested in being part of Temple reopening work group, reach out to me.

In the meantime, we are continuing to build on our digital programs to help fill the void. In addition to live daily Aarti at 12pm and 8pm, we have begun daily prayer sessions. We have between 100 and 200 people visiting our YouTube site daily. The Senior Social Group is holding their Tuesday meetings over Zoom. A new speaker guest does a presentation every Tuesday afternoon. This past Tuesday Suneetha Gogineni, Certified Diabetes Care and Education Specialist came to discuss diet habits and foods, bad and good for Diabetes patients. If you are interested in participating please contact Govind Modi at (856) 649-6332. Both Shuklaji and Sudhirji are performing remote puja's for members free of charge and are eager to serve you. Please reach out to Anoo Joshi at (856) 577-3631 to schedule a puja. Thanks to pro bono efforts of Jatin Mehta and his team at Meta Sense, we have secured a grant from Google to help us improve the visibility of our Temple online. They will be helping us free of charge.

Our community outreach efforts continue to go well. In May, we partnered with Cathedral Kitchen to help raise funds to help the increased number of students and elderly meals. At the time of writing this letter, we have raised over \$6500 and are hopeful that we will reach our \$7500 target. For the month of June, we are dedicating our efforts to raise funds for the First Responder Community of Berlin, the Temple's hometown. Funds we raise will go to Fire, Police and EMT. We again have \$2500 of matching funds and hope to raise at least \$5000. You will receive an email with additional details soon. We also fielded a team at the American Cancer Society's Virtual Relay for Life of Marlton on May 30th.

Lastly, this month I want to take a moment to thank all of the individuals who are selflessly volunteering their time to serve the community. Over the past 90 days, we have had to make dramatic changes to what ITA does and how we do it. Volunteers have been delivering groceries, teaching zoom, making educational videos, adapting Balvihar lessons, and developing new prayer programs. Our Temple volunteers have risen to the challenge in a way that I could not have imagined just a few months ago. I thank them from the bottom of my heart and encourage the community to provide words of appreciation the next time you have an opportunity.

If you are in need of assistance or know someone that is, please have them reach out to any member of the Executive Team and we will do our best to support them or connect them to helpful resources in a confidential manner. Regardless of the duration of these extraordinary circumstances, the ITA will continue to do our best to serve the community and fulfill its mission. If you have any concerns or are interested in joining us in service, please feel to reach out to me.

Sincerely, Pankaj Desai, ITA President psdyes1961@gmail.com / (609) 332-3947

ITA Balvihar Program Enrollment for 2020/21 Year Start May 16th

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

Additional Program Details: https://www.indiatemple.org/bal_vihar.php

Timing: 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM two Sundays a month starting on September 20th and ending on May 2nd

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

Fees / Enrollment: (ITA MEMBERSHIP REQUIRED)

May 16th to June 1st Early Enrollment: \$174

After June 1st: Regular Enrollment: \$211

Space in the program is **VERY** limited. We encourage community members to enroll early. Please explore the Balvihar webpage for the calendar, curriculum and greater program details.

The website is https://www.indiatemple.org/bal_vihar.php

Questions? Email bvadmin@indiatemple.org or call Samir Patel at 201-657-8661.



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Audit / Compliance
Bhumika Kundu

856-577-4925
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Temple Hours

Monday - Friday

9 am - 1 pm

4 pm - 8:30 pm

Saturday & Sunday

9 am to 9 pm

Aarti

12 pm & 8 pm

Times may change during
special occasions

**If back door is locked,
please try front door, ring
bell or call
(856) 768-3134.**

Send address changes or Membership renewals to:

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

PUJA SERVICE & TEMPLE RENTAL FEES

Shri Shuklaji /Shri Sudhirji perform religious services on request. Please contact Anoo Joshi 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	\$11		\$11	
Vahan Pooja	\$25		\$25	
Namkaran/Annaprashan	\$51	\$101	\$101	\$151
Birthday	\$51	\$101	\$101	\$151
Shradha	\$51	\$101	\$101	\$151
Anniversary Celebration	\$101	\$151	\$151	\$201
Kesh Mundan	\$101	\$151	\$151	\$201
Satyanarayan Pooja	\$121	\$151	\$201	\$251
Engagement Ceremony	\$101	\$201	\$151	\$251
Havan/Graha Shanti	\$201	\$251	\$251	\$301
Vastu Pooja-Outside Only		\$251		\$301
Wedding per day	\$401	\$501	\$501	\$551
Upanayan/Yagnopavit	\$251	\$301	\$301	\$351
Uttarkriya Per day -Outside Only		\$151		\$201
Yagna/laghu rudra-Outside Only		\$351		\$401
Navchandi Yagna-Outside Only		\$651		\$701
Antim Kriya		No Charge		No Charge

*\$.58/ mile charge applied when puja requires greater than 20 miles of travel.

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	\$201	\$251
Social Hall Rental	\$301	\$351