



Satsang Sandesh

India Temple Association, Inc.

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

Vol. 45 No. 12 Phone: (855) MYMANDIR (855-696-2634) www.indiatemple.org DECEMBER 2018

Religious Calendar

Monday Dec 3
 Utpatti Ekadashi
 Tuesday Dec 18
 Mokshada Ekadashi /
 Geeta Jayanti /
 Geeta Paath in Temple
 Saturday Dec 22
 Shri Duttatrey Jayanti
 Tuesday Jan 1
 Safla Ekadashi

Sign up to Volunteer!!

Click on the community service logo on ITA website to check out the ITA community service opportunities and sign up to volunteer.



**December 22, Saturday 6pm
 Shri Satyanarayan Puja**

**December 15, Saturday
 Sunderkand Path 10am**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Happy New Year 2019!

VIKRAM SAMVAT 2075 / YEAR 2019—CALENDAR & Event Updates
 Will be ONLINE -<https://www.indiatemple.org/>
 If you would like to receive temple info & Satsang Sandesh via email, Please email vpinfo@indiatemple.org

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.

• Akshaybhai & Savitaben Patel	Dec 01	Nayan Shah	Dec 21
• Pravina Gohel	Dec 05	Jagdish Shah	Dec 22
• Snehlata Jani	Dec 09	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
• Akshay Nandakumar	Dec 12	Mahendra Topran	Dec 28
• Jelabhai Patel	Dec 13	Kavita Gupta	Dec 30
• Rukhmanidevi Tekrival	Dec 15	Amita and Naresh Talati	Dec 31
• Jaysinh Chandriani	Dec 18	Navin K. Gupta, Pramila Mitra	One Day
• Sheela Kapoor	Dec 18	Manibhai Patel, Raj Patel	One Day
• K.S. Krishnan	Dec 18	Rajiv Verma	One Day
• Laxman P Singh	Dec 18	Navin Gupta	One Day
• Naresh Talati	Dec 20		

ITA GENERAL BODY MEETING SUMMARY

On Saturday November 17th at 1:30 PM in Berlin Temple the ITA held its Annual General Body Meeting (GBM) and Election. Approximately 60 individuals were consistently present and over 120 members participated to some degree in the GBM / Election. We believe that the General Body Meeting is a critical forum for providing input to the ITA leadership and strongly encourage members to attend future meetings.

Lalit Patel, ITA President & Trustee, welcomed the Membership and gave an overview of the past year. He reminded the Membership of the ITA's mission and its importance to our community. He then described some of the highlights from 2018. ITA Board and Core Executive Committee smoothly implemented the By-Law changes approved in 2017. ITA conducted over 140 events including Tulsi Vivah, Shivratri, Janmashami, and Diwali as well as recurring events such as Sundarkand Paath and Satyanarayan Puja. He noted that the Balvihar program reached over 300 young participants who are learning and practicing our religion, culture and traditions. He indicated that a new physician speaker series for seniors had been launched. He thanked donors, volunteers and supporters for their visible and behind the scene contributions. He then discussed some of the priorities for 2019: better documentation of policies and procedures; improved communication; and encouraging greater involvement from Members. He additionally pointed out that transition to a new generation of ITA leaders was progressing as evidenced by the many new Trustees. He concluded by requesting Members to actively participate in activities in order to continue to strengthen the Mandir.

Pankaj Desai, ITA VP Program & Trustee, welcomed and thanked the Members for their attendance. He then coordinated the remainder of the GBM and Q&A.

Rina Patel, ITA Election Committee Chair, then introduced the other two members of the 2018 Election Committee, **Nilang Dalwadi** (ITA Trustee) and **Kiran Desai** (ITA Advisory Board Member). She provided a short summary of the new election process, describing the additional criteria and vetting implemented in order to ensure that Trustee Candidates are individuals that have made significant contributions to the organization and are planning to continue to contribute. She then introduced the Trustee Candidates: **Vijesh Darji, Ankit Desai, Vinita Ganju, Ramesh Gupta, Hari Kalagara, Gopal Patel, Charu Sheth and Vidya Shukla**. Each candidate discussed their personal backgrounds, past participation and planned future contributions to the ITA. One of the candidates, Gopal Patel (Trustee), was unable to attend the meeting as a result unanticipated professional demand.

Kiran Desai, IT Advisory Board Member and By-Laws & Constitution Committee Chair, then provided a highlight of the changes being presented to the Membership for Approval at the GBM. He indicated that the Constitution was being updated to be consistent with current statutes, ambiguous language was being clarified and nomenclature was being made consistent with new By-Laws. He then stated that although significant changes to the By-Laws were made last year, BOT has realized that additional incremental changes would be helpful. As such, we are asking the Membership to approve Amendments to the By-Laws and to Constitution. He believes that these changes will allow us to better serve the community. For example, splitting the role of Temple Manager into a Facilities Manager and Pujari Service Manager positions will allow us to be more responsive to Member scheduling inquires and facilities problems; adding a Code of Conduct for Members, volunteers and Trustees will create a more welcoming environment; and clarifying historical election policies and procedures will avoid future conflicts.

Samir Patel, ITA Treasurer and Trustee, provided a brief overview of the financial performance of the ITA. He indicated that in the most recent 12-month period ending 10/31, the Temple's operating income was stable with the prior year, when adjusted for the calendar shifted Diwali donations. Temple's Program Revenue had improved, but General Donations revenue had declined. He also described several areas where the ITA had made progress in reducing costs. In 2019, the Treasurer group planned to launch a fundraising initiative to address the decline in donations. Samir encouraged anyone interested in helping out in this area to reach out to him. He then provided a brief overview of the Temple's Investment Portfolio. The Portfolio net of fees had produced a 13.0% return in 2017 and a 0.0% return YTD in 2018. During both periods the portfolio matched the return expected of a portfolio with a similar mix of equities and bonds.

Charu Sheth, VP Events & Trustee, discussed her responsibilities under the newly created role. VP of Events oversees and coordinates the religious and cultural events, works with various committees as a facilitator of resource and developing budgets for events. She distributed list of key events with primary organizers, volunteers and contributors. She indicated that in her opinion the new structure was engaging and empowering volunteers to be more creative. She also urged new volunteers to come forward with ideas and encouraged everyone to participate.

Vinita Ganju, ITA Trustee, provided an overview of the new initiatives that were started this year to serve the seniors. She discussed the "Five Wishes" workshops done in partnership with Samaritan Healthcare to help seniors draft a living will and have difficult end of live conversations with family and physicians. She also discussed the monthly physician specialties speaker series that was launched to help educate seniors about the medical challenges that come with age. Each month physicians from different specialties were invited to speak. Lastly, she talked about the six week Living with Chronic Pain workshops that are being done to help seniors.

The meeting was opened up for Q&A and comments and concluded once all comments and questions were addressed.

ITA Advisory Board Trustee Election

The Advisory Board held their Annual Meeting on Thursday October 11th. They appointed interested AB members to the ITA operating Committees and Elected **Sangeeta Rashatwar** as the Advisory Board Trustee for the 2019 – 2021 term.

Election Committee Report

Dear Membership,

I, Rina Patel am the election committee chair. The other members are: Nilang Dalwadi (current BOT) and Kiran Desai, (Current Advisory Board).

We the Election committee (EC), conducted elections per guidelines provided in the By-laws. EC election procedures were circulated and published earlier in Satsang Sandesh. Ballots were tallied as per procedure.

Voting summary:

Total eligible members (per membership list provided)	1,029
Total votes cast for Trustee Elections	120
Total votes cast for Constitution and bylaws amendments	117
Article VIII, C – Quorum - 10% of total eligible members	103
Article VIII, C – 2/3 of quorum required votes for ratification of amendments	69

We had 8 candidates while there were only 7 seats available on the board. Election committee ratifies the following candidates to the board of trustees after the counting and verification of the ballots. The newly elected trustees are:

1) Vijesh Darji	5) Gopal Patel
2) Ankit Desai	6) Charu Sheth
3) Vinita Ganju	7) Vidya Shukla
4) Ramesh Gupta	

Another item that required the approval of the General Body was approval of the changes to the By-Laws and to the Constitution. Results of Constitution and bylaw changes:

	YES	NO
Constitution	112	5
Bylaws	112	3

Per our constitution Article VIII, C – Ratification of amendments to the constitution and/or By-Laws of the Association requires two-thirds affirmative vote from Members and also requires that at least 10% of total eligible members cast a vote (quorum). These requirements were met as noted above and EC ratifies and confirms amendments to constitution and By-laws.

EC would like to draw attention to the fact that fewer Members voted this year relative to the number that had voted in the 2017 special By-Laws Amendment vote. We want to convey importance of your participation in ITA Elections and issues put to Membership Votes. We are a Member driven organization so your involvement is crucial. We hope to see increasing levels of engagement in the future.

Thank you BOT for selecting and entrusting EC to conduct these elections. Please contact us should you have any questions.

JSK
Rina Patel



Monthly Pujas at Mandir

SUNDARKAND PAATH
Saturday, December 15 @ 10 AM to 12:00 Noon
Followed by Mahaprasaad sponsored by Gagan Palace

SATYANARAYAN PUJA
Saturday December 22 @ 6:00 PM
Followed by Mahaprasaad sponsored by Indian Vila
Anyone can sit in this Puja and receive blessings of Lord Satyanarayan.
Please contact Charuben at 856-662-8754
or Kshamaben at 707-332-3400
if you are planning to be Puja Participant. Suggested Donation of \$31 or
more from Puja participants will be appreciated.



PROGRAMS FOR SENIORS BY HSC OF NJ
ICC, 820 RT 73, MARLTON, NJ

Our Association will celebrate its 13th Annual Function at ICC at 5.00 PM.
IT IS OPEN ONLY TO THE MEMBERS. THE ENTRANCE FEE NOW IS \$ 15. The program will start at 5 PM with Appetizers. Our regular meeting will be at 6.00 PM. The rhythm Group will start their entertainment program at 6.30 PM till 8.30 PM. The Dinner will be served at 8.30 PM till 9.30 PM. There will be a raffle draw in between and the ticket is \$1. Three prizes 1)Fitbit Versa Smartwatch 2)Amazon Echo Dot 3)Google Home Mini Speakers will be awarded. Please purchase your tickets now from any EC Member and enjoy the evening with your esteemed group.
Ram Arora, President



Prayers

We will be reciting Vishnu Sahasranamam and Lalitha Sahasranamam on Friday, December 7th at our Berlin Temple. We will start at 10:30 am. This will be followed by Aarti at 12 noon. Please join us with family and friends and get Blessings.

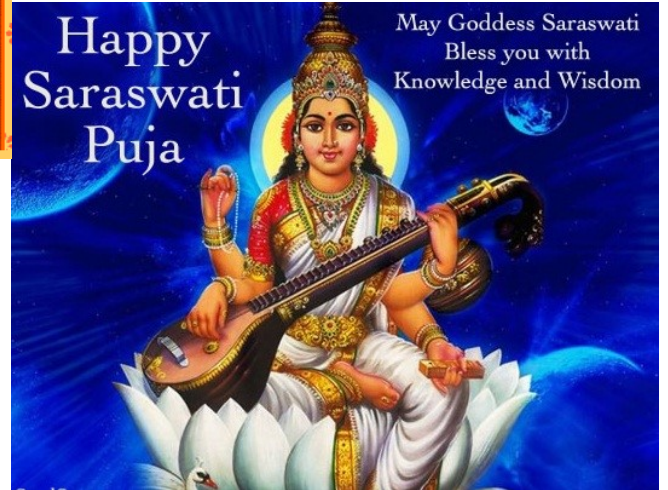


FREE YOGA CLASSES FOR ALL LEVELS
YOGA and Pranayam Classes at Berlin Mandir

How do we stay physically and mentally HEALTHY? Yoga - done on regular basis is the answer. So come in large numbers and enjoy the yoga classes in the serene atmosphere of the temple.
Dr. Veena Gandhi will be in India from the end of November to beginning of March, helping pre medical students and giving free Gyn. Services . She will resume YOGA Class in March. Hina will take two classes in December, 6 and 13. Please make a note. She will let you know About Jan and Feb. 2019. Both Hina and myself Apologize for this unavoidable interruption. I am going to see if substitute can be found. Wish all of you will continue practices daily. All the best for the happy and healthy New Year-2019. In God's services, love you All. Veena



**A Vasant Panchami
(Saraswati Puja)
by children will be at the temple in January 2019.
More details will be given in next Satsang.**



**This Winter Comfort
Someone, With the
Warmth of New or Like
New Jackets Or
Donate \$\$ For Blankets!**

India Temple Association Seva Samiti

**is collecting New and Old, BUT CLEAN and good
conditioned winter jackets to distribute to those who are in
need from the warmth of your heart.**

3 Blankets for Donations of \$40.00 at <https://indiatemple.org>

OR check ITA Seva Samiti, memo Blanket Collection

**Drop by Sunday, Dec. 16th, 2018
For Info call Hina Desai (856) 495-5864 or
hinadesai@hotmail.com
Lata 856-985-4785, latap1215@gmail.com**



Daytime Gita study group

A new Gita study group has just started meeting at the Temple on Tuesdays, 11AM to 12Noon. This is an informal group to study Gita verse by verse following "Bhagavat Gita Study" summaries published by India Temple Association. Since Gita speaks to every aspect of human issues, these discussions encourage questioning and reflecting upon our life and our thoughts. Many of the topics get repeated and reviewed in light of the on-going Gita verses.



The study is open to all. Please join in the group, as we would like as many people to participate as possible. You are never too late to join. Please contact Sharad Pimplaskar at (856) 466-1430 by text message or call.

Invitation to join Marlton Gita Study Group, At ICC on 820 NJ-73, Marlton, NJ 08053

Begins on Tuesday, September, 25th, 2018 Will Meet every Tuesday at 9:30AM

Uddhava Gita:

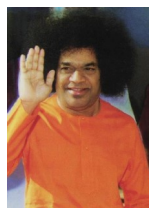
Beautiful Conversation Between Krishna and Uddhava.

Uddhava was Krishna's childhood friend and had done a number of services to Bhagwan Krishna. He had never asked anything from Krishna. Krishna asked him to ask for anything Uddhava wishes as a benefit or boon. Though Uddhava did not desire anything for himself, the conduct of Krishna, whom he had observed from childhood, appeared to be a riddle, with his words and deed being divergent. He wished to get an clarification from Lord Krishna.

What follows is a beautiful, heartening, enlightening and the final teachings of the Lord to His dearest devotee. These final chapters of Shri Bhagavatam is worth learning for every devotee of Lord Krishna and even the most ascetic Vedanta student who may have intellectually accomplished the study of the Vedas and yet may have missed its very glue to the human heart. As Shri Shankaracharya has said, Jnanam without Bhakti is like a wick burning in a lamp without the oil.

Class is Limited to 15 Members, only 10 more remaining.

Please register by email latap1215@gmail.com Or Call 856-9854785



Satya Sai Baba of Medford

Bhajans

December 21st, Friday 8-9pm

P.K. Prabhakar 856-596-3147 ; Sessa Vemuri 856-751-0687

Senior Social Group NEWS-----Seniors Social Group (SSG) arranged Chronic Pain Workshops

Please RSVP. The Chronic Pain Workshop Teaches/Trains " How to Live Healthy & Happy Life with The Chronic Pains" caused by many Illness/deceases/disabilities from Arthritis (RA & OA), Diabetes and Joint Operations etc. Presently 60 SSG members have been enrolled in the CPWs. For detailed info Contact **Bhulabhai Bhakta of SSG@ 856-983-0769.**

Senior Social Group

Senior Social Group (SSG) will meet every Tuesday at 1pm in the Social Hall at Berlin Temple. Please contact Mr. Bhulabhai Bhakta for details.

Free Notary Service Notary Service by our ITA Members—

The following ITA members provide Free Notary Service to our community:

Ghanshyam Dave.:856-596-7531; Raman Modhera: 856-528-2863 and Dalapat patel: 609-298-2724

**PROGRAMS FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH
YOGA ABHYAS FOR HEALTH, HAPPINESS &
GOD REALIZATION:**

Contact: Veena Gandhi at 856-435-9148

GITA STUDY GROUP:

Every Tuesday 8-9 pm at our Mandir

Contact: Sharad Pimplaskar @ (856) 985-4785

BHAJANS & STUTI:

Every Friday, 7:30-9 pm

Contact: Shree Shukhlaji(856) 768-6785 or

Shree Sudhirji (856) 768-3134

REGULAR PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

BALVIHAR: For children (PRE-K to 8th Grade) teaches Sanatana Dharma, Vedic Heritage and Indian Culture. Two Sundays a month from 10 am - 1 pm.
Contact: Malathi Shankar, Sagar Dalal, Samir Patel at -855-my-mandir ext 3 or bvadmin@indiatemple.org

YOUTH PROGRAM: A program for young adults (9th to 12th Grade).

Contact: Lalit Patel at -855-my-mandir ext 4 or youthadmin@indiatemple.org

CREATIVE ART WORKSHOP

1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday @ 9:30 am at our Mandir

Contact: Sudha Patel (856)489-4065 or art@indiatemple.org

PUJA SERVICE CHARGES, TEMPLE FACILITIES USAGE FEE AND OTHER CHARGES:

The following provides list of applicable charges and fees. Shri Shukhlaji /Shri Sudhirji will be available for religious services on request. Please check temple availability at www.indiatemple.org; Click on "CALENDAR tab" and, from drop-down menu, Click on "EVENT/RENTAL CALENDAR". **Please contact Anoo Joshi at 1-855-MY-MANDIR Ext 715 for the booking of the Temple Facilities and/or scheduling of Puja Services by Shukhlaji or Sudhirji.**

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 TEM- PLE	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. travel charges for 25 to 50 miles
Wedding Grah Shanti	\$201	\$301	\$101 travel charges for 51 to 100 miles
Wedding Ceremony per day	\$301	\$351	\$51 Non-member charges
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 Anoo Joshi @ (855) my-mandir Ext 715

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.

25 E. Taunton, Berlin, NJ 08009

EDITOR:
Brinda Raghuvver
25 East Taunton Ave
Berlin, NJ 08009
Editor@indiatemple.org

1st Class Presort
US Postage
PAID
Permit #800
Bellmawr NJ 08031

2018 Core Executive Committee

President
Lalit Patel

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

VP of Programs
Pankaj Desai

1-855-my-mandir x 711
vpprograms@indiatemple.org

VP of Communications & Information

Vidya Shukla
855-my-mandir x 712
vpinfo@indiatemple.org

VP of Events
Charu Sheth

855-my-mandir x 713
vpevents@indiatemple.org

Treasurer
Samir K. Patel

855-my-mandir x 714
treasurer@indiatemple.org

Temple Manager
Anoo Joshi

855-my-mandir x 715
manager@indiatemple.org

Darshan Schedule

Morning

9:00 am - 1 pm

Evening

3 pm - 9 pm

Aarti

12 pm & 8 pm

Times may change during special occasions

*If back door is locked,
please try front door, ring
the bell and call
856 768 3134*

Digital Satsang Sandesh available online at
<https://www.indiatemple.org/>
Or via email.

If you would like to receive a Satsang Sandesh via email
Please email vpinfo@indiatemple.org

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 (\$75) _____

Individual or Family three year (\$111) _____

Individual or Family five year (\$161) _____

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 _____ Lifetime Seva (\$301) _____ Temple Renovations

_____ Seva Samiti Fund _____ Bal Vihar Fund _____ Youth Fund

I am relocating to the following address

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Spouse Last Name: _____ Spouse First Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

Spouse Telephone: _____ Spouse E-mail: _____