



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. 66 No. 1 Phone: (855) MYMANDIR (855-696-2634) www.indiatemple.org FEBRUARY 2016

Religious Calendar

February 4 Thursday

- Shat Tila Ekadashi

February 12 Friday

- Vasant Panchami

Friday 18 Thursday

- Jaya Ekadashi

March 7 Monday

- Maha Shivratri in Mandir

Monthly Activities

Kshamatemple@gmail.com

February 20, Saturday

- Sunderkand Path 10am

February 22, Monday

- Shri Satyanarayan Pooja 6pm

Monthly Bhajans

February 5, Friday

- Vishnu Sahasranama Parayanam @ 8 pm

February 12 Friday 7-8pm

- Shree Ji Bhajan
Urmi Upadhyay 856-424-9328; Charu Sheth 856-662-8754

February 19 Friday 8-9 pm
• Satya Sai Baba of Medford

P.K.Prabhakar 856-596-3147; Sessa Vemuri 856-751-0867

Please join us for programs in February, March and April 2016!

It is a pleasure to read Sunderkand Path on Saturday February 20, at 10am and to perform Satyanarayan puja on Monday February 22, at 6pm at our Temple with family and friends.

MAHA SHIVARATRI is Monday March 7, 2016 at 9am-12pm and 4-8pm in Mandir

"MATA KI CHOWKI" on Sunday April 10th, 4 pm to 7pm followed by Mahaprasad.

These nine festive days includes "Akhand Ramayana" starting on Friday April 15th followed by Maha-Aarti and Mahaprasad on Saturday April 16th.

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.

• Sushil Bhatnagar	Feb. 03	Neel Kadakia	Feb. 17
• Akshay Amin	Feb. 06	Surendra Bagaria	Feb. 19
• Narendra Amin	Feb. 06	Ghanshyam Dave	Feb. 20
• Kiran Doshi	Feb. 07	Maya & Mason Doshi	Feb. 20
• Naresh Talati	Feb. 07	Gopal Patel	Feb. 23
• Rushikesh Parghi	Feb. 13	Priti Patel	Feb. 23
• Jadev Gajera	Feb. 14	Champak Patel	Feb. 25
• Vaishali & Rajubhai Patel	Feb. 16	Manoj Shah	Feb. 26
• Jagdish-Maya Shah	Feb. 16	Samit Desai	Feb. 28

Condolences

Smt. Jashvantiben Vankawala , mother of Harshadbhai and Nandkishorbhai Vankawala,passed away on December 4, 2015 in USA. ITA and it Board extend their sincere condolences to Vankawala Family.
Malathi Shankar, leader of Bal Vihar, her mother-in-law passed away January 17, 2016.
ITA and its Board extend their sincere condolences to their families.

From Me to You

We take for granted that we have the free will to make conscious decisions to choose between various possible courses of action.

However, recently conducted experiments in the Max Planck Institute in Germany on the functioning of the human brain, have put that presumption into doubt. The researchers have concluded that free will could, in fact, be 'little more than an illusion'.

The experiments indicated that our subconscious mind decides on and dictates our actions, long before our conscious mind actually realizes it. If human beings are not able to act independently, then that makes them, in the words of one of the researchers, '...little more than automatons, mere machines, pieces of biological clock-work that have no more free will than a Swiss watch'.

Do the experiments suggest that an unseen power thinks for us, decides and tells us how we must act? Are not actions in our control?

In the Bhagavad Gita, Krishna tells Arjuna, 'The Supreme dwells in the heart of all beings revolving them all by His mysterious power, Maya.' The Gita says, 'Everywhere, in all the material universes, the dispositions of nature 'the three gunas of prakriti' perform all works. But deluded by egoism, man thinks, 'I am the doer'.'

The Gita says, 'Not even for a moment, can man remain without performing any action. Everyone is forced to act according to the qualities, he has acquired from the modes of material nature or gunas.'

Are we mere cogs on a machine operated by the Supreme, or do we have free will at all to act independently? Krishna tells Arjuna, 'Thus I have imparted to you wisdom that is more secret (profound) than all that is secret. Reflecting over the whole teaching, do as you think fit.' The Law of Karma, which is based on the concept of cause and effect, makes us the architects of our destiny. We could use the limited free will that we have, to pursue purely material pleasures that might degrade our future samskaras, or we could perform noble deeds which would generate sattvic samskaras and help us evolve spiritually and ultimately take us to the goal of human life, that is, moksha. Needless to add, let us all undertake noble deeds towards our Mandir and the community at large.

सुदिनमस्तु (Have a good day)

Ramesh Viswanathan

HINDU SENIOR CITIZENS OF SOUTH JERSEY

www.hinduseniors.com

Venue-ICC Marlton,NJ 08053

February 11, 2016

Aarti- starts at 6.30 PM; Snacks/coffee/tea -6.30 to 7 PM; Meeting starts at 7 PM

The meeting will be devoted to discussion of Financial issues in Retirement. These issues are varied depending on age and financial circumstances .Today's presenter Dr. Laxmi Bhandari will try to cover general investment considerations, planning wealth transfer to next generations, social security claiming options and tax consideration related to all of these. And then we will have a question-answer session.

Dr. Bhandari is the founder and President of L Bhandari & Associates. He has MBA and Ph.D in Finance. Dr. Bhandari taught at the Univ of Alberta and worked for Chemical Bank, Bank Paribas,Warburg Pincus. For the last 18 years Dr. Bhandari has been giving investment advice to institutions.

Ram Arora President

Monthly Pujas at Mandir



It is a pleasure to read Sunderkand Path on Saturday February 20, at 10am and to perform Satyanarayan puja on Monday February 22, at 6pm at our Temple with family and friends.

We invite you to join us and perform Satyanarayan puja every Purnima day with family and friends and receive the blessings of Almighty God. Donations are welcome. Suggested donation is \$ 31. It is followed by Mahaprasad generously sponsored by Indian Villa.

Please join us for Sunderkand Path held on third Saturday of every month followed by Mahaprasad generously sponsored by Gagan Palace.

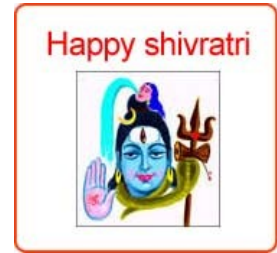
Jai Krishna, Kshama



MAHA SHIVARATRI



**Monday March 7, 2016 at 9am-12pm and
4-8pm in Mandir**
**Maha Shivaratri Hindu festival celebrates
marriage of Lord Shiva with Goddess Parvati**



Uddhava Gita Study

Starting: December 1, 2015.; Time / Place: Tuesdays 8 PM – 9PM, ITA Temple, Berlin, NJ

Besides Bhagavat Gita, there are many “Gita’s” in our scriptural literature and all of them are worth reading for a student of Vedanta. Each one of them is a discourse of Upanishadic teachings. Of these other Gitas, Uddhava Gita holds a particular significance for a person who already is a devotee of The Lord but is confused about what makes it meaningful and its goal. Bhakti is more than devotion. In the vision of The Lord presented in Uddhava Gita, Bhakti takes on a greater significance. The teaching is even more important for us because of the very place in Shri Bhagavatam where it appears.

As Bhagavan Shri Krishna is about to conclude his Avatar on this earth with the self-destruction of the Vrishni clan at Prabhasa, His childhood companion, cousin, and Bhakta, Uddhava, follows Him to a lonely place and pleads Him not to leave. What follows is a beautiful, heartening, enlightening and the final teachings of the Lord to His dearest devotee. This, one of the 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.

Please come and join in the study of this unique Gita study at our temple starting Tuesday, December 1, 2015 at 8:00 PM. For more information, please contact Sharad Pimplaskar at (856) 985-4785 or, sharad.pimplaskar@gmail.com.

Senior Social Group

Senior Social Group (SSG) will meet every Tuesday at 1pm in the Social Hall at Berlin Temple. Please contact Mr. Bhulabhai Bhaktaji at [8569830769](tel:8569830769) for details.

Our Balvihar Session of January 10, 2016

Sriram Kiron

Our first session of Balvihar for the new year 2016 was on January 10, 2016, and it started off on a very good note. We enjoyed the session. The session started with Malathi aunty talking to us about the upcoming festival, Makar Sankranti/Pongal/Uttarayan, which is the harvest festival. We learnt about the significance of this festival, which is celebrated on a very large scale in India. We then practiced yoga by way of doing some asanas, and headed to our respective classrooms. In our class, we spoke about the two inner enemies, jealousy and pride. We had some pretty good discussion on this topic.

In the assembly session of the kids from the younger classes, they also practiced yoga and breathing techniques with Bhavesh uncle. The kids enjoyed the session and had good fun. Later, Bharat uncle talked to them about the Makar Sankranti festival, and how it is celebrated in different states. Some of the teachers came and talked to the kids about how they celebrate this festival in their respective states. It is celebrated as Makar Sankranti in states like Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and many other states; as Uttarayan in Gujarat where the skies are filled with thousands of kites ; as Pongal in Tamil Nadu; as Lohri in Punjab etc. After our Aarti session, we all finished our day at Balvihar by enjoying pizza with our friends.

Happy Makar Sankranti/Pongal/Uttarayan/Lohri to all !

CHAITRA NAVRATRI JAI MATA DE



Chaitra Navratri, also popular as Chait Navratras, is the nine-day festival observed in the month of Chaitra. This year Navratri dates, during Chaitra month are – from April 8th to April 16. Chaitra Navratras starts on the first day in Chaitra month and ends on Ram Navami, the ninth day of the month. As per the legends mentioned in the Puranas and other Hindu scriptures, Chaitra Navratri is the actual Navratri during which Goddess Durga was worshipped.

Chaitra Navratri is one of the most important festival of Hindus. Devotees worship Maa Shakti, Goddess of cosmic power, during this time and wish to be bestowed by divine benediction from Goddess. Goddess Shakti manifests herself in three different dimensions as Goddess Laxmi, Saraswati and Durga. On the first three days Durga or Goddess of Energy is worshipped. The next three days are devoted to Lakshmi or Goddess of Wealth and the last three days for Saraswati or Goddess of Knowledge.

As this Navratra coincides with Ram Navami, it also referred as Ram Navratri. We will be celebrating this auspicious festival by doing "MATA KI CHOWKI" on Sunday April 10th, 4 pm to 7pm followed by Mahaprasad. These nine festive days would be concluded with "Akhand Ramayana" starting on Friday April 15th followed by Maha-Aarti on April 16th.

Sponsors are Welcome for Mata Ki Chowki.

Sri Rama Navami

**Sri Raghavam Dasharadhatmajam aprameyam Sitapathim Raghukulavaya Ratna Deepam; Ajanubahum Aravinda Dalayathaksham
Ramam Nishachara Vinashakaram Namami**

Date : Friday, April 15 starting at 11am

Akhand Ramayan Patth: Ram Navmi Celebration

Temple observances will begin on Friday April 15 at 11 am. After Ram

Navmi Pooja, the reading of Ramayan will begin at 12.30 pm. The

Mahaprasad will be provided after the Poorna Ahuti on Saturday. Anyone interested in helping, please call: Meena Bhatnagar(856-424-2581), Rano Vasishtha(609-926-0142), or Ritu Pandya(856-435-6577). It will be helpful if you bring your Ramayan.



Tax-Aide

Camden District

2016 Sites Schedule

<u>Monday</u> Feb 1-Apr 18	<u>Tuesday</u> Feb 2-Apr 12	<u>Wednesday</u> Feb 3-Apr 13	<u>Thursday</u> Feb 4-Apr 14	<u>Friday</u> Feb 5-Apr 15
*Barrington 10-1 *Haddon Heights 12-3 *Winslow 10-1 *Ferry Ave 10:30-1:30 *Closed Feb 15	Bellmawr 11-2 Cherry Hill 10-2 Voorhees 11-2 Westmont 12-4	Pennsauken 1-4 Winslow 10-1	Pennsauken 1-4 Runnemede 11-2 Voorhees 11-2	Blackwood 10-1 Collingswood 12-4 Cherry Hill 10-2

2016 Site Locations

Barrington	Municipal Building - Council Chambers	229 Trenton Ave	547-0706
Bellmawr	Public Library	35 E. Browning Road	931-1400
Blackwood	Public Library	15 S. Black Horse Pike	228-0022
Cherry Hill	Municipal Building	820 Mercer Street Room 208	488-7868
Collingswood	Public Library	771 Haddon Ave	858-0649
Ferry Ave	Public Library	852 Ferry Ave	342-9789
Haddon Heights	Public Library	608 Station Ave	547-7132
Pennsauken	Public Library	5605 Crescent Blvd	665-5959
Runnemede	Senior Center	2 Broadway & Black Horse Pike	208-9983
Voorhees	Public Library	203 Laurel Road	772-1636
Westmont	Public Library	15 MacArthur Blvd	854-2752
Winslow	Public Library	35 Coopers Folly Road	753-2537

AARP TAX-AIDE IS A FREE SERVICE PROVIDED BY VOLUNTEERS WHO HAVE BEEN TRAINED AND ARE CERTIFIED BY THE IRS AND THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO PREPARE INDIVIDUAL INCOME TAX RETURNS, INCLUDING HOMESTEAD REBATE AND PROPERTY TAX REIMBURSEMENT (PTR) APPLICATIONS.

TAXPAYERS FILING PTR SHOULD HAVE THEIR FORM CERTIFIED BY THE APPROPRIATE TAX ASSESSORS OFFICE PRIOR TO COMING TO THE AARP SITE.

AARP TAX-AIDE IS AVAILABLE TO ALL TAXPAYERS WITH MIDDLE OR LOW INCOME, WITH SPECIAL ATTENTION TO TAXPAYERS AGE 60 AND OLDER.

COMPLEXITY OF A RETURN WILL DETERMINE OUR ABILITY TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE.

TAXPAYERS MUST BRING SOCIAL SECURITY CARDS AND PHOTO ID FOR THEMSELVES AND ALL DEPENDENTS, ALONG WITH A COPY OF THEIR PRIOR YEAR RETURN AND ALL RELATED AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS FOR BOTH INCOME AND EXPENSES.

RETURNS ARE PREPARED AND FILED ELECTRONICALLY.

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 Mandir
Contact: Surendra Sheth@ (856) 985-3700

GITA STUDY GROUP:

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

BHAJANS & STUTI:

Every Friday, 7:30-9 pm
Contact: Shree Shuklaji or Shri Sudhirji (856) 768-6785

Regular Programs for Children and Youth

BAL VIHAR: For children (ages 4-13), to promote a positive Hindu identity within the diverse U.S. culture.

2nd & 4th Sunday @ 10 am - 1 pm

Contact: Malathi Shankar (856) 424-7849, and Bhavesh Patel 1-855-my-mandir ext 3 for registration and location

YOUTH PROGRAM: A program for young adults (ages 13-18) and parents. 2nd & 4th Sunday, 9:45 am - 1 pm at our Mandir.

Contact: Praveen Garg at (856) 783-4692 or Sangeeta Rashatwar at (856) 424-4211

CREATIVE ART WORKSHOP

1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday @ 9:30 am at our Mandir
Contact: Sudha Patel (856)489-4065

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

The following provides list of applicable charges and fees. Shri Shuklaji /Shri Sudhirji will be available for religious services on request. Please note that 50% of the listed cost of Puja performed outside the temple goes to Pujari in addition to his regular salary. Please check temple availability at www.indiatemple.org; Click on "CALENDAR tab" and, from drop-down menu, Click on "EVENT/RENTAL CALENDAR". **Please contact Shri. Divyakant Parikh at 1-855-MY-MANDIR Ext 1 for the booking of the Temple Facilities and/or scheduling of Puja Services by Shuklaji or Sudhirji.**

PUJA SERVICE	INSIDE TEMPLE	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	
Shraddha	\$51	\$101	
Anniversary Celebration	\$101	\$151	
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	
Vastu Puja - outside service only	N/A	\$251	
Sunderkand Path	\$151		
Wedding Grah Shanti	\$201	\$301	
Wedding Ceremony per day	\$301	\$351	
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	
			<u>TEMPLE FACILITIES USAGE FEE</u>
			Prayer Hall: \$200
			Social Hall: \$300
			<u>OTHER CHARGES</u>
			<u>MILEAGE AND TRAVEL TIME TIER</u>
			\$0 for 1 - 25 mile radius
			\$51 for 26 - 100 mile radius
			\$101 for 101 - 150 mile radius
			\$151 for 151 - 200 mile radius
			NON-MEMBER
			\$51 for non-member surcharge

NOTE: Charges and availability of other Puja Services not listed above may be discussed with Smt. Charu Sheth at 1-855-MY-MANDIR Ext 1

DIRECTION TO BERLIN TEMPLE

A. From Tacony Bridge:

Take NJ route 73S; drive for about 12 - 13 miles and follow signs for East Taunton Avenue. Temple is on your right

B. From Ben Franklin Bridge:

Take route 30E to NJ route 70E to NJ route 73S, drive for about 7 miles and follow signs for East Taunton Avenue. Temple is 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 Avenue

D. From Central and North Jersey:

Take NJ Turnpike South. Exit 4 for route 73S. Drive for about 10 - 11 miles and follow signs for East Taunton Avenue on your right



India Temple Association, Inc.

25 E. Taunton, Berlin, NJ 08009

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Darshan Schedule

Morning

9:00 am - 12:30 pm

Evening

3 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**

**PLEASE REVIEW YOUR ADDRESS LABEL AND RENEW YOUR
MEMBERSHIP BASED ON EXPIRATION DATE OR SUPPORT ITA WITH YOUR
ENROLLMENT IF YOU ARE NOT IDENTIFIED AS A MEMBER**

**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 (\$51) _____
Individual or Family five year (\$151) _____
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: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____