



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

Religious Calendar

January 6 Wednesday

- Safala Ekadashi

January 14 Thursday

- Makar Sankranti /
Pongal in Mandir

January 20 Wednesday

- Putrada Ekadashi

Monthly Activities

Kshamatemple@gmail.com

January 23, Sunday

- Shri Satyanarayan
Pooja 3pm

January 16, Saturday

- Sunderkand Path 10am

Monthly Bhajans

December 15 Friday 8-9 pm

- Satya Sai Baba of Med-
ford

P.K.Prabhakar 856-596-
3147

Sesha Vemuri 856-751-
0867

January 8 Friday 7-8pm

- Shree Ji Bhajan Urm

Upadhyay 856-424-

9328 Charu Sheth 856-662-
8754

HAPPY 2016 TO ALL OUR ITA FAMILIES AND SUPPORTERS

Year 2015 was a successful year for many religious, cultural and educational activities. We encourage everyone to continue with more energy and support level for the activities planned for the year 2016. Please notify any of the ITA key personnel listed anywhere in Satsang if you want to provide your Volunteer Service to our organization. ITA always needs Volunteers to succeed every activity planned for our community.

Month of January will have Makar Sankrant/Pongal Celebration (January 14) along with Haldi-Kanku Celebration (January 30) by Marathi Saad. We also have our routine Sundarkand Paath (January 16), Satynarayan Puja (January 23), Shriji Group's Bhajan (January 8) and Sai Bhajan Group's Bhajans (January 15) for everyone to join and enjoy.

BHAJANS BY CHANDAN MODI and STUDENTS

January 17, 2016 at 4:00 PM

ITA invites everyone to come and enjoy melodious bhajans from little kids to young adults trained by our Shri Chandan Modi. You must come to hear and see these young artists playing musical instruments and singing in tune. Your presence will encourage these youngsters to continue this tradition for the fu-

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.

• Dilip Guharoy	Jan 02	Anil Desai	Jan 20
• Mulchand Giyanani	Jan 05	Vinod Patel	Jan 20
• Milan & Monica Gupta	Jan 14	Shailen Patel	Jan 24
• Kusum Kumar	Jan 14	Narendra Amin	Jan 28
• Divyakant Parikh	Jan 14	Ravin Patel	Jan 31
• Ashvin-Deviyani Shah	Jan 18		

Condolences

Smt. Hemantika k. Vahia, age 85, passed away in India on October 24, 2015. She was mother of one of our founding members Kinnari Rishi Parghi.

Smt. Sulochana Mehta, age 86, passes away on November 4, 2015. She is survived by Sons Dipak and Umesh Mehta and daughters Gita Dushyant Shah and Nta Jaymal Shah and 9 grand children.

Mr. Venkat K. Iyer, age 53, passed away on November 24, 2015. He was son of one of our founding member Mr. Krishnan and Jayaben Iyer.

One of our founding and vibrant member of community Shri Narottam Bhai Vanmami (Harshadbhai and Bhanuben brother in law) passed away in Panama at age of 87.

ITA and its Board extend their sincere condolences to their families.

From Me to You

Pranams!

Let me dwell on the Upanishads here. The Upanishads do not tell us to be otherworldly. They tell us to be part of the perceived world, performing all earthly and social duties while simultaneously aspiring for spiritual progress. Perform all duties without attachment. Our karma should never be a baggage.

The first shloka of the Ishopanishad tells us how to enjoy worldly things and how to live. The whole universe belongs to the omnipotent power and it permeates through all things. Whatever is enjoyable in the universe, enjoy by renouncement. Do not aspire for the other person's wealth.

The Ishopanishad says not to avoid one's worldly duties and obligations; ensure only that we are never attached to it. A person should always be conscious that this whole universe is pervaded by a Supreme Power. So whatever things of enjoyment come one's way one should enjoy them without any greed or attachment. One cannot afford to say that this is mine and that is his.

The last two Ishopanishad verses speak of the evaluation of a human being who has just departed from this world. 'That now I am dead, my body is being put under flames of fire. So it is the only right time when you, fire, before consuming my body, you evaluate me. You evaluate everything all that I should have done and all that I had done'.

Let us do our duty and obligations with detachment, and with love for all – the family, the community, and our Mandir.

शुभमस्तु (May everything be fine!)

Ramesh Viswanathan

Hindu Senior Citizens of South Jersey

www.hinduseniors.com

Venue - ICC

January 2016 Announcement

Jan 7, 2016

tea/coffee with snacks & aartii 6:30 - 7 pm

Meeting starts - 7:00 pm

January 7, 2016

After routine announcements, the new team of office-holders will be administered an oath of office affirming to undertake their duties with full responsibility. The new officers will also sign a pledge of no-conflict of personal interest with their new positions. Most of the time in the meeting will be devoted to bhajans to start off the New Year to seek blessings of the divine.

Bhajans are a great way to quench our thirst for our spiritual life. bhajans are a sacred form of our devotional music. It is a very old form of music that dates back thousands of years. It has grown and evolved with the modern age. There are vivid styles of bhajans and are often used to perform Puja and meditation. What a way to start our New Year with Chandan Modi's TARANA Musical Group. Mr. Modi has over 45 years experience of teaching music He has a degree in music from India. He will be performing with some of his student artists to entertain us with his beautiful bhajans.

We also take this opportunity to wish everybody a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year 2016.

Ram Arora
President-Elect

Dr. S. Gambhir
President

Monthly Pujas at Mandir



It is a pleasure to read Sunderkand Path on Saturday January 16, at 10am and to perform Satyanarayan puja on Sunday January 3, at 3pm 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

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.

2015 General Body Meeting

The General Body meeting was held on December 13, 2015 after 90 minutes of melodious Bhajans performed by our local artists. ITA President Shri Ramesh Viswanathan changed the format of Presidential address this year. According to our President's direction, some key Trustees involved in handling the major activities during the calendar year ending 2015 were asked to brief members present at the meeting. Unfortunately, there were not enough members present in this meeting to fulfill the requirements for the Quorum. Your Board of Trustees needs your support and interest in our temple's wellbeing. Monetary support provides financial needs for the temple's operation and up keeping while the physical support provides enthusiasm, success, and encouragement to all the volunteers and participants. Please support all the activities including the most important General Body meeting of 2016.

Due to less number of nominations received as compared to the available vacancies, this year we did not have any election for the Trustees. Mr. Gopal Patel, Mrs, Charu Sheth and Mrs. Kshama Raghuvver were officially placed in the Board of Trustees for the three years term starting January 2016. There were three other candidates who happened to be great volunteers and could not be outright accepted due to late submission and/or lack of continuity in two years membership by the cutoff date announced in our November Satsang Sandesh. The Board of Trustees is allowed to take these candidates to fill in the remaining vacancies after further review and majority approval in its first meeting in January.

There were questions raised about the purchase of the adjoining property and the possible construction of a future new temple. Board of Trustees has agreed to provide further details as they become more solid. Further progress on our newly purchased property will be provided in the next Satsang Sandesh. Regarding the new temple or the second temple, BOT has not undertaken any detailed analysis. It has only set aside \$500,000 for such a task. 2016 Board will act on this matter by establishing a proper committee and having detailed discussions within BOT. BOT will also call the General Body on the subject matter when it deems necessary to call for such a meeting.

ITA sincerely appreciates the services provided by all the outgoing trustees including those who had worked for one or two terms and decided not to continue. ITA also thanks all the Bhajan participants, Election Committee, our Pujaries, selfless volunteers, all our supporters and those present at the meeting. Last but not the least, ITA would like to thank all the board members for their contribution towards delicious Maha Prasad.

Marathi Saad celebrates Makar Sankranti - Haldi KumKum

Saturday January 30, 2016 at 4-8 pm in Hindu Temple

Makar Sankranti festival, unlike other Hindu festivals, is not dependent on the position of the moon, but on position of the sun. On this day, the sun enters the zodiac sign of Capricorn(Makar radhi) from which the festival name is derived. This is a special day for the women in Maharashtra when married women are invited for a get-together called 'Haldi-Kunku' (literally meaning turmeric and vermilion) and given gifts. Typically, women wear black sarees or black coloured outfits on this occasion.

Marathi Saad are proud to announce its 3rd 'Haldi-kunku' celebration for ladies and young girls. Also along with Haldi Kunku we have few other fun activities to make this day enjoyable for every lady. All ladies interested in participating in this celebration kindly RSVP by 01/10/2015 at MarathiSaad@gmail.com in order to ensure food arrangements and to receive evite for the Haldi Kunku alongwith all event details."

BALVIHAR SESSION OF DEC 20, 2015

: Sriram Kiron

We had two consecutive sessions of Balvihar on Dec.13th and Dec. 20th this month (2nd and 3rd Sundays) due to Winter Break. In the older kids general assembly and yoga session, Malathi aunty talked to us about the six inner enemies that we have to overcome to be happy and become good human beings. The six inner enemies within each one of us are Kaama (Desire), Krodha (Anger), Lobha (Greed), Moha (Delusion), Madha (Pride) and Maatsarya (Jealousy). They cause discomfort and sorrow to the person and others around him/her. In the yoga session, we had a lot of fun playing games and also doing some yoga.

(Input from my mother) : In the younger kids' yoga session and general assembly, they had a lot of fun playing games while incorporating yoga postures into it. This way they had fun and learnt something important too. Since Christmas was around the corner, the kids talked about the significance of Christmas and what Christmas meant to them , and how they all celebrated Christmas season. We ended this session of Balvihar by enjoying Pizza !!

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	
			TEMPLE FACILITIES USAGE FEE
			Prayer Hall: \$200
			Social Hall: \$300
			OTHER CHARGES
			MILEAGE AND TRAVEL TIME TIER
			\$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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Facility Rental

Temple Manager

Charu Sheth

Divyakant Parikh

1-855-my-mandir x 1

manager@indiatemple.org

Darshan Schedule

Morning

7:30 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: _____