



Satsang Sandesh

A monthly news magazine of

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. 43 No. 1 Phone: (855) MYMANDIR (855-696-2634) www.indiatemple.org MARCH 2014

Religious Calendar

March 16 Sunday

- Holi

March 17 Monday

- Dhulendi

March 21 Friday

- Rangpanchami

March 27 Thursday

- Pappochani Ekadashi

March 31 Monday

- Yugadi

Monthly Activities

Smt. Kshama Raghuveer
(707) 332-3400

March 7, Friday

- Vishnu Sahasranama
Parayanam

March 15, Saturday

- Sunderkand Path
@10am in our Mandir

March 16, Sunday

- Holi & Shri Satyanarayan Puja / Katha on Purnima Day @3:30 pm in our Mandir

Monthly Bhajans

Mar 21, Friday, 8-9 p.m.

- Satya Sai Baba of Medford

P.K. Prabhakar
(856) 596-3147
Sesha Vemuri
(856) 751-0867

Mar 28, Friday, 8-9 pm

- Shree Ji Bhajan Group

Urmi Upadhya
(856) 424-9328
Charu Sheth (856) 662-8754

Sundarkand Paath

Saturday March 15, 2014 at 10 am

We will have Sundarkand Paath on Saturday, March 15, 2014 at 10 am, followed by Maha-Prasad. Please join us.

Holi

March 22nd - 1.30pm to 4 pm (March 23rd - Rain Date)

We have Holi Puja in our Mandir. Please come one and all and partake the blessings of the Lords. Holi Celebration is with color, music and friends and family!!! Please join with your families and bring some color and snacks/drinks to share with everyone!! Coordinated by Jagdeep at 856-308-7870 and Mona Talwar at 856-308-7866 or email mtalwar11@gmail.com.

Purnima / Satyanarayan Puja

Sunday March 16, 2014 at 3:30 pm

We will have Shri SatyaNarayan Puja/Katha on Sunday, March 16, 2014 at 3:30 pm, followed by Maha-Prasad. Participation is open to all.

Yugadi Hindu New Year

Monday March 31, 2014

“CHETI CHAND” Sindhi New Year Celebrations

Saturday, April 12, 2014, 4pm onwards

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 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.

- | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|---------|
| • Raj and Anita Chopra | Mar. 01 Troy Hudson | Mar. 17 |
| • Jashwantlal Mehta | Mar. 01 Jaysukh Sheth | Mar. 19 |
| • Lakshmi Pillalamani | Mar. 01 Dinesh Desai | Mar. 20 |
| • Anisha Desai | Mar. 08 Vinnu Shah | Mar. 23 |
| • Shashi Gupta | Mar. 08 | |
| • Sharad Pimplaskar | Mar. 09 | |
| • Chandubhai Patel | Mar. 11 | |
| • Harshad Patel | Mar. 12 | |
| • Nishtha and James Hudson | Mar. 14 | |
| • Rima Gandhi | Mar. 15 | |
| • Dhiraj Panda | Mar. 15 | |

Condolences

Shri Ajit Patel's mother Dhirajben Patel, age 84, passed away on January 26. ITA and its board extend their sincere condolences to Patel family.

Senior Citizens' Program

HINDU SENIOR CITIZENS NEXT MEETING ON MARCH 13 AT ICC (postponed from last month due to snow storm)

AN EVENING OF MUSIC, FUN AND FOOD ! The power of music moves everyone. In melodious moments, the singer, the song and the listener become one; they become inseparable. Sweet sounds, beats, rhythm and gentle harmony generate emotions, melt our hearts and transport us to blissful worlds.

Here comes the **RHYTHM** group with a star-studded evening of *bhajans* and songs. A pleasing succession of musical melodies by our community's talented artists Arti Shah, Nilkanth Shah, Ashok Mehta, Baldev Patel, Dinesh Shah, Pradip Patel, Raj Lotia, Dharmista Bhatt and Sital Nanavati will entertain the audience on Thursday, February 13, 2014.

In view of larger attendance and parking facilities, the event will take place at community's pride location Indian Cultural Center located at 820 Route 73 South, Marlton NJ 08053. We will have regular *aarti* at 6:30 followed by the music program starting at 7, and the program ending with February birthday celebrations and dinner at 8:45.

It will tremendously help in organizing food arrangements and the meeting room if you can RSVP your attendance via JPGupt@gmail.com

S. Gambhir, President HSCSJ

ITA Scholarship Guidelines

India Temple Association (ITA) will award five scholarships to high school seniors whose parent(s)/guardian(s) are current ITA members of good standing. Applications will not be considered for students whose parents are not ITA members. At its discretion, the committee may change the number of available scholarships and the value of each scholarship based on the number of qualified applicants. All ITA Board/Scholarship Committee decisions will be final and not subject to any questions or litigation. **All submissions must be postmarked by March 31, 2014.** Please mail the following information and supporting documents to: Scholarship Committee, 25 East Taunton Ave., Berlin, NJ 08009. Alternatively, you can also submit online by going to <http://www.indiatemple.org/scholarship.php> or email the documents to Dr. Surendra Gambhir at sg@gambhir.net

- Completed application form.
- Grade Point Average (GPA) – 15% weight points.
- In-school extracurricular activity summary i.e. music, dance, leadership, student council, sports, cultural groups, etc. – 15% weight points.
- Participation in activities related to Indian culture, i.e. participation in ITA-sponsored activities such as the youth program, painting etc. A consistent attendance record will be given preferential treatment among equally qualified candidates) – 15% weight points.
- Community services i.e. volunteering at nursing homes, hospitals, walkathon, etc. – 15% weight points.
- Please choose one topic and submit three duplicate copies (typed and double spaced), not exceeding two pages - 40% weight points.

The topics are:

1. Indian Diaspora: what to preserve and what to let go from our heritage?
2. How to Prepare for a Happy and Successful Future?
3. Hinduism is the Universal Religion of 21st Century – A Critique

Rubric

Essays must be written by students in their own words using correct grammar and syntax. They should be thoughtful, articulate, well developed and persuasive. Students should provide relevant details in support of their viewpoint. Plagiarism will result in immediate disqualification.

Bal Vihar Program

By Vikram Meyyappan

Sloka class started at 9:30 in the cafeteria, as usual. Malathi aunty focused on “Om suklambaradaramvishnum” and “Om vakratunda mahaakaaya.” We all learned the correct way to chant these slokas. The chanting session ended at 9:50, and we headed to the main cafeteria.

After we had the regular sloka session, Ramesh uncle explained why we celebrate Shivaratri in the night by telling us three stories about it. In one story, the moral was that if you are truthful, God will be with you. Since all three stories happened in the night, we celebrate Shivaratri at this time of day.

After Ramesh uncle spoke about Shivaratri, all students reported to their classrooms. We also did yoga in the main cafeteria. We did the aarthi after this.

We had Makar sankranti/Pongal special lunch. Many South Indian families sponsored delicious home-made south Indian food. We had a variety of items served. The Balvihar families do this every year during the month of January or February. We are looking forward to another special lunch.

We certainly enjoyed this session!

Come one, come all! Friends and family are invited to attend the Bal-Vihar Annual Day, an amalgam of dances, skits, and shlokas performed by the Bal-Vihar students to exhibit what they have learned throughout the year. Annual Day will be held on Saturday, May 3th, 2014, at Lenape High School. Details are forthcoming.

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### **April 2014 Upcoming Events**

Saturday April 5th & Sunday April 6th 2014 - Akhand Ramayan Path

Tuesday, April 8th, 2014 - Ram Navami Celebrations

Saturday April 12, 2014 @ 4:00 pm Cheti Chand Celebrations

Monday, April 14th, 2014 @ 6:00 pm Satyanarayan Katha

Tuesday, April 15th, 2014 - Hanuman Jayanti Celebrations

### **Sri Rama Navami**



***Sri Raghavam Dasharadhatmajam aprameyam Sitapathim Raghukulanvaya Ratna Deepam  
Aajanubahum Aravinda Dalayathaksham Ramam Nishachara Vinashakaram Namami***

**Date : Saturday, April 5 11:00 AM to Sunday, April 6, 12:00 Noon**

**Akhand Ramayana Path** will commence from Saturday, April 5 at 11:00 AM and will continue through the night into next day morning, Sunday, April 6 12:00 Noon. ITA invites everyone to come and participate in reading of Ram Charita Manas. Shri Rama Navami will also be celebrated as a part this program on 1st April with special Pooja of Rama Parivar followed by Maha-Prasad at noon on April 6, 2014. **Those who want to help in this observance of Ram Navami Pooja can call: Meena Bhatnagar, [856-424-2581](tel:856-424-2581) or Rano Vasisht, [609-926-0142](tel:609-926-0142).**



### ITA Seva Samiti

by Sadhna Kothari

Your ITA Seva Samiti's past and continuing projects:

- Jap Yagna Fund raiser for the Kedarnath disaster  
*Interfaith prayer meeting/candlelight vigil for Tornado victims*
- Walk-a-thon Youth activities Seniors' computer classes  
*Yellow ribbon club and cookie bakes for our troops* Funeral Services  
Sandwich program and collecting winter coats for the homeless
- Nursing Home visits Gayatri Mantra Discourse Bone marrow registration drive  
*American Cancer Society's Relay for Life*

As you can see in the preceding list, Seva Samiti has undertaken many volunteer programs and activities wherever a need arose, in our community at home and our ancestral land. These events raised our collective awareness of the difficult and special circumstances that can arise, requiring action on our part to help others.

Along the way, we made new friends with congregants from different Houses of Worship.

We learned from each other and leaned on each other, praying in solidarity for victims of natural disasters like the Tornadoes and Floods in Kedarnath and victims of man-made horrors like the shooting at the Sikh temple in Wisconsin.

Fund raisers were held for financial assistance to those in immediate need to rebuild their lives - your generosity at those times was invaluable and appreciated.

While you may be volunteering as an individual through work or in your neighborhood, please consider joining our efforts at Seva Samiti to make a larger contribution and foot print as Hindu Americans. Your ideas and time are needed to bolster and expand our work further.

Join us; help Seva Samiti to grow so that we can all make real and meaningful differences.

JAI SHREE KRISHNA

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ITA Yuva Darshan

By: Sanjana Kondapalli

On the January 26th youth session, all of the youths recited the morning mantras harmonically together. After that, Brinda (a.k.a. Bambi) from the YES program played fun games with us like the name-game, koh, 7-up, and whisper-down-the-lane. That helped us become a closer youth group and help get to know each other even more. Bambi also taught us some useful breathing techniques to control our emotions and remain calm. I thank Bambi for dedicating her time to teach us easy ways to improve our lives. In our activity time, we planned for the ski trip that was going to be on February 15th. We wrapped up the youth session with aarhi and lunch.

February 9th youth session kicked off with mantras lead by kids who were selected by Praveen Uncle to lead the mantras. We practiced our thirty minutes of yoga, as we usually do. In our activity time, we planned for our annual day. We decided it should be combined with Bal-Vihar's annual day. We finished the youth session with aarhi and lunch.

The next youth session, which took place on February 22nd, was very eventful. We started off with the prayers at the beginning of every youth session. The youths were all assigned by Praveen Uncle to memorize the first five mantras recited in the morning and the meal-time prayer and learn their meanings by next session. I think it is an effective way to connect ourselves to our religion. Subsequently, we did yoga to loosen our muscles. After that, we learned about Kama and Moksha, two of the four total goals of every Hindu. Kama means pleasure and Moksha is liberation of the cycle of rebirth and to be one with God. In our activity time, we finalized our annual day plans. To take a break from the serious planning and learning, we played a game called the Human Knot which was a lot of fun. We ended our game when it was time for aarhi. Soon after, we had pizza for lunch.

**“CHETI CHAND” Sindhi New Year Celebrations
at Hindu Temple, Berlin NJ**

on Saturday, April 12, 2014, 4pm onwards

Cheti Chand is celebrated on the second day (Chand - new moon day) of the 1st month in the Hindu New Year - Chaitra (Chet in Sindhi).

It is also the birthday of Jhulelal or Dariyalal or Jinda Pir - the *Ishta Dev* of Sindhi Hindus. This is the most significant day for the Sindhi community and is celebrated all over the world with traditional pomp and gaiety. On this day Jhulelal is worshipped. Rice and sugar are offered to the habitants of the ocean as Jhulelal came from the ocean on a whale and protected the community from the cruel rulers of Sindh.

The Sindhi community of South Jersey will celebrate New Year/Cheti Chand at the Hindu Temple in Berlin on Saturday, April 20th 2013. We will have bhajans starting at 4 pm, followed by langar prasad at 6 pm. All are welcome to attend.

RSVP to Sheela Alwani at [856-768-5351](tel:856-768-5351) or Deepa & Hiroo Pahlajani at [856-424-1365](tel:856-424-1365) or Anju Varindani at 856-772-2902.

"Jhulelal Bera-Hee-Paar"



Seva Samiti Open House:

Please join us for Family Night at the Temple.

On Friday March 14th 2014 at 6:30 PM

6:30 PM Dinner

7:30 PM Youth Certificate presentation and our mission

8:00 PM Movie and Board Game Night for Children if they wish not to see the movie

Though not compulsory RSVP is appreciated at latap@comcast.net

Friends,
Welcome to another year of Seva Samiti projects and activities.
It has been five years since the inception of ITA Seva Samiti. We take great pleasure in knowing all that we have accomplished through our activities for various causes such as natural disasters, feeding homeless communities, for our soldiers and firefighters and many other to mention. Below, you will find the list of our activities.
We, the Hindu Americans have done well in this country for ourselves, and many of us though volunteer individually the idea of ITA Seva was to make bigger impact by contributing to the community here, where we live as Hindu Americans.
ITA Seva Samiti is always looking to create infrastructure for volunteers to participate. However, we the volunteers of ITA Seva Samiti are constantly faced with lack of volunteers, funds and tools to push our work further. Please, DONATE to any cause you believe, and join us, help us to grow so we could make difference in someone's life, feel good about it and even earn Punya through good Karmas! Also, we are looking for families who would like to work with families or students in our community who need assistance in terms of scholarship, funds for books, allowance for transportation etc.
I hope you join us!
Sincerely,
Lata Pimplaskar , Volunteer, ITA Seva Samiti



Camden District 2014 Sites Schedule

| <u>Monday</u> | <u>Tuesday</u> | <u>Wednesday</u> | <u>Thursday</u> | <u>Friday</u> |
|----------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Feb 3-Apr 14 | Feb 4-Apr 15 | Feb 5-Apr 9 | Feb 6-Apr 10 | Feb 7-Apr 11 |
| *Barrington 10-1 | Bellmawr 11-2 | Pennsauken 1-4 | Pennsauken 1-4 | Blackwood 10-1 |
| *Haddon Heights 12-3 | Cherry Hill 10-2 | Winslow 10-1 | Runnemede 11-2 | Collingswood 12-4 |
| *Winslow 10-1 | Voorhees 11-2 | | Voorhees 11-2 | Cherry Hill 10-2 |
| *closed Feb 17 | Westmont 12-4 | | | |

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 a.m. at our Mandir

Contact: Virendra Gupta @ (856) 424-9313

GITA STUDY GROUP:

Every Tuesday & Wednesday, 8-9 p.m. at our Mandir

Contact: Sharad Pimplaskar @ (856) 985-4785

BHAJANS & STUTI:

Every Friday, 7:30-9 p.m.

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 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Contact: Ramesh Viswanathan (856) 489-1830, Bhavesh Patel 1-855-my-mandir ext 3, Rina Patel (856) 313-5235 for registration and location

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

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

CREATIVE ART WORKSHOP

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

Contact: Narendra Amin (856) 429-8761

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 check temple availability at www.indiatemple.org; Click on "CALENDAR tab" and, from drop-down menu, Click on "EVENT/RENTAL CALENDAR". **Please contact Smt. Charu Sheth or Shri. Harish Shelat 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 | <p><u>TEMPLE FACILITIES USAGE FEE</u>
 Prayer Hall: \$200
 Social Hall: \$300</p> <p><u>OTHER CHARGES</u></p> <p><u>MILEAGE AND TRAVEL TIME TIER</u></p> \$0 for 1 - 25 mile radius
\$51 for 26 - 100 mile radius
\$101 for 101 - 150 mile radius
\$151 for 151 - 200 mile radius <p>NON-MEMBER
 \$51 for non-member surcharge</p> |
| 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 | |

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.

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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: _____