



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

Religious Calendar

Feb 4 Tuesday

- Vasant Panchami / Shree Saraswati Puja

Feb 10 Monday

- Jaya Ekadashi

Feb 14 Friday

- Purnima / Satyanarayan Katha

Feb 25 Tuesday

- Vijaya Ekadashi

Feb 27 Thursday

- Maha Shivratri Celebration in Mandir

Monthly Activities

- Smt. Kshama Raghuveer (707) 332-3400

Feb 7, Friday

- Vishnu Sahasranama Parayanam

Feb 14, Friday

- Shri Satyanarayan Puja / Katha on Purnima Day @6pm in our Mandir

Feb 15, Saturday

- Sunderkand Path @10am in our Mandir

Monthly Bhajans

Feb 21 Friday, 8-9 p.m.

- Satya Sai Baba of Medford

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

Vasant Panchami / Shree Saraswati Puja Tuesday February 4, 2014 at 7 pm in Hindu Temple

Purnima / Satyanarayan Puja

Friday February 14, 2014 at 6 pm

We will have Shri SatyaNarayan Puja/Katha on Friday, February 14, 2014 at 6 pm, followed by Maha-Prasad. If you would like to participate in the this puja, please contact Smt. Kshama Raghuveer at (707) 332-3400. Participation is open to all.

Sundarkand Paath

Saturday February 15, 2014 at 10 am

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

Maha Shivaratri Celebration

Thursday February 27, 2014 at 9am-12pm and 4-8pm in Mandir
Maha Shivaratri, an important Hindu festival, celebrates marriage of Lord Shiva with Goddess Parvati.

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.

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------|--------------------|---------|
| • 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

Shri Chandrakant Fulchand Shah, father of Artiben Hemant Shah, Passed away in India on January 26 at age 86. ITA and its board extend their sincere condolences to Shah family.

Senior Citizens' Program

HINDU SENIOR CITIZENS NEXT MEETING ON FEBRUARY 13 AT ICC

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 8:30.

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

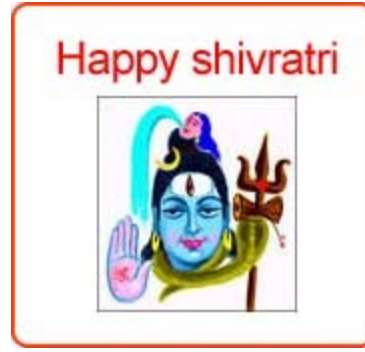
- Completed application form.
- Grade Point Average (GPA) – 15% weight points.
- In-school extracurricular activity summary i.e. music, dance, leadership, student council, sports, cultural groups, etc. – 15% weight points.
- Participation in activities related to Indian culture, i.e. participation in 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

The New Year began with Ramesh uncle's first session at Balvihar. We had a chanting session with Malathi aunty from 9:30a.m. to 9:50a.m. Malathi aunty taught us about the importance of the chants and focused on the proper way to say the sloka "Om sahanavavatu". We had a very good response from the parents and the children for this. Thanks to Malathi aunty.

It was a regular session. As usual, we chanted Slokas and Mantras and we sang the Aarthi. Since January is the month of Pongal/Makar Sankranti, Ramesh uncle told us a story on why we celebrate this festival. It was a simple and interesting story. Then the kids went to class and later did yoga with Bharat uncle. Yoga was awesome.

We had pizza for lunch. To emphasize more about Sankranti, delicious Pongal was served to everyone. Everybody liked it. It was another splendid day at Balvihar.

Youth Program
By Sanjana Kondapalli

As usual, the January 12th youth session started with shlokas, led by a group of youth members, and recited by everyone. After that, we warmed up with Yoga and Pranayamas for 30 minutes. Next, we discussed the topic of arranged marriages. It was surely a heated debate, with many diverse perspectives being presented! We certainly got a lot of food for thought on this important aspect of life. In our activity time, we baked cookies. It was a blast and they were delicious! We ended the session with Aarthi and lunch. Overall, I had a great day in the youth session.

Swami Vivekananda's 150th Birthday

Swami Vivekananda's 150th Birthday celebration from 12th January, 2013 to 12th January, 2014, throughout the world was celebrated with great vigor, joy, inspiration and enthusiasm. There were different kinds of activities in the different parts of the world. One crore Surya Namaskar by youths, several study groups, essay competition, skits, multiple Seva projects, and grand celebration in Chicago, in the same hall, where Pu. Swamiji spoke during the World parliament of religions in 1893, were the highlights of the celebrations.

We, in South New Jersey also did Swamiji's book study group. On 12th January, 2014, we celebrated Pu. Swamiji's Birthday. It was very, very, inspirational. Reading from "Complete Works of Swami Vivekananda", meditation, power point presentation, and talking about Swamiji's and Sri Ram Krishna Paramhansa's life was very joyful.

Now we have a choice if we want to continue reading Swamiji's book on every Monday from 8pm to 9pm. It will be nice if we know how many people are interested. Please contact Dr. Veena Gandhi or Smt.Sangeeta Rashatwar at [856-435-9148](tel:856-435-9148) or SangeetaRashatwar@gmail.com.

Indian Cultural Center (ICC)
820 RT. 73 South, Marlton, NJ-08053
(Non-Profit Tax Exempt Organization)

www.iccofsj.org

Twenty five years ago, five individuals had a dream to bring an Indian community center to South Jersey. That dream is now a reality due to the hard work of countless volunteers, community members, and our supporters. Our South Jersey community has reached an important milestone in this long journey.

As you know it has taken us more than twelve years to obtain the required permits and complete the construction of our 20,500+ sq. ft. center which includes one of the largest assembly hall in South Jersey, a stage and many more accommodations.

The facility also includes a library, game room and multiple rooms for children, youth, and senior citizen activities. We expect the center to play a major role in promoting and preserving our Indian culture among the 2,500 families that live within the area.



The Indian Cultural Center (ICC) opened its doors to the community with a magnificent vastu puja (house warming) ceremony on Sunday, December 15th, 2013, followed by a popularly attended New Year's celebration.

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The ICC facility administrator has been chosen and the facility is currently available for booking. We have started to receive requests from the community to book private events and slots are quickly filling. Please make sure you contact the ICC administrator prior to your visit to the site.



You can reach the ICC office at the following office phone numbers:

ICC Main Office: (856) 267-5633 and (856) 267-5638

Visiting Hours: Tuesday – Sunday 10AM – 12PM and 6PM – 9PM

Sincerely,

Board Members of ICC

“A Dream now a Reality!”



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			

2014 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
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 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> \$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> <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.

25 E. Taunton, Berlin, NJ 08009

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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: _____