



Satsang Sandesh

A monthly news magazine of

India Temple Association, Inc.

Hindu Temple, 25 E. Taunton Ave, Berlin, NJ 08009
SOUTH JERSEY ♦ DELAWARE ♦ PENNSYLVANIA

Vol. 38 No. 8 Phone: (855) MYMANDIR (855-696-2634) www.indiatemple.org AUGUST 2012

Religious Calendar

Aug 1, Wednesday

- Nariyeri Punam

Aug 2, Thursday

- RakshaBandhan/Shravani/
Upakarma Prayog

Aug 6, Monday

- Nag Panchami/Rudrabhishek
in Mandir

Aug 9, Thursday

- Shitala Satam

Aug 10, Friday

- JANAMASHTAMI

Aug 13, Monday

- Aja Ekadashi / Rudrabhishek
in Mandir

Aug 17, Friday

- Last Day of Shraavan Mas
Rudrabhishek in Mandir

Aug 18, Saturday

- 'ADHIK PUROSHOTTAM'

Aug 27, Monday

- Kamala Ekadashi
(Purushottam)

Aug 31, Friday Purnima Monthly Activities

August 3, Friday

- Vishnu Sahasranama
Parayanam: Kshama
Raghuveer (610) 642-
2875

August 5, Sunday

- Bhajan Sandhya: Classi-
cal bhajans performed by
Chandan Modi and his
students at 5 PM

Monthly Bhajans

August 17, Friday, 8-9 p.m.

- Satya Sai Baba of Medford
P.K. Prabhakar (856) 596-3147
Sesha Vemuri (856) 751-0867

August 24, Friday, 8-9 pm

- Shree Ji Bhajan Group
Urmi Upadhy (856) 424-9328
Charu Sheth (856) 662-8754

Shravana Month - Shiva Puja and Abhishekam

Significance: The legend says that when the churning of oceans - Samudra Manthan - took place in the month of Shravana, fourteen different types of jewels came out. Thirteen of these were distributed amongst the demons and gods, except Halahal (poison). Lord Shiva drank the Halahal and held it in his throat. Hence the name Neelakantha (meaning "blue throat") is attributed to Shiva. To lessen the strong effect of poison, Lord Shiva wore the serpent around his neck. All the Gods thereafter started offering the celestial water to Lord Shiva to further lessen the effect of poison. Since the same celestial river came down to earth as Ganga, the holy water from River Ganga is used to bathe Shiva lingam on Amavasya day in Shraavan month and on the Maha Shivratri day. Shravana month is dedicated to Lord Shiva and most people observe a fast at least on Monday.

There are 4 Mondays in Shraavan Month 23rd July, 30th July, 6th August, 13th August. Following are activities at the temple on each Monday:

- 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM, 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM - Rudrabhishek of Lord Shiva
- 8:00 PM to 8:30 PM - Bhajans followed by Aarti

Satyanarayan Puja/Katha on August 1st and 31st (Purnima days)

Contact: Kshama Raghuveer (610) 642-2875

Shraavan Month – Krishna Janmashtmi on August 10th, 2012

- 6:00 PM to 6:45 PM – Puja
- 6:45 PM to 7:45 PM - Bhajan by Chandan Modi and audience.
- 7:45 PM to 8:15 PM - Nand-Utsav (Krishna Birth) and first aarti
- 8:15 PM to 9:15 PM – Bhajan by Chandan Modi and audience
- 9:30 PM – Second Aarti
- 9:30 PM to Midnight – Bhajans by Chandan Modi
- Midnight – Third and last Aarti



Last day of Shraavan Month

Last day of Shraavan month is August 17th, 2012. We shall have big celebration with Rudrabhishek from 4 PM to 8 PM followed by Bhajans for 45 Minutes and then Aarti and Maha-Prasad at 9 PM.

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.

- | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|--------|
| • Amita Desai | Aug 05 Dave Ghanshyam | Aug 17 |
| • Shailendra Desai | Aug 05 Patel Dilipkumar | Aug 17 |
| • Mahesh Tekrival | Aug 07 Sheth Charu & Jaysukh | Aug 17 |
| • Tejas Patel | Aug 08 Sindvad Snehal | Aug 17 |
| • Khaitan Shree | Aug 10 Kanzaria Maganbhai | Aug 18 |
| • Lingraju Nagraj | Aug 10 Patel Babubhai | Aug 24 |
| • Dixit Mahesh | Aug 11 Kanzaria Mitul | Aug 26 |
| • Desai Kiran | Aug 15 Talati Sangita & Paresh | Aug 27 |
| • Patel Akshaykumar | Aug 15 | |
| • Shah Nisarg | Aug 15 | |

Condolences

Nayna Patel's father Babubhai Purshotam Kapadia passed away on July 6 at the age of 89 in India. Godawriben Patel, Mother of founding member Niruben Jelabhai Patel passed away on June 18 2012 at age of 86 in Portland.

ITA and its Board extend their sincere condolences to Naynaben and Niruben's families.

Senior Citizens' Program

Thursday August 16, 6:30 to 9:15 pm and Thursday August 30, 6:30 to 9:15 pm

Back Pain – Is there a way out? Back pain is a common complaint of seniors. According to one recent survey, back pain affects 80% of Americans in some point in their lives and its economic impact is great. Sometimes back pain can also be a sign of a serious health problem. We have invited Dr. Chander Sachdeva on August 16 to discuss the common causes and risk factors of back pain. His talk will also cover signs and symptoms, diagnostic studies, treatment focusing on non-surgical options, and preventive measures. Dr. Sachdeva has established *Pioneer Physical Rehabilitation Center* in Cherry Hill.

Visit to Hawaii: On August 30 our member Sri Ranjit Banerjee, nuclear engineer by profession, will talk about his recent visit to Hawaiian Islands. He visited Oahu, Maui, and Big Island and took many photos to show to us. Some of the landmarks you will hear about are Honolulu city, Pearl Harbor, Waikiki Beach, Rainbow Falls, Lava Tube, and Black Sand Beach. He will also provide us with tips for executing similar trips like this. I assure you his presentation with slide show will be very interesting and informative. **Contact Info:** Suraj Bhan Singh; sbsingh1@hotmail.com



Bal-Vihar Program

ITA _Bal Vihar Program will begin on Sept 9th 2012

Time: 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Location: Cherokee High School in Marlton, NJ

Teaching Vedic Heritage Giving Our Children Positive Identity!

Five groups of Bal Vihar:

- Prithvi Pre KG for 4 years old only. This group will learn about gods, chant shlokas and bhajans, stories and arts & crafts.
- Saagar KG and 1st graders: KG: Stories and forms of Shiva, and Three goddesses, Arts and Crafts. 1st graders: 10 stories from Ramayana.
- Pavan 2nd and 3rd graders: 2nd: Story of India. 3rd: Puranic Tales.
- Aakash 4th & 5th graders: 4th: Mahabharata Part II 5th: Dharma _ understanding universal values such as Satyam, Ahimsa.
- Agni 6th & 7th graders: Principles of Hinduism.

Youth Program

ITA _Youth Program will begin on Sept 9th 2012

Time: 9:45 AM – 12:45 PM

Location: At Temple, 25 E. Taunton Ave., Berlin, NJ

Programs run from September through June and the sessions will be held every second and fourth Sundays. A new 2012-13 program calendar will be posted online at www.indiatemple.org on August, 1st, 2012.

Bal Vihar and Youth Online Registration (www.indiatemple.org) will begin August 1st, 2012, and will be on first come first served basis. Registration is limited to 225 children. There will be a nominal fee of \$100.00 per student. The parents must become ITA members to enroll their children. The fees include cost of lunches, Pujas and festivals. There will be additional cost for the Annual Day. All donations are welcome. For more information call: Bhavesh Patel @ 856-524-3935 or balvi-har@verizon.net

From the Desk of ITA President

On behalf of all the trustees and members of the India Temple Association, I would like to announce and to congratulate Dr. Surendra Gambhir, a much-revered member of our community -- who was recently awarded the most-coveted Padmabhushan Dr. Moturi Satyanarayan Puraskar (award) by the Central Hindi Directorate.

The Directorate announces only a dozen awards every year to selected Hindi Sevi individuals both nationally and internationally. The award – consisting of a plaque, a shawl, and one hundred thousand Indian Rupees – was presented to our own Dr. Gambhir by the President of India at ceremonies in India at Rastrapati Bhavan, on June 20, 2012.

Dr. Gambhir's award and his many accomplishments leading to that award have brought great credit to him, to his family and to our India Temple Association. Once again, we congratulate Dr. Gambhir and we will continue to honor him and the example he sets for all of us.

Rina Patel

Life Members Recognition

Thank You for your support! As a token of our appreciation, we are honoring you through this newsletter. The Temple will attempt to fulfill your many needs in the coming years by providing you and your loved ones a place to worship, to commemorate important events in your life, to share with the community at large in cultural events/ festivals and attend spiritual discourses/classes. In turn the ITA will benefit from your contribution to several of our key programs, including Bal-Vihar, Youth, Painting and Sculpture for Young and Adolescent, and of course Navratri for the entire tri state community. These activities, as you know, not only teach the young generation about our rich cultural heritage, but also help to build stronger minds, spirits and character in our young people. We welcome you to the ITA family and look forward to a mutually enjoyable and productive experience with all the current and future program and members!

HONOREES

**Sarit and Pinky Kadakia
Neel and Sushma Kadakia
Ram and Urmil Arora**

Donation of Chairs

Drs. Asha and Ramesh C. Gupta, members of Hindu Senior Citizens group have just made a donation of 52 comfortable chairs to the temple, bringing their total donation to one hundred chairs. ITA would like to recognize Gupta family for its most generous act and support.



SAVE THE DATE FOR NAVRATRI 2012

This year Navratri starts on Tuesday, October 16th, 2012 and ends on Tuesday, October 23rd, 2012. Sharad Purnima Raas-Garba will be on Saturday, October 27th, 2012.

Ticket sale will start on August 1st and will end on September 30th. Discounted season tickets of \$25/person, ages 18 through 64, and \$20/person, ages 12 through 17 as well as Seniors 65 and above will also be available from any of the Committee members from August 1, 2012 through Navratri Celebration. Our Saturday price for ages 18 through 64 is \$8.00. Please avoid rush at the gate and purchase in advance.

SPONSORSHIPS BY LOCAL BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONALS WILL HELP OFFSET COST OF THIS ONCE-A-YEAR GALA EVENT. Please contact Devang Parikh at 856-809- 0241 or dparikh4@comcast.net

ITA Scholarship: Second Prize Winner's Essay—Imari Patel

Even before records of primitive civilizations had existed, religion has played a key role in governing the lives of human beings. Ancient empires of those such as the Romans and the Aztecs had centered their values and lifestyles on deities. Adding to the point, Hinduism began to ripen around three-thousand BC becoming one of the world's oldest religions. So why have people depended on religion through all of these years?

Following a certain faith allows people to bond together and build communities from which they can benefit from. This is demonstrated through our very own Berlin Hindu Temple and the India Temple Association. Even children born into Hindu families are included through programs such as Bal-Vihar, Youth Program, and Art Class. In more personal terms, worshipping a God or religion enables followers to feel a sense of hope, security and happiness. By praying to their respective deities, people become more confident and positive in living their life. After all is not the reason for praising God to gain support and blessings? If people know that they are being watched over carefully, they feel safer not only within themselves but in regards of their family and friends too. As I mentioned above, the community that religion creates adds to the sense of security in that people always have a support team to fall back on. Lastly the presence of God permits humans to find bliss and harmony. For example, in Hinduism, pujas or rituals to gods are carried out in order to regain peace. Believing in a God not only creates a religion, but it also gives people a means to govern their lives in a healthy manner.

Although I do believe that humans need a God to worship, I do not suppose that all must be overly religious. Personally I do not consider myself a devout Hindu, for I have only learned the minimal chants and rituals. However, whenever the time calls to do so, I do extend my prayers to God in search for three things: hope, security and happiness. As one can see, the need for God has been sustained through the thousands of years of worshipping throughout the world.



INDIA TEMPLE ASSOCIATION SUPPORTS THE AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY'S RELAY FOR LIFE



Dear friends:

It was so heartwarming to see so many of the young people in Seva Samiti group of our Temple participate in the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life on Friday, June 8th at Eastern High School in Voorhees, NJ. Normally, I would have described this incredible event for you, but our own most talented writers Chetna Giyanani, and Lalit Nigam have already written a most insightful description so I'll let them describe it for you starting with Chenta Giyanani.

A child wearing an oversize T-shirt down to his ankles, couples arm in arm, a woman sporting a bandana where her hair used to be, all walk for a common cause. They walk because they, personally, or someone they know has battled cancer. These are just a few of the participants at this year's American Cancer Society Relay for Life in Voorhees, NJ.

They did more than walk around a track. They joined a national movement that has raised more than \$4 billion since its inception for the fight against cancer. They walked to create more birthdays around the world and hope for those battling the disease. Cancer survivors celebrated their own triumph over the disease by walking in the Survivors' Lap to kick off the relay. They were then joined by more than 200 others who took turns circling the track at Eastern Regional High School. Walkers continued to relay throughout the evening and into the night in honor of cancer survivors, caregivers, and those who didn't give up till the end. Many walkers participated in Zumba, and danced to the beats of Bollywood. The ITA Seva Samiti Team had 26 registered walkers and many of our community members who came to show us their support. Our team had the most number of people in the event, and, at one point in the relay, we had raised almost a third of the funds.

Lalit Nigam described the closing as follows:

"The Thousands of tea lights arrayed on the bleachers in a pattern that spelled "HOPE" (provided by American Cancer Society personnel) not only lit up the night, but symbolically gave us "HOPE" in our hearts to fight cancer in the future. What a wonderful finale this luminaria service provided for a day commemorating those who lost their lives to this despicable disease." Credit goes to all the volunteers and gratitude to the donors. Seva Samiti, alongwith the ITA board, appreciates their contribution to this worthy cause. Our thanks to Mayor Mike Mignogna of Voorhees for attending."

I'd like to add my highest praise to that of Chetna Giyanani, team leader for this event and to all our volunteers who made this celebration both exciting and profitable.

Rina Patel
ITA President

Indian Cultural Center

Building Construction Enters a New Phase



The steel beams are being erected, the bolts are being tightened, and soldering of the joints has begun as the Indian Cultural Center enters a new and exciting phase of construction. The sight that we all have been anxiously waiting for is happening now, and the framing of the magnificent building is taking place.

After the well attended Community Day Celebration, the construction has gone into high gear, and you can see new progress everyday. Now, completion seems around the corner, and the dream of having our own community center is closer then ever.

Please save the date for **Gayatri Yagna at the ICC site on Sunday, September 16th 2012**. India Temple Association is taking the lead in arranging this Yagna to benefit the ICC. Further details of this event will follow soon. In the meantime, if you have any questions about the upcoming event, please call Devang Parikh @ 609-481-8062.

We invite everyone to visit the site every Sunday, from 11AM to Noon (weather permitting) and witness the construction progress. Also, please continue to visit our website www.iccofsj.org to monitor the progress of this project.



www.iccofsj.org

1-855-ICCOFSJ

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 temple in Berlin

Contact: Virendra Gupta @ (856) 424-9313

GITA STUDY GROUP:

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

Contact: Sharad Pimplaskar @ (856) 985-4785

BHAJANS & STUTI:

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

Contact: Shree Shuklaji (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: Lata Pimplaskar (856) 985-4785, 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 Temple in Berlin.

Contact: Sharad Pimplaskar at (856) 985-4785 or Sangeeta Rashatwar at (856) 424-4211

CREATIVE ART WORKSHOP

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

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 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. Chetna Giyanani or Smt. Anoo Joshi at 1-855-MY-MANDIR Ext 1 for the booking of the Temple Facilities and/or scheduling of Puja Services by Shuklaji.**

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	<u>TEMPLE FACILITIES USAGE FEE</u> Prayer Hall: \$200 Social Hall: \$300 <u>OTHER CHARGES</u> <u>MILEAGE 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
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	
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. Chetna Giyanani 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



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PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP IF IT SHOWS "EXPIRED" OR YEAR MARKED
2011 OR EARLIER IN ADDRESS LABEL

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Darshan Schedule

Morning

7:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Evening

6 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Aarti

12 p.m. & 8 p.m.

Times may change during
special occasions

*Please use the front door
and ring the bell if locked*

**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: _____