



# 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. 38 No. 12 Phone: (855) MYMANDIR (855-696-2634) www.indiatemple.org DECEMBER 2012

### Religious Calendar

#### Dec 09 Sunday

- Utpati Ekadashi

#### Dec 15 Saturday

- Sunderkand Path from 10:00 AM to 12 Noon at our Mandir (Contact: Shri Sudhirji 856-905-9858)

#### Dec 24 Monday

- Mokshada Ekadashi/  
**GITA JAYANTI/  
Bhagavad—Gita Path in  
Mandir**

#### Dec 27 Thursday

- Shri Dattatray Jayanti /  
Purnima

#### Jan 08 Tuesday

- Safala Ekadashi

### Monthly Activities

#### Dec 07, Friday

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

#### Dec 28, Friday

- Shri Satyanarayan Puja/  
Katha on Purnima Day:  
Kshama Raghuveer  
(610) 642-2875

### Monthly Bhajans

#### Dec 21, Friday, 8-9 p.m.

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

### ITA GENERAL BODY MEETING & ELECTION OF TRUSTEES

To be held on December 09, Sunday at 6:00 P.M. after a SPECIAL BHAJAN PROGRAM by Chandan Modi, his students and local artists from 3:30 P.M. to 5:30 P.M.

#### Following Trustees are eligible for re-election for additional three years term:

Pankaj Desai, Jatin Mehta, Govind Modi, Dhiraj Panda, Kshama Raghuveer, Charu Sheth, Neelkant Shukla

#### Following Trustees are not eligible for re-election due to their three consecutive terms expiry by December 31, 2012:

Ghanshyam Dave

ITA takes this opportunity to thank all outgoing Trustees for their dedicated support and looking forward to their continued support for the ITA activities.

### Mandir Parking

With new parking regulations, parking is available only on one side (Mandir side) of Haines Ave. Additional parking is available at the Church Parking Lot or Municipal Parking Lot at the end of Haines Ave.

### 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.

• Akshaybhai & Savitaben Patel	Dec 01	Jagdish Shah	Dec 22
• Pravina Gohel	Dec 05	Nagindas/Champaben Shah	Dec 23
• Maya & Mamta Kanzaria	Dec 09	Vijay & Asha Gupta	Dec 25
• Arun Maheswari	Dec 09	Satish Shah	Dec 25
• Rajendra Pandya	Dec 09	Natwar Desai	Dec 28
• Dev Dani	Dec 12	Panambur & Mitra Kini	Dec 28
• Akshay Nandakumar	Dec 12	Mahendra Toprani	Dec 28
• Jelabhai Patel	Dec 13	Kavita Gupta	Dec 30
• Rukhmanidevi Tekrival	Dec 15	Naresh Talati	Dec 31
• Jaysinh Chandriani	Dec 18	Navin K. Gupta, Pramila Mitra	One Day
• Sheela Kapoor	Dec 18	Manibhai Patel, Raj Patel	One day
• K.S. Krishnan	Dec 18	Rajiv Verma	One Day
• Laxman P Singh	Dec 18		

## Condolences

Madanlal Maheshwari, husband of HarKanwar (Kamala) Maheshwari, a senior member of ITA passed away on November 5.

ITA and its Board extend their sincere condolences to Maheshwari family.

### Senior Citizens' Program

**Thursday December 13, 6:30 pm to 9:15 pm**

We will have only one meeting/month during December, January, and February. This is the last meeting of 2012.

Persons over 50, who remain highly engaged in what they are doing, feel more content and happy and probably live a longer life. Although seniors took a bit longer to embrace the newer technology revolution of this decade, more than half of American seniors, 65 and up, are now online, according to a recent survey. Many have also adopted digital tools like iPhone and iPad. Lest our Hindu senior citizens' group fall behind, we are arranging a presentation on iPad and how best to use it.

iPad of Apple company is a multipurpose tablet computer of exceptional design for viewing and creating content. It does not need a mouse, has no real keyboard, and turns on and off instantly. Within a short period of 2 ½ years, a fourth generation of iPad is released and over 100 million iPads have been sold around the world. Also, there are over 2 lakh applications specific to this cutting edge technology that helps in entertainment, business, travel, finance, social networking, organizing our lives, and so on.

Our life-member Sri Natubhai Desai M.E. (Structural), an engineer by profession, will talk about this great tablet computer – **iPad - and how best to use it**. He will guide us through the basics of using this versatile gadget. Mr. Desai will take us step-by-step through the iPad's many useful features, such as surfing the internet, sending and receiving emails, listening to music, viewing movies, taking pictures, video chatting, taking notes, reading eBooks etc. He will also provide a list of many useful applications and websites including a few that are especially useful for our community.

**Contact Info:** Suraj Bhan Singh; [sbsingh1@hotmail.com](mailto:sbsingh1@hotmail.com) (856) 582-5035.

### ITA Seva Samiti

Namaste!

Last month we all faced a horrific storm that hit the shores of our states. Many lost homes and some even their loved ones. We considered ourselves lucky to have been spared by the wrath of Storm Sandy. Some of us shared some responsibility by housing a few members of family or friends. But that wasn't enough friends, we need to share more, care more. With that thought, on Nov. 4th with the use of mass e-mails, ITA Seva Samiti held a prayer meeting. It was an emergency meeting, with a short notice. But a very few people came to the meeting or to support the cause. Needless to say it was disappointing. With the generosity of a few members of our community, ITA Seva Samiti is close to reaching its minimum goal of \$15,000. I thank those who volunteered and supported the cause. Sandy Relief Fund drive is open on ITA website for on-line donations until Dec. 15th. I urge you to please Donate! If you would like to pledge donation to Storm Sandy Relief Fund, please, e-mail to me at [latap@comcast.net](mailto:latap@comcast.net). You may also send your checks payable to ITA, memo - Storm Sandy relief fund and mail directly to ITA, 25E. Taunton Ave., Berlin NJ 08009. You may also make your donations online via our website <http://www.indiatemple.org/> (General Donations tab, Memo/Reference - Storm Sandy relief fund).

Having seen the poor response from community at the prayer meeting, I felt as a community we need to know one another, connect with one another, share and care together for all those that are in need, perhaps by giving just a shoulder, or an ear. However, we all know it's difficult to ask for help when you don't know us. So, I propose a family gathering. Let's get together for a Family Movie night, on Dec. 14th 7:30 pm at the Temple. Let's all watch, 'Ferrari Ki Sawari', a cute story about a little Indian boy who is a good cricket player but his father can't afford....'

Let the holiday Cheer begin with ITA Seva Samiti fun activity. Let us share the good times, so we can enjoy caring and helping all the members of our community! If you can, please reserve your seats! Hope to see you all!

With warm regards, Hari Om!  
Lata Pimplaskar  
ITA Seva Samiti Volunteer

## **From the desk of ITA President**

Dear Members,

It is my pleasure to announce that The ITA General Body will meet on December 9<sup>th</sup> 2012 at 6:00 p.m. at Hindu Mandir on 25 E Taunton Road. The members will discuss the operations of the ITA and elect trustees for the coming year.

With the exception of our religious gatherings, this is – without question -- the most important gathering of the year. There will be a music program before the elections (3:30-5:30). There will be a dinner sponsored by the current Board of Trustees after the meeting.

Agenda for the meeting is as follows:

1. A melodious music program presented by Chandan Modi group
2. Ghanshyam Dave, Election Chair, will conduct the elections for the Board of Trustees.
3. Ghanshyam Dave, in absence of the Parliamentarian, will move to ratify the following changes in the By-Laws:
  - Article I - Membership. Changes to this article were made in 2010. Changes simplify membership structure. The full details are available on the ITA website, [www.indiatemple.org](http://www.indiatemple.org).
  - Article VIII - Advisory Board - Changes to this article were made in 2012. Changes define role of Advisory Board. The full details are available on the ITA website, [www.indiatemple.org](http://www.indiatemple.org).
4. Rina Patel, as the Chairman of the current Board of Trustees, will provide a “State of the Association” message. This report will apprise you of the most important activities and actions that the Board and Association took this past year. It will also provide you with a blue print of plans being considered by your trustees for the future.
5. Harshad Patel, treasurer, will present a report on the financial status of your Association.
6. New Business from the floor
7. Dinner

Our most fundamental objective for this meeting is to inform you, our members, of the activities of your Board of Trustees on your behalf during the year. This meeting is to allow full participation of all members in charting the course of the future of our Association, while understanding the actions undertaken on their behalf in the past year. Only a well-informed General Body can make it possible to vitalize the future of our Association. Your informed actions in choosing a new leadership are vital to our future.

The demographics of our membership are changing as we continue to seek broader participation among the Indian-American community of South Jersey by enlarging the activities in all areas such as religious programs, Bal-Vihar, Seva Samiti, among many other well attended programs. With your involvement, we would like to see a new leadership emerge that blends with the current leadership to instill new energy to better serve the needs of our current and future membership.

We are thankful to so many of you who continue to provide selfless service to our Association. I urge those who have not yet come forward, to get involved and lend your intellect and energy to make a difference in our Temple and its future. We are always looking for new leadership, new contributors, new ideas, and new energy for our Association. Do ask what the Temple can do for you, but as an answer, also ask what you can do for your Temple.

As we contemplate this important meeting- important because its success and our future depends on your participation- I ask that each of you join us in celebrating our successes and charting our future.

Sincerely,  
Rina Patel

## **ITA Scholarship: Fifth Prize Winner's Essay — Ms. Nitya Patel**

### **The cross currents - Eastern and Western Culture**

Some might say that there are a few similarities between Eastern and Western cultures, specifically, those of India and America. Others might say, that on the surface, the two cultures are literally and figuratively hemispheres apart. While I will note some apparent differences between the two cultures, this discussion will also focus on the positives rather than only describing them in terms of color, festivals, prayers, and rituals –things that most people would immediately think of when questioned about the Indian culture. However, culture should not be reduced to these aspects only because it is genuinely something more.

The most notable differences between American and Indian culture relate to every day life. In America, the majority of people tend to be individualistic and independent. The American life is generally very fast paced. Americans believe that they can really control their future. And they are more prone to plan things in order to get ahead of schedule. Unlike Americans, Indians are dependent and extremely family-oriented.

They make their goals while keeping the members of their family in mind and are also quick to change them if they do not suit the needs of their family. Indians also believe that everything goes by God's will. The differences between the two cultures largely stem from the fact that they are two separate countries, with extensively different religions and languages. However, two countries that are hemispheres apart can still share some principal similarities.

For instance, we often forget that we are all children of Mother Earth. And that is a common thread that, regardless of our cultural background, runs through each and every one of us. Furthermore, when embraced at the core, the ideals of both Indian and American cultures could be regarded as two expressions of the one. Important threads between the two cultures include some widely held beliefs such as: doing unto others as you would have done unto you; holding education as the key to success; and understanding that there is a basic oneness of humanity. Most importantly, all people in India and America have the ultimate desire to pursue life, liberty, and happiness to the fullest extent possible. Thus, at the nucleus of both cultures is something larger than what is only different about each.

All in all, we have to become knowledgeable about other cultures, assimilate, and use what we have learned along the journey to become better prepared in life. A desire to integrate into another culture does not necessitate losing our original identity. In fact, cultural integration may be a vital contributing factor to reaching a high level of success. And I couldn't be more proud to live in a country that welcomes and encourages this type of integration and tolerance of people from all different types of cultures.

## **Bal Vihar Program**

**By Kayla A. Patel, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade**



The last session of *Balvihar* celebrated *Diwali*. *Diwali* is the Hindu Festival of Lights. Lata Auntie talked about the 5 days of *Diwali*. The first day is *Dhanteras*, The Day of Sharing. Lata Auntie encouraged us to donate money for victims of Hurricane Sandy. My family donated money and my sister and I gave toys to those who lost their belongings.

The second day is *Narakchaturthi*. On this day Lord Krishna destroyed the demon *Narakasur* and made the world free from fear.

The third day is *Diwali*. Many people do a *Lakshmi Puja*. *Lakshmi* is the goddess of wealth and good fortune. If you pray to her, she'll bring good luck. But, wealth isn't always money. It's happiness too. *Diwali* is the triumph of good over evil and light over darkness.

The fourth day is New Year's Day. On this day, *Govardhan Puja* is done. One story says that Lord *Krishna*'s village of *Gokul* prayed to Lord *Indra*, the Lord of the Heavens. As they believe he was responsible for the rains. But *Krishna* said "pray to the cows" and to the mountain *Govardhan*. So *Indra* got angry and flooded the lands. But *Krishna* lifted the mountain on his finger creating an umbrella protecting the village from the water. To remember this story we have *Annakut*. People make "mountains" of food and offer it to Lord *Krishna* on this day.

The fifth and last day is *Bhai Duj*. This is the day when brothers and sisters form a bond, and the brothers promise to protect the sisters. One story tells of *Yamraj*, the Lord of death visiting his sister *Yamuna* on this day. He gave his sister a promise that anyone who visits her on this day will be protected and their sins forgiven. From then on brothers visit their sister on this day.



In celebration of *Diwali*, our temple invited some families from the Unitarian Church located in Cherry Hill. We all admired the brightly colored decorations in the front of the cafeteria with five *Lakshmi* statues. All the Balviharians and some of the Unitarians came dressed in their best Indian outfits. After our lecture, we prayed together, recited chants together, and did *Aarti* together. We all put petals on a statue of *Lakshmi* and told her what our wishes were for the New Year. After offering our prayers we received *prasad* in the form of a yummy, sweet treat. We also did *garba*! And after *garba*, we just danced, danced, and danced some more! Finally, we all did a craft. Some of us made paper lanterns, colored rice *rangoli*'s and other creative items. We ended our wonderful celebration with a feast of *puri*, *potato shak*, *pulau*, *kachori* and *srikand*. Celebrating [Diwali](#) was fun!

## **Youth Program**

**By Sona Dadhania, 9th Grade**

On November 11th, the session celebrating Diwali kicked off with a round of shlokas led by Sharad Uncle; the shlokas were followed by the regular yoga lesson taught by Harish Uncle in which we stretched and learned a new asana. After yoga, the youth went to the social hall for a special joint lesson taught by Sharad Uncle about Diwali and more specifically, Lakshmi, one of the most important Hindu goddesses. We learned about the origin of Lakshmi and Her many different forms, and we also were taught what each form represents, such as the harvest, family building, wealth, and more. After the lesson, the youth made thank you cards detailing what we were thankful for, such as our family, friends, love, and opportunities, which we were to take home and hang up somewhere. After our activity, Sharad Uncle led us in a short and special prayer to Lakshmi where we did a short little puja to Her, and the prayer was followed by aarti in the temple, which was just recently decorated by colorful lights by the uncles for Diwali celebrations. We enjoyed a great Indian lunch, and the youth gave their thanks to Geetha and Vishwanath Bhat, our lunch sponsor for the day. We also thanked our teachers for the lessons, and the aunts and uncles who helped us out along the way. The Youth wish a great Diwali and Happy New Year to everyone!

# **Indian Cultural Center**

## **The walls are being put in place!**



In the recent Satsang Sandesh, you might have read that “*Finally, we have roof over our ICC Building!*” Well, now the framing of the walls has been completed and most of the interior walls are up. The construction of our own Cultural Center is on target and we expect to complete all exterior work before Mother Nature forces us to stop outside work due to cold. Despite the winter cold, however, our contractors will be working inside the building all winter, and we are on track to complete the construction in the spring. I know all of us cannot wait for the doors of our own magnificent Indian Cultural Center to open and, to have our dream become a reality!

The time has now come for every one of us to do our part to fulfill all unfulfilled pledges and to make new and generous donations. Please help us spread the word by asking your friends, family and neighbors to make a donation to our center. We think that it is vitally important for every Indian-American family in this area to play a part in bringing this vital and long-awaited project to fruition.

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](http://www.iccofsj.org) to monitor the progress of our new center. Updated photos and videos of the site are available on our website.



## 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: 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 Mandir.

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 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](http://www.indiatemple.org); Click on "CALENDAR tab" and, from drop-down menu, Click on "EVENT/RENTAL CALENDAR". **Please contact Smt. Chetna Giyanani or Shri. Ishwar Chauhan 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><b><u>TEMPLE FACILITIES USAGE FEE</u></b> Prayer Hall: \$200 Social Hall: \$300</p> <p><b><u>OTHER CHARGES</u></b></p> <p><b><u>MILEAGE TIER</u></b> \$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><b><u>NON-MEMBER</u></b> \$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. 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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**Religious Services**

**Facility Rental**

**Temple Manager**

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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*

# India Temple Association, Inc.

25 E. Taunton, Berlin, NJ 08009

EDITOR:

**Ramesh Viswanathan**

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Editor@indiatemple.org

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

**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: \_\_\_\_\_