

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. 10 Phone: (855) MYMANDIR (855-696-2634)

www.indiatemple.org

OCTOBER 2012

Religious Calendar

Oct 11, Thursday

Indira Ekadashi

Oct 15, Monday

 Sarva Pitri Amas / Shraddha Paksh concludes

Oct 16, Tuesday

 Shri Sharadiya Navaratrarambh

Oct 22, Monday

 Durgashtami — Havan in Mandir

Oct 24, Wednesday

Vijayadashami (DASHERA)

Oct 25, Thursday

Pashankush Ekadashi

Oct 29, Monday

Sharad Purnima

Nov 02. Friday

 Karak Chaturthi / Karva Chowth

Monthly Activities

Oct 5, Friday

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

Oct 7, Sunday, 5 pm

 Bhajan Sandhya: Classical bhajans by Chandan Modi and his students

Monthly Bhajans

Oct 19, Friday, 8-9 p.m.

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

Oct 26, Friday, 8-9 pm

Shree Ji Bhajan Group

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



NAVRATRI 2012

October 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, & 23

Further details are included on 4 pages inside this edition of Satsang Sandesh

Diwali Celebration at Berlin Mandir



DHAN TERAS PUJA

Sunday, November 11, 6:00 p.m. Please call Ghansyambhai at 856-596-7531 or Binduben at 856-768-6785 to participate as PUJA YAJMAN

DIWALI CELEBRATION W/ANNAKOOT

Tuesday, November 13 from 5:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Initiation of Diwali Celebration will be with **Laxmi Pujan** at 6:00 p.m. Upon completion of Puja, Temple will host Bhajan Program along with **ANNAKOOT**.

FIRST AARTI: 8:00 P.M.****SECOND AARTI: 9:30 P.M.

Please call Nikunj at 856-596-7531 or Binduben at 856-768-6785 if you are planning to bring Annakoot Prasad. Appropriate items will be allocated for RAJBHOG style offering and presentation. Please bring Prasad in sufficient quantity to serve 25 people.

CELEBRATION OF HINDU NEW YEAR 2069

Temple will celebrate this on Wednesday, November 14, 2012 from 6:00 a.m. Aarti will be at every hour. Hot coffee/tea and snacks will be served from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00

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.

| • | Patel Dupta | Oct 01 | Pandya Surina | Oct 14 |
|---|---------------------------|--------|--------------------------|--------|
| • | Patel Dahyabhai & Taraben | Oct 02 | Gupta Renu | Oct 18 |
| • | Dave Kamlesh & Vrinda | Oct 05 | Patel Dahyalal & Sushila | Oct 21 |
| • | Shah Mosmi | Oct 06 | Patel Piyush | Oct 23 |
| • | Patel Kusum N. | Oct 08 | Patel Chandrika | Oct 24 |
| • | Gandhi Vijay | Oct 10 | Gupta N. K. | Oct 26 |
| • | Patel Dahyabhai & Taraben | Oct 13 | Goyal Arjun | Oct 29 |
| • | Dave Jitendra | Oct 14 | Gupta Vijay & Asha | Oct 30 |
| | | | | |

Condolences

Rajeshbhai Ambalalbhai Patel, 76, of London, father of Dupta Kartik Patel, passed away on September 12, 2012. Shri Ashok Patel's Mother Pujya Ganga Ba (and Jigna Patel's mother-in-law) passed away in India at age of 102. Shri. Ambaram Vallabh Mistry of London, father of Kantilal Mistry & Bhanuben Nathubhai Mistry, passed away on August 30.

ITA and its Board extend their sincere condolences to Kartik Patel, Ashok Patel, and Kantilal Mistry's families.

Senior Citizens' Program Thursday October 11, 6:30 to 9:15 pm and Thursday October 25, 6:30 to 9:15 pm

Search for Yield in Today's Low-Interest Rate Environment - Oct. 11

We have invited Mr. Timothy Feeney, Senior Financial Advisor at Lane Bridgers Schill Wealth Management Group, for providing us information and advice on this important topic. As we all know, money does not grow on trees! Only two basic ways to make money are: (1) You work for money, and (2) Your money works for you. Money saved and deposited in a bank earns "interest" and money invested in securities earns "dividends". Investments involve taking on some risk. Currently, interest rates are near historical lows. Investments are also not performing so well. If you rely on interest and dividends to provide or supplement your income, today's economy poses a significant challenge. Where can you invest your money to generate significant income without taking excessive risk? Does higher yield always mean greater risk? Mr. Feeney will explore traditional sources of income along with alternative strategies that can be used to generate greater levels of income.

Wills - Oct. 25

This is something you always wanted to know but afraid to ask. Mrs. Swati Kothari JD, Attorney at Law, will help us understand the process of creating a valid Will. In USA, upon a person's death, deciding how to legally divide and disburse the belongings can get extremely complicated. Planning ahead keeps you in charge of the future. In order to plan for proper distribution of your property to your legal heirs upon your death, one must have a valid Will. Otherwise State laws will decide how to distribute the assets of your estate. What is a Will? A Will is a legal document created by a person – testator, who is an adult of sound mind, and records his wishes to be carried out upon his death. This document ensures that the assets that the testator has accumulated during his lifetime are distributed according to his wishes and not left to the State.

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

Bal Vihar Program



The first Bal Vihar session started on a very auspicious note with our guiding spirit and mentor Lataji conducting the Lord Ganesh and Goddess Saraswati Pooja for the unbelievable audience of almost 300 children and their families. The highlight of the session was the huge idol of Lord Ganesha that occupied the center stage and the concluding dance by Dinesh Depani and his team of youngsters (who had performed this item during our last Bal Vihar Annual Day). Lataji introduced the teachers and the volunteers (we now have quite a few new ones) and the classes started in full swing. Rina Patel gave a short and relevant speech to the parents and exhorted them to make our Mandir, a part of their families that they can visit on any and all important occasions and festivals.

This was THE Bal Vihar, where the food was completely finished and every one got their fill! All in all, a very great beginning and we look forward to interesting times ahead.

Youth Program

By Sona Dadhania

On September 8th, the 2012-2013 year for the Hindu youth group kicked off with a puja to Lords Ganesh and Saraswati, who we hoped would bless us for a great year. After the puja and shlokas, the youth group headed downstairs in order to engage in an enjoyable ice-breaker, so that the new youth members could be introduced as well as the old youth members. After the icebreaker, Sangeeta Auntie talked with us about all of the possible volunteer opportunities available through youth, and the youth members signed up for various committees that will help direct the youth's activities throughout the year. Finally, after aarti, the youth settled down with a nice lunch. A big thanks to Sharad Uncle and Sangeeta Auntie. The youth look forward to an exciting and eventful year with lots of fun activities.

ITA Scholarship: Fourth Prize Winner's Essay — Gauri Chauhan

The Relevance of Indian Diaspora

In today's society, India is viewed as a significant "up-and-coming" nation, with major advancements in technology, science and politics. Seen as an emerging power, one cannot help but look at India's history. During the eighteenth century, India was a dominant player in the world's economy – together with China, it made up fifty percent of the international Gross Domestic Product. The recent expansions of India's horizons are tremendous, but they would have been impossible without the dispersion of Indians from the motherland.

The foundation of the modern Indian diaspora lies in the British's conquest of India in the eighteenth century. In the nineteenth century, the British Empire began using Indians as indentured slaves, sending them to foreign parts of the domain such as Trinidad, Malaysia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Fiji, Mauritius, Guyana, Surinam, and other such places. When war erupted, – between the British and the two Boer republics, as well as the World Wars – more than two million Indian men fought on Great Britain's behalf. After the wars ended, several of the soldiers remained there to claim the land for which they had fought. When World War II was over, Indians and South Asians supplied the labor that aided in the reconstruction of war-torn Europe, especially Britain and the Netherlands. Currently, unskilled labor from India has been the main force of transformation of landscape in the Middle East; in places such as the United States, Canada, and Australia, Indians have excelled in numerous fields of professions.

According to a US Census in the early 2000s, Indians had an average annual income of about \$51,000 in comparison to the \$32,000 for Americans. About 64 percent of Indian-Americans have acquired a bachelor's degree or more, whereas only 28 percent of Americans have done so. It is evident that Indians are more motivated to take their education to the highest level possible, and it evidently seems to be working for them, as seen from the US Census. In addition, Indians have been helping shape the fate of nations around the globe; the President of Singapore, Governor-General of New Zealand, and Prime Ministers of Mauritius, Trinidad and Tobago are all of Indian descent. When Indians are held in high esteem, understanding and respect for India increases as a whole. Aside from the social attitude, government policies of the countries where Indian-Americans exist have benefitted them. The diaspora of Indians from years ago has greatly influenced how the culture is perceived today in the most positive way possible, allowing for India to serve as a prime example of growth and development for the rest of the world.

From the desk of ITA President ITA's Pran Pratishta and Maha Gayatri Yagna was An Amazing Success.



What an incredible celebration! Yagna held on September 16th, 2012, was the very first celebration of this kind we have had both the Temple's and Cultural Center's history. The reverberations of the Yagna and the energy emanating from our ancient tradition enveloped all who were present and took participants to a new spiritual high and communal solidarity.

While we revel in the recent Yagna Celebrations, let us remember that it takes an extraordinary effort to put on a

celebration such as the one we just saw. Yet, without question, the effort is well worth it, as it adds immensely to our Temple's religious presence.

The Maha Gayatri Yagna performed by the ITA on behalf of ICC helps the spiritual growth of the believers and promotes unity among the faithful. In today's world, the power of unity is of prime importance to our community and the country. In the Vedic vision, the benefits of a Yagna can be reaped only when it is performed for the general welfare and with the involvement of many individuals. The ITA undertook to perform this Yagna for the sole purpose of seeking successful completion of the ICC by next year, which in turn contributes to the general welfare of the community.

While performing a Yagna, the participants offer valuable objects, nutritious food, and aromatic materials symbolically to the fire (Agni) and Water (āpa) but in reality offering them to the community around them. The purity of the environment gained through a Yagna nourishes everyone spiritually and materially. The sound of the chanting of the Vedic Mantras vibrates the sky and has the power to uplift, sanctify, and purify our emotional and mental state. The yajmans who perform Yagna incur a great deal of punya with a small amount of individual effort and money.

Many powerful streams are hidden in the Yagnic mantras. Just as the combination of the right words with the right musical notes can create many harmonious melodies and uplift the listeners, the mantras also have a far reaching effects on nature, the subtle aspects of creation as well as on the gross and subtle bodies of human beings. The ground and the surroundings of the place where the Yagna is performed, bear the indelible effects of its sanctity and have a long-lasting influence on those who visit the place where it is held. In our case, that place is our New Cultural Center.

Gayatri Mantra is a symbol of purity of thought and Yagna is that of righteous deeds. The synthesis of Gayatri Mantra and Yagna has proved very effective in bringing about an upsurge of noble thoughts, feelings, and successful completion of any endeavour undertaken in its wake.

Though clearly it is foremost, the ITA is not the only organization in the South-Jersey Indian community that supports ICC. The BCS (Bengali Cultural Society), GST (Gujarati Samaj Tristate), NICE, and other key organizations have also encouraged and supported the successful completion of this vital project. We are sure they too will find their own unique events to raise funds for the new center.

First, I want to thank all of you who attended, you have inspired us and raised our spirits enormously and I'm sure your spirit was elevated as well. I also want to thank the following:

Harris Tea for providing tea, Dilip & Harsha Pandya for providing decorations, and Jyoti and Praful Patel for providing Farari Chevdo.

Following the Yagna, I called upon Dr. Panda, our ICC President, to say a few words, and our friends took his thoughts to heart!



Next, I called upon my long-time friends, Mehul and Sandhya Trivedi, who made a special donation of \$25,000 on this most unique occasion – to address the guests. I have known this generous and incredible family for many years, I salute the fact that they are both ITA Life members (and their children have been attending for bal vihar for 8+ years), and I hasten to add that -- with their generous donation -- they have now become founding members of the cultural center. Clearly, the simple, yet profound words of Mehul left the au-

dience in an elevated spirit and – speaking on behalf of the Association I want to thank my good friends for both their financial generosity and their words of hope. May their generosity be lauded by friends and our Gods.

Once again, our Temple's celebration of the Yagna was not only a spiritual success, but a financial success as well. As the ceremonies were drawing to a close, I was approached by Mehul once again. He said to me, "Rina, if you are able to raise \$15,000.00 of new donations as a direct result of this Yagna, I will match that donation from my own pocket."

Well, folks, Mehul's offer was just the spark that we needed...and I am so proud to announce that the congregation stepped up to Mehul's challenge....and we were able continue to add to our donations: first, to more than \$500; then to more than \$5,000; and, finally to a total of \$15,000. Some of this sum were contributed by our own priests Bhupendra Shukla, Haren Dave, Virendra Gupta and Mahesh Dixit!

So what does this all add up to? It adds up to over \$60,000 of donations and pledges (including \$40K from Mehul and Sandhya Trivedi) which has been raised at this single event. It reflects the generosity of many believers – believers who stepped up to play their part in re-energizing the excitement of bringing our new Indian Cultural Center closer to its rightful completion.

Sincerely,

Rina Patel, ITA President

Vishnu Sahasranama Parayana

Temples, Organizations, Community Centers, and Individual Families Participate in the SRI VISHNU SAHASRANAMA (VSN) PARAYANA for Viswa Shanti and Kalyanam

On Saturday, October 20, 2012, Starts at

- 0930 AM EST, 0830 AM Central, 0730 AM Mountain,
- 0630 AM Pacific, and 0330 AM Alaska/Hawaii

VSN Satsang:

The VSN chanting format for the Global VSN Satsang across USA is as follows:

- VSN Purva Peethika ---- Once (Above Start Time)
- VSN Stotram ---- Five Times
- VSN Uttara Peethika ---- Once

This is followed by the Sri Lakshmi Asttotharam, and other activities (archana, naivedyam, harati, etc.) of the temple, organization, or community center.

This start time corresponds to the start timings in Canada: 930 AM EST, Europe (UK: 230 PM, Berlin: 330 PM), Africa (Zambia: 330 PM, Kenya: 430 PM), Gulf (Syria: 430 PM, Oman: 530 PM), 0700 PM in India, Asia (Singapore: 930 PM, Japan: 1030 PM), Australia (Perth: 930 PM, Sydney: 1130 PM), and 130 AM (Sunday) in Auckland, NZ.

Global Satsang Goal for 2012:

On this day our goal is to chant Three Million VSN in one Satsang, at the same time, across different countries of the world. For this we need your help and leadership to encourage your family and friends to participate in a VSN Satsang in your area at the same time of the above Global VSN Satsang.

Importance of Karva Chowth

In India, the ritual of marriage is considered to be the ultimate ritual of life. Here tying knots means promising a companion-ship of seven lives. In a country with intricate rituals and customs, it is believed that there is nothing more pious and stronger than the relationship of marriage. Married women are said to be the companion of their better halves in all the good as well as bad days. According to the ancient Hindu texts, the will power of a married lady to change her husband's bad fortune into good is so strong that it can even change God's ultimate decision. So, the relationship of man and his lady are eternal and blessed.

In a country like India where marriage is far beyond worldly affairs, the institution of marriage is strengthened through several means. One of them is the festival of Karva Chauth. Karwa Chauth is regarded as the biggest occasion for the entire married woman fraternity in the country. It is said that the successful completion of this tough fast ensures a long life and prosperous future for her husband. According to the belief of people in the country, any kind of deceiving in the Karwa Chauth fasting and rituals can also endanger the life of your partner. So, the rituals are to be followed very carefully.

Karwa Chauth is a very difficult fast. A woman has to spend an entire day without any food or single drop of water till the moon rise. It is said that this pain taken by a wife helps her husband get a token of blessings by the almighty. There are different stories to why this festival came into being. Some people believe that this festival of Karva Chauth was actually the day to celebrate the season of autumn and enjoy the company of friends and relatives but later on, few mythological legends were associated with it to give it a religious existence.

However, thousands of people especially Hindus and Sikh of north-western India who believe in its religious existence have several folklores related to this festival. They often associate it with the legendary story of a devoted wife (Pativrata Nari), Karwa and her efforts to save her husband's life. They also quote the story of Satyavan and Savitri, the couple who united again despite being destined to be separated due to Savitri's efforts to save Satyavan's life from Yamdoota, the God of death.

We will be celebrating Karva Chowth in our Mandir on November 2 (Friday): a GauriGanapati puja for the long, married happy life for the couples to be performed at 4:00 pm and 7:00 PM on the occasion of Karva Chauth - celebration. On this day, the wife prays for her husband's long and healthy life.

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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; 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 | |
| Vahan (Vehicle) Puja | \$21 | N/A | |
| Namakaran/Annaprashan | \$51 | \$101 | |
| Birthday | \$51 | \$101 | TEMPLE FACILITIES USAGE FEE |
| Shraddha | \$51 | \$101 | Prayer Hall: \$200 |
| Anniversary Celebration | \$101 | \$151 | Social Hall: \$300 |
| Seemant | \$101 | \$151 | |
| Kesh Mundan Puja | \$101 | \$151 | |
| Sodashopchar, Kalash Puja, Punyah-Vachan | | | |
| or Blessings | \$101 | \$151 | OTHER CHARGES |
| Satyanarayan Puja | \$121 | \$151 | |
| Engagement Ceremony | \$101 | \$201 | MILEAGE TIER |
| Havan/Grah Shanti | \$201 | \$251 | |
| Vastu Puja - outside service only | N/A | \$251 | \$0 for 1 - 25 mile radius |
| Sunderkand Path | \$151 | | |
| Wedding Grah Shanti | \$201 | \$301 | \$51 for 26 - 100 mile radius |
| Wedding Ceremony per day | \$301 | \$351 | \$101 for 101 - 150 mile radius |
| Upanayan/Yagnopavita | \$251 | \$301 | |
| Antim Rites (Funeral Service) | Voluntary Don | ation | \$151 for 151 - 200 mile radius |
| Uttar Kriya per day - outside service only | N/A | \$101 | NON-MEMBER |
| Yagna/Laghu Rudra - outside service only | N/A | \$351 | |
| Navchandi Yagna - outside service only | N/A | \$651 | \$51 for non-member surcharge |

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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Chetna Giyanani Ishwar Chauhan 1-855-my-mandir x 1 manager@indiatemple.org

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

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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 jo | n India Temple Association and I/We are remitting the membership dues |
|----------------------------|---|
| (please select one) Indivi | ual or Family one year (\$51) |
| Indivi | ual 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 |
| emitting the membership | ies |
| (please select one) Indivi | ual or Family Five year (\$25) |
| | 5101) |
| I am adding addition | I donations: |
| | |
| Seva Samiti Fu | Lifetime Seva (\$301)Temple Renovations d Bal Vihar Fund Youth Fund |
| | |
| [] I am relocating to the | following address |
| Last Name: | First Name: |
| Address: | |
| Telephone: | E-mail: |