



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. 37 No. 8

Phone: (856) 768-3134

www.indiatemple.org

AUGUST 2011

Religious Calendar

Aug 4, Thursday
Nag Panchami

Aug 5, Friday
Shitala Satam

Aug 9, Tuesday
Putrada Ekadashi

Aug 13, Saturday
Nariyeli Punam/Raksha Bandhan
Shravani/Upakarma Prayog

Aug 22, Monday
JANMASHTAMI
Celebration in temple

Aug 25, Thursday
Aja Ekadashi

Aug 29, Monday
Last Day of Shravan Mas
Rudrabhishek in Temple

Aug 31, Wednesday
Kevda Trij

Monthly Activities

Aug 5, Friday, 8-9 pm
Vishnu Sahasranama Parayanam

Monthly Bhajans

Aug 12., Friday, 8-9 pm
Pushti Mandal of Voorhees
Contacts:
Dhiraj Saparia (856) 287-1415
Priti Shah (856) 467-9148

Aug 19, Friday, 8-9 pm
Satya Sai Baba of Medford
Contacts:
P.K. Prabhakar (856) 596-3147
Sesha Vemuri (856) 751-0867

Aug 26, Friday, 8-9 pm
Shree Ji Bhajan Group
Contact:
Urmi Upadhy (856) 424-9328
Charu Sheth (856) 662-8754

JANMASHTMI CELEBRATION

Aug 22, Monday
IN OUR TEMPLE
7 PM TO 12 MIDNIGHT



TEMPLE WILL CONDUCT
RUDRABHISHEK ON AUG 29
LAST MONDAY AND LAST DAY
OF SHRAVAN MAS
10:00AM TO 12 NOON
4 TO 8 PM



ALL OTHER MONDAYS, RUDRABHISHEK WILL BE PERFORMED IN THE MANDIR FROM 10:00 AM TO 1.00 PM AND 4:30 PM TO 6:30 PM

EARLY TICKET SALE FOR NAVRATRI 2011



This year Navratri starts on Wednesday, September 28 and ends on Wednesday, October 5, 2011. Based on the Hindu year, instead of nine days of Navratri celebration, this year, we will be celebrating only eight days. Sharad Purnima Raas-Garba will be on Saturday, October 8, 2011.

Ticket sale will start on July 1st and will end on September 18th. The Saturday tickets for \$10.00 will be discounted to \$7.00 when you purchase them on our website at www.indiatemple.org between July 1, 2011 and September 18, 2011.

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 July 1 through Navratri Celebration.

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 Harshad Patel

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.

- | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|--------|
| • Khaitan Shree | Aug 10 Sheth Charu & Jaysukh | Aug 17 |
| • Lingraju Nagraj | Aug 10 Sindvad Snehal | Aug 17 |
| • Dixit Mahesh | Aug 11 Kanzaria Maganbhai | Aug 18 |
| • Desai Kiran | Aug 15 Patel Tejash | Aug 20 |
| • Patel Akshaykumar | Aug 15 Patel Babubhai | Aug 24 |
| • Shah Nisarg | Aug 15 Kanzaria Mitul | Aug 26 |
| • Dave Ghanshyam | Aug 17 Talati Sangita & Paresh | Aug 27 |
| • Patel Dilipkumar | Aug 17 | |

Condolences

There were two Uttar Kriya/Shraddh Services performed in July in our Mandir for Krishna Dasgupta and Nupur Ball's family members. ITA and its Board sincerely extend their condolences to both Dasgupta and Ball families for the loss of their loved ones.

Senior Citizens' Program

Thursday August 11, 6:30 pm to 9:15 pm & Thursday August 25, 6:30 pm to 9:15 pm

The program highlights are as follows:

1. On August 11, we have invited Mr. Daniel T. Spencer, Jr., Director, Division of Administrative Services, Camden County Dept. of Health & Human Services, to talk about protecting senior citizens against scams and consumer fraud. Many of you will recall that he spoke, on identity theft, last year. Mr. Spencer will now focus more on the weights-and-measures aspects of consumer affairs.
 2. Physical therapy (PT) has become an important treatment program for seniors (as well as for others) for restoring, maintaining, and promoting optimal physical function. Certain disease conditions and injuries limit our abilities to move around and properly do activities of daily living. Many have found that — following PT treatment — they can regain their abilities to move, restore function, reduce pain, and manage disability. Smt. Rina Shah, physical therapist, will address the topic of PT and answer your questions.
- For more information about the program, activities, and to join the group, please contact Suraj Bhan Singh, by phone: (856) 582-5035 or e-mail (sbsingh1@hotmail.com) or Narsinh N. Sangani, by phone: (856) 435-2128 or e-mail (nnsangani@juno.com).



Bal-Vihar—August Update

ITA Bal Vihar Program will begin on Sept 11th 2011.

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:

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

Registration will be on first come first served basis. Registration is limited to 200 children, Register your children at the earliest. 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: Lata Pimplaskar @ 856-985-4785 or latap@comcast.net

ITA Youth Program

The youth program will start on Sunday, September 11, 2011 at the Mandir. The sessions will be held every second and fourth Sundays from September to June. A new 2011-12 youth calendar will be posted soon. Please note that the new schedule will be from 9:45AM to 1:00 PM. Also, there will be no program fee. However, each family must register for the program and be a current ITA member.

Online Registration on www.indiatemple.org is highly recommended

BHAJANS BY CHANDAN MODI'S STUDENTS

Sunday, August 21 from 5:00 to 6:30 PM

We are fortunate to have Chandan Modi in our area whose goal is to train ample number of young children and teenagers for both devotional and cultural music to continue our tradition of Navratri and various religious celebrations in our Mandir for generations to come. ITA invites all parents with small children and teenagers to take advantage of this unique opportunity provided by Chandan Modi's students.



Disbursement of funds collected for the aid of Japan disaster and Joplin, MO Floods

Seva Samiti, with the recommendation by the Ad-hoc committee and approval by the ITA Board of Trustees, is pleased to disburse all donations to AmeriCares. Based on Ad-hoc committee's investigation, AmeriCares will match our contribution to both the Japan disaster and the Missouri floods. Seva Samiti, along with the ITA Board, appreciates the effort of all volunteers and donors for providing donations in excess of \$10,000 for these terrific causes.

ITA Seva Samiti participation in President Obama's Initiatives with Hindu American Seva Charities:

Energizing Dharmic Seva: Impacting Change in America and Abroad

By the time you receive this edition of Satsang, representatives of ITA's Seva Samiti will have participated in a two-day conference on July 30th and 31st at Washington, DC. September Edition of Satsang will provide detailed report on the trip.

ITA Seva Samiti is looking for dedicated Volunteers to help needy and less fortunate in Delaware Valley Area. We look forward to your support in any way you feel able to participate. Those of you who feel you would enjoy supporting our ongoing refugee resettlement effort can call Hina Desai at 856-424-1934 and those who would like to join our nursing home visitation program may call Gita Gandhi at 856-988-9140. Both need weekly and biweekly volunteers. We also have leadership position vacancies within each of our most vital support programs: First, our youth program, second, our Maitri group for singles, and finally our Saath support group for parents with physically or mentally challenged children.

While we continue to be busy and engaged in the hustle and bustle of our own daily lives, it is important to remember that we are part of a much bigger whole. So giving out to those in need — whether we give of our time, our skills or our material goods, each contribution uplifts us all and builds up our community.

Discourses by Swami Atmagyananadaji

August 13, Saturday, 10:00 AM at Temple

Topic: Gita Chapter 11, The Vision of the Universal Form

Swamiji joined the Vedanta Society of Southern California in 1981 and lived in the monastery in Trabuco Canyon for 16 years. He had his sannyasa in 1996 and the following year came to Washington, DC to help start the Vedanta Center of Greater Washington, DC. During the past 40 years, he made several trips to various parts of India and Bangladesh.

PRAN-PRATISHTHA 2011 CELEBRATION

September 18, Sunday, 1:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Location: Berlin Hindu Mandir



Let us remember last year's Pran-Pratishtha Silver Anniversary Celebration by participating in a one-day celebration of the 26th year of Pran-Pratishtha. Due to public demand, ITA Board has decided to introduce this annual celebration starting from this year. For this one-day celebration our temple will become a center of various religious activities as outlined in the following Program Details:

- Participating Yajmans will begin Pooja in main hall of temple at 1:00 PM. The Pooja of deities will end around 1:30 PM
- Everyone present will begin Shobha Yatra around 1:45 PM from Mandir parking lot to municipal parking and back to Mandir by 3:00 PM
- Yajmans will again participate in a 75 minutes Yagna in the Mandir's parking lot under the tent from 3:15 PM to 4:30 PM
- There will be small break after the Yagna where some snacks, soft drinks and tea will be provided.
- Between 5:15PM to 7:15PM, prayer hall will resonate with Live Bhajans and Devotional Songs.
- Program will be concluded with delicious Maha Prasad between 7:30 PM and 8:30PM

ITA is looking for some Sponsors for various SEVA during this celebration. For those participating in Pooja and Yagna, ITA requests a suggested donation of only \$51.00 per family. For most families \$51.00 is a very nominal sum and those of us who can afford it are certainly encouraged to add a more generous donation in the name of this most holy celebration. For further information, please contact:

Devang Parikh @ 856-809-0241 or write @ vp@indiatemple.org
Ghanshyam Dave @ 856-366-7500 or write @ ghanu44@aol.com
Rina Patel @ 856-258-6670 or write @ president@indiatemple.org

One of the Two First-Place Essays for ITA Scholarship Award

By: Shyam Sanath Bharadwaj

Relevance of Rituals in Hindu Worship

Hinduism, also called Sanatana Dharma (Eternal Truth), has different facets of worship in reaching the ultimate. And rituals are but one aspect. Broadly speaking, Hinduism has three distinct schools of thought, namely, Advaita (all is ONE), Dwaita (God and the rest – the duality), and Vishitadvaita (we are separate until we reach the supreme – non dualism of the qualified Whole – Unity in Diversity).

For those, who subscribe to the Advaita philosophy, there is no need for any rituals per se. For who is to worship and what is to be worshipped? Since there is only God, there is no seer or seen, so rituals carry no meaning. However, the caveat here is that this applies to only those who have completely realized this! So long as we see ourselves distinct from others, and see this world as an outer manifestation of our existence, we fall under the umbrella of Dwaita or Vishitadvaita. In essence, one can safely presume that however much one may believe in Advaita philosophy, as long as one is given to all types of emotions (wants, likes, dislikes, anger, lust and so on) and needs to purify him (her) self, we need a mechanism to enable us achieve this objective. And, this is where rituals play a role.

Rituals can take many forms. The typical ones include worshipping the “Ishta Devata” (the favorite deity) with flowers, sacred chants, and Puja. Another method is to do Nama Japa (chanting continuously the various aspects of any one deity). Yet another could be visiting various holy places on a pilgrimage. The aim of all these rituals is to cleanse oneself and take us towards the final destination, i.e. being with God. A question naturally arises? What is the guarantee that doing all these rituals will take me towards God? And, most of us do not understand the meaning, the significance, and the proper mode of conducting these rituals, so how do we know that what we are doing is the right way? Being of scientific temperament, we need to validate every phenomenon that we see and if we are not convinced, then we cannot do these rituals with sincerity and devotion. On a superficial level, it seems that all we have is a hypothesis that says that doing rituals will help you reach God. Scientifically, we cannot prove this hypothesis within a given time frame and arrive at a logical conclusion, one way or the other. Does this mean that rituals are completely irrelevant in Hinduism?

Let me use an analogy here. When we are sick, we go to the doctor and take the prescribed medicine(s) to cure ourselves. We do not know the chemical composition of these pills nor do we know whether it will work to our advantage. We trust the doctor (rather his/her qualifications) to do the right thing and we are content with that. In some cases, the disease gets cured within a short time, in some it takes longer and in a few, it never gets cured at all, no matter whatever medicines one takes. Does this mean that the medical field is working on a trial and error basis? Does this also not imply that the field of medicine is yet to conquer unknown frontiers and the more we solve, the more we have yet to unearth. In the same way, these rituals have been passed on (to us) from generation to generation from our sages and saints who have vouched the authenticity of the same. They have prescribed certain rules and procedures to follow when performing such rituals and if meticulously adhered to, with complete devotion, will lead to one's merger with God. Like we trust our doctor to do the right thing, we have to trust our Rishis to do the right thing for us. Our physical disease may get cured in a short span of time, but our mental dirt need many lifetimes to get cleaned thoroughly (for most of us) and hence it is a long, drawn out process. Even if we do not reach the desired destination within this lifetime, yet the sense of peace, quiet, and the spiritual vibrations that we get when doing the rituals more than compensates the time and efforts involved.

As scientifically oriented persons, our proofs lie in our witnessing some enlightened beings who are with us, be it in USA or other parts of the world. They are preaching what they themselves have followed and since we can see for ourselves that they are in complete bliss, naturally we should strive to aspire for the same by following these rituals. And therein lie the importance of such rituals in our Hindu worship. We start from the path of Dwaita or Vishitadvaita, do the rituals sincerely as prescribed and in some lifetime of ours (present to n... hopefully “n” is not too large), we reach the path of Advaita where we realize that everything is God. And then we can stop the rituals!

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 am at our temple in Berlin

Contact: Virendra Gupta @ (856) 424-9313

GITA STUDY GROUP:

Every Tuesday & Wednesday, 8-9 pm at our Berlin temple

Contact: Sharad Pimplaskar @ (856) 985-4785

BHAJANS & STUTI:

Every Friday, 7:30-9 pm

Contact: Shree Shuklaji (856) 768-3134

Regular Programs for Children and Youth

BAL VIHAR: For children (ages 5-13) to promote a positive Hindu identity within the diverse U.S. culture.

2nd & 4th Sunday @ 10 am - 1 pm

Contact: Lata Pimplaskar (856) 985-4785

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; Sangeeta at (856) 424-4211 or Sunitha at (856) 596-3215

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:

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;

Scroll to the bottom of the page and click on the link "Temple Availability", then click on "CALENDAR tab" and, from drop down menu, click on "EVENT/RENTAL CALENDAR". **Please contact Smt. Chetna Giyanani (856-267-5598) or Smt. Anoo Joshi (856-616-2460) for the booking of the Temple Facilities and/or scheduling of Puja Services by Shuklaji.**

Please note that 50% of the listed cost of Puja performed outside the temple goes to Pujari in addition to his regular salary.

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	<u>TEMPLE FACILITIES USAGE FEE:</u>
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	
Satyanarayan Puja	\$121	\$151	
Engagement Ceremony	\$101	\$201	
Havan/Grah Shanti	\$201	\$251	<u>OTHER CHARGES</u>
Vastu Puja - outside service only	N/A	\$251	\$51.00 for outside 25 mile radius
Wedding Grah Shanti	\$201	\$301	\$51.00 for non-member surcharge
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 @ (856) 267-5598

DIRECTION TO BERLIN TEMPLE

A. From Tacony Bridge:

Take NJ route 73S; Drive about 12-13 miles and follow sign for East Taunton Ave. Temple on your right

B. From Ben Franklin Bridge:

Take Route 30E to NJ route 70E to NJ route 73S, drive about 7 miles and follow sign for East Taunton Ave. Temple 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 ave.

D. From Central and North Jersey:

Take NJ turnpike south, Exit 4 for route 73S. Drive about 10-11 miles and follow sign for East Taunton Ave. on your right.



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PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP IF IT SHOWS "EXPIRED" IN ADDRESS LABEL

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Darshan Schedule

Morning

7:30 am - 12:30 pm

Evening

6 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 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 re-
mitting the membership dues
(please select one) Individual or Family Five year (\$25) _____
Life (\$101) _____

I am adding additional donations:
_____ Scholarship Fund _____ Special Prayer (\$301) _____ Temple Renovations
_____ Seva Samiti Fund _____ Bal Vihar Fund _____ Youth Fund

I am relocating to following address

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____