



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. 6

Phone: (856) 768-3134

www.indiatemple.org

JULY 2011

Religious Calendar

July 11, Monday
Dev Shayani Ekadashi
Gauri Vrat starts

July 13, Wednesday
Jaya Parvati Vrat starts

July 15, Friday
Guru Purnima/Gauri Vrat
Concludes

July 17, Sunday
Jaya Parvati Vrat concludes

July 26, Tuesday
Kamika Ekadashi

July 31, Sunday
1st Day of Shraavan Mas
Rudrabhishek in Temple

Monthly Activities

July 1, Friday, 8-9 pm
Vishnu Sahasranama Parayanam

Monthly Bhajans

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

July 15, Friday, 8-9 pm
Satya Sai Baba of Medford
Contacts:
P.K. Prabhakar (856) 596-3147
Sesha Vemuri (856) 751-0867

July 22, Friday, 8-9 pm
Shree Ji Bhajan Group
Contact:
Urmi Upadhya (856) 424-9328
Charu Sheth (856) 662-8754

Great News to Share

After long and exhaustive pressure by our community, Evesham Township has released a construction permit to build our dream place called:

“ INDIAN CULTURAL CENTER-ICC”

At long last, we have started to clear and level the site for our wonderful new cultural center and soon you'll see the access leading from Route 73 to the building site. Now that, together, we have overcome political resistance and construction has finally begun, each of us must put forth our very best effort to keep the progress going by sending our checks for past pledges and by making continued donations until the new center becomes a reality. And, for all those who have waited for ground-breaking to send their check, the time is here. Let's us all join together and solicit donations from all our friends and relatives.



EARLY TICKET SALE FOR NAVRATRI 2011

This year Navratri starts on Wednesday, September 28 and ends on Wednesday, October 5, 2011. Based on Hindu year, instead of 9 days of Navratri celebration, this year, we will be celebrating only 8 days. Sharad Purnima Raas-Garba will be on Saturday, October 8, 2011.

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

Discounted Season tickets of \$25/person, age 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 at 609-760-8851 or at harshad41@aol.com for further details

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.

• Vinu Patel	July 01	Pratima Parikh	July 19
• Krishnasankar Shastriji	July 11	Vijay & Asha Gupta	July 22
• Vinod Mehta	July 12	Kiran Bhatt	July 24
• Ramesh Upadhya	July 13	Mahesh Dixit	July 24
• Asha Gupta	July 18	Amardeep Patel	July 24
• Arun Maheswari	July 18		

ITA sincerely apologizes inadvertent omissions of listing of June 11 and June 24 for Mr. Rushikesh Parghi. However, Shri Shuklaji did perform pujas on these designated days.

Condolences

Kamalaben Dinubhai Patel, mother of Bharat Patel, 69, passed away on June 5th. ITA and its Board extend their sincere condolences to the Patel family.

Shrimati Sumatiben Surti, 72, of Galloway, NJ, passed away on June 15. ITA and its Board extend their sincere condolences to Surti family.

Senior Citizens' Program

Thursday July 7, 6:30 pm to 9:15 pm & Thursday July 21, 6:30 pm to 9:15 pm

1. On July 7, Miss Priya Ranganath will present **Bharatanatyam**, the national dance of India, in the Prayer Hall of our temple. Priya, a high school student, has learned this classical dance style under the tutelage of Smt. Roopa Nayak. She has performed her art, at such a young age, at numerous venues including Kutztown University, Arsha Vidya Gurukulam, Penn's Landing, and several temples.
2. On July 21, our senior citizens will present a variety of topics for **entertainment** such as comics, songs, poetry, instrumental music, & stories, as well as for **information** such as atomic power, good nutrition, international travel, & USA 1955. Each topic will be of a very brief duration. The presenters are: Sri Bhulabhai Bhakta, Sri Laxmi Choudhury, Shri Ramesh Upadhyay, Shri Narsinh Sangani, Shri Jaisukh Sheth, Shri Ranjit Banerjee, Shri Gajanan Joshi, Shri Kishore Sheth, Shri Narottam Asher and Shri Suraj Bhan Singh. There will be blood glucose and blood pressure testing from 6 to 7 pm in the Social Hall of the temple. For glucose test one should have no food or tea/cola etc. after 2 pm

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).

Graduation Ceremony Update

On Sunday June 5th, ITA hosted its very first Graduation Yagna. In prior years, it was organized by Shri Virendra Gupta. Twelve families participated in the Yagna with 20 graduates attending. There were college, high school, middle school, elementary school graduates.

The program was emceed by Sangeeta Rashatwar. Ramesh Viswanathan and Neelkanth Shukla began the auspicious occasion by tying the "Raksha" on the right wrist of each of the graduates, and marking their forehead with tilak. Ghanshyam Dave, Ilaben Dixit, Maheshbhai Dixit, Virendra Gupta and our priest Bhupendra Shukla conducted the Puja for invoking the blessings of the nine deities of our Mandir and all graduates and parents in small clusters offered flower oblations to the deities.

Next, Radha Boadapati, ITA Scholarship chair, talked about the ITA Scholarship judging criteria and method and awarded the prizes to the four scholarship winners. The Parth Parihar and Shyam Bhardwaj tied for first place, Divya Giyanani for second place, and Neel Parikh for third place.

The awards ceremony was followed by an informative talk about puja by Maheshbhai Dixit. The entire congregation then went downstairs in the parking lot, which was set up with tents, chairs, and seating around the havan kund. The chanting was led by Ghanshyambhai, Ilaben, Maheshbhai, Guptaji and Shuklaji.

The congregation then attended the Ashirvad puja (blessings) to the Graduates conducted by Shri Ghanshyambhai, Shrimati Ilaben, Shri Maheshbhai, Shri Virendraji, Shri Shuklaji and Shri Ramesh Viswanathan.

Rina Patel, ITA President, congratulated the graduates. Sangeeta Rashatwar awarded a book from Arsha Vidya Gurukulam Bookstore to each graduate. Everyone did Aarti and concluded the event with a scrumptious dinner arranged by Shri Nilang Dalwadi.

Youth Group Update

By Sujay Desai

Youth program had one regular session on May 8th. The session included yoga and pranayama lessons by Harish uncle. Then, Sharad uncle reviewed the lessons from the entire year in preparation of the annual test which was handed out to everyone. The annual test is to be turned in by the Annual Day when the results would be declared. The discussion session included preparing for the Annual Day and finalizing the items and participants.

Instead of the second session on May 22, the Youths volunteered at the India Day celebrations at the Cherokee High School for the benefit of the Japan and Midwest Flood disaster relief. Youths volunteered for various duties, especially for the games and bake sales.

The Annual Day, the last program of the year, was held on June 11 at the Cherokee High School. The day was very well organized entirely by youths. It included a Talk Show, Talent Show, Fashion Show and Dance. The Talk Show topic was "Being Hindu in America." The program also included giving out certificates and gift to the two graduating Youths: Madhuri Ray, Nikhil Rashatwar. Also, five top achievers of the Annual Test were recognized. All participants received books as gifts.

Update on Matadi Chowki Celebration

On Saturday June 11, Mrs. Vinod Satija and Jagdeep and Mona Talwar hosted a Maatadi Chowki at our Temple. They invited a group from New York - Anil Dua and group. Not only did the group sing beautiful Maata Bhajans for 3 1/2 hours, they donated the monies from the "Chadawa" to the Temple. The total "Chadawa" collected was about \$800. ITA sincerely appreciates sponsors and participants for their devotion and generous donation to our Temple.

ITA SEVA SAMITI UPDATE



India Day Festival on Sunday, May 22nd at Cherokee High School was a rousing success and a wonderful example of how we can come together as a community to help others. This was a collaboration of Seva Samiti, Youth Group and Bal Vihar that raised funds for those displaced by the Japan disaster and the US tornados. The event opened with the diya lighting ceremony by the honorable mayor of Marlton and a welcoming speech by our President, Rina Patel.

Things took off from there and one can honestly say that there was not a dull moment from start to finish. There was something to please everyone, with mehndi and face painting, a 'store' featuring Indian clothing (salwar-kameez, kurtis, lehengas), jewelry and artifacts for the home, a raffle of gift-baskets donated by local vendors, games and crafts for the young ones, books, car detailing and a 'beauty salon' offering hair and makeup touchups and mini-mani pedis. Chetna Giyanani kept the mood upbeat as the MC, introducing the live dance performances, garba, dandiya ras and the impromptu fashion show. If you ever need someone to pick up the tempo and encourage people to give generously and be entertaining in the process, look no further than Kishor Daga. Oh, and did we mention the food? Samosa, Dhokla, Bhajia, Chhole Puri, Indian dry snacks, cookies, brownies, popcorn, pizza, Masala chai, coffee, Mango lassi – yummy! The smiling faces attested to the fact that we had a fund raiser with everyone having a rip-roaring good time. To date, the Seva Samiti events have raised approximately \$10,000 which will be donated to Japan disaster and US tornado relief. Fund disbursement details will be provided in next edition of Satsang Sandesh.

As our president Rina Patel wrote last month about how proud she is to be an Indian-American and to work with Mandir volunteers – we feel the same way.

We are looking for volunteers for the tutoring program for the Bhutanese refugees (Hina Desai 856-424-1934 hinamdesai@hotmail.com)

BHAJANS BY CHANDAN MODI'S STUDENTS

Sunday, July 10 from 5:00 to 6:15 PM

Many of you with small children heard these young artists on Mother's Day Sunday. You will get another opportunity to listen to these youngsters again. Please do not miss this opportunity.

This is the best way to create passion for Indian Devotional Music among small children. ITA appreciates Chandan Modi's effort of training and exposing our kids for a continued legacy of Indian Music in America.

Discourse by Swami Yogatmananda

July 23, Saturday, 7:00 PM at Temple

Topic: The Tree of Samsara

It is based on the 15th chapter of Bhagavad Gita, where Bhagavan Sri Krishna describes the universe as ashwattha-tree (continuously oscillating/shifting) growing upside-down and rooted in God. The goal is to get to the root - the God by transcending the branches, leaves, flowers, fruits etc. This chapter is considered the gist of all scriptures.

Rev. Swami Yogatmananda joined Ramakrishna Order in 1976. He came to United States in the summer of 2001 as the Minister of the Vedanta Society of Providence. Swami Yogatmananda is the Hindu Religious Affiliate at the Brown University, Providence, RI and the Hindu Chaplain at the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth, MA.

Bal Vihar Tidbits

Dear Children and Parents,

Since our reporter Divya Gyanani has moved on to college, job of writing to you is on my lap. Good luck and thank you Divya, we will miss you!

One more year of Bal Vihar has passed. Looking back I can say we indeed enjoyed and learned many things as pujas, festivals, Hindu epics and Dharma. Even though we accomplished a lot as we are planning for the next year, many of our teachers felt for lack of time we lacked in teaching prayers. So, this year we are giving more time teaching children some prayers. Now there are always some common questions: Why teach Sanskrit prayers that children or even adults don't know or understand? Why we need to pray etc.?

Answer to why we pray is as easy as why we shower? We bathe to clean our bodies, prayer is a shower for our minds because our mind becomes dirty with anger, jealousy etc. and prayer works as cleansing. We are not conscious while taking a bath, yet water does its job of cleaning. So does a prayer! Prayer is a good, positive action thus it produces good results. Prayer also helps not only when we are scared or hurt but it also helps us to create friendship with the God. Don't we like to talk to our best friend every day? Krishna too is your friend.

So, in hot summer days, parents, don't keep children always occupied with activities. Lazy summer times are good to create and know our minds. Listen to wind, whisper with birds, taste snow balls with sugary syrup, find and then log unusual leaves, flowers and birds, play dot to dot with stars, sing, sing in waters of sea, river or pools, snooze on your mother's lap, and every day have a leisurely chat with Krishna! Have a happy and safe summer and I will see you on Sept. 11th 2011.

Lataji

On Line Bal Vihar Registration will begin in the month of August with new Calendar and Time schedule.

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

By: Parth Singh Parihar

What is the moral responsibility of youth in making the world a peaceful place?

The great physicist Albert Einstein once said, “A hundred times I remind myself that my inner and outer life are based on the labors of other men, living and dead, and that I must exert myself in order to give in the same measure as I have received and am still receiving.” Here, Einstein makes a profound statement—that as citizens of the Earth, we have been presented with the legacies of innumerable great men and women that helped forge a better world for their posterity. Thus, Einstein presents the remarkable idea of a moral responsibility to give back to the very society that had given him so much throughout his life. Today, as youth, we each have a moral responsibility to transcend Einstein’s idea of simply “giving back” to the world—but to also ensure that it becomes a peaceful place. Through analysis of Hindu scripture and trends in the Earth’s geopolitical climate, we will see that this moral responsibility is self-evident.

According to the Center for Systemic Peace, armed conflict has dropped sharply since the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991. However, repeated terrorist attacks in Mumbai, the September 11th incident, the continuing wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, and now political revolution in the Middle East all clearly point to the renewal of feud in this new millennium. Even today, people in India colloquially refer to sociopolitical arguments as “Mahabharat.” But can referring back to the Mahabharat help us understand our moral responsibility to follow the path toward peace?

At a superficial glance, the Mahabharat seems to contradict the notion of ensuring peace. After all, the epic culminates in the grueling war between the Kauravas and the Pandavas. However, we often forget the events leading up to the war, during which the Pandavas made every attempt to avoid war with their cousins. Notably, Yudishtir and Krishna offered that if the Kauravas granted the Pandavas only five villages, war could be avoided and all could live in peace. However, Duryodhan rejected even this proposal, refusing to give land amounting to even the point of a needle. Here, we see the Mahabharat’s illustration of the moral responsibility to avoid conflict if at all possible. While the Pandavas humbly engage in the world’s first diplomatic peace mission, Duryodhan is jealous and insecure, failing to see the benefits of peace to both parties. The Mahabharat’s treatment of war is thus one of avoidance at all costs; however, when punitive forces close all diplomatic channels and threaten peace itself, war becomes a lesser “evil” necessity to achieve peace.

Chandragupta’s military advisor, Kautilya, once said, “When [one king] is stronger than the other, he should make war with him” (*Artha Sastra*, 7.1). However, Kautilya’s statement belies the true nature of war. Indeed, conflict benefits no one. To the conqueror, it imbues a materialistic avarice which leads to dissatisfaction, and it imperils civilians on both sides of the conflict. In its pluralistic acceptance of other faiths, Hinduism’s primary outlook is that of, “Live and let live.” Conflict is initiated when one person tramples on the freedom, will, and *dharma* of another. Thus, the first component of youths’ moral responsibility to ensure peace is to make sure that one’s own actions do not harm others. Thus, it is incumbent upon all of us to generally be accepting and tolerant of others in making the world a peaceful place.

As stated above, conflict arises when freedom is trampled upon. Hence, it is also youths’ responsibility to promote democracy and freedom of speech. Many of the revolutions that have occurred in the Middle East are manifestations of frustration against an autocratic ruler. Thus, as youths, we must participate in our government to make sure that all of our voices are heard. Additionally, participation in Student Government programs will give youth an appreciation for democracy and help them understand the importance of avoiding conflict and war.

Finally, Hindu teachings have always taught that peace is both inner and outer in nature. Thus, a peaceful world cannot be created until upcoming generations have achieved peace of mind. In my opinion, this is attained through valuing one’s relationships, knowledge, and ability more than monetary and physical wealth. It is not necessary to distance oneself completely from the material world and live an ascetic life; however, we must come to appreciate what Nature has endowed us above greed for money and power. This is the third aspect to youths’ moral responsibility in creating a peaceful world. Indeed, much of the financial crisis that has gripped the United States and culminated in shouting matches in Congress can be attributed to the avarice of Wall Street businessmen in not making sound economic decisions.

Hence, we have laid the basis for the existence of a moral responsibility and discussed several components of that responsibility. However, one question remains unanswered: why is it incumbent upon youth specifically to ensure that the world is a peaceful place? The answer is simple. As the upcoming generation, we have—as Einstein would have said—inherited an amazing platform from which to launch a campaign for peace. Today, a new wave of globalization that has seen the emergence of the United Nations promises peace for the future. This is only possible, however, if each individual adheres to his own moral responsibility, or *dharma*, as discussed in this essay. Speaking of future, the youth of this country and world represent the future, and thus, it is we (and not the adults of today) that have a responsibility to pave the way for a brighter future in which every voice is heard and all may live in peace and security of both physical possession and mind.

Programs for Your Spiritual Growth

YOGA ABHYAS FOR HEALTH HAPPINESS & GOD

REALIZATION: A program for adults on yogasana, pranayam & meditation.

Second 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 in the diverse U.S. culture.

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

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, 10:30 am - 1 pm 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 am 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:

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

B. From Ben Franklin Bridge:

Route 30E to NJ route 70E to NJ route 73S, drive about 7 miles and follow sign for East Taunton Ave. on your right

C. From Walt Whitman Bridge or Delaware Memorial Bridge:

I-295N to Exit 29-A for route 30E to Berlin Twp. Turn left on East Taunton Ave.

D. From Central and North Jersey:

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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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 remitting 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: _____