



Satsang Sandesh

A monthly news magazine of

Vol. 36 No. 3

Phone: (856) 768-3134

www.indiatemple.org

MARCH 2010



Religious Calendar

- March 16 Tuesday
Chaitri new year/ Gudi Padavo/
Ugadi
- March 17 Wednesday
Chetichand
- March 20, 21 Sat. & Sun.
AKHAND RAMAYANA
- March 24 Wednesday
Rama Navami Celebration in
Temple
- March 26 Friday
Kamada Ekadashi
- March 30 Tuesday
HANUMAN JAYANTI—
Celebration in Temple/ Purnima
- April 10 Saturday
Varuthini Ekadashi/
Shri. Vallabhacharya Jayanti
- April 11 Sunday
Shri Vallabhacharya Jayanti Cele-
bration in Temple
- April 14 Wednesday
Tamil New Year

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

Vishnu Sahasranama

Parayanam

- March 5th Friday,
8P.M. to 9 P.M.

MONTHLY BHAJANS

- March 19th Friday
7:30 P.M. to 8:30 P.M.
Satya Sai Baba center of Medford.
Contacts: P.K. Prabhakar (856)-
596-3147, Sessa Vemuri (856)-
751-0687
- March 26th Friday
8 PM—9 PM: Shree Bhajan
Group Contact: Urmi Upadhy
856-424-9328, Charu Sheth 856-
662-8754

Art of Hindu living:

Meaning of Hindu Festival & Poojas—Prayers, Yoga & Meditation

Significance of Holi

Holi is one of the most colorful and vibrant festivals celebrated in India. Considering the religious importance of the festival, it is associated with a number of mythological stories. The most popular amongst them is that of Radha and Lord Krishna, wherein, he playfully applied color on Radha's cheek, as she was fairer than him. This gave rise to the festival of Holi and the tradition of playing with colors. The cultural significance of Holi can be gauged from the fact that its origin derives reference from various mythological tales. This has led to a deep faith and respect towards the celebration of the festival, as Indians strongly believe in mythology. The moral behind all these stories is victory of good over evil, which is a lesson for the human race. Holi festival is the medium through which people are inspired to lead a virtuous life. Moreover, the festival is organized at the time when the harvest is at full bloom, giving people an opportunity to rejoice. The social significance of Holi is seen in the form of the message of unity and brotherhood, it delivers. As per the custom and tradition, people pay visits to their friends and relatives, to give them wishes as well as to strengthen their bonds. The festival brings the nation together, as it is not just celebrated by Hindus but, also by the Sikhs, Christians, Jains as well. The festival is unique, as it does not discriminate against any section of the society and treats everyone equally. Apart from the cultural and social significance of the festival, Holi considerably affects the biological system of our body. The time, at which Holi is celebrated, is very crucial with respect to our body. During the festival, the season is going through a change - from winter to summer. It is the period when people feel lethargic and drowsy. Holi provides them the opportunity to wear off their laziness, by enjoying themselves thoroughly.

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 as per your request Shri. Bhupendra Shuklaji will perform a special pooja on your behalf, or the regular temple pooja performed on the designated day will be dedicated in your name. Below are the donors for this month.

- | | | | |
|----------------------------|---------|-----------------|---------|
| • Raj and Anita Chopra | Mar. 01 | • Troy Hudson | Mar. 17 |
| • Jashwantlal Mehta | Mar. 01 | • Jaysukh Sheth | Mar. 19 |
| • Lakshmi Pillalamani | Mar. 01 | • Dinesh Desai | Mar. 20 |
| • Anisha Desai | Mar. 08 | • Vinnu Shah | Mar. 23 |
| • Shashi Gupta | Mar. 08 | | |
| • Sharad Pimplaskar | Mar. 09 | | |
| • Chandubhai Patel | Mar. 11 | | |
| • Harshad Patel | Mar. 12 | | |
| • Nishtha and James Hudson | Mar. 14 | | |
| • Rima Gandhi | Mar. 15 | | |
| • Dhiraj Panda | Mar. 15 | | |

News from our programs:

Bal Vihar Updates

Bal-Vihar celebrated Mahashivratri with a Shiva and Durga Puja at the temple on Sunday, February 14. Despite the heavy snowfall the previous weeks, the temple was filled with eager students and parents. The students not only performed the Puja, but they also learned the meaning and significance behind each step, from the preparation to the final chanting of the Shanthi Manthra. After the Puja, Krithika Rajagopalan performed three scintillating pieces. She first performed an invocation number, a shloka in Sanskrit about the 8 attributes of Shiva and Panchabootam- the solid elements earth, fire, water, ether, and space. The second piece was an excerpt from Chandrachuda, about the churning of the ocean in the Deva's quest for the nectar of immortality, and the third was Om Kara Karini, a short piece about the Devi. Between each piece, she interacted with the students, teaching them the importance of Mudras (hand gestures) and Rhythms in Bharatanatyam and explaining the significance of the various attributes of Shiva. This performance was followed by a scrumptious lunch. ITA along with Bal Vihar participants and parents sincerely appreciate Krithika's efforts and Mahaprasad sponsors' support.

In Other News...

There is only one event remaining, so **ACT NOW!**
Mother's Day and Holi- 6 families needed 5/9/10

Bal-Vihar also accepts donations to further enhance the program. For more information, please contact **Sangeeta Rashatwar at 856-424-2545**. Email: sangeetarashatwar@gmail.com

Senior Citizens' Program

Thursday March 11, 6:30 PM to 9:15 PM

Thursday March 25, 6:30 PM to 9:15 PM

The March meeting schedule of the Hindu Senior Citizens of South Jersey, Inc. (a registered, non-profit, tax-exempt organization), is given above. The biweekly meetings begin in March and end in November. For the 3 months in winter (Dec., Jan., & Feb.), there is only one meeting per month. The schedule for 2010 has been distributed in January for these 21 meetings. On March 11, Mrs. Sudha Bajaj and a group from Edison will present melodious Bhajans and devotional songs in our Mandir. On March 25, there will be a talk on the ground floor by Jayrag Patel MD on eye diseases - cataract, glaucoma, and diabetic retinopathy - signs & symptoms and treatment. Persons, age 50 and above, who wish to attend these meetings, should join the association by simply filling an application form and paying membership dues. Those who were yearly members in 2009 should also renew their membership now. For more information about the program, activities, and to join the association, please contact Suraj Bhan Singh at (856) 582-5035 or Narsinh N. Sangani at (856) 435-2128.

During India Republic Day Celebration (on Saturday 1/30/2010) in Burlington Township High School Performing Arts/ Auditorium and in the presence of approx 800 people, N.I.C.E. Inc honored Shri Bhulabhai J. Bhakta for his dedicated and outstanding Social (Senior Citizens etc), Religious(ITA etc) and Community Services in Burlington, Camden, Gloucester and Atlantic Counties. On behalf of N. I.C.E. Inc., NJ State Senator Jim Beach presented a Plaque to Shri Bhulabhai J. Bhakta.

Congratulations Bhulabhai!

Senior Citizens of United Community Services of Camden County regularly plan day trips to concerts, Broadway shows and the Jersey shore. These activities present opportunities to socialize with Americans beyond our community. Please call 856-456-1121 or visit www.SCUCS.org if interested.

Miscellaneous

Our Priest Shri Shuklaji has gone to India and will return on March 8th. During his absence, the temple will be opened by devoted volunteers and the hours of operation will be limited as follows

Morning Hours: 11:00 AM Thru 1:00 PM

Evening Hours: 6:30 PM Thru 8:30 PM

All the regular activities will be conducted as usual. For any special need or information - Please call Ghanshyam Dave - 856-596-7531 or Divyakant Parikh 856-768-3369 or Sangeeta Rashatwar 856-424-2545.

We will resume normal operation on or after March 9th.

"GOD AND UNIVERSE" according to Bhagavad Gita from 7th chapter!!!

Please come and join us on March 27th, 2010: 7 PM to 8.45 PM

Vedanta Society of providence www.vedantaprov.org

Swami Yogatmanandaji Maharaj, the president of Vedanta Society of Providence will deliver the lecture and will follow up with questions / answers session. For more information, please contact Prativa Joshi at 856-429-2086, Mangala Butte at 856-751-1843, Manda Patil at 856-424-7498, Sumitra Sohoni at 856-751-3963 and Chaitali Sarkar at 856-795-9543.

Sri Rama Navami



*Sri Raghavam Dasharadhatmajam aprameyam Sitapathim Raghukulanvaya Ratna Deepam
Aajanubahum Aravinda Dalayathaksham Ramam Nishachara Vinashakaram Namami*

Date : Wednesday, March 24 10:00 AM to Thursday, March 25, 11:00 AM

Akhand Ramayana Path will commence from Wednesday, March 24 at 10:00 AM and will continue through the night into next day morning, Thursday, March 25 11:00 AM. ITA invites everyone to come and participate in reading of Ram Charita Manas.

SRI RAMA NAVAMI

Date: March 26, Friday 7:00 P.M.

Sri Rama Navami celebration will commence at 7:00 P.M. with special Pooja for Rama Parivar followed by Bhajans and Aarti at 9:00 P.M.

SRI Hanuman Jayanti

Date: March 30, Tuesday 7:00 P.M.

Sri Hanuman Jayanti celebration will commence at 7:00 P.M. with special Pooja for Shri Hanumanji followed by Bhajans and Aarti at 9:00 P.M.

ITA Seva Samiti – February 2010 report

As we put the snowy winter behind us and look forward to spring, let us keep in mind and be inspired by these words of wisdom from those who came before us.

Gandhiji said “You must be the change you wish to see in the world” and “The fragrance always remains on the hand that gives the rose”.

“He who wishes to secure the good of others, has already secured his own” said Confucius.

All religions extol the virtue of service to others, which should be rendered with compassion and humanity.

These are the ideals that guide the Seva Samiti and we invite your feedback, comments and suggestions for deserving volunteer programs. The work is being done to set up support groups to meet the needs of our community and more details will follow in due course.

North South Foundation

The educational contests in the US are designed to encourage excellence among the Indian American children and prepare them to enter into better colleges. Over the years, NSF children have demonstrated superior academic performance and many have managed to enter into the top ranking schools such as Harvard, MIT, and Stanford. Some of the NSF children have achieved top ranks in the Scripps Howard National Spelling Bee. The various Bee competitions pertain to Spelling, Vocabulary, Math, Geography, Essay, and Public Speaking (Grades 1 through 12). Please register at <http://www.northsouth.org>. The regional contest at South Jersey is sponsored by NICE, Inc.

Contest Location: Camden County College, 200 College Drive Blackwood, NJ 08012-3240

Contest Date: 17th April 2009 Contest Time: 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Local Contacts:

Jatin V Mehta – (856) 873-9950/(856) 203-4548 - Email – job4jatin@yahoo.com

Neelkant Shukla – (856) 489-9004 / (832) 657-7403 – nvshukla@yahoo.com

The finals will be held on August 21 and 22 (Saturday and Sunday) at Rowan University, New Jersey.

Achievement by our former Bal Vihar Student



Parth Singh Parihar has received a perfect SAT score (2400 out of 2400) in the exam that he took in January this year. Parth is a junior in Washington Township high school. His sister, Prachi (also a former Bal Vihar student), currently attends Princeton University as a freshmen. Parth has been a brilliant student since his early age. He attended Bal Vihar program at Berlin temple during the late 90's, and excelled in various activities and competitions organized by the Bal Vihar management. Parth also stood first among 22,000 students in a nation wide scholastic achievement test that he took as an 8th grader, and received the highest mark in the history of the test. Parth's parents run a non-profit organization called HindiUSA, which teaches Hindi to students of ages 5 to 16.

Congratulations Parth!



LET'S CONNECT: Reader's corner!

ITA would like to hear from you!

We would like to know your thoughts, your ideas and even constructive criticism! This is your community space, a place for your voice, for all to hear. Please let us hear from you!

From Isa Upanishad (First Mantra)

***“Aum Isha Vasyam Idam Sarvam, Yat Kincha Jagatyam Jagat
Ten Tyaktena Bhunjitha, Ma Gridhah Kasyasvid Dhanam”***

Meaning:

All this, whatsoever moves in this moving world is pervaded by God. Through such renunciation you may enjoy. Do not covet anybody's wealth for whose indeed is wealth?

Programs for Your Spiritual Growth

YOGA ABHYAS FOR HEALTH HAPPINESS & GOD REALIZATION:

A program for adults on yogasana, pranayam & meditation.

First Sunday: 9:30 AM—11:30 AM

Contact: Virendra Gupta @856-424-9313

GITA STUDY GROUP:

Every Tuesday: 8—9PM

Contact: Sharad Pimplaskar @856-985-4785

BHAJANS & STUTI:

Every Friday 7:30—9:00PM

Contact: Shree Shuklaji 856-768-3134

Regular Programs for Children

BAL VIHAR: A program for children (ages 5-13) to have a positive Hindu Identity in the diverse community of USA.

2nd & 4th Sunday @ 10:00 –1:00 PM

Contact: Lata Pimplaskar 856-985-4785

Rina Patel 856-313-5235

YOUTH PROGRAM: A program for young adults (ages 13-18) and parents. 2nd & 4th Saturday at 10:00—12:00 PM

Contact: Dahyabhai Patel 856-269-0367

CREATIVE ART WORKSHOP

1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday @ 9:30 AM

Contact: Narendra Amin 856-429-8761

Shree Shuklaji will be available for religious services on request. To schedule religious services please contact Smt. Sangeeta Rashatwar (856-424-2545), or Smt. Anoo Joshi at 856-616-2460.

TEMPLE FACILITIES USAGE FEE:

*Prayer Hall: \$200.00 Social Hall: \$300.00 (\$50 for non-member surcharge)

Please check temple availability at www.indiatemple.org; scroll to the bottom of the page and click on the link "Temple Availability" Please contact Smt. Sangeeta Rashatwar (856-424-2545), or Smt. Anoo Joshi at (856-616-2460) for temple bookings.

This fee is in addition to the Pooja Service Fee below.

POOJA SERVICE ** AT THE TEMPLE OUTSIDE

Satyanarayan Pooja	\$ 101.00	\$ 151.00
Havan/Grah Shanthi	\$ 151.00	\$ 251.00
Vastu Pooja	At house only -	\$ 201.00
Engagement Ceremony	\$ 101.00	\$ 201.00
Grah Shanthi	\$ 201.00	\$ 301.00
Wedding Ceremony (See new Rental Policy) per day	\$ 351.00	
Anniversary Celebration	\$ 101.00	\$ 151.00
Seemant	\$ 101.00	\$ 151.00
Namakaran/Annaprashan	\$ 101.00	\$ 151.00
Kesh Mundan Pooja	\$ 101.00	\$ 151.00
Upanayan/Yagnopavita	\$ 201.00	\$ 251.00
Birthday	\$ 101.00	\$ 151.00
Shraddha	\$ 101.00	\$ 151.00
Special Pooja	\$ 101.00	\$ 151.00
Final(Antim) Rites	\$ Voluntary donation	
Archana(Panchopachar)	\$ 15.00 -	

DIRECTIONS

- Tacony Bridge: 1. NJ route 73S to Berlin circle.
2. Stay on 73S to next traffic light. Right on E. Taunton Ave.
- Ben Franklin Bridge: 1.Route 30E to NJ route 70E to Marlton circle. 2.Right on NJ route 73S, go to Berlin circle and follow A.2.
- Walt Whitman Bridge: 1. I-295N. 2.Exit 29-A for route 30E to Berlin Twp. Turn left on TauntonAve.
- Delaware Memorial Bridge: I-295N. Follow C.2.
- Central and North Jersey: NJ turnpike south. Exit 4 for route 73S. Go to Berlin circle. Follow A.2

* Includes temple facilities, mandap & PA system

** Additional \$25.00 for non-ITA members

** Additional \$25.00 for outside Tri-County

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



India Temple Association, Inc.
25 E. Taunton, Berlin, NJ 08009

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Cherry Hill, NJ 08003

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Rina Patel
856-258-6670

Treasurer
Harshad J Patel
856-829-6282

**Religious Services
Temple Manager/
Facility Coordinator**
Sangeeta Rashatwar
856-424-2545



Darshan Schedule

Please ring the door bell if the door is locked.

Morning Hours:

7:30 –12:30 PM (Jan 1—6)
11:00 AM—1:00 PM (Jan 7
March 8)

Evening Hours:

Mon—Sun: 6 PM—9 PM
(Jan 1—6)
6:30 PM—8:30 PM (Jan 7
thru March 8)

Aarti Schedule

12:00 PM &
8:00 PM or upon completion
of any special or regular
programs of the
temple.

Form A To: Narendra Amin, 8 Hessian Way, Cherry Hill, NJ 08003

I would like to join India Temple Association. I am / We are remitting the membership dues
(please select one) Individual one year (\$ 15) _____ Family one year (\$ 25) _____
Individual five year (\$ 60) _____ Family five year (\$ 100) _____
Life (\$ 1000) _____ TOTAL AMOUNT \$ _____

I am adding additional donations:

_____ Poojari Fund Signature: _____
_____ Scholarship Fund Name: _____
_____ Life-time Services Tel./email _____
_____ Temple Renovations Address _____

Form B: To: Vinay Vardhana, 3 Anders Dr., Cherry Hill, NJ 08003

I am moving. Please note the change of address. I am / am not a member of ITA (if you circle
“not” then send the Form A above also for inclusion in the mailing and please confirm below)
I am sending my subscription via Form A _____

Old Address: _____ New Address: _____
Name: _____ Name: _____
Telephone _____ Telephone _____
Address _____ Address _____

Sanskrit term **Dharma** signifies the underlying order or law in nature. The word Dharma literally means 'that which upholds or supports the natural order, which makes the cosmos and the harmonious complexity of the natural world possible. To individuals, Dharma is conducting one's life conforming to universal values of morality, righteousness and truth. Ahimsa, non injury is the ultimate Dharma of Hindus.