



# 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. 1

Phone: (856) 768-3134

www.indiatemple.org

JANUARY 2011

### Religious Calendar

**Jan. 14 Friday -  
Makar Sankrant / Pongal  
Celebration in Mandir**

**Jan. 16 Sunday -  
Putrada Ekadashi**

**Jan. 19 Wednesday -  
Purnima**

**Jan. 29 Saturday -  
Shat Tila Ekadashi**

### MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

**Vishnu Sahasranama Parayanam**

**Jan. 7th Friday, 8 to 9 pm**

### MONTHLY BHAJANS

**Pushti Mandal of Voorhees**

**Jan. 14th Friday, 8 to 9 PM**

**Contacts:**

**Dhiraj Saparaia 856-287-1415 and  
Priti Shah 856-467-9148**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Satya Sai Baba of Medford**

**Jan. 21st Friday, 8 to 9 PM**

**Contacts:**

**P.K. Prabhakar (856)-596-3147,  
Sesha Vemuri (856)-751-0867**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Shri Ji Bhajan Group**

**Jan. 28th, Friday, 8 to 9 PM**

**Contacts:**

**Urmi upadya 856-424-9328  
Charu Sheth 856-662-8754**

### APPRECIATION BY OUTGOING PRESIDENT

Dear Friends and Well Wishers of India Temple Association;

I sincerely thank you for giving me an opportunity to work as a President of ITA in 2010. I also thank all Board Members, Executive Chairs, Shuklaji, Binduben, ITA Program Directors and my Family for their support.

Year 2010 was the busiest year of all due to a major milestone of 25th year of Pran Pratishtha Celebration. With the help of many Volunteers, this was the most successful event in the history and we should be proud of that.

We created a new Seva Samiti to help needy in Delaware Valley. Thanks to Pimplaskars and their team.

We Launched our new web site this year. Thanks to Rina, Sangeeta, Ramesh, Dahyabhai, Harshadbhai, Jatin, Narendrabhai and all Program Chairs.

We revamped our Youth Program to streamline with Bal-Vihar. Thanks to Dahyabhai and Sushilaben for keeping this program very intact for last 18 years. Also, many thanks to Shadrabhai, Rina and Vinaybhai for putting together new Youth Program.

Enrollment in Bal-Vihar is unbelievable. Because of dedicated teachers and Lataben's guidance, the enrollment has exceeded 120 students this year.

Without proper management of facility, puja services and scheduling, our facility in Berlin would not be trustworthy in our community. Thanks to Maganbhai, Jagdishbhai, Narendrabhai, Sangeeta and Anoo for their selfless effort.

Every year the entire community looks forward to joyous celebration of Navratri. Thanks to happy Harry and his team for making this event successful every year.

Everyone knows Seniors having a blast in our facility. They plan trips, arrange informative sessions, enjoy music and food. I wish they all stay healthy and continue the use of our facility.

Darshan Committee is always there for all religious functions. I sincerely thank Ghan-shyambhai, Nikunjana, Maheshbhai, Ilaben and others whose long time commitments make our temple simple but unique in religious celebrations.

I thank Ramesh and Vinaybhai for their hard work in helping me finalize Monthly Satsang. I thank all local Artists for supporting all temple's programs both inside and outside.

Without generous donors, sponsors, volunteers and supporters, our facility could not be healthy as seen. I sincerely thank all of them for their continued support.

I thank all outgoing Trustees and welcome the incoming Trustees. I offer my best wishes to our new President Rina Patel, request everyone to extend her the same support given to me.

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

- |                        |         |                    |         |
|------------------------|---------|--------------------|---------|
| • Dilip Guharoy        | Jan. 01 | • Anil Desai       | Jan. 20 |
| • Mulchand Giyanani    | Jan. 05 | • Vinod Patel      | Jan. 20 |
| • Kusum Kumar          | Jan. 14 | • Rushikesh Parghi | Jan. 25 |
| • Divyakant Parikh     | Jan. 14 | • Narendra Amin    | Jan. 28 |
| • Milan & Monika Gupta | Jan. 14 | • Ravin Patel      | Jan. 31 |
| • Ashvin-Deviyani Shah | Jan. 18 |                    |         |

## Condolences

**Dr. Azad Bhatt's mother, Srimati Jasumati D. Bhatt passed away on December 2, 2010.  
Shobha Jhonsa and Sadhana Kothari's mother, Smt. Bhanu Kothari, passed away on November 27,  
2010 in Singapore.  
Dhirubhai Saparia's father Shri Dahyalal Saparia passed away on December 26, 2010.**

**ITA and its Board extend their sincere condolences to the Bhatt, Jhonsa, Kothari and Saparia families.**

### Bal-Vihar Updates

Bal-Vihar would like to wish everyone happy holidays! The next Bal-Vihar session will be on January 9, 2010. Please be aware that Annual Day announcements will begin at this session.

If you are interested in sponsoring lunch at a Bal-Vihar session, please contact:

Chetana Giyanani

Phone: (732) 322-6212

Email: [giyananics@yahoo.com](mailto:giyananics@yahoo.com)

### ITA Youth Updates

Back from our Youth session in October, our class topic was "what is a scripture?" taught by Sharad uncle followed by a discussion on diversity. We chanted the "medhasuktam". Our second session, we had Navratri Kolu presentations from Radha Bodapati. The kids helped assemble and decorate the Navratri Kolu display. Then we, the youths, listened to and sang a bhajan with the aunties. Then to celebrate Dussehra, we put a "mini effigy" together of Ravan, Kumbhakaran and Meghanand and burned them down. We had a nice lunch provided by Sujit and Nipa Desai. In our November session, we had our mini Diwali party. We all participated in indoor and outdoor activities, with a snack in between. A festive lunch was provided by Jayesh & Harsha Parikh, Mehul & Sneha Sheth, Satish & SriLata Panjala, and Mayur & Gita Choksi.

In our most recent session on December 12, after doing some simple Yoga asanas and stretches under the instruction of Harish uncle, we listened to a presentation from a guest visitor: Dr. Gambhir. He gave us a lecture on the Bhagavad-Gita and the Vedas. During our activity, we had a discussion on how we kids pray and worship God at home. Afterwards, our class chanted the Gayatri Mantra with the aunties. Lunch that day was sponsored by Drs. Manu and Ketki Dadhania.

If anyone's interested, you can go online to [www.gita4free.com](http://www.gita4free.com) to download a copy of the Bhagavad-Gita. You can also order a free copy of the Bhagavad-Gita from this website. The next session is scheduled to be on January 9th.

### Senior Citizens' Program

**Thursday January 20, 6:30 p.m. to 9:15 p.m.**

The Senior Citizens' Group invites all members above the age of 50 to join, support, and celebrate life with us and urges members to keep themselves informed and active in the community. During the past year, we added over 50 life members and over 80 yearly members to our rolls.

We also organized four bus trips for spiritual development as well as for recreation and a series of 15 guest lectures on health, consumer affairs, safety, and laughter. One of our priorities is to recruit new members to strengthen our collective voice in the larger community.

We have invited Dr. Ajit R. Patel DDS MS for a talk on dental care for adults... "How to maintain your teeth for life". As you know, dental health is an important component of our overall health. The talk will end with a question-answer period.

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](mailto:sbsingh1@hotmail.com)) or Narsinh N. Sangani, by phone: (856) 435-2128 or e-mail ([nnsangani@juno.com](mailto:nnsangani@juno.com)).

## ITA Seva Samiti – December 2010 report

### Community Service: Refugee Resettlement program

We are pleased to report the ongoing success of this program. Hina Desai, Sunitha Reddy and Vijaya Surya started by working with a family in Atlantic City in the Spring of 2010. They helped the family set up their home, taught them how to shop wisely, spent time with the teenaged children to stress the importance of supporting their mother and other general assistance to adapt to their new environment. This family moved to Pennsylvania at the end of the summer to be with their extended family. Since then, these volunteers have offered support to a family in Somerdale. This family consists of the husband, wife and their five year old child. Our team is assisting them by registering them at the Post Office, securing library cards, teaching them simple reading in English and otherwise providing support and assistance for life here. Recently, both parents found jobs and are on the path to realizing the American dream of earning their own way and setting up a home.

We are currently looking for other families to support and help in the new year.

As part of this project, we will be starting a language assistance program for refugee children, to be conducted by our own young people.

Another mini-program will involve our young volunteers helping to sort out the donation center. These community service hours can be counted towards school requirements.

Please contact Hina Desai at 856-424-1934 or Sunitha Reddy at 856-596-3215 for additional information.

### Community Service: visiting elderly residents of Berlin Virtua Rehab Center

This is another ongoing project where volunteers can help elderly residents complete some daily tasks or enjoy games at the Center. These residents look forward to the companionship and contact with the community at large. The people who have volunteered for this report that they get as much satisfaction and enjoyment as do the residents! Gita Gandhi can be reached at 856-988-9140 to answer your questions or provide information.

### **Art of Hindu living:**

#### ***Meaning of Hindu Festivals & Pujas—Prayers, Yoga & Meditation***

#### **Why do we apply holy ash?**

Holy ash is not the ash from any burnt object. Bhasma, the holy ash, is the ash from the homa (sacrificial fire) where special wood, ghee and other herbs are offered as worship of the Lord. The deity can also be worshipped by pouring ash as abhisheka which is then distributed as bhasma. Bhasma is generally applied on the forehead. Some apply it on certain parts of the body like the upper arms, chest etc. Some ascetics rub it all over the body. Many consume a pinch of it each time they receive it. The word bhasma means, "that by which our sins are destroyed and the Lord is remembered." Bha implies bhartsanam ("to destroy") and sma implies smaranam ("to remember"). The application of bhasma therefore signifies destruction of evil and remembrance of the divine. Bhasma is called vibhuti (which means "glory") as it gives glory to one who applies it and raksha (which means a source of protection) as it protects the wearer from ill health and evil, by purifying him or her. Homa (offering of oblations into the fire with sacred chants) signifies the offering or surrender of the ego and egocentric desires into the flame of knowledge. The consequent ash signifies the purity of the mind.

Also, the fire of knowledge burns the oblation and wood signifying ignorance and inertia respectively. The ash we apply indicates that we should burn false identification with the body and become free of the limitations of birth and death. This is not to be misconstrued as a morose reminder of death but as a powerful pointer towards the fact that time and tide wait for noone. Bhasma is specially associated with Lord Shiva who applies it all over His body. Shiva devotees apply bhasma as a tripundra. When applied with a red spot at the center, the mark symbolizes Shiva-Shakti (the unity of energy and matter) that creates the entire seen and unseen universe.

## **Prayer Hall Floor Reinforcement and Social Hall Renovation**

With the help of Narendrabhai Amin, Jagdish Shah and Divyakant Parikh, ITA had completed these renovations prior to the Pran Pratishtha Celebrations. ITA will appreciate **SPONSORSHIP** of following Expenses:

<b>STEEL BEAMS</b>	<b>\$7000</b>	<b>CARPENTRY</b>	<b>\$9000</b>	<b>NEW CEILING</b>	<b>\$2000</b>
<b>ELECTRICAL WORK</b>	<b>\$6500</b>	<b>PAINTING ENTIRE TEMPLE</b>	<b>\$5500</b>	<b>FLOOR FINISH</b>	<b>\$500</b>
<b>KITCHEN STOVE</b>	<b>\$500</b>	<b>PRAYER HALL CAMERA</b>	<b>\$400</b>	<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>	<b>\$1500</b>

Sponsorship need not be for the full amount. Sponsorship of \$500 or more will be recognized with the name plate on a Plaque.

## **Donors for Above Renovations**

**ITA sincerely appreciates donations for renovations from Sudha and Nandkishor Wankawala, Hansa and Maganbhai Kanzaria and Diane and Akshay Amin**

### **ITA GENERAL BODY MEETING AND TRUSTEE ELECTION RESULTS**

On December 12, 2010, ITA invited community to participate in a General Body Meeting to get the overview of Temple's activities and progress in year 2010. More than 150 attendees enjoyed Bhajans provided by Chandan Modi and his students as well as other local artists Nayna Patel, Devang Parikh and Aarti Shah. It was nice to see little champs on our temple's stage singing and/or playing instruments. We all should be proud of Chandan's effort and support for our community.

Our outgoing President Divyakant Parikh gave year around report and appreciated community for extending its support to him during his presidency. He honored Shri Dahyabhai Patel and Sushilaben Patel by offering a Plaque for their 18 years of outstanding service to our youth. ITA General Secretary and Co-treasurer Rina Patel provided financial reports. Our 2009 President and Election Committee Chair Shri Bhulabhai Bhakta explained the election process for becoming ITA Trustee and announced following new Trustees for the vacant positions for the term beginning 2011.

The elected/re-elected Trustees are: Lalit Patel, Dinesh Dipani, Ramesh Vishwanathan, Radha Bodapati, Chetna Giyanani and Devang Parikh.

At the conclusion of Bhajans and General Body meeting everyone enjoyed delicious Maha Prasad prepared by our usual Volunteers. ITA appreciates all attendees and Bhajan participants for their support to our temple. ITA also sincerely thanks to all Volunteers for preparing and serving Maha Prasad.

It is important to be a member of ITA to become official member of the ITA General Body and participate in Trustees election.

**ITA Board sincerely requests all recipients of Satsang to validate their memberships. If you see "Expired" against your address label, it is time to renew.**

## **NEW ITA WEB SITE**

**[WWW.INDIATEMPLE.ORG](http://WWW.INDIATEMPLE.ORG)**

ITA recently launched its new website with useful information for the community.

You can now take advantage of modern technology and use the web site having the following features:

- Book temple and/or services
- Enroll your children for Bal-Vihar and/or Youth Program
  - Take a look at upcoming events
  - Read Temple's History
- See yourself or your family/friends in photo gallery of various events
- Be familiar with other programs of ITA and contact appropriate teachers/chair person for enrollment
  - Know your Trustees and Executive Committee Leaders
- Download various forms for membership, facility rental, scholarship application, puja services
  - Use pay pal feature for any and all needed payments, including donations
  - Find out important days from Calendar of Current Hindu Year

ITA Board appreciates Jatin Mehta and his business team for successfully launching this new Web Site for our community. Without dedicated Trustees' participation and Rina's coordination, this would not have been possible this year. Board also extends its sincere appreciation to Narendrabhai Amin for providing Mandir history and various Program Chairs for supplying appropriate information.

**PLEASE USE THIS WEB SITE FOR ROUTINE COMMUNICATION AND NEEDED INFORMATION**



### **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!

### **Hanuman Gayatri Mantra**

***“Om Aanjaneya Vidhmahe, Vayu puthraya Dheemahe  
Thanno Hanumant Prachodayath”***

Meaning:

Om, Let me meditate on the son of Anjana, Oh, son of Vayu Deva (God of air), give me higher intellect, and let Hanuman illuminate my mind.

### **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 at our Temple in Berlin

Contact: Virendra Gupta @856-424-9313

#### **GITA STUDY GROUP:**

Every Tuesday and Wednesday 8—9PM

at our Temple in Berlin

Contact: Sharad Pimplaskar @856-985-4785

#### **BHAJANS & STUTI:**

Every Friday 7:30—9:00PM

Contact: Shree Shuklaji 856-768-3134

### **Regular Programs for Children and Youth**

**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 for registration and location

**YOUTH PROGRAM:** A program for young adults (ages 13-18) and parents. 2nd & 4th Sunday at 10:30AM—1:00 PM at our Temple in Berlin.

Contact: Sharad Pimplashkar at 856-985-4785; Sangeeta at 609-685-2755 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

Shree Shuklaji will be available for religious services on request. To schedule religious services please contact Smt. Sangeeta Rashatwar (856-424-4211), 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](http://www.indiatemple.org); Scroll to the bottom of the page and click on the link "Temple Availability" Please contact Smt. Sangeeta Rashatwar (856-424-4211), or Smt. Anoo Joshi at (856-616-2460) for temple bookings.

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

#### **PUJA SERVICE \*\* AT THE TEMPLE OUTSIDE**

Satyanarayan Puja	\$ 101.00	\$ 151.00
Havan/Grah Shanti	\$ 151.00	\$ 251.00
Vastu Puja	At house only -	\$ 201.00
Engagement Ceremony	\$ 101.00	\$ 201.00
Grah Shanti	\$ 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 Puja	\$ 101.00	\$ 151.00
Upanayan/Yagnopavita	\$ 201.00	\$ 251.00
Birthday	\$ 101.00	\$ 151.00
Shraddha	\$ 101.00	\$ 151.00
Special Puja	\$ 101.00	\$ 151.00
Final(Antim) Rites	\$ Voluntary donation	
Archana(Panchopachar)	\$ 15.00 -	

#### **DIRECTIONS**

- A. Tacony Bridge: 1. NJ route 73S.  
2. Stay on 73S for about 12-13 miles and follow sign for East Taunton Ave. on your right
- B. Ben Franklin Bridge: 1.Route 30E to NJ route 70E  
2.Right on NJ route 73S, drive about 7 miles and follow sign for East Taunton Ave. on your right.
- C. Walt Whitman Bridge: 1. I-295N. 2.Exit 29-A for route 30E to Berlin Twp. Turn left on East Taunton Ave.
- D. Delaware Memorial Bridge: I-295N. Follow C.2.
- E. 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.

\* Includes temple facilities, 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 Puja performed outside the temple goes to Pujari in addition to his regular salary.





# India Temple Association, Inc.

25 E. Taunton, Berlin, NJ 08009

EDITOR:

**Ramesh Viswanathan**

25 East taunton Ave

Berlin, NJ 08009

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

**President**

Rina Patel  
856-258-6670

**Vice President**

Kamlesh Dave  
856-751-6541

**Gen Secretary**

Rina Patel  
856-258-6670

**Treasurer**

Harshad J Patel  
856-829-6282

**Religious Services**

**Facility rental**

**Temple Manager**

Sangeeta Rashatwar  
856-424-4211

**Darshan  
Schedule**

**Morning**

7:30 am – 12:30 pm

**Evening**

6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

**Aarti**

12:00 Noon

8:00 pm

Time 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. N. Amin**

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 \_\_\_\_ Scholarship Fund \_\_\_\_ Life-time Services \_\_\_\_ Temple Renovations  
\_\_\_\_ Seva Samiti Fund

I am relocating to following address

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_