



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. 39 No. 6 Phone: (855) MYMANDIR (855-696-2634) www.indiatemple.org JUNE 2013

Religious Calendar

June 02 Sunday

- Graduation Day—Pooja in Mandir

June 04 Tuesday

- Aparā Ekadashi

June 19 Wednesday

- Nirjala Ekadashi/Bhim Ekadashi

- Shri Gayatri Jayanti

June 23 Sunday

- Vat Savitri Purnima / Shri Kabir Jayanti / Satyanarayan Katha

July 03 Wednesday

- Yogini Ekadashi

Monthly Activities

June 07, Friday

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

June 15, Saturday

- Sunderkand Path @ 10:00 am

June 23, Sunday

- Shri Satyanarayan Puja/ Katha on Purnima Day @6:00 PM in our Mandir

Kshama Raghuvēer
(610) 642-2875

Monthly Bhajan

June 21 Friday, 8-9 p.m.

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

June 28, Friday, 8-9pm

Shree Ji Bhajan Group

contact:

Urmi Upadhyay (856) 424-9328; Charu Sheth (856) - 662-8754

Events in our Mandir

Sunday June 2: Graduation Pooja in our Mandir @ 3:00 PM followed by Mahaprasad. This is for graduation from any grade, program (such as Balvihar, Art Class, Youth), Middle School, High School, College, Grad school, and Medical School .

Note: Shri Shuklaji /Shri Sudhirji will be available for religious services on request. Please note that 50% of the listed cost of Puja performed outside the temple goes to Pujari in addition to his regular salary. 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. Harish Shelat at 1-855-MY-MANDIR Ext 1 for the booking of the Temple Facilities and/or scheduling of Puja Services by Shuklaji or Sudhirji.

Upcoming Events for July

Sunderkand Path , Saturday, July 20th, 2013 @ 10:00 AM
Satyanarayan Puja , Monday, July 22nd, 2013 @ 6:30 PM

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.

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------|----------------------------|---------|
| • Dunthur & Yedahalli Uttaswamy | June 02 | Hemali & Vaishali Kothari | June 13 |
| • Kartik Patel | June 04 | Dahyalbhai & Taraben Patel | June 13 |
| • Meghan & Melanie Patel | June 04 | Santosh Khurana | June 19 |
| • Milan Patel | June 06 | Rushikesh Parghi | June 21 |
| • Bharat Gandhi | June 07 | Ishvar Patel | June 22 |
| • Dinesh Patel | June 08 | Kalavati Desai | June 29 |
| • Ramesh Gupta | June 12 | Kartik & Dupta Patel | June 29 |
| • Rushikesh Parghi | June 12 | Rushikesh Parghi | June 25 |

AIP offers scholarships.

The Asian Indian professionals of Tri state area are again inviting applications for undergraduate scholarships from students with at least one parent of Indian origin, residing in Tri state area.

LAST date of applying is July 30th 2013

For application forms please visit aip-inc.us.



Indian Cultural Center (ICC)

www.iccofsj.org

Tel: 855-ICCOFSJ (422-6375)

A dream becomes a reality!

Community Day

Date:

**Sunday
June 23rd 2013**

Time:

**10:00 am to 1:00 pm
(Lunch will be served)**

Place:

**ICC Site
820 Route 73 South
Marlton, NJ 08053
Tel: 855-ICCOFSJ
www.iccofsj.org**

You are Invited

to enjoy the day at the soon to be completed our Cultural Center site. Take the first hand tour of our magnificent building in the final construction stages, enjoy music, enjoy food and socialize with community members.

Please contact any ICC trustee or visit www.iccofsj.org for details about this event.



SITE VISITS

Witness the progress our dream come true !

Visit our site every **Sunday**
from **11AM to Noon**
(Weather Permitting)

Bring your friends and family
for site visits with you.

For further information please contact:

Indian Cultural Center
820 Route 73 South
Marlton, NJ 08053
www.iccofsj.org
855-ICCOFSJ

Dr. Dhiraj Panda	856-981-9221	Ashvin Patel	609-313-5673
Dr. Prahlad Patel	856-905-2580	Naresh Talati	856-751-8652
Dr. Manu Dadhania	856-287-0361	Jayesh Parikh	856-952-3600
Sailesh Chowdhury	856-234-6741	Hemant Shah	856-426-3770
Indranil Sardar	856-489-1391	Devang Parikh	609-481-8062

ITA Scholarship—First Place Winner—Ms. Sonya Patel

Role of Hindu Temples in the United States

INFLUENCE

“We need to make temples not just a center of rituals and congregation but lighthouses of philosophy and knowledge, which are the basis of Hindu Dharma.” (Sri Sri Ravi Shankar).

Although introduced in the Americas in the late 1800’s, Hinduism remained largely “undiscovered” mostly due to the insignificant numbers of people who considered themselves of the Hindu faith in the United States. Following the immigration boom of the 1970’s, Indians, who are predominantly Hindus, migrated to the United States in the thousands to take up jobs within the IT, medical and other industries. They brought with them a religious faith that is both, intriguing and out of the ordinary with its various gods and goddesses. Despite being Hindus, these immigrants coming from different regions of India had vastly different cultural traditions while maintaining similar religious traditions. The diasporas immediately realized that it would be easy to lose their cultural as well as religious traditions if steps were not taken to bring those of the Hindu faith together to worship as well as to celebrate various Hindu festivals. It was the fervor of their beliefs as well as their near visceral need to maintain and indeed propagate the Hindu faith that led to the construction of several Hindu temples in the United States.

A temple, be it for any religion, is first and foremost a place of worship. A Hindu temple, also known as a Mandir (literal meaning of Mandir = house of God) is characterized by the presence of statues of one or more Hindu God and Goddess. The Hindu temple is considered to be a pure, virtuous place that enables followers of Hinduism to contemplate God in a surrounding free from everyday pressures of life. All nationalities of people are welcome into our Hindu temples. These temples are manned by Hindu priests that have studied the ancient traditions and rituals of Hinduism. The priests with the aid of various Hindu elders are charged with maintaining the cultural and religious traditions that have been in existence since the dawn of time. These individuals take leadership roles during celebration of various Hindu festivals, *e.g.* Diwali, literally meaning the festival of lights and spiritually meaning the triumph of good (light) over evil (darkness). Much as in ancient times, the central congregations in the temple to celebrate auspicious Hindu festivals became the vehicle that allows the “experts” to impart not only the basic essence of the Hindu religion but also the reasoning behind the various rites and rituals that are such an integral part of maintaining the rich cultural and religious traditions of the Hindus. Thus, the temples act as preserver and propagator of our religion in all its glory and traditions.

While the temples are often visited on auspicious occasions or to perform certain religious rituals, unlike other religions, it is not mandatory for a Hindu to regularly visit their temple. This is because most Hindus have home shrines where they can partake in puja or other religious ceremonies. Temples in the United States also provide a social environment to maintain bonds between the communities and bring people of all ages together. Thus, most temples offer youth programs where Hindu religion and culture are taught in many ways through readings of adaptation of ancient texts, group projects, arts and celebrating festivals. The new generation gains knowledge about Hinduism and its importance in today’s world. To simply say “I am a Hindu” and truly know what it means are two different things. Temples throughout the United States not only act as platform of knowledge but also as building blocks for the Hindu youth to better understand their heritage and its significance in this world.

I have learned a great deal about our Hindu culture through the Bal-Vihar Youth Program. I was fascinated to learn about the many gods and goddesses and understand that the Hindu god is not one person but exists in multiple forms that symbolically represent the exalted characteristics that I must strive to attain. The other enlightening teaching at the Hindu temple was the practice of yoga, a form of meditation that helps not only with the mental but also the physical well being of an individual. Indeed, the tradition of yoga, which is one of the six schools of Hindu philosophy, is the biggest and most prominent examples of Hindu influences in America with approximately 20 million Americans practicing this ancient physical, spiritual and mental exercise. In addition to story-telling by the teachers, they also taught us how to comprehend slokas (religious Hindu chants), why we chant them and their values and impact. I once read in a book that a Mandir (Hindu temple) greatly enhances our ability to achieve peace and happiness. I believe this to be true because these are two qualities that exist if we the people are willing to work towards them.

“Creating an environment where the youth understand, appreciate and love their Hindu culture is a crucial need today, as is uniting all Hindu temples under one umbrella.” (Swami Chidananda Saraswati)

Senior Citizens' Program

Thursday June 13, 6:30 pm to 9:15 pm and Thursday June 27, 6:30 pm to 9:15 pm

The highlights of our program of this month are as follows:

Musical Evening: Two talented artists of our community, namely Dr. Hiro Pahlajani (our Executive Council member) and Sri S.T. Patel are going to entertain you on **June 13** with popular Hindi songs, *Geets, Ghazals, semi-classical Bhajans* etc. This will be an enjoyable evening. If any member wants to sing during the program, please contact the undersigned.

Heart Disease: If you or someone you know has concerns with heart problems such as chest pain (Angina), shortness of breath, lightheadedness, numbness/coldness of your legs or arms, irregular heartbeats (Atrial Fibrillation), aortic stenosis, rheumatism, heart failure etc. or you want to know more, this meeting is for you.

About 1 in every 4 deaths in U.S.A. is due to heart disease (also called cardio vascular disease or CVD). The way we live, eat & drink, socialize, our genetics and environment, all may contribute to heart disease. More than a quarter of us are sedentary, have hypertension (high blood pressure) and atherosclerosis (thickening and hardening of artery walls). No wonder, the Center for Healthy Aging reports that the health status of seniors is "on the critical list". The economic burden is large and growing larger; the direct healthcare costs for heart disease, at present, exceed \$110 billion!

We have invited Dr. Surendra Bagaria, MD board -certified cardiologist to discuss this topic on **June 27**. You will have your questions and he will provide answers to your concerns. The topic is extensive, encompassing diagnosis and tests, treatment and care, living and management of disease, support and resources etc.

Dr. Bagaria is also sponsoring the dinner; we thank him for his generosity.

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

Discourse by
Dr. Ramakamal Das Vedantaji Maharaj at our Mandir



Topic: **PAROPKAR SUBSE UTTAM DHARM**

Sunday - June 16 -4 pm- 6 pm; Monday, June 17- 7 pm - 8:30 pm; Tuesday, June18 - 7 pm - 8:30 pm;
Wednesday, June 19 - 7 pm - 8:30 pm; Thursday, June 20 - 7 pm - 8:30 pm Friday, June 21, 7 pm - 8:30 pm
Saturday, June 22 - 10am - 12 Noon, followed by Maha Prasad.

Pujya Maharaj-ji, a resident of Varanasi, India is an expert speaker. He has captured the hearts and minds of devotees all over India as well as abroad. He has published several books and given hundreds of discourses all over the world. Having Ph.D. in Upanishads and M. A. in Hindi, he is an international Kathakar. He was invited by United Nation's Religious Conference in the year 2000 and has been coming to our temple every year since then. It is our honor and profound privilege to host him again at our temple this year.

For further information please contact Devendra/ Rachita Singh (609-248-5966) or Rakesh/Nila Kohli (856-751-8688) or Drs. Amrit/Anju Nayar (856-778-1781).

Bal Vihar Program



We celebrated Mother's day. Lata-ji talked about Durga Maata being our universal mother. Just as in the West, Indians too take Mothers Day as a time too reflect on the importance of mothers in their life. Mother's Day is the time to say a big thank you Ma. The Hindu people celebrate for ten days in October in a festival they call Durga Puja. Durga is the name of a goddess who protects the people from evil and is also popularly known as The universal Mother. We then had Mother's day festivities in the form of games between the mothers and their children. It was a real fun event!

ITA Yuva Darshan
By Sona Dadhania

On May 12th, the youth group met at Cherokee High School for the youth's final regular session of the year. As always, we began with shlokas led by Sharad Uncle, and that directly went into yoga and meditation, taught by Harish Uncle. After yoga and meditation, the youth gathered for our final lesson of the year taught by Sharad Uncle. We concluded all that we had learned this year with a final lesson and review of our previous lessons, which was a fitting conclusion to the year's learning. In preparation for our upcoming Annual Day, we discussed for the final time our plans for Annual Day, and we worked out final plans and things to do for annual day by the youth. We were treated to pizza by the Bal-Vihar parents and were served by the father volunteers as always. The youth would like to thank our teachers for their always interesting and fun lessons, and our lunch sponsors Mr. and Mrs. Ram Thekkekara for the delicious food. On May 18th, the youth formally ended its year with the spectacular Annual Day held at Thomas Harrington Middle School. Youth's Annual Day was held in conjunction with Bal-Vihar's annual day, and our joint annual day followed the theme of the different regions of India, and many diverse items, ranging from dances to shlokas to plays, were performed by the Youth and Bal-Vihar students and arranged by the Youth and Bal-Vihar kids along with the talented adult choreographers. The Youth segment, which was emceed by two Youth members, began in the middle of the overall program, and it consisted of six different items. The first was a bhajan which the youth have been since the beginning of the year, and it was performed by all the youth. The 2nd item was a lively Bhangra dance choreographed and performed by six of the Youth boys, and the Bhangra was quickly followed by a fusion Bharatnatyam number performed by six of the Youth girls. The final three dances were all female duets, the third being a fun Bollywood dance, the fourth being a sophisticated Bharatnatyam dance, and the last being an energetic Bhangra dance. All of the participants and attendees enjoyed delicious lunch and dessert provided by the Indian Villa, which was nice after many tiring numbers. With the annual day, the Youth officially concluded this year's program, and the youth would like to thank all of our teachers, parents, and volunteers who helped to make this year so memorable and enjoyable. Although this year is over, the Youth are already gearing up for September 2013, and we're excited to welcome many new members into our ranks! This has been a great year, and we can't wait for the next one!

ITA Seva Samiti update

Sadhna Kothari

Encouraging news on the **Sandwich program** for the homeless/disadvantaged: Several new members have stepped up to form groups to provide lunch bags for the needy, every two months. Those who have undertaken this work will tell you that this program works so well because its simplicity, both in effort and time commitment. The reward is immediate and gratifying, for the recipients and the volunteers. The details of this program were provided in last month's issue but if you need to review this again or have questions, just call Hina Desai at 856-424-1934.

This fall, many of our high school graduates will be heading off to college. This can be a challenging time with many different issues to navigate and details to finalize.

ITA Seva Samiti is pleased to announce the **Golden Shield program**, designed to offer guidance, assistance and sponsorship to deserving candidates. With your help, our goal is to make this an annual event, to strengthen and support our growing community.

Let us hear from you if you have relevant experience or suggestions or having been looking for just such an opportunity to advance the education and career aspirations of a youngster.

Similarly, if you are a student who has gone through the different college assistance programs but need a little extra help, you are invited to reach out to ITA Seva Samiti Lata Pimplaskar at 856-985-4785 or latap@comcast.net.



We are Privileged to have
the 18th Descendent of Jagadguru Shrimad Vallbhacharyaji Mahaprabhuji, the founder of Pushti Marg,
HDH Yuva Vaishnavacharya Goswami 108 Shri Vrajraj Kumarji Mahodayshri
in our Berlin Mandir on

Friday June 14, 2013 from 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM

At a tender age of only 26 years, He is the source of inspiration to thousands of Youth all over the world.

He began lecturing at the age of 6 years.

Fluent in English, Hindi and Gujarati, he will cover topics like

Importance of God and Temples in our LIVES, whether you are young or old.

Youth are cordially invited to this program

The discourses will be followed by Prasaad

For more information, please contact

Rekhaben or Mahendrabhai [856-751-8278](tel:856-751-8278)

Pragneshbhai Sheth [856-534-3200](tel:856-534-3200)

Paroolben Modi [732-656-1674](tel:732-656-1674)

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 note that 50% of the listed cost of Puja performed outside the temple goes to Pujari in addition to his regular salary. 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. Harish Shelat 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	<p><u>TEMPLE FACILITIES USAGE FEE</u> Prayer Hall: \$200 Social Hall: \$300</p> <p><u>OTHER CHARGES</u></p> <p><u>MILEAGE AND TRAVEL TIME TIER</u></p> \$0 for 1 - 25 mile radius \$51 for 26 - 100 mile radius \$101 for 101 - 150 mile radius \$151 for 151 - 200 mile radius <p>NON-MEMBER \$51 for non-member surcharge</p>
Vahan (Vehicle) Puja	\$21	N/A	
Namakaran/Annaprashan	\$51	\$101	
Birthday	\$51	\$101	
Shraddha	\$51	\$101	
Anniversary Celebration	\$101	\$151	
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	
Vastu Puja - outside service only	N/A	\$251	
Sunderkand Path	\$151		
Wedding Grah Shanti	\$201	\$301	
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 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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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**

**PLEASE REVIEW YOUR ADDRESS LABEL AND RENEW YOUR
MEMBERSHIP BASED ON EXPIRATION DATE OR SUPPORT ITA WITH YOUR
ENROLLMENT IF YOU ARE NOT IDENTIFIED AS A MEMBER**

**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 _____ Lifetime Seva (\$301) _____ Temple Renovations
_____ Seva Samiti Fund _____ Bal Vihar Fund _____ Youth Fund

I am relocating to the following address

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____