



Satsang Sandesh

India Temple Association, Inc.

Hindu Temple, 25 E. Taunton Ave, Berlin, NJ 08009
(Non-Profit Tax Exempt Organization, Tax ID # 22-2192491)

Vol. 46 No. 12 (855) MYMANDIR (855-696-2634) www.indiatemple.org DECEMBER 2019

Religious Calendar

Dec 8, Sunday
Mokshada Ekadahi, Shri Geeta Jayanti, Geeta Paath in Temple
Dec 12, Thursday
Purnima, Shri Duttatrey Jayanti
Dec 22, Sunday
Safla Ekadashi
15-Jan Wednesday Makar
Sankranti, Uttarayana, Pongal
2-Feb Sunday
ITA Children's Vasant Panchami Puja at Temple
21-Feb Friday
Mahashivaratri TIME: 9AM-12PM & 4PM-8PM

Temple Hours

Monday - Friday
9:00 am - 12:30 pm
4:00 pm - 8:30 pm
Saturday & Sunday
9:00 am to 9:00 pm
Aarti
12 pm & 8 pm
Times may change during special occasions
If back door is locked, please try front door, ring bell or call (856) 768-3134.

Satyanarayan Puja

Thursday, Dec. 12 at 6pm

Sunderkand Path

Saturday, Dec. 21 at 10am

ITA NEEDS VOLUNTEERS!!!

Email communityservice@indiatemple.org if you are interested in volunteering at events.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, December 8th from 10:00am to 2:00pm
"Gita Jayanti"- Recital of Entire Bhagvat Gita Chanting

ANNOUNCEMENTS

VIKRAM SAMVAT 2076 / YEAR 2020 CALENDAR AVAILABLE ONLINE
<https://www.indiatemple.org/>

SUPPORT YOUR COMMUNITY & LOWER YOUR 2019 TAXES!

Donate to the ITA by December 31st

Online: www.indiatemple.org/donation_form.php
Mail: 25 E. Taunton Ave. Berlin, NJ 08009

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 or Shri Sudhir Jhaji 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.

Akshaybhai & Savitaben Patel	1-Dec	Jagdish Shah	22-Dec
Pravina Gohel	5-Dec	Nagindas & Champaben Shah	23-Dec
Snehlata Jani	9-Dec	Vijay & Asha Gupta	25-Dec
Maya & Mamta Kanzaria	9-Dec	Satish Shah	25-Dec
Arun Maheswari	9-Dec	Natwar Desai	28-Dec
Rajendra Pandya	9-Dec	Panambur & Mitra Kini	28-Dec
Dev Dani	12-Dec	Mahendra Toprani	28-Dec
Akshay Nandakumar	12-Dec	Kavita Gupta	30-Dec
Jelabhai Patel	13-Dec	Amita and Naresh Talati	31-Dec
Rukhmanidevi Tekrival	15-Dec	Navin K. Gupta	31-Dec
Jaysinh Chandriani	18-Dec	Manibhai Patel	31-Dec
Sheela Kapoor	18-Dec	Rajiv Verma	31-Dec
K.S. Krishnan	18-Dec	Navin Gupta	31-Dec
Laxman P Singh	18-Dec	Pramila Mitra	31-Dec
Naresh Talati	20-Dec	Raj Patel	31-Dec
Nayan Shah	21-Dec		

SAVE THE TEMPLE MONEY! GO DIGITAL!

Email: vpinfo@indiatemple.org to convert to a digital only subscription.



MONTHLY PUJAS AT BERLIN TEMPLE

SUNDARKAND PAATH: Saturday, Dec. 21 @ 10am to Noon
Followed by Mahaprasad sponsored by Gagan Palace

SATYANARAYAN PUJA: Thursday, Dec. 12 @ 6 PM
Followed by Mahaprasad sponsored by Indian Vila

Anyone can sit in this Puja and receive blessings of Lord Satyanarayan.
Please contact Binduben at (856) 768-6785 if you plan to participate.



PROGRAMS FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH, HEALTH, HAPPINESS & GOD REALIZATION @ BERLIN TEMPLE

Vishnu Sahasranamam and Lalitha Sahasranamam will be recited on 1st Friday of each month starting at 10:30 AM.
This will be followed by Aarti at Noon. Please join us to receive blessings

Satya Sai Baba of Medford Bhajans 3rd Friday of each month from 8-9pm
Contact P.K. Prabhakar (856) 596-3147/ Sessa Vemuri (856) 751-0687 for details.

Bhajan Sandya by SJ Bhajan Mandali Group 1st Friday of each month 7:00 to 8:00 pm led by Venu Gopal Verma.

Bhagavat Gita Study each Tuesday morning at 11am organized by Sharad Pimplaskar (856) 466-1430.

ITA Senior Social Group

Meetings every Tuesday at 1pm in the Social Hall. Contact Mr. Bhulabhai Bhakta 856-983-0769 for details.

Yoga and Pranayama Classes at Berlin Mandir -ON BREAK UNTIL MARCH 1st

Doing Yoga regularly can help you stay physically and mentally healthy. Join Dr. Veena Gandhi (856) 816 4095 & Hina Desai (856) 435 9148 every Tuesday and Thursday from 9-10:15 am for yoga.



Happy Makara Sankranti, Uttarayan, Bhogi, Maghi, Pongal, Lohri!!!!!!!

Wednesday, January 15th

Condolences

Shree Dipakbhai Mehta, ITA Founding Member, passed away on Thursday, November 14, 2019. He is survived by his wife Meenaben, two sons, Mehul and Manish and two grandchildren. ITA and it's Board extend their sincere condolences to Mehta family.

Shree Kishorbhai Ratanlal Dalal passed away on Sunday, November 24, 2019. He is survived by his wife, Renuka, 3 daughters, Neha, Neepa, and Niti and 7 grand children. ITA and it's Board extend their sincere condolences to Dalal family.

PROGRAMS FOR SENIORS BY HSC OF NJ: DECEMBER 2019 MEETINGS

HSCSJ will hold its 14th Annual Function on December 8, 2019 at 5.00 PM at ICC. The program will start with appetizers from 5.00 PM till 6.00 PM. The welcome address by the current President will be from 6.00 PM to 6.30 PM. The Rhythm Group will provide the entertainment for about 2 hours. There will be draw of raffle tickets. We will also honor our sponsors and two awardees of Dr. Ramesh Gupta and Dr. Asha Gupta Community Service awards. Dinner will start at 8.40 PM and end at 9.30 PM. The entrance fee for the early bird special till November 30 is \$13 per member, thereafter till December 7, 2019 is \$15 per member and at the gate on December 8, 2019, it is \$25 per person. Please reserve your seats by paying the entrance fee to Raj Verma at 24 Borton Ave. Voorhees, NJ 08043 (856-344-7074) or any other EC Member and enjoy the evening with your esteemed group. - Ram Arora, President

FREE NOTARY SERVICE

Contact: Ghanshyam Dave.:856-596-7531, Raman Modhera: 856-528-2863 or Dalapat Patel: 609-298-2724

ITA GENERAL BODY MEETING SUMMARY

On Saturday November 23rd at 1:30 PM in Berlin Temple the ITA held its Annual General Body Meeting (GBM) and Election. Approximately 50 individuals were consistently present and 135 individuals voted.

Pankaj Desai, ITA President & Trustee, welcomed the Membership and provided an overview of 2019. He started by discussing key accomplishments: parking lot expansion; increased attendance at events; roll-out of police security at events and Balvihar; Balvihar growth; and addition of Senior Social Group to ITA. He then went on to encourage Members to treat the monthly Satyanarayana Puja as their own and to invite friends and family. He also asked younger leaders in the community to participate in pujas. He then discussed some of the priorities for 2019: improved communication; enhancing events and greater Member involvement. He then recounted a personal story about a couple that comes from Philadelphia every few weeks to the Berlin Temple because of the way it makes them feel. He ended by reading the ITA Mission statement to remind everyone of why ITA is important.

Vidya Shukla, VP Communications & Info and Trustee, provided summary of improvements in 2019. ITA Communications were migrated to Mail Chimp email platform and ITA monthly communications were standardized. Satsang distribution and format had been simplified and costs greatly reduced. Website information was more rapidly updated.

Charu Sheth, VP Events & Trustee, provided an overview of the 2019 ITA Events. She told the group that the ITA event teams organize 40 large events per year. She reported the great success of events like Mata Ki Chowki, Maha Shivratri, Akhand Ramayan, Jamashthami, Holi, Ganesh Chaturthi, Karva Chauth, Dushshera with Ravan Dahan and great Ramayan play by kids, Diwali Annakut, Tulsi Vivah and Hindu New Year. She was happy to report that attendance and participation continued to climb. She highlighted the need for more individuals to get involved as there is still opportunity to make the events better. She hopes that more volunteers would get involved in the upcoming year.

Vinita Ganju, ITA VP Programs & Trustee, discussed Balvihar and Senior Social Group. She talked about the Senior Social Groups history, recent 5-year anniversary and their decision to come under the ITA umbrella. She then summarized major SSG activities: physician speaker series, Temple Bus tour and picnics. Switching gears, she indicated that Balvihar program was now 327 kids, 60 teachers & volunteers, 17 high school students that serve as assistant teachers. She relayed that introductory Hindi and Gita had been added to curriculum. For 2020 her key initiative is to restart the Youth Group.

Samir Patel, ITA Treasurer and Trustee, reviewed financial performance for FY June 2018 & 2019, CY 2017 & 2018 and expected FY2020. Temple's operating income was expected to decline in 2020 due to shift in timing in Balvihar fees and cash flow was expected to be negative as final parking lot payments were completed. He expected Temple to experience better operating income and cashflow in FY2021. The Portfolio net of fees had produced a 3.0% and 9.0% return in FY2018 & '19, respectively. This performance was similar to relevant benchmarks.

Samir, in his role as a member of the By-Laws Committee outlined the 2019 proposed amendments to ITA governing documents.

Rina Patel, ITA Election Committee Chair & Trustee, announced her colleagues on the 2019 Election Committee, **Chiman Antala** and **Kiran Desai** (ITA Advisory Board) and provided a short summary of the new election process. She then introduced the Trustee Candidates: **Ishwar Chauhan, Sagar Dalal, Pankaj Desai, Nehal Jhaveri, Kruti Desai Lodhavia, Mihir Parekh, Kinnari Patel** and **Samir Patel**. Each candidate discussed their backgrounds, participation and planned future contributions. Rina Patel, highlighted Ishwar Chauhan's contributions as he was unable to attend.

Vidya Shukla concluded the prepared remarks portion of the GBM and opened the floor for questions. No questions were asked so Members were asked to proceed to the social hall for coffee and tea.

General Body Trustee Elections and By-Laws & Constitution Amendment Results

I, Rina Patel, (Election Committee Chair & Trustee), Chiman Antala (Volunteer) and Kiran Desai, (Advisory Board), collectively, the Election Committee, conducted the ITA elections per guidelines outlined in the By-Laws. Election procedures were published in the Satsang Sandesh and ballots were tallied accordingly. There were 8 candidates standing for 7 available Trustee Seats. After verifying and counting the cast ballots, we, the Election Committee, certify that the following candidates received the greatest number of votes and have been elected to the 2020-2022 Trustee term:

- | | | | |
|-------------------|------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| 1) Ishwar Chauhan | 2) Sagar Dalal | 3) Pankaj Desai | 4) Kruti Desai Lodhavia |
| 5) Nehal Jhaveri | 6) Kinnari Patel | 7) Samir Patel | |

The second item that was put forth to the General Body for a vote was the proposed Amendments to the By-Laws and the Constitution. As per the ITA Constitution Article VIII, C – Ratification of Amendments to the Constitution and/or By-Laws requires two-thirds affirmative vote from Members and also requires that at least 10% of total eligible members cast a vote (quorum). 114 eligible votes were cast meeting quorum and 95% voted in favor of the Amendments. As a result, the Amendments were ratified.

The detailed Election Committee report can be found at https://www.indiatemple.org/ita_documents.php.

The Election Committee is an independent body appointed in accordance with procedures defined by ITA By-Laws and is designed to be free from the influence of general community. Given the important responsibility of its task, the Election Committee strives to discharge its responsibility in an unimpeachable manner such that members would find its actions fair and unbiased. Election Committee extends its appreciation to the BOT for selecting and entrusting EC to conduct these elections.

ITA Advisory Board Trustee Election

The Advisory Board held their Annual Meeting on Thursday October 22nd. They elected **Govind Modi** as the Advisory Board Trustee for the 2020 – 2022 term.



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25 E. Taunton, Berlin, NJ 08009

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Executive Committee

President

Pankaj Desai

1-855-my-mandir x 710
president@indiatemple.org

VP of Programs

Vinita Ganju

1-855-my-mandir x 711
vpprograms@indiatemple.org

VP of Com. & Info.

Vidya Shukla

855-my-mandir x 712
vpinfo@indiatemple.org

VP of Events

Charu Sheth

855-my-mandir x 713
vpevents@indiatemple.org

Treasurer

Samir K. Patel

855-my-mandir x 714
treasurer@indiatemple.org

Pujari Services Manager

Anoo Joshi

855-my-mandir x 715
pujaservices@indiatemple.org

Facility Manager

Vijesh Darji

855-my-mandir x 716
facility@indiatemple.org

Audit / Compliance

Bhumika Kundu

856-577-4925
audit@indiatemple.org

Temple Hours

Monday - Friday

9:00 am - 12:30 pm

4:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Saturday & Sunday

9:00 am to 9:00 pm

Aarti

12 pm & 8 pm

Times may change during
special occasions

**If back door is locked,
please try front door, ring
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3134.**

Send address changes or Membership renewals to ATTN: VP of Information at 25 E. Taunton Ave.
Berlin, NJ 08009 or email vpinfo@indiatemple.org

PUJA SERVICE & TEMPLE RENTAL FEES

Shri Shuklaji /Shri Sudhirji perform religious services on request. Please contact Anoo Joshi at
(855) MY-MANDIR Ext 715 to schedule a Puja Service or Rental of Temple facilities.

<u>Puja Services</u>	<u>MEMBER</u>		<u>NON-MEMBER</u>	
	Inside Temple	Outside* Temple	Inside Temple	Outside* Temple
Archana	\$11	n/a	\$11	n/a
Vahan Pooja	\$25	n/a	\$25	n/a
Namkaran/Annaprashan	\$51	\$101	\$100	\$151
Birthday	\$51	\$101	\$100	\$151
Shradha	\$51	\$101	\$100	\$151
Anniversary Celebration	\$101	\$151	\$151	\$200
Kesh Mundan	\$101	\$151	\$151	\$200
Satyanarayan Pooja	\$121	\$151	\$200	\$251
Engagement Ceremony	\$101	\$201	\$151	\$251
Havan/Graha Shanti	\$201	\$251	\$251	\$300
Vastu Pooja-Outside Only	n/a	\$251	n/a	\$300
Wedding per day	\$401	\$501	\$501	\$551
Upanayan/Yagnopavit	\$251	\$301	\$300	\$351
Uttarkriya Per day -Outside Only		\$151		\$200
Yagna/laghu rudrra-Outside Only		\$351		\$400
Navchandi Yagna-Outside Only		\$651		\$700
Antim Kriya		No Charge		No Charge

*\$.58/ mile charge applied when puja requires greater than 20 miles of travel.

In addition to their base salary, Pujaris receive 50% of Outside Puja Services payment as compensation.

Facility Rental Fees

	<u>Member</u>	<u>Non-Member</u>
Prayer Hall Rental	\$200	\$250
Social Hall Rental	\$300	\$350