



# 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. 47 No. 4 (855) MYMANDIR (855-696-2634) www.indiatemple.org APRIL 2020

### Religious Calendar

- 1-Apr Durga Ashtami
- 2-Apr Shri Rama Navami,  
Shri Sahajananda Jayanti
- 4-Apr Kamada Ekadashi
- 8-Apr Hanuman Jayanti
- 18-Apr Varuthani Ekadashi,  
Shri Vallabhacharya Jayanti
- 26-Apr Akha Trij / Akshya  
Tritiya / Shri Parashuram Jayanti
- 28-Apr Shri Aadya Shankracharya  
Jayanti (year 2527),  
Shri Ramanujarcharya Jayanti  
(year 1002)

### Temple Hours

Closed  
Until further notice  
Phone: (856) 768-3134

**Satyanarayan Puja**  
TBD

**Sunderkand Path**  
TBD

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

### COVID Update

The risk associated with Covid-19 / Corona virus continue to increase as the prevalence of cases grows. As a result, all Temple events and programs on or before May 6th have been cancelled. The pujaris will also not be performing any pujas at the Temple or outside of the Temple. Temple is currently closed and we will reopen the temple when circumstances improve. In the meantime we will continue to stream various events over the internet and provide access to event recordings on ITA youtube channel. These actions are being taken to protect the community. Thank you for your understanding during this uncertain time. We will continue to update the community through emails.

### 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.*

Ashok Barbaria	2-Apr	Desh Raj Goel	16-Apr
Urmila Gujrathi	2-Apr	Arpana & David Brunt	19-Apr
Kevin Gandhi	3-Apr	Shailendra Desai	19-Apr
Narendra Bhatt	3-Apr	Arny & Deepal Patel	20-Apr
Surendra Sheth	4-Apr	Nimisha & Rajen Jain	22-Apr
Savitaben Patel	6-Apr	Samir Khurana	22-Apr
Dipti & Monil Pandya	8-Apr	Yogendra B Choksi	22-Apr
Upen Shah	12-Apr	Neal Dube	23-Apr
Vaishali Patel	13-Apr	Ramchandra Rao	25-Apr
Siddhi Vasa	15-Apr	Hansa H. Kothari	28-Apr

**SUBSCRIBE TO ITA YOUTUBE CHANNEL!**

<https://www.youtube.com/user/indiatemple>

**PROGRAMS FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH, HEALTH, HAPPINESS & GOD REALIZATION**

Vishnu Sahasranamam and Lalitha Sahasranamam will be recited on 1st Friday of each month starting at 10:30 AM.  
Please recite from home to receive blessings

\*\*\*\*\*

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

\*\*\*\*\*

Bhajan Sandya by SJ Bhajan Mandali Group led by Venu Gopal Verma.

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Bhagavat Gita Study organized by Sharad Pimplaskar (856) 466-1430.

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**ITA Senior Social Group**

Contact Vinita Ganju (609) 744-8558 to learn about online activities.

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**Yoga and Pranayama Classes at Berlin Mandir**

Program currently cancelled

Contacts: Dr. Veena Gandhi (856) 816 4095 & Hina Desai (856) 435-9148

**CONDOLENCES**

Mr. Navnit Bhavsar, age 75, passed away on March 27th, 2020, in Mumbai. He is survived by his wife Saroj Bhavsar, Two daughters, Rupali (husband Samir Mehta) and Sonali (husband Neville Carvalho) and two grand children. ITA and it's board extend their sincere condolences to Bhavsar family.

**PROGRAMS FOR SENIORS BY HSC OF NJ**

The 2 HSCSJ meetings in the month of April have been cancelled due to Corona Virus (COVID 19) concerns and advisory from the Government Agencies - Virendra K. Gupta & HSC EC Team

**AARP FOUNDATION FREE TAX AIDE: CAMDEN DISTRICT SITE- CLOSED**

Filing Date Extended to July 15, 2020

**2020 I.T.A. SCHOLARSHIP**

**Purpose:** To support the I.T.A. community by giving scholarships to graduating senior students who have demonstrated **dedication and significant contribution to the I.T.A.**

**Description:** Up to two scholarships worth \$1000 each will be awarded to graduating high school seniors whose families are current members of the I.T.A. Each will be renewable for up to 3 additional years based on meeting maintenance criteria and available funding. The scholarship can be used at a 2 or 4-year accredited institution for undergraduate studies related to tuition or books only.

**Eligibility:**

- \* Applicant's family must be a current I.T.A. member
- \* Demonstration of engagement at the Temple **will be weighed heavily:** examples are participation in Balvihar -Youth Program, volunteering at the Temple, participation in ITA sponsored events such as fundraising, cultural programs and community events, etc.
- \* Applicant must be a current senior at a local high school with plans to enroll full-time in an accredited 2 or 4 year college in the United States.
- \* A completed application form

**Contact:** Amit Patel at amitmpatel@gmail.com or 301-785-1170 for details and scholarship application form.

**SENIOR APPLICATION DEADLINE:** Postmark by May 15, 2020

**RENEWAL APPLICATION DEADLINE:** Postmark by June 1, 2020

## **PRESIDENT'S NOTE**

Jai Shri Krishna!

I hope this note finds you and your loved ones well, healthy and safe. We are all currently living through a very difficult time. The impact of COVID-19 is pervasive and has significantly disrupted every aspect of our lives. During challenging times such as these, it is important for our community to pull together and find ways to support those that are most hurt by the upheaval. I encourage each of you to find ways to help someone in the community.

For its part, the ITA is striving to aid community members that need help and to find ways to continue fulfilling its role as a religious institution. We are working with community volunteers to help Seniors with errands such as grocery shopping and medicine pickup; to educate them about the virus; to deliver social and educational content over the internet; and to connect members with available government resources. If you are aware of anyone that needs help, please have them reach out to any member of the Executive Team and we will do our best to support them or connect them to helpful resources in a confidential manner.

We know the closure of the Temple and cancellation of many events has been upsetting to many members, but we felt that it was important to protect the community members and pujaris from risk of infection. In order to keep the community connected, we have also been working to deliver our events such as Mata Ki chowki, Hanuman Chalisa and Gita Parayan through a digital format over Zoom and are making recordings available over our YouTube channel ([www.youtube.com/user/indiatemple](http://www.youtube.com/user/indiatemple)). We are hoping to begin daily broadcast of live Aarti from the Temple over our YouTube channel early this month. We continue to look for additional ways to keep you connected and are open to new suggestions and ideas.

Due to the thoughtful planning and conservatism of the Founding Members and past Board of Trustees, the Temple is in a financially sound position. Regardless of how long these extraordinary circumstances last, the ITA Leadership will continue to do our best to serve the community and fulfill its mission. If you have any concerns or are interested in joining us in service, please feel to reach out to me.

Sincerely,  
Pankaj Desai, ITA President  
[psdyes1961@gmail.com](mailto:psdyes1961@gmail.com) / (609) 332-3947

## **MESSAGE TO SENIORS**

Dear Seniors Members,

We know that the COVID-19 has imposed difficult circumstances on the Seniors Citizens. We are working with many volunteers from the community to help with picking up groceries and medicine; delivering meals; social activities through our WhatsApp group, emails and Zoom social groups; COVID Education; and connecting you with governmental resources. If you need help or would like to join the Seniors program, please reach out to me via phone (609) 744-8558 or [vinudidi@gmail.com](mailto:vinudidi@gmail.com).

Sincerely,  
Vinita Ganju, VP Programs

## RAM NAVAMI

April 2nd

Although Ram Navami is on April 2nd, we will be celebrating on April 4th online via zoom. We will be doing Sunderkand Path at 11 am.

**Join us online via zoom**

नमः श्री राम

नमः श्री राम



ॐ राम रामाया नमः



ॐ राम रामाया नमः

## VALLABH JAYANTI

**18-April Varuthani Ekadashi, Shri Vallabhacharya Jayanti**

Shri Mahaprabhuji is the founder of religious sect called Pushtimarg. He was born in the year 1479 A.D. at a Champaranya village near Raipur in M. P. He is one of the foremost Indian philosophers taking the rank amongst the first class Acharyas who has expounded the school of Shuddha-advaita. Vallabhacharya heralded a new era of Bhakti-Marga, which teaches unswerving love toward God admitting everyone in the fold, irrespective of sex, cast or nationality.



Pushti Marga, the path of grace as founded by Shri Vallabhacharya is very easy to follow as a way of life by common people. Once you commit yourself to God by ritual of "Brahma-Sambanth", God takes care of you unconditionally. In Pushti Marg, Bhakti is not a means, but an end.

Shri Mahaprabhuji's son Shri Vitthalnathji also known as shri Gusaiji was the one who embellished "Seva Bhav" by offering worship to Shrinathji eight different time of the day from 'Mangla to 'Sen'. During their time, Ashta Sakha's Kirtan was devotional expression for their personal experience with the lord. When they were in the temple they witnessed the 'Lila' and sang about what they saw. The Shrimad Bhagvata is the ripened fruit of all scriptural knowledge, but the Kirtan's of the Ashta sakha are the refined essence.



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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 am - 1 pm

4 pm - 8:30 pm

**Saturday & Sunday**

9 am to 9 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.**

**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		\$11	
Vahan Pooja	\$25		\$25	
Namkaran/Annaprashan	\$51	\$101	\$101	\$151
Birthday	\$51	\$101	\$101	\$151
Shradha	\$51	\$101	\$101	\$151
Anniversary Celebration	\$101	\$151	\$151	\$201
Kesh Mundan	\$101	\$151	\$151	\$201
Satyanarayan Pooja	\$121	\$151	\$201	\$251
Engagement Ceremony	\$101	\$201	\$151	\$251
Havan/Graha Shanti	\$201	\$251	\$251	\$301
Vastu Pooja-Outside Only		\$251		\$301
Wedding per day	\$401	\$501	\$501	\$551
Upanayan/Yagnopavit	\$251	\$301	\$301	\$351
Uttarkriya Per day -Outside Only		\$151		\$201
Yagna/laghu rudra-Outside Only		\$351		\$401
Navchandi Yagna-Outside Only		\$651		\$701
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	\$201	\$251
Social Hall Rental	\$301	\$351