

Krishna Janmashtami



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- Krishna Janmashtami is a 2-day Hindu festival that celebrates the birth of Lord Krishna.
- Krishna is believed to be the eight avatar, or incarnation, of Vishnu.
- It is observed according to the Hindu calendar, on the eighth day (Ashtami) of the Krishna Paksha (dark fortnight) in Shraavana (July-August) or Badrapath (August-September) month.
- Krishna Janmashtami is also known as Krishnashtami, Gokulashtami, Ashtami Rohini, Sri Krishna Jayanti and Sree Jayanthi.
- According to panchang (Hindu calendar and almanac), this year it is 5247th birth anniversary of Lord Krishna.

- It is celebrated with most zeal in Mathura (believed to be the birth place of Lord Krishna) and Vrindavan (believed to be the place where Krishna grew up).

Significance of Janmashtami

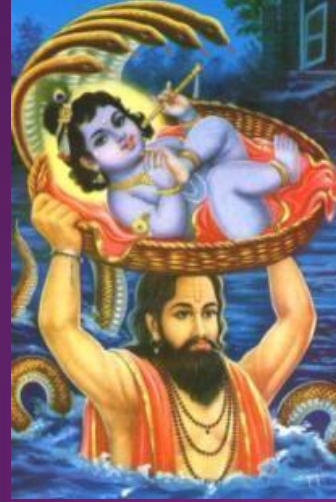
- Krishna was the eighth son of Devaki and Vasudeva.
- Devaki was the sister of Mathura's cruel king Kansa. It was predicted that her eighth son would be the cause of his death. The moment Kansa got to know about the prediction, he had imprisoned both Devaki and Vasudeva and one by one, killed all their sons until Krishna was born.
- The night Krishna was born, a divine voice instructed Vasudeva to take Krishna to Vrindavan where he would be safe. Once Vasudeva's eighth born grows up, he can come tackle the Kansa and free Mathura of its sorrows.

- Vasudeva travelled from Mathura to Vrindavan crossing Yamuna river on foot carrying Krishna on top of his head, braving the stormy night. Krishna spent his early years in Vrindavan in the care of Yashoda and Nandraja, the head of the Gopa tribe. Nandraja and his wife Yashoda had also given birth to a baby girl that night.
- So Vasudeva secretly carried baby Krishna across the Yamuna river, which was no longer in its calm state, but instead was raging as if it were the ocean.
- Just then Lord Vishnu's Shesh Naag, the giant multi-headed snake came and helped Vasudeva carry Krishna safely across the river.
- Vasudeva went to Nandraja's house and exchanged the babies. Vasudeva returned to Mathura with a baby girl and handed her over to Kansa, however, when the king attempted to kill this baby too, she transformed into Goddess Durga, warning him about the impending doom that he was fated for. Years later, Lord Krishna visited Mathura and killed Kansa, thus ending his reign of terror.

Birth Story



divine voice
instructing Vasudeva
to take Krishna to
Vrindavan



Vasudeva carrying
Krishna across river
Yamuna



Shesh Naag
helping Vasudeva
to carry Krishna
safely



Goddess Durga
warning Kansa

How is it celebrated?

- Janmashtami is celebrated across India with great fervour.
- It is an important festival, particularly in the Vishnuism/Vaishnavism (devotees of Lord Vishnu) tradition of Hinduism.
- It is celebrated with most zeal in Mathura (believed to be the birth place of Lord Krishna) and Vrindavan (believed to be the place where Krishna grew up).
- On this day, devotees of Lord Krishna fast in his honor and seek his blessings.

- It is believed that one should only have a single meal before the auspicious day.
- After the midnight on Janmashtami, devotees wash baby Krishna's idol and decorate it with new clothes and ornaments and worship by putting him in a cradle (birth of Lord Krishna).



- Pooja is done for Lord Krishna by offering lots of sweets and neivedhyams (offering to God). Butter is his favorite and hence people will offer butter, milk, curd, Aval, fruits and some more sweets on this special day.
- On the day of the festival, some devotees abstain from taking any kind of food and break their fast on the next day. Consuming grains is a strictly avoided during Janmashtami fasting. **Parana** which means breaking the fast should be done at an appropriate time. For Krishna Janmashtami fasting, Parana is done on next day after Sunrise when Ashtami Tithi and Rohini Nakshatra are over. If Ashtami Tithi and Rohini Nakshatra do not get over before Sunset then fast can be broken during the daytime when either Ashtami Tithi or Rohini Nakshatra is over. When neither Ashtami Tithi nor Rohini Nakshatra is over before Sunset or even Hindu Midnight (also known as Nishita Time) one should wait to get them over before breaking the fast. While, there are some people devotees break their fast by having some sweets and food following the puja.
- Special pujas are also organized on this day and many temples also organize recitation of Bhagavata Purana and Bhagavad Gita.

Neivedhya for Lord Krishna

Butter



Curd

Sweet Seedai



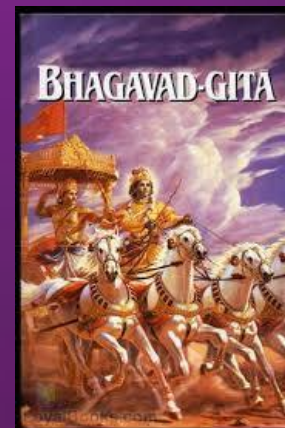
Uppu Seedai

Sweet poha



Uniappam

Gokulashtami is celebrated with great enthusiasm in South India. In Tamil Nadu, people decorate the floor with kolams (pattern drawn with rice batter). During Krishna's childhood, since he was fond of butter, he used to steal the butter from pots which will spill out in the floor. When he walks, it forms a nice foot prints. Devotees draw small footprints of baby from the entrance of house to the pooja room to welcome Lord Krishna. Bhagwadgita is also recited on this day. The offerings made to Krishna include fruits, butter and savories like uppu Seedai, Sweet Seedai, Verkadalai Urundai (peanut chikki).



In Kerala, the Ashtami - Rohini combination in the month of Chingam (August-September) as per the Malayalam calendar is considered as Sri Krishna Jayanthi. This year, it is on September 10th 2020.

For many, it is a tradition to visit the Guruvayur Temple and Bhuloka Vaikuntha located in Guruvayur town on this day.

Children parade the streets dressed up as Lord Krishna and Radha as a part of 'Shobayatra' procession.



Shobayatra

In Andhra Pradesh, people enjoy savouries such as Chakodi, Murukku and Seedai after offering them to Lord Krishna. Children are dressed up as Krishna and Radha by their parents, devotional hymns are sung in temples and prasadam is distributed after the prayers.



Chakodi

In Karnataka people perform the divine play called Rasleela, locally named as Vittal Pindi, which Krishna performed with Radha and other Gopis of Vrindavan. Huli Vesha (tiger faced) dancers perform attractive dances to add more charm to the festive celebrations. Local boys join to form a human pyramid in order to break the dahi handi (earthen pot of yogurt).



Rasleela



Huli Vesha



Dahi Handi

In Maharashtra and other places, Dahi Handi is celebrated the day after Janmashtami. People break the Dahi Handi . The term Dahi Handi literally means "earthen pot of yogurt".As Lord Krishna was fond of butter, he would seek and steal milk products such as yogurt and butter and people would hide their supplies high up out of the his reach. Krishna would try all sorts of creative ideas such as making human pyramids with his friends to break these high hanging pots.



Dahi Handi

Facts about Lord Krishna

- Why is Krishna blue in color?

Legend says that Lord Krishna had drunk poisoned milk given by a demon when he was a baby and that had caused the bluish tinge in his skin.

- Why did Krishna have a cow ?

His early life starts from the divine world of Gokula, where Lord Krishna is a cowherd boy in the agricultural community. He loves and keeps huge numbers of cows and calves.

It is believed that, the cows were also a devotee of Krishna. They also loved Krishna. They also cried when Krishna left Vrindavan. Also in Hinduism, cows are worshiped as a mother. Cow was considered sacred long before advent of Lord Krishna.

Also, Krishna created a cow called Surabhi and a calf called Manoratha from the left side of his body, and milked the cow.

- Why Krishna had a flute with him always?

Everyday Krishna would go to the garden and say to all the plants, “I love you”. The plants were very happy and responded back and said “Krishna, we love You, too”. One day Krishna rushed quickly into the garden very alarmed. He went to the bamboo plant and the bamboo plant asked, “Krishna, what’s wrong with you?” Krishna said “I have something to ask you, but it is very difficult”. The bamboo said “Tell me: if I can, I will give it to you”. So Krishna said “I need your life. I need to cut you”. The bamboo thought for a while and then said “You don’t have any other choice. You don’t have any other way?” Krishna said, “No, no other way”. And it said “OK”.

So Krishna cut the bamboo, made holes in it. Krishna made a beautiful flute out of it. And this flute was with Krishna all the time. Even the Gopis were jealous of the flute.

- Why Krishna had a peacock feather always?

When the peacocks see Lord Krishna, he reminds them of rain and thus, makes them very happy. Also, his music coupled with his dark skin helps them dance better. thus as gratitude, they offer him their feathers which he happily accepts and places in his hair.

Thank You!!
Happy Krishna
Janmashtami!!

