

## FESTIVAL INFO

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### KRISHNA JANMASHTAMI

**KRISHNA JANMASHTAMI**, ALSO KNOWN SIMPLY AS **JANMASHTAMI** OR **GOKULASHTAMI**, IS AN ANNUAL [HINDU](#) FESTIVAL THAT CELEBRATES THE BIRTH OF [KRISHNA](#), THE EIGHTH [AVATAR](#) OF [VISHNU](#).<sup>[3]</sup> IT IS OBSERVED ACCORDING TO THE [HINDU LUNISOLAR CALENDAR](#), ON THE EIGHTH DAY ([ASHTAMI](#)) OF THE [KRISHNA PAKSHA](#) (DARK FORTNIGHT) IN [SHRAAVANA](#) OR [BHADRA PAD](#) (DEPENDING ON WHETHER THE CALENDAR CHOOSES THE NEW MOON OR FULL MOON DAY AS THE LAST DAY OF THE MONTH), WHICH OVERLAPS WITH AUGUST OR SEPTEMBER OF THE [GREGORIAN CALENDAR](#).<sup>[3]</sup>

It is an important festival, particularly in

### SIGNIFICANCE

[Krishna](#) is [Devaki](#) and [Vasudeva](#) [Anakadundubhi](#)'s son and his birthday is celebrated by Hindus as Janmashtami, particularly those of the [Gaudiya Vaishnavism](#) tradition as he is considered the Supreme

the [Vaishnavism](#) tradition of Hinduism.<sup>[4]</sup> Dance-drama enactments of the life of Krishna according to the [Bhagavata Purana](#) (such as [Rasa Lila](#) or Krishna Lila), devotional singing through the midnight when Krishna was born, fasting (*upavasa*), a night vigil (*Ratri Jagaran*), and a festival (*Mahotsav*) on the following day are a part of the Janmashtami celebrations.<sup>[5]</sup> It is celebrated particularly in [Mathura](#) and [Vrindavan](#), along with major Vaishnava and non-sectarian communities found in Manipur, Assam, Bihar, West Bengal, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and all other states of India.<sup>[3][6]</sup>

Krishna Janmashtami is followed by the festival [Nandotsav](#), which celebrates the occasion when [Nanda Baba](#) distributed gifts to the community in honor of the birth.

Personality of Godhead. Janmashtami is celebrated when Krishna is believed to have been born according to Hindu tradition, which is in [Mathura](#), at midnight on the eighth day of [Bhadrapada](#) month (overlaps with August and 3 September in the Gregorian calendar).<sup>[3][8]</sup>

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Krishna is born in an area of chaos. It's a time when persecution was rampant, freedoms were denied, evil was everywhere, and when there was a threat to his life by his uncle King Kansa.<sup>[9]</sup> Immediately following the birth at [Mathura](#), his father [Vasudeva](#) [Anakadundubhi](#) takes Krishna

across the Yamuna, to foster parents in [Gokul](#), named [Nanda](#) and [Yashoda](#). This legend is celebrated on Janmashtami by people keeping fast, singing devotional songs of love for Krishna, and keeping a vigil into the night.<sup>[10]</sup> After Krishna's midnight hour birth,

statues of baby Krishna are washed and clothed, then placed in a cradle. The devotees then break their fast, by sharing food and sweets. Women draw tiny footprints outside their house doors and kitchen, walking towards their house, a symbolism

for Krishna's journey into their homes