



## Jhulanotsava - The festival of swinging in full swing in Vrindavan

Jhulanotsava, the festival of swinging, is being celebrated with fervor and gaiety across Vraja and Vrindavan. The deities of the various temples are seated on a swing and gently swung by the temple priests. The deities are giving darshan to their devotees from the majestic swings made of Gold, silver and wood. Even in the small households of Vrindavan the brajwasis and the devotees are celebrating the swing festival by getting their deities of Gopal ji and Radha Krishna seated on the 'swing' decorated in the alters. The deities are offered the sweet delicacies of Ghevar, feni, gujias, balooshahis etc.

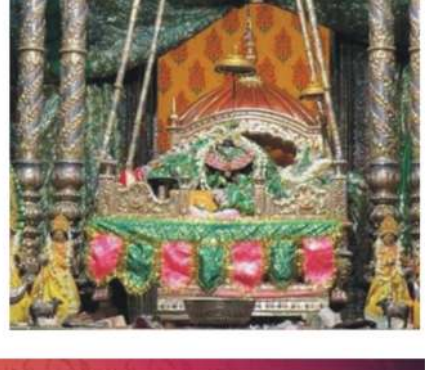
The festival began with the Hariyali Teej, third day of the bright half of the month of Shravan, and will last till the full moon of Shravan, Raksha Bandhan. When most of the temples began celebrating the swing festival by placing the deities on the swings, some temples are yet to celebrate the festival. They will begin the Jhulanotsava from Ekadashi.

The 'hindola' made of gold in the Banke Bihari Temple was the major attraction on the first day as the devotees from the surrounding districts and the nearby towns thronged in the temple to have a glance of the majestic 'hindola'.

The temples of Shri Radha Raman, Radha Ballabh, Radha Shyam Sundar,

The temples of Shri Radha Raman, Radha Ballabh, Radha Shyam Sundar, Radha Damodar, Radha Gokulananda, Radha Govinda, Radha Gopinath, Radha Madan Mohan are also drawing the crowd of devotees. Samaj Gayan and Kirtan is being organized according to the rainy season mood of Shravan.

For the festival of swinging, special verses are rendered in the temples, as the deities are seated on a swing and gently swung by the temple priests. The ras lila enacts the event of the Jhulan lila or play of swinging, that depicts the Divine Couple, swinging in the grove – a drama full of sweet emotions and loving sentiments. Various Raas Lila troupes are performing the dance drama to represent all of the Lord's activities or pastimes in different places of Vrindavan.



### Raksha Bandhan Mahurats



Raksha Bandhan is celebrated in the Shravana month on a full moon day or Purnima day.

The best time to tie Rakhi on Raksha Bandhan is during 'Aparahna' which is late afternoon. If Aparahna time is not available then Pradosh time is also suitable to perform rituals related to Raksha Bandhan.

Raksha Bandhan rituals should not be done during Bhadra. Bhadra is a time which should be avoided for all auspicious work.

Auspicious timings to tie Rakhi:

Raksha Bandhan Muhurat  
Aparahna Time:  
1:50 pm to 4:10 pm  
Pradosh Time:  
6:42 pm to 8:58 pm

### Owner speak:

Mr. Kamal Gupta  
Restaurant Owner  
Ram Babu Parathe Wala  
Agra

"I have worked in Agra for a very long time. For me, owning an apartment in Krishna bhumi is nothing less than a blessing from Lord Krishna".



## More than ten million footfall in Govardhan during Guru Purnima

The Mathura District administration noted that the Guru Purnima festival ended peacefully. The District Magistrate of Mathura Shri Rajesh Kumar and his team of officials handled this mega event very well so that it passed off without any untoward incident. The District Magistrate had personally overseen the mela arrangements by riding on the bike with SP city Shri Shailesh Pandey.

Although the official figures quoted 80 lac people performed the parikrama on this occasion, but the footfall was more than a crore, claimed the residents of Govardhan. This was the highest ever turnout of devotees in the history of Govardhan during a day. The footfall was much more than it was predicted.

Mooriya Puno, or the Guru Purnima, is the biggest festival of Govardhan and also a popular festival of Vrindavan as most of the Spiritual masters of Vraja reside either of these two places, while Govardhan has an added attraction of the Giriraj Parikrama. Even after it was difficult to move in the big crowd there was no sign of anxiety on the faces of the pilgrims who inched their way

to complete the 21 kilometers long parikrama of the holy hill, by shouting Giriraj Baba ki Jai.

The festival commemorates with Guru Purnima, which also marked as the disappearance day of Shri Sanatan Goswami. The term Muriya refers to the shaving of heads that the vaishnavas performed in mourning of Sanatan Goswami's disappearance. Since Sanatan Goswami is often credited with the restarting of circumambulating Giriraj, this has become the principal way of commemorating him. The pilgrims performed their ritual by visiting the famous temples of Govardhan, including Mukharvind and Danghati, bathing in the Manasi Ganga and other ghats.

The primary attraction of the mela was the procession in honor of Sanatan Goswami that began from the Radha Shyam Sundar Mandir at Chakleshwar.

In Vrindavan, special puja was performed at the Sanatan Goswami Samadhi near Madan Mohan temple. Suchak Kirtan glorifying Sanatan Goswami was being

performed by the babajis from Radha Kund. A feast was also organized after the Kirtan. The devotees from all around the town particularly from the Gaudiya Sampradaya visited the shrine to pay respect to the Great Acharya.

The disciples from all over the country visited the ashrams of their spiritual masters to pay respect on the auspicious occasion of Guru Purnima. The devotees thronged in various ashrams and maths to worship their gurus. They brought garlands, fruits and sweets to offer to their gurus. They visited the Banke Bihari Temple and other temples after worshipping their gurus.



### CLICK OF THE MONTH



Devotees indulged in Bhajan and Kirtan thronging the streets of Mathura and Vrindavan in a record number on the auspicious occasion of Guru Purnima in Govardhan.



## The importance of Janmashtami

Krishna Janmashtami, Krishna Ashtami or Gokulashtami is a popular festival of India and celebrated among Hindus with great zeal. This is the day when Krishna is supposed to have been born. People wait for the Janmashtami festival every year to celebrate it in a grand manner.

The festival of Janmashtami which is also known as Krishnashtmi is a symbol of absolute faith of people in Lord Krishna. The enthusiasm of people can be witnessed in all parts of the country and the zeal with which Janmashtami is celebrated is unmatched. Two more popular names of Janmashtami are Sri Jayanthi and Gokulashtmi

Janmashtami has an interesting story behind its origin and celebration. There was a king of Mathura named Kansa who was a wicked king. He was also known to be as the uncle of Sri Krishna. He had a sister Devaki whose husband was Vasudeva. There was a prediction that Sri Krishna will be born to Devaki and he would kill Kansa, the wicked king. Kansa, found this, got enraged and killed all the male children of Devaki. Then he got Devaki and Vasudeva imprisoned. But the way this prediction was made, there will be the eighth avatar of Lord Vishnu who would kill Kansa. So, being an eighth avatar of Lord Vishnu, he was born in the middle of the night.

After this, Vasudeva came out of the jail after finding all the guards in the hypnotic sleep. He, with the help of Sheshnag, who saved the child from torrential rains managed to save this child from the clutches of the king Kansa. Yashoda, a lady who was living across the river Yamuna, also gave birth to a female child.

placed Sri Krishna there and brought with him the female child. In the meantime, Kansa reached there and wanted to get rid of the child. As he was about to kill the child, the child disappeared into the air by uttering the prediction that the person he wanted to kill was already born. Finally, Sri Krishna kills the wicked king, Kansa.

Janamashtami has a significance of its own. Lord Vishnu in the Bhagvad Gita says that "whenever there will be any dominance of evil in the society and the decline of the religion, I will reincarnate in this world to kill and remove the evil and also to protect the good". The main significance of this festival lies in encouraging the goodwill and discouraging the bad will. Janamashtami is also celebrated for togetherness. This holy festival brings people together symbolising faith and unity.

Janamashtami is the day, when prayers and bhajans are sung and holy mantras chanted. Temples and homes are decorated to celebrate this occasion and people offer prayers to Sri Krishna. Sweets are prepared and distributed among all. Plays are organized in the streets or parks and small children dress like that of Sri Krishna.



## Dhaniya ki Panjiri

Dhaniya Panjiri Prasad is eaten when one is on fast and is allowed to eat fruits. Normally, Panjiri is made from wheat flour so it is not taken as prasad but Panjiri is the first thing people eat to break fasts. Dhania Panjiri is specially eaten on Janmashtami to break one's fast but you can also make and eat Panjiri whenever you feel like, it is very tasty and nutritious.



**Ingredients for Dhania Panjiri Prasad**  
Coriander(dhaniya) powder - 100 gms  
Desi Ghee - 3 tbsps  
Makhana(fox nut) - 1/2 cup  
Sugar(powdered)/Bhura - 1/2 cup  
Ripe Coconut - 1/2 cup(grated)  
Cashew nut, almonds - 10 to 10  
Chironji(charoli) - 1 tsp

To make Dhania Panjiri Prasad put 1 tbsps Ghee in a frying pan(kadhai), put finely chopped coriander and fry till a nice aroma is emitted. Some people put whole coriander, fry it then grind it but I find frying powdered coriander to make Panjiri easier and better. Cut Makhana into 4 halves, put the remaining Ghee then fry the pieces in it and take out. Crush Makhana with a rolling pin or something heavy. Chop cashew nuts and almonds into small pieces.

Mix fried coriander powder, coarse Makhana, grated coconut, Bhura and dry fruits together to make Panjiri.

Dhaniya Panjiri is ready. Offer this Dhaniya Panjiri to Lord Krishna, his devotees and eat yourself as well.

## From the Bhagwad Gita

देवान्भावयतानेन ते देवा भावयन्तु वः।  
परस्परं भावयन्तुः श्रेयः परमवाप्स्यथ॥११॥

"Foster the gods with yajna or sacrifice, and let Gods foster you!  
By fostering one another, you will get the highest good and welfare."

Bhagavadgītā (Bhagavad Gita): Chapter III (Karmayoga) Stanza 11



## Watch out!

- 28th August : Onam
- 29th August : Raksha Bandhan
- 5th September : Janmashtami
- 13th September : Surya Graham
- 17th September : Ganesh Chaturthi
- 21st September : Radha Ashtami



## Green Court orders to identification of the landfill site of Vrindavan

The Green Court has once again pulled up the authorities for not filing any reply in the Public Interest Litigation filed by the Mahumangal Shukla, to secure the landfill site of Vrindavan and irregularities in the Municipal Solid Waste Management of the town. The court cited the example of the Gurudwaras, where the cleanliness is perfectly maintained. It wondered why it can't be maintained in the town which is full of temples.

The National Green Tribunal on Wednesday asked the Vrindavan Municipality and other concerned authorities of the district to identify a landfill site within one month time before the next hearing on 25th August. When the lawyers for the respondents requested for more time to file the reply, the court said that it didn't find any justification to give more time.

However, the court granted two weeks time to file the reply and directed authorities to identify a fully prepared land for garbage dumping in accordance of the Municipal Solid Waste (Management and Handling) rule 2000.

The court has also said that in case the new landfill site is not identified, the Executive Officer of the Vrindavan Municipality and the Sub Divisional Magistrate will have to appear in the court in person.

It should be noted that the Green court has restrained the garbage burning in the open and dumping of the debris and garbage on the Yamuna Flood Plain in an interim order

Shri Madhumangal Shukla is the petitioner in this case who is representing the Braj Vrindavan Heritage Alliance in the court, which vehemently opposed the transfer of the land of the landfill site to the Mandi Samiti for developing the whole sale market.

Madhumangal Shukla, the petitioner was madhumangal Shukla's order and he hoped that the court will put an injunction in the land which was transferred to develop as the whole sale market. Shri Shukla said that there was no other government land available in Vrindavan Municipal Area which could be used as the landfill site. He also said that he would pray to the court to direct the authorities to get the Yamuna Flood Plain in Vrindavan cleared from the garbage and debris. Shri Shukla met the Divisional Commissioner Shri Pradeep Bhatnagar a day earlier of the court order and expressed his concern on the various issues which are affecting the ethos of Vraja – Vrindavan, including the waste management of the temple town of Vrindavan.



## In the News



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