

# SREE KRISHNA JAYANTHI



TIME

**DATES**

August- September

**FREQUENCY**

Annual

**DURATION**

1 Day



## ABOUT THE FESTIVAL

(Legend/History/Myth)

Sree Krishna Jayanti or Janmashtami is a colourful Hindu festival that celebrates the birth of Krishna, the eighth incarnation of Lord Vishnu. It falls on the day of *Ashtami Rohini* asterism. Krishna is said to have belonged to the Vrishni clan of Yadavas from Mathura. Hindu scriptures and astrological calculations point to Krishna's birth in 3228 BCE. He was born as the eighth son of Devaki and Vasudeva under extraordinary circumstances. Immediately after his birth, Krishna was handed over to Nanda and Yashoda and grew up in disguise as their son. This was to save Krishna from Kansa, the cruel king of Mathura who was later slayed by Krishna himself. Krishna was known to possess divine powers even as a child and his birth is considered symbolic of the divine presence to free earth from all kinds of evil and its sources.







## EVENTS/PROGRAMS

Processions

*Uriyadi*

*Bhagavat Gita* Recitals

## DESCRIPTION (*How festival is celebrated*)

Hindus celebrate Janmashtami by fasting, worshipping Krishna and staying up until midnight, the time when Krishna is believed to have been born. Images of Krishna's infancy are placed in swings and cradles in temples and homes. At midnight, devotees gather for devotional songs and dance. Some temples also conduct readings of the Hindu religious scripture *Bhagavad Gita*. Thousands of children participate in colourful processions, organized in different parts of the state. Children dress up as Lord Krishna and *Gopikas*, in glittering robes and ornate headgear depicting various stages of his life. The procession is marked by traditional percussion music and dance. Decorative floats showing stages of Lord Krishna's life offer a brilliant visual treat. *Uriyadi* (breaking of a pot expertly hung at a height and traditionally filled with a mixture of milk, dry fruits and clarified butter) is a unique event performed by boys representing one of the games identified with Krishna. The pot is broken by forming a human pyramid and calls for high enthusiasm and cheer from spectators.

