



SREEKRISHNA JAYANTHI

KUNNATHURMEDU SREEKRISHNA TEMPLE



LOCATION

Panchayath/
Municipality/
Corporation

Palakkad

District

Palakkad



ACCESSIBILITY

Nearest Town/
Landmark/ Junction

Indira Gandhi Municipal Stadium- 400 m

Nearest Bus station

Kalmandapam bus stop – 1.2 km

Nearest Railway
station

Palakkad railway station – 2km

Nearest Airport

Coimbatore International Airport –60 Km



CONTACT

Balamurali trust,
Sree Krishna Temple Rd
Kunathurmedu
Palakkad
Kerala -678013

Contact : 0491 3204883
Mobile : 094473 54247
Email : balamuralitrust@gmail.com
Website : www.balamuralitrust.com



TIME

DATES

August

FREQUENCY

Annual

DURATION

10 days

ABOUT THE FESTIVAL (Legend/History/Myth)

Sri Krishna Jayanti marks the celebration of the birth of Bhagavan Sri Krishna. Lord Sri Krishna was born on the 'Rohini' nakshatram (star) on Ashtami day. The festival Sri Krishna Jayanti is also known as Gokulashtami and Janmashtam. The actual day of celebration can be on two different days as the star 'Rohini' and Ashtami may not be on the same day. This occurs between August and September on the Christian calendar. According to mythology, Krishna was the eighth child of Princess Devaki and her husband Vasudeva who belonged to the Yadava clan of Mathura. Devaki's brother Kansa, who was the king of Mathura at that time, killed all children that were given birth by Devaki in order to prevent him from a prediction that said that Kansa would be killed by Devaki's eighth son. When Krishna was born, Vasudeva took baby Krishna to his friend's house in Gokul, a district in Mathura. Thereafter, Krishna was brought up by Nanda and his wife Yashoda at Gokul.

According to traditional sources, the Janmashtami is observed on the day when the *Ashtami Tithi* occurs at midnight. If the *Ashtami Tithi* and the *Rohini nakshatra* occur on the same day, then the observance is considered to be doubly sacred; otherwise the observance is held on the day on which the *Ashtami* prevails at midnight. The *vrata* mainly consists of fasting, spending the whole night in the worship of Krishna, reciting hymns of praise and Krishna's pastimes, reciting prayers from the Bhagavata, offering *arghya* to Krishna, and the *parana* or the ceremonial breaking of the fast. The next day is celebrated as Krishna Jayanti.



RELEVANCE-
(Local / National /
International)

National



**NO. OF PEOPLE
PARTICIPATED**

Approximately 5000

EVENTS/PROGRAMS

Ganapathy homam
Bhagavatha Sapthaha
Prabhashanam
Annadanam
Elephant procession
Parayeduppu
Iratta thayambaka
Sheeveli
Aanayoottu
Pandimelam

DESCRIPTION (How festival is celebrated)

The festival is celebration starts with *Ganapathy homam* in order to please lord Ganesha or Vigneswara to ward off all the obstacles. Seven days of *Bhagavatha Sapthaha Prabhashanam* is observed in the temple premises where different stories relating to Lord Krishna from *Bhagwad Geetha* is narrated. Lot of people gather together for reciting the stories narrated by an elder member. *Geetha Govindam* and other such devotional songs are sung in praise of Krishna.

The offerings made to Krishna include fruits, betel and butter. Savories believed to be Krishna's favorites are prepared with great care. The festival is celebrated in the evening as Krishna was born at midnight. Most people observe a strict fast on this day and eat only after the midnight *puja*. They also dress the youngest of male child in their family like Krishna and perform *oonjal*, or swing, which is rocked gently and *prasadam* offered to the devotees is served first to these children.

Other events included are *maha annadanam* or feast to the devotees. Elephant procession, *Parayeduppu*, *Thayambaka*, *Sheeveli*, *Aanayoottu* or feeding the elephants, *Pandimelam* and various cultural programs including classical dance performances, music, drama, etc form a part of Sreekrishna Jayanthi festival.

