

Cultural Calendar

30th August 2021 – 16th September 2021

30th August – Krishna Janmashtami (Hindu):



Krishna Janmashtami is an annual Hindu festival that celebrates the birth of Krishna, the eighth avatar of Vishnu.

It is an important festival, particularly in the Vaishnavism tradition of Hinduism. Dance-drama enactments of the life of Krishna, devotional singing through midnight when Krishna was born, fasting, a night vigil, and a festival on the following day are a part of the Janmashtami celebrations.

6th – 8th September – Rosh Hashanah (Judaism):



Rosh Hashanah, literally meaning "head [of] the year", is the Jewish New Year. The biblical name for this holiday is Yom Teruah, literally "day of shouting or blasting", and is also more commonly known in English as the Feast of Trumpets.

It is a two-day celebration that marks the beginning of the civil year, according to the teachings of Judaism, and is the traditional anniversary of the creation of Adam and Eve, the first man and woman according to the Hebrew Bible, and the inauguration of humanity's role in God's world.

Rosh Hashanah customs include sounding the shofar (a cleaned-out ram's horn), as prescribed in the Torah, following the prescription of the Hebrew Bible to "raise a noise" on Yom Teruah. Its rabbinical customs include attending synagogue services and reciting special liturgy about teshuva, as well as enjoying festive meals. Eating symbolic foods is now a tradition, such as apples dipped in honey, hoping to evoke a sweet new year.

9th September – Fast of Gedaliah (Judaism):



The Fast of Gedaliah is a minor Jewish fast day from dawn until dusk to lament the assassination of Gedaliah, the righteous governor of Judah. His death ended Jewish autonomy following the destruction of the First Temple.

10th September – Ganesh Chaturthi (Hindu):



Ganesh Chaturthi is a Hindu festival celebrating the arrival of Ganesh to earth from Kailash Parvat with his mother Goddess Parvati/Gauri. The festival is marked with the installation of Ganesh clay idols on elaborate pandals (temporary stages).

Observations include chanting of Vedic hymns and Hindu texts such as, prayers and vrata (fasting). Offerings and prasāda from the daily prayers, that are distributed from the pandal to the community, include sweets such as modaka as it is believed to be a favourite of Lord Ganesh.

14th September – Holy Cross Day (Christian):



In the Christian liturgical calendar, there are several different Feasts of the Cross, all of which commemorate the cross used in the crucifixion of Jesus. Unlike Good Friday, which is dedicated to the passion of Christ and the crucifixion, these feast days celebrate the cross itself, as the sign of salvation.

In Roman Catholicism, Eastern Orthodoxy, and Anglicanism the most common day of commemoration is 14th September.

In English, the feast is called The Exaltation of the Holy Cross in the official translation of the Roman Missal, while the 1973 translation called it The Triumph of the Cross. In some parts of the Anglican Communion the feast is called Holy Cross Day, a name also used by Lutherans. The celebration is also sometimes called Holy Rood Day.

16th September – Yom Kippur (Judaism):



Yom Kippur, also known as the Day of Atonement, is the holiest day of the year in Judaism.

Yom Kippur concludes the “10 days of repentance” that begin with Rosh Hashana (detailed above).

Its central themes are atonement and repentance. Jews traditionally observe this holy day with a day-long fast and intensive prayer, often spending most of the day in synagogue services. Among Orthodox Jews the wearing of leather shoes and anointing oneself with oil are forbidden.