

Gamha Purnima



On Sravana Purnima Tithi i.e. the full moon day of Sravana (July-August) otherwise known as the Jhulana Purnima or Gamha Purnima, the birthday of Lord Balabhadra is celebrated in the Temple. Lord Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra and Devi Subhadra wear Rahurekha (a gold ornament for the forehead and face of the three deities) on Bhadrava Krushna Panchami i.e. the fifth day of the dark fortnight of Bhadraba (August-September) Janmastami / Krushna Janma and Lila: The birthday of Lord Krishna is celebrated on Bhadraba Krushna Astami Tithi i.e. the eighth day of dark fortnight of Bhadraba (August-September). On the next day i.e. Navami Tithi, Nandotsav is observed. From next day i.e. Dashami Tithi onwards certain nitis (rituals) relating to Krushna Lila like Banabhoji, Kolibika, Bakasura and Arghasura Badha, Kaliyadalana, Dhenukamana and Pralambasura Badha are celebrated for some days. On Bhadrava Krushna Trayodasi i.e. the 13th day of this dark fortnight, Jagannath Mahaprabhu and Lord Balabhadra dress like Lord Srikrushna and Lord Balarama or Balabhadra. Raksha Bandhan, (the bond of protection) or Rakhi is a Hindu festival primarily observed in India, Mauritius and Nepal, which celebrates the relationship between brothers (shaurya), cousins and sisters (shreya). It is also called Rakhi Purnima in most of India. It is also celebrated in some parts of Pakistan. The festival is observed by Hindus, and some Sikhs.

Observance

The festival is marked by the tying of a rakhi, or holy thread, which comes in many colors and designs, by the sister on the wrist of her brother. The brother in return offers a gift to his sister and vows to look after her as she presents sweets to him. The brother usually presents his sister with an envelope filled with money, though other presents such as saris and clothing can be given. The brother and sister traditionally feed one another sweets. These sweets include anything from Jalebi, Kaju Katli, and Burfi. Since Indian kinship practices give cousins a status similar to siblings, girls and women often tie the rakhi to their male cousins as well (referred to as "cousin-brothers" in regional parlance) in several communities. Unrelated boys and men who are considered to be brothers (munh-bola bhai or adopted brothers) can be tied rakhis, provided they commit to a lifelong obligation to provide protection to the woman or girl.