

Hanumaan Jayanti Utsav

Significance:

Hanuman Janam-Utsav is a Hindu religious festival that celebrates the birth of Lord Sri Hanuman, who is immensely venerated throughout India and Nepal. This festival is celebrated on different days in different parts of India. In most states of India, the festival is observed either in the month of Chaitra (usually on the day of *Chaitra Pournima*) or in the month of Vaishakha, while in a few states like Kerala and Tamil Nadu, it is celebrated in the Hindu month of Dhanu (called *Margazhi* in Tamil).

On this auspicious day, devotees of Lord Hanuman celebrate him and seek his protection and blessings. They flock to temples to worship him and present religious offerings. In return, The devotees receive prasada by the temple priests in the form of sweets, flowers, coconuts, tilak, sacred ash (vibhootee) and ganga jal (holy water). People also celebrate him on this day by reciting various devotional hymns and prayers like the Hanuman Chalisa and reading holy scriptures like the Ramayan and Mahabharat.

Hanuman Janam-Utsav is an important festival of the Hindus. Lord Hanuman is an ardent devotee of Lord Sri Ram and is widely known for his unflinching devotion to Sri Rama. Hanuman is the symbol of strength and energy. He is said to be able to assume any form at will, wield the gada (including many celestial weapons), move mountains, dart through the air, seize the clouds and equally rival Garuda in swiftness of flight.

Lord Hanuman is worshipped as a deity with the ability to attain victory against evil and provide protection.

Birth:

Lord Hanuman was born on the Anjaneri mountain. His mother Anjana was an apsara who was born on earth due to a curse. She was redeemed from this curse on giving birth to a son. The Valmiki Ramayana states that his father Kesari was the son of Brihaspati, he was the King of a place named Sumeru. Anjana performed intense prayers lasting 12 long years to Shiva to get a child. Pleased with their devotion, Shiva granted them the son they sought.^[4] Hanuman, in another interpretation, is the incarnation or reflection of Shiva himself.

Hanuman is often called the son of the deity Vayu (Wind God); several different traditions account for the Vayu's role in Hanuman's birth. One story mentioned in Eknath's *Bhavartha Ramayana* (16th century CE) states that when Anjana was worshipping Shiva, the King Dasharatha of Ayodhya was also performing the ritual of Putrakam yagna in order to have children. As a result, he received some sacred pudding (payasam) to be shared by his three wives, leading to the births of Ram, Lakshmana, Bharata, and Shatrughn. By divine ordinance, a kite snatched a fragment of that pudding and dropped it while flying over the

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forest where Anjana was engaged in worship. Vayu, the Hindu deity of the wind, delivered the falling pudding to the outstretched hands of Anjana, who consumed it. Hanuman was born to her as a result. Another tradition says that Anjana and her husband Kesari prayed Shiva for a child. By Shiva's direction, Vayu transferred his male energy to Anjana's womb. Accordingly, Hanuman is identified as the son of the Vayu

Another story of Hanuman's origins is derived from the Vishnu Puran and Naradeya Puran. Narad, infatuated with a princess, went to his lord Vishnu, to make him look like Vishnu, so that the princess would garland him at swayamvar (husband-choosing ceremony). He asked for *hari mukh* (Hari is another name of Vishnu, and *mukh* means face). Vishnu instead bestowed him with the face of a vanar. Unaware of this, Narad went to the princess, who burst into laughter at the sight of his ape-like face before all the king's court. Narad, unable to bear the humiliation, cursed Vishnu, that Vishnu would one day be dependent upon a vanar. Vishnu replied that what he had done was for Narad's own good, as he would have undermined his own powers if he were to enter matrimony. Vishnu also noted that *Hari* has the dual Sanskrit meaning of *vanar*. Upon hearing this, Narad repented for cursing Vishnu. But Vishnu told him not to repent as the curse would act as a boon, for it would lead to the birth of Hanuman, an avatar of Shiva, without whose help Rama (Vishnu's avatar) could not kill Ravana.

Worship

Devotees visit temples and apply *tilak* of *sindoor* to their foreheads from Hanuman's idol. As per legend, When Lord Hanuman found Sri Sita applying *sindhūr* to her forehead, He questioned her, and she replied that doing so would ensure a long life for her husband, Lord Sri Rama. Lord Hanuman then proceeded to smear his entire body with *sindhūr*, thus ensuring Lord Sri Ram's immortality.

In Tamil Nadu and Kerala, Hanuman Jayanthi is celebrated on the New Moon day in Margazhi (Dhanu) month. Famous Hanuman temples in these states like Nanganallur, Namakkal, Suchindram, Thrikkavayoor and Alathiyoor celebrate this day with pomp and valour.

In Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, Hanuman Jayanthi is celebrated by Diksha of 41 days beginning on Chaitra Purnima and concluding it on the tenth day during Krishna Paksha in the month of Vaishaka .

In Maharashtra, Hanuman Jayanti is celebrated on the full moon day (*pūrṇima*) of the Hindu lunar month of Chaitra. A special feature of Hanuman Jayanti is that according to some religious almanacs (*panchāngs*) the birthday of Hanuman falls on the fourteenth day (*chaturdashi*) in the dark fortnight of the month of Ashvin while according to others it falls on the full moon day in the bright fortnight of Chaitra. On this day in a Hanuman temple, spiritual

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discourses begin at dawn since Lord Hanuman was born at sunrise. During the time frame of birth, the spiritual discourses are halted and the offering of food (Prasad) is distributed to everyone.

Spiritual discourses are organised in most of the Hindu temples on this day. Lord Hanuman is considered as the most powerful being in all the loka's (realms).

HANUMAN

Hanuman (/ˈhʌnʊˌmɑːn/; IAST: *Hanumān*, Sanskrit: हनुमान्) is an ardent devotee of Lord Ram and one of the central characters in the various versions of the epic *Ramayana* found in the Indian subcontinent and Southeast Asia. As one of the Chiranjivi, he is also mentioned in several other texts, such as the *Mahabharat* the various Purans and some Jain, Buddhist, and Sikh texts. Several later texts also present him as an incarnation of Shiva. Hanuman is the son of Anjana and Kesari and is also son of the wind-god Vayu, who according to several stories, played a role in his birth.

His theological origins in Hinduism are unclear. Alternate theories include him having ancient roots, being a non-Aryan deity who was Sanskritized by the Vedic Aryans, or that he is a fusion deity who emerged in literary works from folk Yaksha protector deities and theological symbolism.

While Hanuman is one of the central characters in the ancient Hindu epic *Ramayana*, the evidence of devotional worship to him is missing in the texts and archeological sites of ancient and most of the medieval period. According to Philip Lutgendorf, an American Indologist known for his studies on Hanuman, the theological significance and devotional dedication to Hanuman emerged about 1,000 years after the composition of the *Ramayana*, in the 2nd millennium CE, after the arrival of Islamic rule in the Indian subcontinent. Bhakti movement saints such as Samarth Ramdas expressed Hanuman as a symbol of nationalism and resistance to persecution. In the modern era, his iconography and temples have been increasingly common. He is viewed as the ideal combination of "strength, heroic initiative and assertive excellence" and "loving, emotional devotion to his personal god Rama", as Shakti and Bhakti. In later literature, he has been the patron god of martial arts such as wrestling, acrobatics, as well as meditation and diligent scholarship. He symbolizes the human excellences of inner self-control, faith and service to a cause, hidden behind the first impressions of a being who looks like a monkey.

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Besides being a popular deity in Hinduism, Hanuman is also found in Jainism and Buddhism. He is also a legendary character in legends and arts found outside the Indian subcontinent such as in Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia, Malaysia and Indonesia. Outside India, Hanuman shares many characteristics with the Hindu versions in India but differs in others. He is heroic, brave and steadfastly chaste, much like in the Sanskrit tradition, but not celibate. He marries and has children in other cultures, as is the case in a few regional versions in India. Hanuman is stated by scholars to be the inspiration for the allegory-filled adventures of a monkey hero in the *Xiyouji* (Journey to the West) – the great Chinese poetic novel influenced by the Buddhist Xuanzang to India.



travels of
monk
(602–664 CE)