



## Navratri Dusherra

Navaratri is divided into sets of three days to adore different aspects of the supreme goddess. On the first three days, the Mother is invoked as powerful force called Durga in order to destroy all our impurities, vices and defects. The next three days, the Mother is adored as a giver of spiritual wealth, Lakshmi, who is considered to have the power of bestowing on her devotees the inexhaustible wealth. The final set of three days is spent in worshipping the mother as the goddess of wisdom, Saraswati. In order have all-round success in life, we need the blessings of all three aspects of the divine mother; hence, the worship for nine nights.

The highlights of the festival are the extremely colorful dances of Garbha and Dandiya-Rasa where men and women of all sects perform.

The festival comes to an end on the tenth day of Vjay Dashmi or Dussehra. Dussehra is regarded one of the most significant and important Hindu festivals, celebrated across the nation with much fervor and gaiety. The festival marks the victory of Lord Ram over demon king Ravana, which means the victory of good over evil, light over darkness.



## Badi Teej - Nikita Zamwar

Teej honors Goddess Parvati – symbol of utter devotion and love. Hence Teej is also called Teej Mata Festival. Both married and unmarried Hindu women observe fast to seek blissful married life and happiness for their husband. The strict fast is then broken when the wife sees the moon and then eats sattu.

Teej festivities and its celebrations are dedicated to Goddess Parvati this is why it's purely a festival of womenfolk. It was on this day that the divine couple Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati reunited with each other after hundreds of years.

Teej also celebrates the advent of monsoon season. Taking full advantage of the beautiful climate at this time women enjoy themselves by swinging, singing and dancing in rain.



## Rakhee

Rakhi is a festival dedicated to all the brothers and sisters In India, symbolizing the love and emotional bond shared by them. Hindu community celebrates this special day like a festival and calls it 'Rakhi' or 'Raksha-Bandhan'. The literal meaning of 'Raksha-Bandhan' is 'the bond of protection'.



## Ganesh Chaturthi

Vinayaka Chaturthi, or Ganesh Chaturthi, is celebrated as the birthday of Lord Ganesha, the God of wisdom, prosperity and auspiciousness in Hinduism. Lord Ganesha is today worshipped around the world and the elephant-faced Hindu god is one of the most popular deities in Hindu religion. The 10-day Ganesh Chaturthi ends with the immersion (Visarjan) of the idol on Ananta Chaturdasi day.

Ganesh Chaturthi is observed on the fourth day after Amavasi (no moon) in the month of Bhadrapada (August - September) as per traditional Hindu calendar. Hindu homes observe Ganesh Chaturthi festival for one or three or ten days.



## Krishna Janmastami

Krishna Janmashtami is one of the most popular festivals in Hindu Religion. This day Hindus celebrate the birthday of Lord Krishna, an avatar of Lord Vishnu. This festival is observed on the eighth day, Ashtami tithi, of the dark half or Krishna Paksha of the month of Shravan in the Hindu calendar as it is believed that Krishna was born on Wednesday, the eighth day of second fortnight in the month of Shravana in Mathura around 3228 BC in Dwapur Yug. The main objective of Lord Krishna's birth was to re-establish righteousness and to restore peace on Mother Earth from the demons.

Plays depicting the various events in the life of Lord Krishna are also part of the festival. The worship concludes with Aarti at midnight and the ritual of the murti of the Lord is rocked in a beautifully decorated cradle.

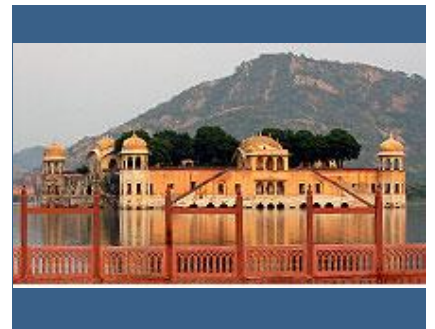
### Upcoming events

- \* *Sept 19 – Navratri begins*
- \* *Sept 25 – Durga Puja begins*
- \* *Sept 27 – Navratri ends*
- \* *Sept 28 – Dusherra/Vijaya Dashami*
- \* *Oct 2 – Gandhi Jayanti*
- \* *Oct 8 – Karwa Chauth*
- \* *Oct 15 – Dhan Teras*
- \* *Oct 17 - Diwali*

### Quote of the month:

*“Celebrate the happiness that friends are always giving, make every day a holiday and celebrate just living!”*

- Amanda Bradley



## CONTRIBUTE YOUR ARTICLES

*We request our MMNA community to contribute news and other articles to the newsletter. We especially encourage youngsters to contribute jokes and short stories.*

### E-Mail:

[mmna@mmna.org](mailto:mmna@mmna.org)

### Web Site:

[www.mmna.org](http://www.mmna.org)

## MMNA Announces a Mid-term Convention

MMNA NEC is pleased to announce a mid-term convention to bring our MMNA families together again so mark your calendars for the convention to be held in Washington DC area from September 3 – 5, 2010! It will be 3 fun-filled days of bonding and an opportunity to experience the culture, heritage and cuisine of Rajasthan away from home.

Teams are coming together to make this a memorable event for all and your participation is requested. MMNA NEC is looking for members interested in organizing or leading several sub-committees such as event planning, cultural programs so here is your opportunity to contribute your talent and time in making this event successful. Please contact our President, Kishorji Lohiya at 281-392-0963 or via email at [knlohiya@yahoo.com](mailto:knlohiya@yahoo.com) with questions or ideas.

A special note for our youth – we invite you to come together big and strong as this will be an opportunity for you to connect, develop, and enjoy! Please contact our Youth Chairperson, Vaibhav Laddha at [vladdha@purdue.edu](mailto:vladdha@purdue.edu)

### Jokes Corner:

**Q. Why did the banana go to the hospital?**

**A. Because it wasn't peeeeling good!**

*- Riya Tapadiya, 5 years*