

Mahavir Jayanti

Birth Anniversary of Mahavira



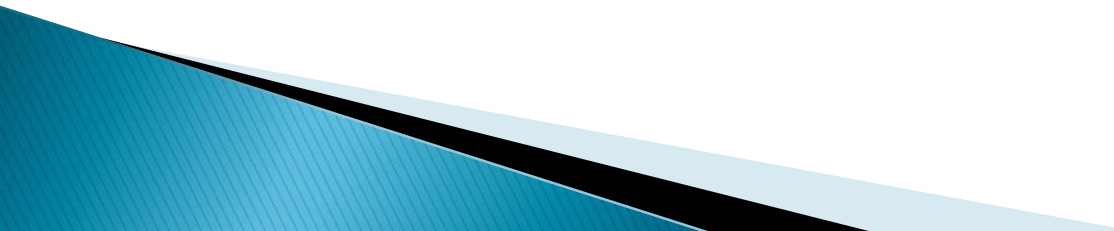
Mahavir Jayanti –Why

- ▶ In Jainism, **Mahavir Jayanti**, also known is the most important religious holiday.It celebrates the birth of Mahavira, the last Tirthankara. On the Gregorian calendar, the holiday occurs either in March or April.
- ▶ He was born on the 13th day of the rising moon of Chaitra, in either 599 BC or 615 BC .

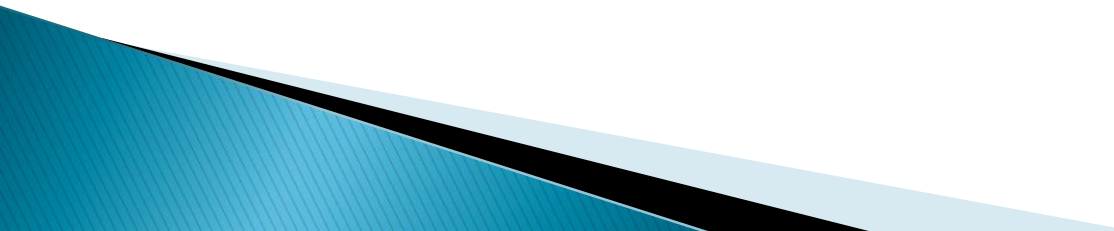
Celebrations

Local statues of Mahavira are given a ceremonial bath called the abhisheka. During the day, many Jains engage in some sort of charitable act in the name of Mahavira while others travel to temples to meditate and offer prayers. Lectures are typically held in temples to preach the path of virtue as defined by Jain doctrine. Donations are collected in order to promote charitable missions like saving cows from slaughter or helping to feed poor people. Ancient Jain temples across India typically see an extremely high volume of practitioners come to pay their respects and join in the celebrations.

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Donations on This Day

- ▶ The four kinds of donations recommended for every Jain on this day include:
Gyan daan: sharing of knowledge
Abhay daan: protecting people from bad actions
Aushad daan: donating medicines
Ahaar daan: giving food
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