



Annapurna Jayanti is a highly significant festival in Indian culture and religion. This day is dedicated to Goddess Annapurna, who is revered as the deity of food, prosperity, and good fortune. The name "Annapurna" translates to "fullness of food," highlighting the fundamental importance of food in sustaining life. Annapurna Jayanti is celebrated annually on the full moon day of the Margashirsha month. On this day, devotees worship Goddess Annapurna and pray for nourishment, peace, and prosperity.

Date and Time of Annapurna Jayanti

In 2024, Annapurna Jayanti will begin on the night of December 14 at 9:30 PM and will conclude on the night of December 15 at 11:17 PM. The auspicious time for worshipping Goddess Annapurna is between 6:30 AM and 8:30 AM in the morning, and from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM in the evening. Performing prayers and offering food donations during these times is considered especially holy and fruitful.

The Mythological Story of Goddess Annapurna

A significant mythological tale associated with Goddess Annapurna underscores the importance of this festival. According to legend, once Lord Shiva jokingly told Goddess Parvati that food had no real significance as the world was merely an illusion. Offended by this, Goddess Parvati removed all food from the Earth, resulting in widespread famine and suffering.

Witnessing this dire situation, Lord Shiva realized his mistake and sought Parvati's forgiveness. She then restored food on Earth and manifested as Goddess Annapurna. This story teaches us that food is not only a source of physical nourishment but also the foundation of life and society.

[Shri Valmiki Jayanti](#)

[Kaal Bhairav Jayanti](#)

Religious Significance of Annapurna Jayanti

1. **Importance of Food:** Annapurna Jayanti teaches us to respect food. It is not just sustenance but the essence of life itself. The festival reminds us to avoid wasting food and to ensure its preservation.
2. **Rituals:** On Annapurna Jayanti, devotees wake up early, bathe, and worship Goddess Annapurna with a pure heart. Offerings like incense, lamps, flowers, fruits, and grains are made during the prayer. Devotees pray to the goddess to ensure their household never faces a scarcity of food.
3. **Significance of Food Donation:** Donating food on Annapurna Jayanti is considered the highest virtue. It is believed that offering food on this day pleases the goddess, who bestows peace, prosperity, and happiness upon her devotees.

How is Annapurna Jayanti Celebrated?

1. **Celebrations in Temples:** Special prayers and festivals are organized in temples dedicated to Goddess Annapurna. Bhajans, kirtans, and aartis are performed, and devotees gather in large numbers to offer their reverence.
2. **Family Worship:** Many households worship the goddess at home. People clean and decorate their homes, light lamps before the goddess's idol or picture, and distribute offerings as prasad. After the rituals, food is donated to the poor.
3. **Community Feasts and Food Donations:** Large community feasts, or **bhandaras**, are organized on this day, where food is served to the underprivileged and needy. People from all walks of life participate in this virtuous act.

Annapurna Jayanti and Environmental Awareness

Annapurna Jayanti also inspires environmental conservation. Food production is directly linked to nature, and this festival teaches us to respect the Earth and its resources, as they are the source of our sustenance.

Relevance of Annapurna Jayanti in Modern Times

In today's world, where hunger and food wastage are increasing, the significance of Annapurna Jayanti has grown manifold. This festival reminds us to use our resources wisely and help those in need.

What to Do on Annapurna Jayanti?

1. **Donate Food:** On this day, provide food and grains to the poor and needy.
2. **Prevent Food Waste:** Ensure no food is wasted in your household.
3. **Community Service:** Organize or participate in community feasts and serve food to the underprivileged.
4. **Protect the Environment:** Adopt sustainable farming and organic agricultural practices.
5. **Spiritual Reflection:** Worship and meditate on Goddess Annapurna and understand the deeper importance of food in life.

[Annapurna Jayanti](#) teaches us the value of food as an integral part of life. This festival is not just a religious occasion but also carries profound social and environmental significance. By worshiping Goddess Annapurna and donating food on this day, we not only earn spiritual merit but also fulfill our responsibility towards society and nature.

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