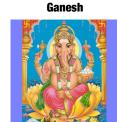
SANATAN HINDU SANSKAR KENDRA

Sita Ram









Shiva

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Sri Rama Navami

Rama Navami is the day on which Lord Rama, the seventh incarnation of Lord Vishnu, incarnated in human form in the land of Ayodhya. He is the ardha ansh of Vishnu or has half the divinitive qualities of Lord Vishnu. The word "Rama" literally means one who is divinely blissful and who gives joy to others, and one in whom the sages rejoice.

Ram Navami falls on the ninth day of the bright fortnight in the month of Chaitra (April/May) and coincides with Vasant Navratri or Chait Durga Puja. Therefore in some regions, the festival is spread over nine days. This day, marking the birthday of Lord Rama, is also observed as the marriage day of Rama and Sita and thus also referred to as Kalyanotsavam.

Sri Rama Navami

April 8th, 2014 (Tuesday)

Timings for Lafayette, Louisiana

Puja Muhurta = 11:54 to 14:25 Duration = 1 Hour 44 Mins Madhyana Moment: 13:10 For more details please refer <u>DrikPanchang.com</u>

The story of the Ramayan is a classic, eternal, universal message of Dharma versus adharma, of deva versus demon, of good versus evil, as represented in the battle between Rama and Ravana.

Ravana was a brahmin; he was a great scholar who wrote numerous works on scriptural philosophy. He was powerful, dynamic, and beautiful in appearance. As the brilliant, handsome king of Lanka, he had everything one would need to be happy and peaceful. Yet, he was arrogant, egoistic, greedy and lustful. His insatiable desires led him to crave more and more power, more and more money, and more and more ladies to fulfill his every whim. There is one main difference: Bhagwan Rama's heart overflowed with divinity, love, generosity, humility, and a sense of duty. Ravana's heart, in contrast, was filled with avarice, hatred, and egoism. Under Bhagwan Rama's divine touch, the animals became his devotees and his divine helpers. Under Ravana's touch, even humans became animals.

Through his noble and divine choices, he teaches the world to choose dharma over Artha (when he leaves for the forest rather than be coronated as King) and to choose Moksha over Kama (when he chooses his kingdom over his marriage).

Bhagwan Rama teaches that :

As a son

Respectfully and lovingly obey your father's orders. Sacrifice your own comfort for your father's dignity.

As a step-son

Even when your step mother (or mother-in-law) is not kind to you, even when she clearly discriminates against you in favor of her own birth child, do not resent her, do not fight against her. Respect her and her wishes.

As a brother

Remain loyal to your brother. Care for him.

As a husband

Protect your wife. Fight for her protection and her purity. But there are times when one's divine path must even take precedence over the path of householder. Do not keep the role of householder as the ultimate role.

As a King

Sacrifice everything for your people. Do not worry about your own comfort, your own convenience or your own pleasure. Be willing to put the kingdom ahead of your own needs.

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April Important Dates

Based on Lafayette, Louisiana, US Time	
02 Wednesday	Gauri Puja/Gangaur
05 Saturday	Yamuna Chhath
08 Tuesday	Rama Navami
10 Thursday	Kamada Ekadashi
13 Sunday	Solar New Year
14 Monday	Hanuman Jayanti, Chandra Grahan
24 Thursday	Varuthini Ekadashi
25 Friday	Varuthini Ekadashi
28 Monday	Somvati Amavas

For more details please refer DrikPanchang.com



With Complements of Mukund M. Hanumante, CLU, CLTC, Ph.D