

Dashain Festival (Main Hindu Festival)

Hi my name is Sureja and today I am going to tell you about one of the most loved festivals around Hindu culture called Dashain.



One of the most observed Hindu celebrations: Dashain festival, Hindu from all across the country celebrate this festival superbly. The festival falls in autumn (September or October) and goes on for ten days. And every single day signifies a particular religious purpose. This year, the Dashain festival starts from 7 October to 15 October 2021 as per the English calendar.

Why is the Dashain festival celebrated?

According to Hindu mythology, the Dashain festival is a way of acknowledging triumph over an evil spirit. The festival came to light when goddess Durga won a fight against an evil-spirited demon named "Mahisasur" who spread horror and terror. The Goddess Durga killed this demon in a war that lasted for multiple days. Her win over the devil also signifies that evil cannot win, and it always comes to cease.

How do people celebrate Dashain for ten days?

As mentioned earlier, the Dashain festival takes place for ten days. The first day of Dashain falls on 7 October 2021 and is Ghatasthapana. On this day, every household plant Jamara, an essential element for the tika ceremony, occurs on the 10th day of the festival. Jamara is grown by sowing maize and grain seeds in a small mud pot.

Furthermore, until Saptami, which translates as the seventh day in Sanskrit, is Phulpati, individuals travel to their hometowns. By Phulpati, pretty much every individual from the family will accumulate at their home. Followed by Saptami is Maha Ashtami. It is eight-day, and people perform various rituals. As an offering to Goddess Kali, people perform rites and rituals using **Ash Gourd**. It is a vegetable grown in the garden and is called Kubhindo in Nepali.

Following Asthami is Maha Navami, which is the ninth day. On Navami, people worship their iron equipment and tools as well as automobiles by doing pujas. And last day, the 10th day is called Vijaya Dashami, from which the name Dashain originated. The family gathers and takes blessing and Tika (a mixture of rice, yogurt, and red color powder) and the jamara (planted on the 1st day) from the family's senior members.