

MCQ Question · mcqquestion.com

Krishna Janmashtami: The Birth, the Pyramid and the Rule

Free · Share

Krishna Janmashtami: The Birth, the Pyramid and the Rule

Janmashtami marks the birth of Krishna. In Maharashtra it also brings the Dahi Handi pyramids, and the courts have set rules for them.

1 Why was Krishna born in a prison?

The Bhagavata Purana tells the story. Krishna was born to Vasudeva and Devakī. They were held in the prison house of King Kaṁsa.

Who was Kaṁsa?

Kaṁsa was the ruler of Mathura. He was also the brother of Devakī. The festival celebrates Krishna's birth as the end of his rule.

How did the child escape?

Vasudeva left the prison with the baby. The closed doors opened by themselves. Clouds thundered mildly and rained as he went.

Where was Krishna taken?

Vasudeva took him to Gokula, the home of Nanda Mahārāja. He swapped the baby with the daughter of Yaśodā. Then he went back to the prison.

> **Quick check 1.** Krishna was born in the prison house of King Kaṁsa. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

Sources: vedabase.io; outlooktraveller.com

2 When is Janmashtami celebrated?

Krishna is said to be born on the eighth day of the month of Bhadra. This day is called Gokulashtami.

Where do the big celebrations happen?

The most fervent celebrations are in Mathura, his birthplace. Devotees fast, recite shlokas and bathe the idols close to midnight.

What is the midnight rite?

The main event in many temples is the midnight aarti. It marks the moment of his birth.

> **Quick check 2.** Janmashtami falls on the eighth day of the month of Bhadra. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

Sources: outlooktraveller.com; sahapedia.org

3 What is Dahi Handi and what did the 2014 order say?

Dahi Handi is a ritual of Maharashtra. Teams of Govindas form a human pyramid. They try to reach and break an earthen pot hung high.

Why do they break a pot?

Legends say the child Krishna and his friends formed pyramids. They broke pots hung from ceilings to steal curd and butter.

What did the High Court order in 2014?

On 11 August 2014, the Bombay High Court banned those below 18 from human pyramids. It also capped pyramid height at 20 feet. The order followed advice from the state child rights commission.

> **Quick check 3.** The Bombay High Court banned under-18s from pyramids on 11 August 2014. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

Sources: deccanherald.com; business-standard.com; livelaw.in

4 What did the Supreme Court and the High Court decide later?

The state went to the Supreme Court against the 2014 order. The rules then changed more than once.

What happened in 2016?

In 2014, the Supreme Court had stayed the High Court ban. On 17 August 2016, a bench of Justices A R Dave and L Nageswara Rao said under-18s cannot take part. It also said pyramids cannot exceed 20 feet.

What happened in 2017?

On 1 August 2017, the Supreme Court sent the plea back to the High Court. On 7 August 2017, the High Court accepted the state's word. Children below 14 would not take part.

What happened to the height limit?

The High Court refused to restrict pyramid height. Justice Gavai said it was for the state legislature, not the court.

> **Quick check 4.** In 2017, the High Court capped pyramid height. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

Sources: sakshipost.com; livelaw.in; thequint.com

5 How did Dahi Handi become an adventure sport?

The state wanted to make the ritual safer. It also wanted to make it a regulated sport. The idea took several years.

What was decided in 2015?

In August 2015, Maharashtra decided to class Dahi Handi as an adventure sport. It planned a state-level body on the lines of Kho-Kho and Kabaddi.

What did the 2019 resolution say?

In May 2019, minister Vinod Tawde announced a government resolution. It called Dahi Handi an adventure sport. It said a state committee would frame the rules.

> **Quick check 5.** Maharashtra first moved to class Dahi Handi as an adventure sport in 2015. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

Sources: deccanherald.com; freepressjournal.in

6 How else is Janmashtami celebrated across India?

Dahi Handi is the Maharashtra form. Other places keep other traditions.

What happens in Mathura and Vrindavan?

Festivities in Mathura run for two days. People fast by day and feast at night. Ras leela dance-dramas show the life of Krishna. Children perform most of them in Mathura's temples.

What happens in Manipur?

Janmashtami is called Krishna Janma there. The focus is Raas Leela, a Manipuri dance showing Krishna's life.

What about Guruvayur and Dwarka?

Guruvayur in Kerala is home to the popular Sri Krishna temple. Dwarka in Gujarat is one of the four char dham pilgrimage sites of Vaishnavites.

> **Quick check 6.** Janmashtami in Manipur is called Krishna Janma. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

Sources: sahapedia.org; outlooktraveller.com

7 Do the court rules work on the ground?

The 2025 festival shows how hard the rules are to enforce.

What did officials report in 2025?

Two people died. Over 300 were injured in Mumbai and Thane. Mumbai alone had 318 injured. Of those, 24 were hospitalised.

Were children hurt?

Yes. A nine-year-old boy was critically injured in Mumbai. In Thane, some injured were children aged 5 to 10.

Were the deaths pyramid falls?

Not all. One man fell while tying a handi to his own window grille. The reports differ on the other death.

> **Quick check 7.** All the 2025 Dahi Handi deaths were pyramid falls. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

Sources: tribuneindia.com

8 Which exam traps should you avoid?

- The High Court order is from 2014. In 2016, the Supreme Court said under-18s cannot take part.
- The 2017 change cut the age limit from 18 to 14. It dropped the height cap.
- Justice Gavai said height is for the state legislature.
- The adventure-sport decision came in 2015. It was formalised by resolution in 2019.
- Gokulashtami is the eighth day of Bhadra.

What is the memory hook?

High Court 2014, Supreme Court 2016, relaxed 2017.

Sources: freepressjournal.in; deccanherald.com

Practice MCQs

1. In whose prison house was Krishna born, according to the Bhagavata Purana?

A. Nanda Mahārāja

B. King Kaṁsa

C. Vasudeva

D. Jarasandha

See answer ↓

2. What is the eighth day of the month of Bhadra, when Krishna is said to be born, also called?

A. Gokulashtami

B. Ram Navami

C. Mahashivratri

D. Vasant Panchami

See answer ↓

3. What did the Bombay High Court order on 11 August 2014 about Dahi Handi?

A. All age limits removed

B. Under-18s banned and height capped at 20 feet

C. Dahi Handi banned in Mumbai

D. Pyramids allowed only in daytime

See answer ↓

4. What did the High Court decide in August 2017 about pyramid height?

A. It banned pyramids entirely

B. It refused to restrict it, calling it a matter for the legislature

C. It capped height at 10 feet

D. It capped height at 40 feet

See answer ↓

5. What happened to Dahi Handi in Maharashtra in 2015 and 2019?

A. It was moved to adventure-sport status

B. It was banned statewide

C. It was made a school sport only

D. It was limited to Mumbai

See answer ↓

Answer Key

1. **B.** Krishna was born to Vasudeva and Devakī in the prison house of Kaṁsa. Kaṁsa ruled Mathura. ↑ Q1
2. **A.** The eighth day of Bhadra is called Gokulashtami. Many temples hold the main aarti at midnight. ↑ Q2
3. **B.** The order barred those below 18 from human pyramids. It capped pyramid height at 20 feet. ↑ Q3
4. **B.** Justice Gavai said height was for the state legislature. The age limit was lowered to 14. ↑ Q4
5. **A.** Maharashtra decided in August 2015 to class it as an adventure sport. A 2019 resolution made it formal. ↑ Q5

Quick-check answers

1. **True.** His parents were Vasudeva and Devakī. ↑ 1
2. **True.** This day is also called Gokulashtami. ↑ 2
3. **True.** It also capped pyramid height at 20 feet. ↑ 3
4. **False.** It refused, saying height is for the legislature. ↑ 4
5. **True.** A 2019 resolution then made it formal. ↑ 5
6. **True.** The focus there is Raas Leela. ↑ 6
7. **False.** One man fell while tying a handi to his window grille. ↑ 7

Curated by Arsalan Zuberi · mcqquestion.com

Scan to read online

https://mcqquestion.com/articles/indreligion0012-krishna-janmashtami/