

ACVA Newsletter 2025-05 – Holy days



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Shani Jayanti, Lord Shani's Birthday!

This year, *Shani Jayanti* will be celebrated on Monday, May 26 in North and South America, Africa, and Europe, and on Tuesday, May 27 elsewhere in the world (including India). Shani Jayanti is an important Vedic holy day which commemorates the birth of Shani Dev (Saturn), the lord of truth and karma. Shani Jayanti occurs annually at the New Moon in the Jyeshtha Masa, the lunar month which will extend from May 27 to June 25 this year. More specifically, it is calculated for the lunar day when the amavasya tithi is in place by sunrise.



Prayers, pujas, and other rituals are traditionally performed in honor of Shani Dev on his birthday, according to a variety of Vedic traditions. Shani Jayanti is an especially important day to honor one's ancestors (shraddha or tarpana), and to make offerings to Lord Saturn. It is also a wonderful day to offer respect, service, and charity to the elderly and infirm, to spend time in contemplation, and to commune with Mother Nature. Lord Shiva is also propitiated on Shani Jayanti because Shani worships Shiva. For all of us, Saturn is the servant of the Divine who teaches us to humbly surrender and serve the divine power that exists within ourselves and the world.



Shani Jayanti will occur on a Monday in the western half of the world this year, which is another powerful celebration known as Somvati Amavasya. This is a rare occasion which occurs when the amavasya tithi (the darkest day of the lunar month preceding the New Moon) falls on a Monday, the Vedic day of the week known as Somwar or Somavaar. The importance of this date is related to the fact that amavasya tithi and the Moon's Day of the week each are connected to the worship of Lord Shiva. Again, this is a wonderful time to make charitable donations, perform ancestral healing and worship, take holy dips in sacred waters, and to seek the blessings of Lord Shiva, all toward the purpose of cleansing karma, seeking divine redemption and grace, and serving the common good.

Happy Birthday, Lord Shani! ❤️

Aum, with loving reverence, I bow to Saturn who is the lord of time and keeper of karma.

Who gives self-discipline, self-reliance, endurance and lasting success. Who protects longevity.

Homage to Lord Saturn!