

**Buddha Jayanti:** Buddha Jayanti commemorates the birth, enlightenment, and death of Lord Buddha. Devotees visit Buddhist stupas and monasteries, offering prayers and lighting butter lamps.

Born in 623 BC in the sacred land of Kapilbastu in Nepal as a prince to King Śuddhodana and Queen Maya. Siddhartha Gautama was the first given name to the prince. He spent his luxurious life in the palace for 29 years.

Later he got married to princess Yāsodharā and begetting a son named Rahul. Gautama was distracted by the suffering and death of living beings and was desperate to find the reason for the cause and effect of all those sufferings.

Thus, at the age of 29, he gave up his lavish life and went into the woods to find the truth through meditating and started leading an ascetic life. After 6 years of strong penance and meditation, finally, at the age of 35, Gautama Buddha was Enlightened and was thus named 'Lord Buddha'.

Lord Buddha started teaching people about life and death, the purpose of birth, and the cause of suffering. He traveled to the Indian sub-continent, teaching people about his finding and the number of followers started to increase and now Buddhism as a philosophy has traveled worldwide.

Buddha taught till the age of 80 before he attained nirvana (death) and his teaching is always in demand and need in this 21st century. He spread the message of love and brotherhood and now the world where we live desperately needs to follow his teaching, to make this world a living place for all sentient beings.

Now, Buddhism is one of the fastest-growing religions with millions of followers and the philosophy is taught everywhere in schools and universities. This indicates the need and importance of Buddhism as a philosophy and will be there until we implement it in our lives. Thus, recognizing the importance of Buddhism, Lord Buddha is also titled 'The Light of Asia'.

In Nepal, Buddha Purnima or Buddha Jayanti is an official holiday and is celebrated in every nook and corner. Hindu philosophy regards Buddha as one of the 9th reincarnations of Lord Vishnu, who is also regarded as Lord of Preserver'.