



Janmashtami in Uttar Pradesh

Why in News?

Uttar Pradesh is underway with **Janmashtami celebrations**, particularly in **Ayodhya** and Vrindavan, where devotees are visiting temples and shopping for the festival.

Key Points

- [Krishna Janmashtami](#), also called **Gokulashtami** or **Shrikrishna Jayanti**, is a major Hindu festival celebrating the birth of Lord Krishna, the **eighth avatar of Vishnu**.
- Krishna Janmashtami is celebrated on the **Ashtami (eighth day)** of **Krishna Paksha** in the **Bhadrapada month** of the **lunisolar Hindu calendar**, usually in **August** or **September**.
- One of the key highlights of **Janmashtami** is the "**Dahi Handi**" event.

Important Fairs of Uttar Pradesh

- **Taj Mahotsav:**
 - It is a vibrant **10-day festival** held annually at **Shilpgram in Agra**. This celebration draws inspiration from the rich **Mughal** and **Nawabi culture** that thrived in Uttar Pradesh during the 18th and 19th centuries.
- **Kumbh Mela:**
 - The **Kumbh Mela** is one of the **largest religious gatherings** in the world, celebrated by **Hindus** every **12 years** at four rotating locations in India: **Prayagraj, Haridwar, Nashik, and Ujjain**.
 - Pilgrims gather to bathe in the sacred rivers (Ganges, Yamuna, Saraswati, Godavari, and Shipra), seeking spiritual purification.
- **Ganga Mahotsav:**
 - The Ganges River is very important to India and has supported many civilizations along its banks. A festival is celebrated in **Varanasi** during the **Karthik month** to thank the river goddess for her blessings and to ask for more.
 - The ghats are decorated with lights and flowers, and on Karthik Purnima, people gather by the river to light and float earthen lamps.