

Guru Poornima

"Guru Poornima" is actually "Teachers Day" and has been celebrated in India since time immemorial.

Let me start with this beautiful poem entitled "Teachers" by Kevin William Huff :

Teachers

Paint their minds
And guide their thoughts
Share their achievements
and advise their faults

Inspire a Love
Of knowledge and truth
As you light the path
Which leads our youth

For our future brightens
With each lesson you teach
Each smile you lengthen
Each goal you help reach

For the dawn of each poet
Each philosopher and king
Begins with a Teacher
And the wisdom they bring.

Most countries and cultures in the world celebrate 'Teachers Day' in their own unique ways. The common thread in the celebrations is to appreciate teachers contributions and remember & thank teachers. Form ancient time in India, it has been celebrated as 'Guru Poornima'. On this auspicious day, to get blessings from Guru (or teacher), students honor and worship their teacher and renew their pledge to live by ideals exemplified by the teacher in their life.

We celebrate Guru Poornima at home by worshipping Guru's Padukas which is representation of Guru's sandals (or shoes) embossed in silver.

First we light lamps and incense. Guru's Padukas are washed with Charnamrit (made with milk) while my parents recite the 108 obeisance or pranams to our Guru. After washing the Padukas we apply freshly made paste of sandal wood made in rose water. We offer flowers, sweets and clothes to Guru and also offer Guru Dakshina which is our gift of love and respect to Guru. Then we all silently say our prayers and bow to Guru's feet. Please see attached hand-drawn illustration. That's how I celebrate Guru Poornima at home.

Thank you.

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Gr-2

Guru Poornima Celebration

