

Rosh Hashanah

September 26, 2022

In news— Rosh Hashanah, also known as the Jewish New Year was observed recently.

History Rosh Hashanah-

- **Rosh Hashanah means “head of the year” in Hebrew.** It is a time for reflection and repentance.
- It is referred to as the **“day of judgment.”**
- 2022 edition of Rosh Hashanah marks the start of year 5783 in the Hebrew calendar.
- Rosh Hashanah has its **roots in the Talmud**, although it isn't entirely clear when the holiday was first celebrated.
- **The Hebrew term Talmud (“study” or “learning”)** commonly refers to a compilation of ancient teachings regarded as **sacred and normative by Jews** from the time it was compiled until modern times and still so regarded by traditional religious Jews.
- **The Talmud says** that the world was created on the first day of Tishrei, the seventh month of the Hebrew calendar.
- **Jewish people celebrate Rosh Hashanah on the first and second days of Tishrei** – which usually line up with **September or October** in the Gregorian calendar.
- According to National Geographic, **the earliest mention of Rosh Hashanah by name is found in the Mishnah**, a Jewish legal text dated to 200 C.E.
- It calls on people to consider how they might have failed or fallen short in the past year – and how to improve and grow in the coming year.
- This is symbolized by one of Rosh Hashanah's most iconic traditions, **taschlich**, in which **participants symbolically cast off their sins** by throwing morsels of bread into a body of running water.

- There are 14.8 million Jewish people around the world, and practices associated with Rosh Hashanah vary even within individual communities.
- **People usually celebrate Rosh Hashanah by attending synagogue and refraining from work** – including schoolwork and sometimes the use of electronics. Families might also light candles at home.
- **It is often celebrated with special foods**, like apples dipped in honey, which symbolize the hope of a sweet year to come.
- Challah bread, baked in round loaves instead of braids and dipped in honey, is also popular. So are pomegranate seeds and the head of a ram or fish – to symbolize the “head” of the new year.
- **One of the most distinctive elements of Rosh Hashanah is the blowing of the Shofar’s horn, a ram’s horn.** The blowing of the horn is used as a **call to repentance** during the holiday.
- The horn is typically blown in the morning of both days of Rosh Hashanah. The unique instrument dates back thousands of years to the time of Abraham and Isaac.
- **Rosh Hashanah kicks off the High Holy Days, also known as the Ten Days of Penitence.**
- The High Holy Days end with Yom Kippur, which is considered the most sacred of Jewish religious holidays.
- **Yom Kippur is also known as the Day of Atonement.** It represents an opportunity for people to atone for their sins and ask for forgiveness from God and other people.
- While Rosh Hashanah tends to be a joyful celebration, Yom Kippur is a more somber holiday often marked by fasting.