



Traditional New Year

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The President of India has greeted the people on the eve of Ugadi, Gudi Padwa, Cheti Chand, Navreh and Sajibu Cheiraoba.

These festivals mark the **beginning of the traditional New Year** in India.

Gudi Padwa and Ugadi

- Ugadi and Gudi Padwa are the festivals, to celebrate the New Year, in the **month of Chaitra Shukla Pratipada** as per the Hindu Lunar Calendar, and is celebrated by the people in the Deccan region including **Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra**.
- The common practice in the celebrations of both the festivals is the festive food that is prepared with a mix of sweet and bitter.
A famous concoction served is jaggery (sweet) and neem (bitter), called bevu-bella in South, signifying that life brings both happiness and sorrows.
- **Gudi**, which means a doll is prepared in Maharashtrian homes. A bamboo stick is adorned with green or red brocade to make the gudi. This gudi is **placed prominently in the house** or outside a window/ door for all to see.
- For **Ugadi**, doors in homes are adorned with **mango leaf decorations** called **toranalu or Torana** in Kannada.

Cheti Chand

- **Sindhis celebrate the new year as Cheti Chand.** Chaitra month is called 'Chet' in Sindhi.
- The day **commemorates the birth anniversary of Ishta Deva Uderolal, Jhulelal**, the patron saint of Sindhis and is celebrated with great pompous and gaiety.

Navreh

- It is the lunar New Year that is **celebrated in Kashmir**. It is the **Sanskrit word 'Nav Varsha'** from where the word '**Navreh**' has been derived.
- It actually falls on the very **first day of the Chaitra Navratras**.

- On this day, Kashmiri Pandits deliberately, first of all, look at a bowl of rice, considered as a symbol of riches and fertility. A special ‘Thali’ is also prepared.

Sajibu Cheiraoba

- It is the great ritual **festival of Meiteis** (an ethnic group in Manipur) which is observed on the first day of Manipur lunar month Shajibu, which falls in the month of April every year.
- On the day of the festival, people arrange a **joint family feast** in which **traditional cuisines** are offered to **local deities** at the **entrance gates of the houses**.

Chaitra Shukla Pratipada

- It is the **first day during the waxing phase of moon in the Chaitra Month**.
- It marks the beginning of the **New Year of Vikram Samvat** or better known as Vedic [Hindu] Calendar.
- This Hindu new year is known by different names in India such as Gudi Padwa in Maharashtra, Ugadi in Telugu.
- The famous Vikram Samvat is based on the day when the emperor Vikramaditya defeated Sakas and invaded Ujjain. He, then, called for a new era.

Under his supervision, astronomers formed **new calendar based on luni-solar system** that is still followed in the Northern regions of India.

Meities

- The Meiteis, one of the most **eminent ethnic groups of Manipur** hail from the Manipur Valley and are an industrious lot.
- They speak **Tibeto-Burman language** and most of the people belonging to the group, follow Hindu customs.