



# Traditional New Year Festivals

## Why in News?

The President of India greeted the people on the eve of “ **Chaitra Sukladi, Ugadi, Gudi Padwa, Cheti Chand, Navreh and Sajibu Cheiraoba.**”.

- These festivals of the spring season mark the beginning of the traditional new year in India.

## What are the Key Points?

### ▪ Chaitra Sukladi:

- It marks the beginning of the new year of the **Vikram Samvat** also known as the **Vedic [Hindu] calendar**.
- Vikram Samvat is based on the day **when the emperor Vikramaditya defeated Sakas, invaded Ujjain and called for a new era**.
- Under his supervision, astronomers formed a new calendar based on the luni-solar system that is still followed in the northern regions of India.
- It is the first day during the waxing phase (in which the visible side of the moon is getting bigger every night) of the moon in the Chaitra (first month of Hindu calendar).

### ▪ Gudi Padwa and Ugadi:

- These festivals are 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 the South, signifying that life brings both happiness and sorrows.
- **Gudi** is a doll 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 Uderolal/Jhulelal**, the patron saint of Sindhis.

### ▪ Navreh:

- It is the **lunar new year** that is celebrated in **Kashmir**.
- It is the Sanskrit word 'Nav-Varsha' from which the word 'Navreh' has been derived.
- It falls on the first day of the **Chaitra Navratri**.
- On this day, Kashmiri pandits look at a bowl of rice which is considered as a symbol of riches and fertility.

### ▪ 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.

## UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions (PYQs)

**Q. Consider the following pairs: (2018)**

**Tradition**

**State**

1. Chapchar Kut festival — Mizoram
2. Khongjom Parba ballad — Manipur
3. Thang-Ta dance — Sikkim

**Which of the pairs given above is/are correct?**

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) 2 and 3 only

**Ans: (b)**

**Source: PIB**

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