



## Traditional New Year Festivals

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### Why in News

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

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

### Chaitra Shukla Pratipada

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- 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 moon is getting bigger every night) of the moon in the **Chaitra (first month)** of Hindu calendar).

### Gudi Padwa and Ugadi

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- 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

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- **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

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- 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 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

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- It is a **ritual festival of Meiteis** which is observed on the first day of **Manipur lunar month Shajibu**, which falls in March/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.

## Meities

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

**Source: PIB**