



UNIQUE FESTIVALS OF INDIA - TEEJ



The festival of Teej is celebrated by women who observe a fast to seek the blessings of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati for marital bliss. There are three kinds of Teej which start from the Hindu month of Shravan or Sawan and Bhadrapad or Bhado which correspond to the Indian

monsoon season.

The first kind is Hariyali Teej also known as Shravana Teej. After 15 days comes Kajari Teej. Hartalika Teej is celebrated one month after Hariyali Teej in the month of Bhadrapada.

It is believed that the festival is named after an insect also known as Teej which emerges during the monsoon season.

The festival honors Goddess Parvati and her devotion to Lord Shiva. It is believed that Parvati carried out a rigorous fast for 108 years before Shiva accepted her as his wife. While according to some scriptures Parvati was born 107 times on earth and on her 108th birth she was rewarded as being the wife of Shiva for her perseverance.

Teej is celebrated in the northern states of UP, Bihar, Rajasthan, Haryana and Punjab. The festival also marks the arrival of Monsoon season.

HARIYALI TEEJ

Hariyali Teej is celebrated in the Shukla Paksha of Shravana which corresponds to the month of August. As the name suggests the festival



is associated with greenery and hence women and young girls are clothed in green colour dresses and bangles. The day before Hariyali Teej the ritual of Sindhare is observed. For newlywed brides on their first sindhare after marriage gifts are sent by the mother in law .On the day of Teej women

worship the moon. In Gujarat women perform Garba dance and in Maharashtra women dress up in green clothes and gift female family members and friends beautifully decorated coconuts.

Hariyali Teej is celebrated with much enthusiasm in Vrindavan. The ceremony of Jhulan Leela is performed where swings are hung for the deities to swing upon. Idols of Lord Krishna and Radha are decorated beautifully with ornaments and fine clothes .A unique sight is Lord Krishna's swing made out of gold which is seen only once a year .

KAJARI TEEJ



Kajari Teej falls on the third day of sawan. On this auspicious day women sing songs in honor of Lord Krishna and perform a pooja of Neem. Wearing new clothes women sing and dance traditional songs. Some of these songs welcome monsoon while others are based on union of lovers. Kajari Teej of Bundi in Rajasthan is very famous. It is

celebrated on the third day of Bhadra. The festival begins with a procession of Teej Mata in a palanquin. Accompanying the palanquin are beautifully decorated elephants, camels, musicians etc.

HARTALIKA TEEJ



Hartalika Teej is a three day festival celebrated in the month of Bhadra. On this day, women keep fast for long life of their husband. The fast is a nirjala vrat meaning not even water is consumed. It is believed that keeping this fast blesses women with a long and healthy life of their husbands

while for unmarried girls they are blessed with a husband like Lord Shiva. As green colour is considered auspicious women wear green clothes.

TEEJ CUSTOMS AND RITUALS

SHRINJHARA:

Shrinjhara or Sindhare is a gift pack given to married women by their in-laws. The gifts include sweets, a traditional dress, and mehendi and lac bangles.

BAYA:

Baya is another traditional gift pack. It is given to the fasting women by their mother. It includes dry fruits, mathris, clothes, bangles and jewelry.

TRADITIONAL ATTIRE:

On Teej, all women wear traditional clothing like saris and suits in the auspicious colors of red, green and yellow. Mehendi is applied on both hands. Sometimes Aalta, a kind of natural dye is also applied on hands and feet.

LIGHTING OF LAMP

As per the rituals of the fast women should keep an oil lamp lit all night. It is considered bad omen if the lamp dies.

GODDESS PARVATI

Parvati or Teej Mata is decorated with jewellery and new clothes. The idol is then carried out in a procession.

SWINGS

Swings are unique feature of Teej. Hung from trees these swings are decorated beautifully. While swinging women sing traditional songs dedicated to the month of Sawan and also for goddess parvati.

TEEJ KATHA

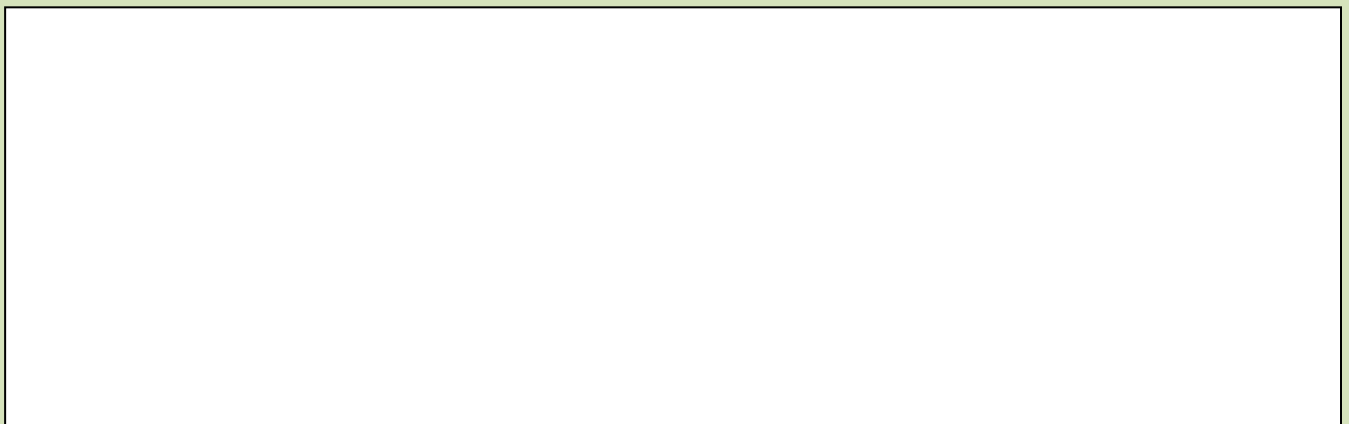
The Teej Katha forms an important part of the festival. Women sit in a semi circle with an idol of Goddess Parvati in the middle. They then narrate the holy katha or the story of Teej. It is believed that while listening to the Katha one should keep in mind their husbands. After the puja fruits, sweets etc. are offered to the goddess and women seek her blessings. In some regions are the puja women bathe with red mud found in the roots of Datiwan bush. It is believed that taking this bath would absolve all sins.

TEEJ FAST

The fast lasts a full 24 hours and is observed without consuming any food or water. The day before the fast the women gather for a lavish feast before the fast begins.

ACTIVITY

1. Draw a picture of the Teej Mata procession:



2. Describe other festival celebrated mainly by women:

3. Name some other regional festivals related to nature :

REFERENCES:

<https://www.thoughtco.com/teej-fasting-festival-for-women-1770184>

<http://www.teejfestival.org/hariyali-teej.html>