



HARVEST FESTIVAL OF MAHARASHTRA

Mahrashtra celebrates all its festivals of with great fervour and vibrancy. Most of the festivals in Maharashtra have an intriguing history. Harvest festival in Mahrashtra is celebrated with much vibrancy and happiness. Gudi padwa and Makar Sankranti are the harvest festivals of Maharashtra.

GUDI PADWA- Gudi Padwa considered as the harvest festival, which shows that the Rabi crop has ended for the season. This is the time when mangoes and fruits are reaped. Gudi Padwa is the time when you find the delicious ripe mangoes in the market. It also signifies the coming of prosperous New Year.



WHY IS IT CELEBRATED? Gudi Padwa is celebrated as a sign to welcome the New Year and is considered as one of the most auspicious days for "Hindus". People from Maharashtra erect "Gudis" on Padwa which is the first day of the Hindu New Year. "Gudi" is bamboo staffs which have a colored silk cloth and a decorated cup on top of it as it symbolizes victory. People welcome the New Year by worshiping and distribute "Prasad" made out of Neem leaves, Gram-pulse and Jaggery.



DID YOU KNOW- This is a celebration of the victory march of Shivaji Maharaja the veteran Maratha leader. The festival is celebrated in honour of this great king who had a kingdom that spread across the

INTERESTING FACT - *There is another reason why this festival is celebrated. It is believed that this is the day when the universe was created. It is believed by all Hindus that this is the day Lord Brahma created the world. It is thus dedicated to the innumerable Gods we have in the country. Legend has it that Lord Vishnu took the Matsya incarnation or the form of fish on this day. This was an incarnation to save the entire earth from destruction or pralaya.*

Harvest festivals bring joy and happiness around. Gudi Padwa is the celebration which is much awaited in Maharashtra and that time of the year when everybody prays for the well being and harmony.

ACTIVITY-

1. Why does Gudi Padwa augment coming of "Hindu New year"? Do you know any other state where this ritual is performed
- 2 Try and make Gudi padwa of your own.

SOURCES-

<http://indianexpress.com/>

<http://www.dnaindia.com/blogs/post-why-do-we-celebrate-gudi-padwa-1973727>

<http://www.maharashtraweb.com/lifeleis/MahFestiv.asp>