

HARVEST FESTIVAL OF CHHATTISGARH

India is known for its unique and fascinating culture. Each state has its own distinctiveness. However the central part of India has rich and fertile land. In the heart of central India there is situated a state called **Chhattisgarh**.

Chhattisgarh is known for its cultural diversity and colourful festivals.

FUN FACT: *In ancient times, Chhattisgarh was the region known as Dakshin Koshal, which finds mention in both the Ramayana and Mahabharat*

HARAYALI FESTIVAL: WHEN THE NEW CROPS GLEAM

The colourful state of Chhattisgarh with a sizeable tribal population celebrates all its festival with a great deal of joy and enthusiasm. Agriculture we know is a formidable part of Indian economy and the state of Chhattisgarh is no exception. The sowing of new seeds, the reaping of crops, and the rich and bountiful harvest- for the people of Chhattisgarh each is an event to be celebrated joyously.

Haryali is celebrated in the month of monsoon and is happily celebrated by the farming community. It is observed in the state to seek blessings of the Almighty for a bounteous yield of crops. Interestingly during this festival the local farmers worship their cows and farming instruments.

They place branches and leaves of Bhelwa tree in the fields and pray for a good crop and also hang Neem branches at the main entrance of their homes to prevent seasonal diseases. Among the Gond tribes it has special importance.

DO YOU KNOW? During this festival the Baigas or the traditional medical practitioners teach and evaluate their disciples.



Navakhana- THE RICE IS HERE

is another harvest festival celebrated in Chattisgarh. It is celebrated every year in the month of Bhadrapada or Bhadav (September – October), at the the end of rainy season. This festival basically marks the harvest of rice. The auspicious ceremony begins with offerings of new harvested rice of the season to the family deity on Navami. The deity is mother Goddess who is seen as one who bestows good harvest. Various delicacies are made with newly harvested rice and offered to Goddess.

This rice is eaten as 'prasada', a mark of respect and gratitude towards the Mother. Later people enjoy themselves with dances and food.



READ ABOUT THE CULTURE OF CHATTISHGARH:

The culture of Chhattisgarh in itself is very rich and interesting. Since ancient time people in this region have been known to have strong faith in God, which gives devotional touch to this culture. However they are known for their modesty, kindness and adjustable nature. The culture also has unique style of music and dance.

ACTIVITY:

- 1. Chattishgarh is known for its cultural diversity. Find out about the farming communities who celebrate Harvest festivals.**
- 2. Every festival brings happiness and joy, but harvest festivals hold a unique importance for India. Why?**

SOURCES:

1. http://www.indianetzone.com/4/festivals_chhattisgarh.htm
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3. <http://www.indianholiday.com/fairs-and-festivals/chhattisgarh/hariyali-kora-navakhani.html>
4. [http://www.ijhssi.org/papers/v3\(10\)/Version-1/D03101013015.pdf](http://www.ijhssi.org/papers/v3(10)/Version-1/D03101013015.pdf)
5. <http://incredibleindia.org/index.php/media-main>
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