

HARVEST FESTIVAL OF WEST BENGAL

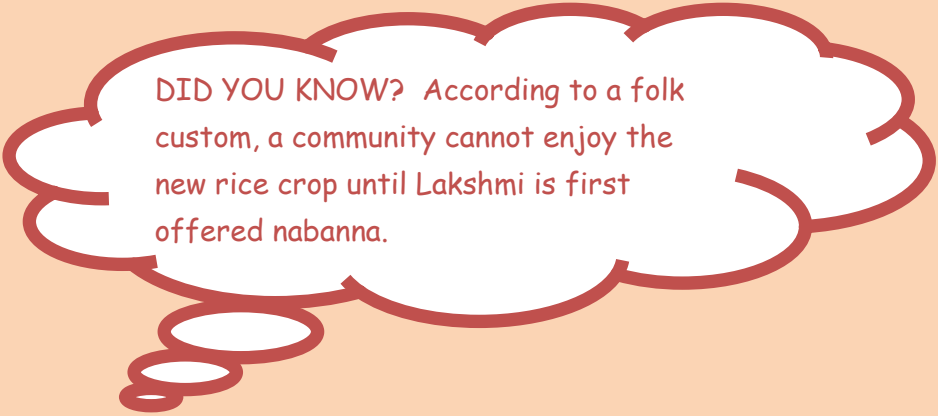
Festivals in West Bengal carry a distinct charm of their own. Harvest festivals are an integral part of India. “**Nabanna**” (sometimes called **Navanna**) is a very popular ceremony among the rice growers of West Bengal.

FACT- Nabanna literally means 'Nobo-Onno' or new rice/new crop.



When is it celebrated? - The festival of Nabanna in the Bengali month of Agrohyan (November) is an important event in agrarian calendar of Bengal.

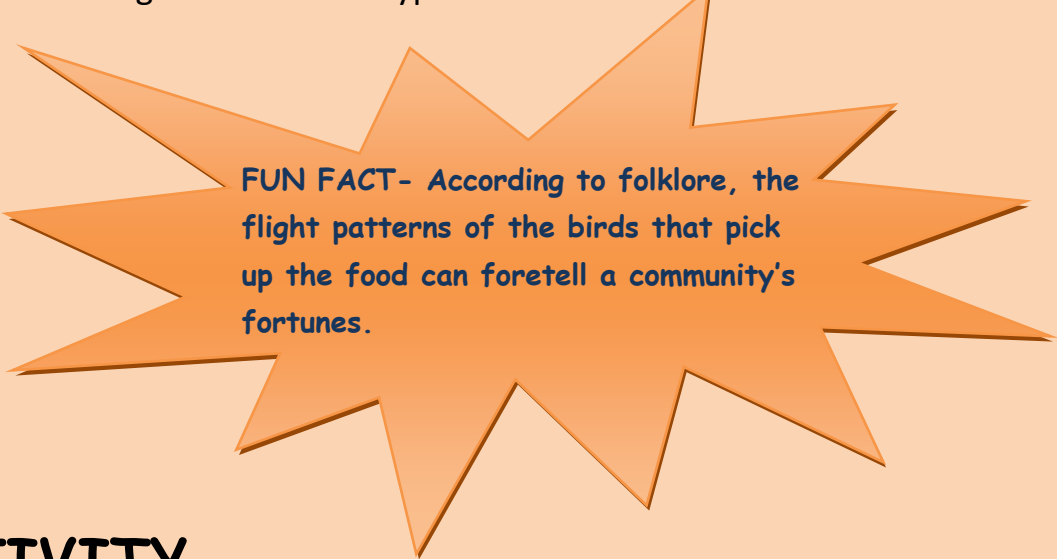
WHY IS IT CELEBRATED- It is celebrated to ensure good crops and healthy livestock for the coming year. It is used to be a massive event that began before sunrise and would involve the entire community, even the children who recited rhymes. It typically honours **goddess lakshmi**, who symbolizes wealth and fertility.



DID YOU KNOW? According to a folk custom, a community cannot enjoy the new rice crop until Lakshmi is first offered nabanna.

HOW IS IT CELEBRATED?

The festival is celebrated with joy and happiness. The Bengali harvest festival celebration usually celebrated **with food, dance and music** in Bangladesh. Many local preparations of Bengali cuisine like **“Pithas”** are cooked and offered. Farmers cut and husk a special variety of rice and typically offer it prepared as rice porridge. In some cases, ancestral spirits and local deities are also intended recipients of the offering. Other customs during the festival include greeting the moon with lamps, giving children gifts and sweetened milk, and offering rice and other types of food to crows



FUN FACT- According to folklore, the flight patterns of the birds that pick up the food can foretell a community's fortunes.

ACTIVITY-

1. Find out how more interesting folklores related to Nabanna?
2. Try and find out about interesting delicacies made during Nabanna?