

What is Gudi Padwa

Gudi Padwa is the Marati term that replicates the concept of Chaitra Shukla Pratipada or the first days of the Chaitra month (March – April) which also marks the New Year as per the lunisolar Hindu calendar. The term Padwa comes from the Sanskrit term Paddavo meaning the first day of the waxing phase of the lunar month.

Gudi Padwa Importance

The New Moon day during Gudi Padwa is significant in the sense that around this time, the sun is in the first zodiac sign namely Aries. This event also marks the beginning of the spring season. This is one of the most important harvest festivals in India and in Punjab and Haryana people celebrate this as Baisakhi or the harvest festival of the Rabi season also marking their New Year day.

Gudi Display

As per a famous tradition, the Maharashtrian homes display a conventional arrangement called Gudi in front of their homes from which the event Gudi Padwa gets its name. To the tip of a long bamboo stick a green or yellow cloth that is adorned with brocade or zari is tied.

Into this cloth piece things like sugar crystals, neem leaves, mango leaves and a garland of red colored flowers are bundled up. Over the stick, a silver or copper pot is placed in the inverted position. This set up is called as Gudi which is placed in a high position to be seen by anyone from outside of the home.

Gudi Significance

Gudi symbolizes the overwhelming victory of the Shalivahana king over the Sakas and for the first time it was hoisted by the people of his country when he returned to Paithan. Gudi also symbolizes Brahmadvaj or the flag of Brahma that has a mention in the Brahma Purana as it is believed that Brahma created the world on this day.

Gudi Padwa Celebrations

On the day of Gudi Padwa, the houses are cleaned and the front yard is plastered with fresh cow dung. Intricate rangoli designs are made in front of the homes with a burst of colors signifying the arrival of spring season. People wake up early in the morning, take holy bath and wear new clothes.

Gudhī Pāḍavā in other languages, states and people

Known as Gudhī Pāḍavā ("Gudhee Paadavaa") in Maharashtra, this festival is also known as Samvatsar Padvo among Hindu Konkani of Goa and Konkani diaspora in Kerala Yugadi among the rest of Konkani diaspora in Karnataka and Ugadi in Andhra Pradesh Telangana State and Navreh or Navreh amongst Kashmiri Pandits. It is also celebrated in the North-East state of Manipur as Sajibu Nongma Panba Cheiraoba and also in countries like Nepal, Burma, Cambodia and other nations where there are lot of Hindus. People prepare a variety of food and cuisine on this day and later climb the hillocks in the evening. In Kashmir as Nau roz, In Punjab as Baisakhi, in Bengal as Naba Barsha, in Assam as Bihu, in Kerala as Vishu, in Tamil Nadu as Putuhandu. It is considered as most auspicious day of the year.

On this *New Year...*
May you be blessed with
good luck and prosperity...

*Happy
Gudi Padwa!*

