

Contents

The Hindu New Year starts on *ekam*, the first day of *Shukla Paksh* in the month of *Chaitra*. I have chosen to follow the same and started the book with the festivals celebrated during this month. Every month has two parts/*Paksha* - *Krishna Paksh* and *Shukla Paksh* of 15 days each.

Krishna Paksh starts from *ekam* (1st), *dooj* (2nd), *teej* (3rd), *Chauth* (4th), *panchami* (5th), *shasthi* (6th), *saptami* (7th), *ashtami* (8th), *navami* (9th), *dashmi* (10th), *gyaras/ekadashi* (11th), *baaras/dwadashi* (12th), *teras/treyodashi* (13th), *chaudas/chaturdashi* (14th) up to the 15th day of *Amaavasya*, the *New Moon Day*.

Shukla Paksh starts from *ekam* (1st), *chaudas/chaturdashi* (14th) up to the 15th day of *Purnima*, the full moon day.



Month of **CHAITRA** – March/April – Aries (Mesham)

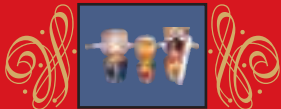
Ramnavami	001
Hanuman Jayanti	003

Month of **BAISAKH** – April/May – Taurus (Vrishabham)

Sampada ka Dora Kholna	004
Akshay Tritiya / Aakha Teej	006

Month of **JYESHTHA** – May/June – Gemini (Mithunam)

Badh Amaavasya ki puja	007
Ganga Dusshera	009
Nirjala Ekadashi	011



Month of **ASHADH** – June/July – Cancer (Karkatam)

Jagannath Rath Yatra	013
Guru Purnima	015



Month of **SHRAVAN/SAAVAN** – July/August – Leo (Simham)

Saavan Somvar – Shivji ke Vrat	017
Naag Panchami	019
Raksha Bandhan	021
Soon (Shagun) Maandana	022
Saavan ka Sindhara	023



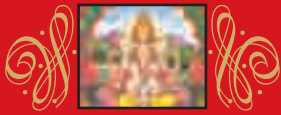
Month of **BHADRAPAD/BHADON** – Aug/Sept – Virgo (Kanya)

Badi Teej Ka Sinjara	024
Badi Teej	025
Janmashtami	033
Bachwaaras *	036
Bhadi Amaavas – Rani Sati Dadi ki Puja	039
Ganesh Chaut ka Sindhara	041
Rishi Panchami	041
Dubdi Saate	042
Radha Ashtami	044



Month of **ASHWIN/ASOJ** – September/October – Libra (Tula)

Shraadh	045
Navratre	047
Dusshera	050
Sharad Purnima	052



Month of **KARTHIK** – October/November – Scorpio (Vrischikam)

Karva Chauth	055
Hoi *	062
Dhanteras	065
Choti Deepavali – Roop Choudas	067
Badi Deepavali – Lakshmi Puja	070
Goverdhan Puja	075
Bhai Dooj	079
Aanvla Navmi	081
Dev Uthani Ekadashi	083
Tulsi Vivah	084



Month of MARGSHRISHH – December – Sagittarius (Dhanus)



Month of PAUSHH – December/January

Sankranti 087

Month of MAGH – January/February – Capricorn (Makram)

Mai Chauth * 088

Basant Panchami 091



Month of FALGUN – February/March – Aquarius (Kumbham)

Maha Shivratri 093

Holi 097



Month of CHAITRA – March/April – Pisces (Meena)

Sampada ka Dora 100

Gangaur ki Puja 103

a) Pindi Puja 103

b) Baaseda – Sheetala Ashtami * 104

c) Gangaur Puja after Baaseda 107

d) Gaur Bindora 107

e) Suraj Rote ka Vrat 108

f) Badi Gangaur Puja on Teej Day 110

g) Gangaur ka Udyapan / Ujman 112

h) Gangaur ki Katha 113

i) Gangaur ke Geet 114

j) Teej ka Sindhara 116

* On these festivals, udyapan is done at the time of the birth of a son & after the wedding of the son

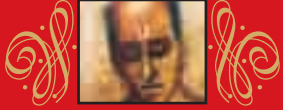


Bindaayakji / Ganeshji ki katha ...1, 2, 3 118

Bindaayakji/Ganeshji ki Katha is read after one reads the festival katha. A few grains of rice are kept in the hand while listening to the katha. After completion of the katha, the rice grains are left in the water of the kalash, kept for puja.

Panthvari Mata ki Katha	120
Lapsi Tapsi ki Katha	121

In Maheswari community, Panthvari Mata ki katha and Lapsi Tapsi ki katha are read along with Bindaayakji ki katha after the festival katha.



The significance of some rituals	122
Our Hindu Calendar	122
Significance of Solah Sanskar	123
Significance of Aum/Om and Swastik/Sathiya	126
Significance of Lighting the Deepak	128
Significance of Kalash, Purna Kumbh	128
Significance of Tulsi Puja	129
Significance of offering Coconut in Puja	130
Significance of doing Pranam to elders	131
Significance of Vrat / Upvaas	131
Significance of putting Tilak	132
Sankalp	132
Maala Jaap	133
Significance of offering food to the God – Bhog Lagaana	134
Wearing colours according to the Days of the week	135
Auspicious rituals to be observed while Travelling	135
Kumbh Mela and its importance	136
Bhoomi Puja	136
Gruha Pravesh – Entering a New House	137
Puja performed for entering the New Office	138
Rahukalam	139



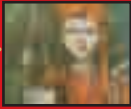
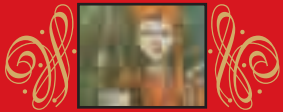
Traditions, Pujas and Vrats (fasts)	140
Ekadashi	140
Solah Somvar ke Vrat	144
Somavati Amaavasya	148
Pradosh ka Vrat	150
Importance of Fasting on 7 days of the week	151
Solar and Lunar Eclipse – Grahan	156
Purushottam Maas – Adhik Maas	157

Tara Lagna	157
Ratri Jagaran	157
Baayna Nikaalana	158
Haath Pherna	159
Aankha Daalana	159
Arag / Arak dena	159
Soon (Shagun) Maandana	159
Seedha Dena – to give Seedha	160
Pahrani Nikaalana	160
Chootha Nikaalana	160
Jhuwara Ugaana – How to grow Jhuwara	161
Upvaas / Vrat (Fasting)	161
Pakki Rasoi and Kacchi Rasoi	161
Phalaahaar	161



Antim Sanskaar	164
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According to the Vedas and Shastras, there are certain essential rituals that our elders believe in and may wish to be performed after their demise. Respecting this, I have tried to explain the rituals and their significance.



Shlokas for Daily Puja

The daily chanting of shlokas invoke positive energy inside us and also creates an aura around us. Some of the simple powerful shlokas are presented here.

Gayatri Mantra	179
Karpur Aarti	179
Shri Ganeshji Dhyaan and Vandana	179
Shri Lakshmiji Dhyaan and Vandana	179
Shri Hanumanji Dhyaan	179
Shivji ka Dhyaan	179
Shri Venkatesh Stotram	179
Ishwar Vandana	179
Devi Stotram	179
Surya Dhyan Mantra	179
Pushpanjali (offering of flowers)	179
Tulsi Chayan Mantra	179
Shlokas for Morning Prayer	179



AARTIS

Aarti is invocation of *Devis* and *Devtas*. It is sung at the conclusion of the *Puja*. It is believed that while performing any *puja*, if there are any shortcomings, by singing the *Aarti*, they are pardoned.

Mangalacharan	181
Aarti Shri Ganeshji ki	181
Aarti Shri Lakshmiji ki	182
Aarti Shri Jagadeeshji ki	182
Ram Stuti	182
Aarti Shri Ramjanam ki	183
Aarti Shri Hanumanji ki	183
Aarti Shri Hanuman Lalaa ki	184
Aarti Shri Jugal Kishore ki	184
Aarti Shri Bal Krishna ki.....	185
Shri Krishna Janam geet	185
Aarti Shivji ki	186
Aarti Durga Mata ki	187
Aarti Saraswati Mata ki	187
Saraswati Vandana	188
Aarti Rani Sati Dadi ki.....	188
Sheetala Mata ki Aarti.....	189
Shri Venkateswara Govind Namocharan	189
Ramdhun, Rashtriya Geet, National Anthem.....	191
GLOSSARY	192

