



# Hindu YUVA @ ISU

**Welcomes you**

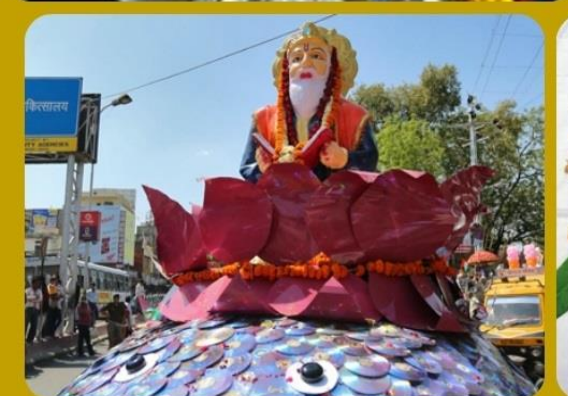
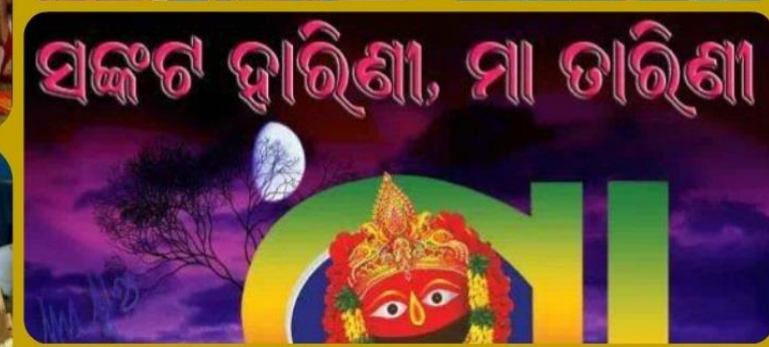


**Vasant Utsav**  
Many Festivals. One celebration !

*Celebrating more than 10  
Indian Spring Festivals*

April 4th, Saturday 6.30 PM at Howe Hall Atrium

by  
Hindu Yuva at ISU









# Rules of the Game

- Pick two identities that make you unique
- You can pick your identities based on your
  - particular culture
  - Religion or belief system
  - region (Indian states or countries outside India)
- Example: A is Rajasthani and Jain; B is Malaysian and Hindu; C belongs to both Andhra Pradesh and Delhi etc.
- Write your name and two identities on the piece of paper provided to you.

# Rules

- Get to know 5 unique facts pertaining to the identity of your partner and remember them
- It should not include following
  - Geographical location
  - Capital
  - Politics/political situation
  - Language spoken
- It can include
  - Famous historical/*Vedic/Pauranik* figures
  - Folklores : popular legends, oral history, proverbs, popular beliefs, jokes
  - Famous monuments
  - Food, dance, literature
  - One or more sentences in the local language/dialect



# Spring Festival of Rajasthan : Gangaur



Deepanshi Jain



# Gangaur

- ✦ Chaitra month : Hindu calendar (March – April)
- ✦ Begins day after Holi, celebrated for 18 days
- ✦ End of winter season and onset of Spring
- ✦ Associated with story of Shiva – Parwati





# Gangaur Celebrations















பெரிய செய்தி



பெரிய செய்தி



பெரிய செய்தி



பெரிய செய்தி



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UJOsz-1tOz8>



# NAVREH (नवरेह)

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Kashmiri Pandits' New Year





# Significance

- Navreh = Nav (New) + Reh (Flame)
- Beginning of new year according to *Vikrami Samvat*
- Also known as Chaitra Okdoh (ओकदोह)
- Okdoh → First day of the month

# Greeting

- Navreh Mubarak
- People wear new clothes
- Elders used to give some money to children as a token of love (known as Navreh Kharch)



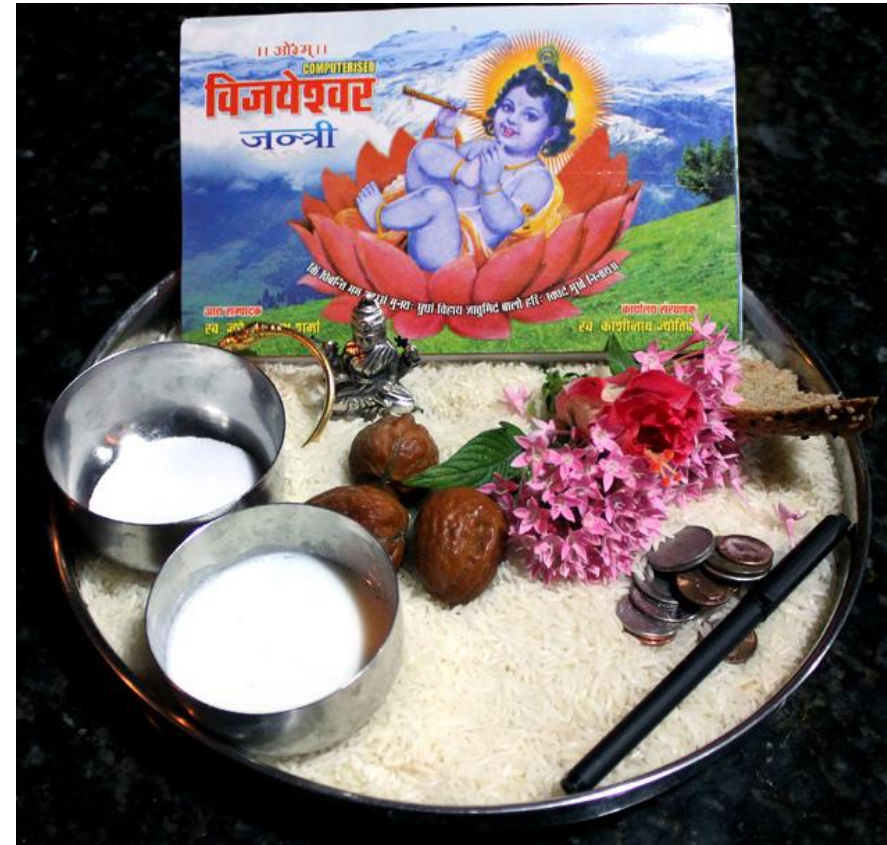
# Thaal Bharun (थाल भरुन)

- Prepared on night preceding Navreh
- Usually by the elder person in house
- Kept in central place of house and covered with cloth / towel
  - Choka (kitchen)
  - Thokur Kuth (pooja room)
- Every member of house sees *thaal* after waking up in the morning
- All things of daily use : Good to see them first in New Year
- Rice later cooked with haldi and taken as prasada, also called *tahar* (तहर)



# Thaal Bharun (थाल भरून)

- Rice
- Walnuts
- Inkpot & Pen
- Sugar
- Salt
- Yogurt
- Cooked rice
- Flowers
- Money
- Gold
- Idol of deity
- *Wai*
- *Jantri* (New Panchang)





# Traditional Celebration: Srinagar

- Visit to Hari Parbat in morning
- Abode of Goddess Sharika
- Have lunch with family in Badam Weer (almond garden) @ Parbat
- Visit not complete without cup of *sheer chai* in evening





# Other Associated Festivals

- **Zang Trai (जंग त्रैय)**

- Third day of Navratras
- Married women would visit *maalyun* (माल्युन)(parents' house)
- Return with bunch of salt, sweets, and *athgath अथगथ* (money)

- **Atham (अठम)**

- Eighth day of Navratra
- Mostly fasting

- **Ram Navam (राम नवम)**

- Ninth day of Navratra
- Cook *tahar* (yellow rice) with paneer
- Visited Ram Temple, Barbarshah, Srinagar

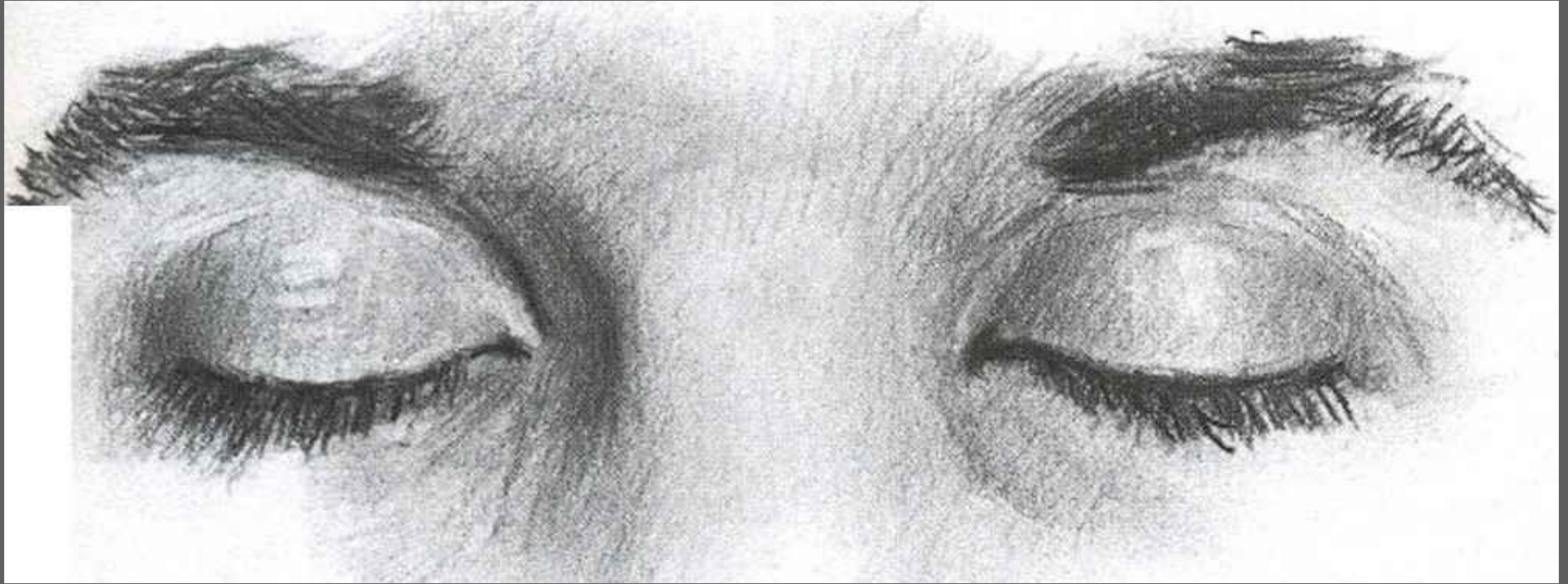




By -  
Gauree Ram







Kindly close your eyes for 05 seconds  
This is a part of the featured presentation







# Meaning of “Vishu” (Equal)



**Malayalam Calendar** (also known as *Malayalam era* or *Kollavarsham* or *Kollam Era* since 825 AD. (Kollam = Quilon))

Calendar Dates			
Months in Malayalam Era	<a href="#">Gregorian Calendar</a>	<a href="#">Saka era</a>	<a href="#">Sign of Zodiac</a>
<i>Chingam</i>	August–Sept.	<i>Sravan–Bhadrapada</i>	Leo
<i>Kanni</i>	September–October	<i>Bhadrapada–Asvina</i>	Virgo
<i>Thulam</i>	October–November	<i>Asvina–Kartika</i>	Libra
<i>Vrscikam</i>	November–December	<i>Kartika–Agrahayana</i>	Scorpio
<a href="#">Dhanu</a>	December–January	<i>Agrahayana–Pausa</i>	Sagittarius
<i>Makaram</i>	January–February	<i>Pausa–Magha</i>	Capricorn
<i>Kumbham</i>	February–March	<i>Magha–Phalguna</i>	Aquarius
<i>Minam</i>	March–April	<i>Phalguna–Chaitra</i>	Pisces
<i>Medam</i>	April–May	<i>Chaitra– Vaisakha</i>	Aries
<i>Itavam</i>	May–June	<i>Vaisakha–Jyaistha</i>	Taurus
<i>Mithunam</i>	June–July	<i>Jyaistha–Asada</i>	Gemini
<i>Karkatakam</i>	July–August	<i>Asada–Shravana</i>	Cancer



# Two new year celebrations.....



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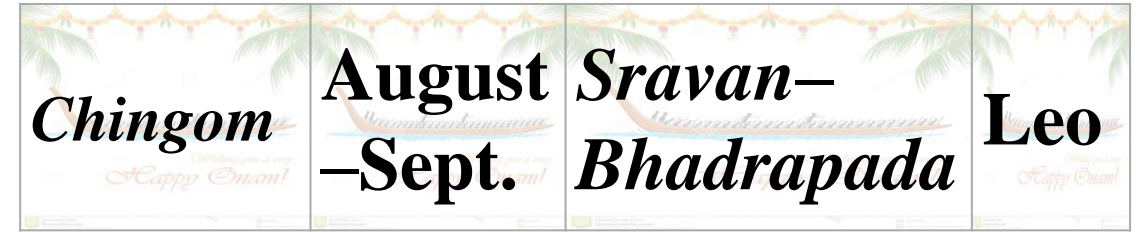
Malayalam New Year(s)

Calendar-wise:  
Chingom 1 (August)  
**Official Regional Calendar for Kerala starts**

Astrologically & Astronomically:  
Medam 1 (Vishu-April)  
**Sun moves in to Aries (Medam)**



# Vishu & Onam ..distinct celebrations



22 Shraavan  
श्रवण  
శ్రవణ

## Thiruvonam

(Said to be Bhagavan Vishnu's Nakshatram)







**Kani-kaanal** (*auspicious first sight of the day*)

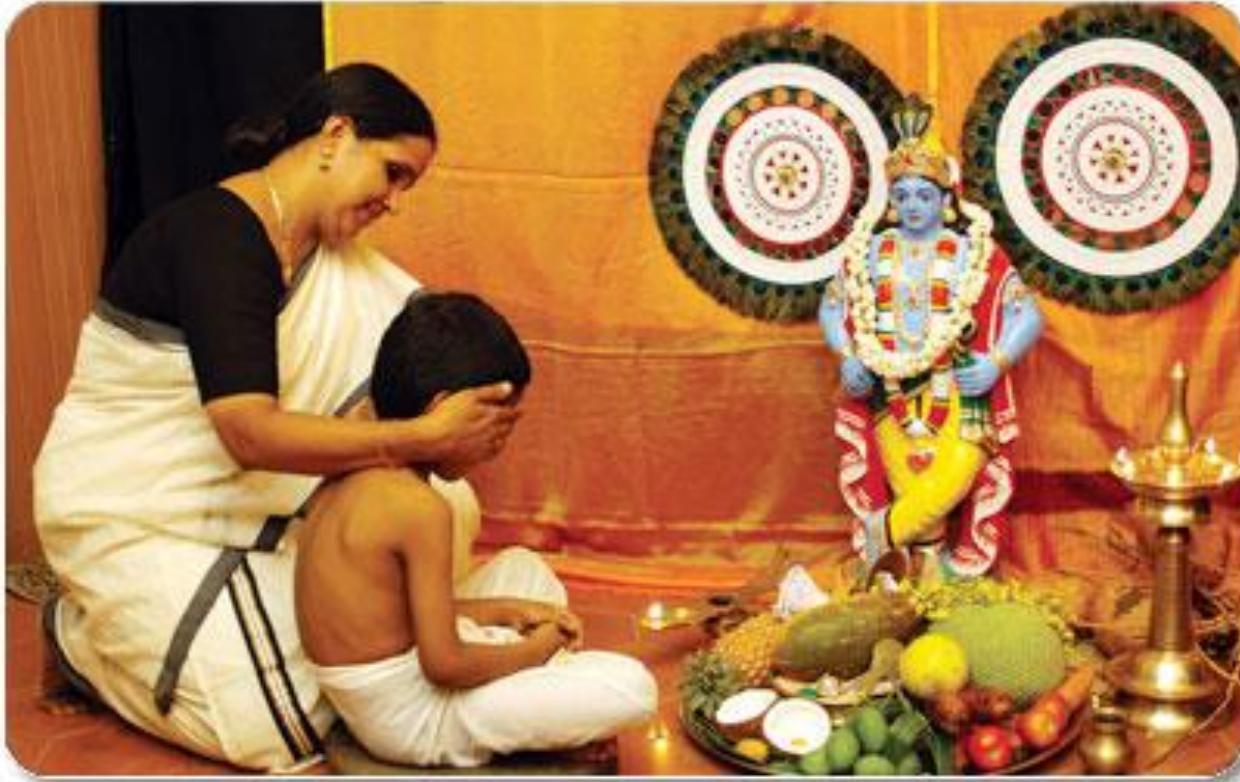
**Kaineeytam** (*giving of wealth*)

**Sadhya** (*feast*)

**Vishupadakkam** (*fireworks*)

**Ambaladarshanam**  
(*temple visit*)

KaniKaanall (Seeing only abundance and auspicious things first..)





# *Kai-Neey-tam (Giving of wealth)*



- Everyone receives some form of wealth ( coins/ notes) as a sign of prosperity coming their way for the new year 😊
- The head of the family gives vishukkaineetam to the servants and other workers who work for them, wishing them prosperity.  
Many royal/rich families in Kerala give kaineetams to the entire household, extended families, sometimes even the whole village!
- It is fun to see each other how much each one has got a collection of vishukkaineetam amount.

# Sadhya (*feast*)

Though Sadhya is a major part of all Kerala festivals, for Vishu it is simple food.

These preparations consist of **same proportions of sweet, sour, salty and bitter items** (just like our lives)

*mampazha pachadi,*  
jackfruit erissery,  
vishu puzukku etc.





Vishupadakkam (*fireworks*)



Ambaladarshanam (*temple visit*)

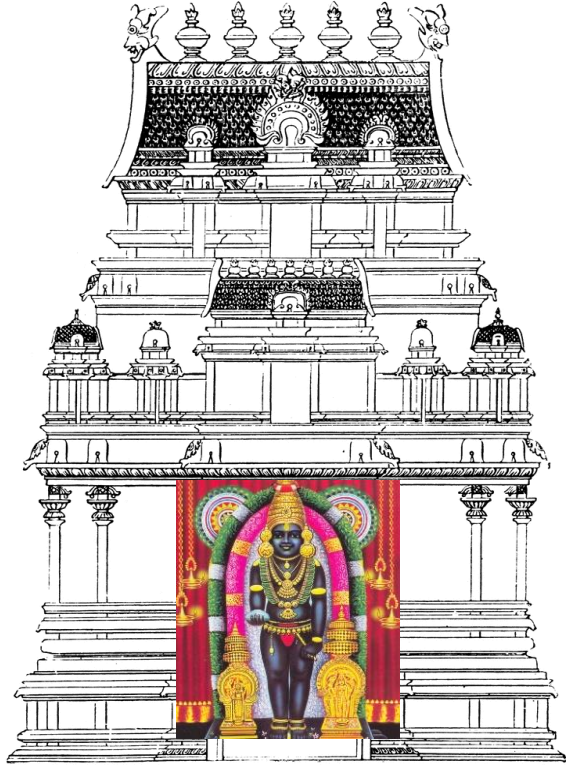






The Story  
of  
Kannipuu  
(*Cassia  
Fistula*)

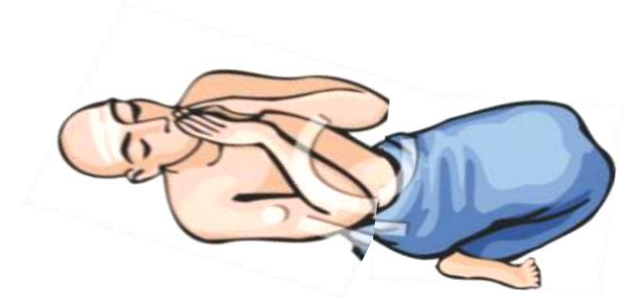
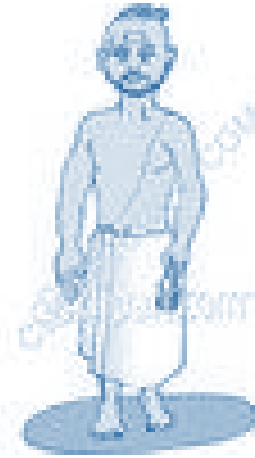




Kerala Gramam Temple



Unnikrishnan (Little Krishna)  
Day before Vishu



Sleeping Pandit

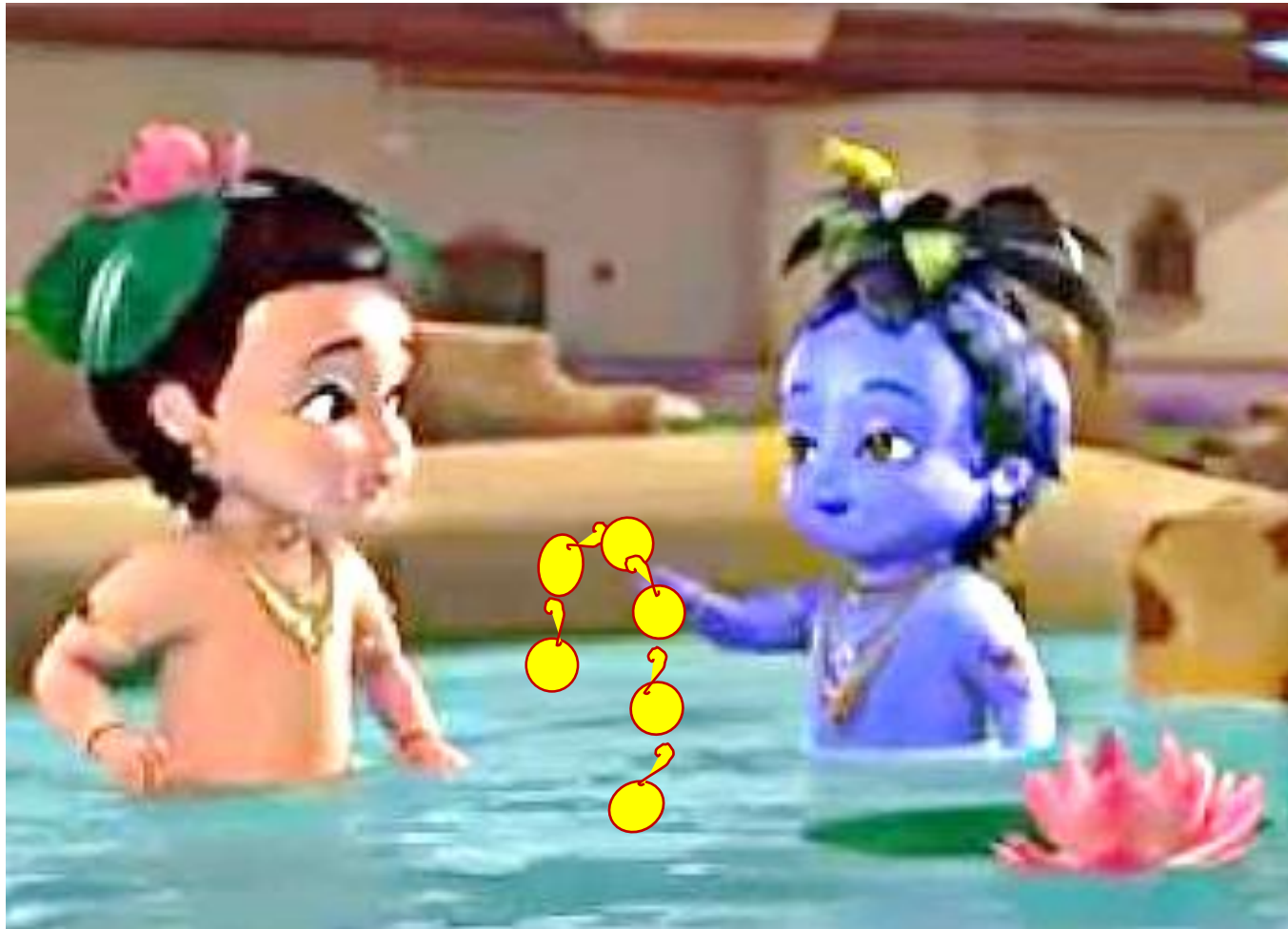


Little  
Krishna  
plays with  
pandit's son



Krishna  
gives His  
golden waist  
bells to  
pandit's son

# *Kai-Neey-tam (Giving of wealth)*



Krishna gives His golden  
waist bells to pandit's son

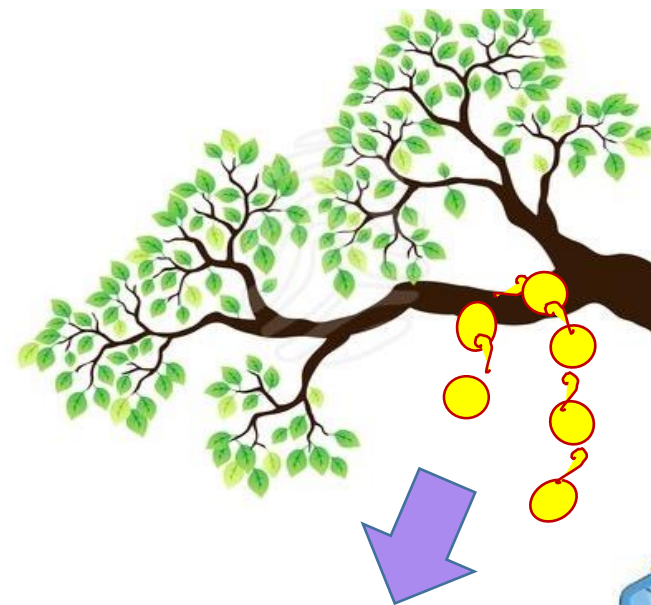


# Phir kya hua.....



No Krishna!!..  
Only Golden Bells in Hand

“Krishna gave it to me”



Angry Zamindar

## Story

during vishu yellow flowers called Konna Poo is offered to lord krishna while keeping vishu kani. These flowers have a story behind it.

In a small gramam in kerala, there was a small temple of sri krishna. the zamindar of the village had employed a poor thirumeni ( priest ) to do the pooja in the temple every morning n evening. The thirumeni used to daily come to the temple with his son of about 3 years old. while the father used to perform his duties inside the temple, the son used to play in the premises of the temple. In the afternoon the father to sleep in the verandah of the temple and the boy used to play nearby. With his half closed eye he used to watch his son enjoying in playing. the fact was that kutty krishnan used to come outof the temple and play with the little boy and so the boy was enjoying and playing. the boy used to play as if he is playing with group of boys, laughing, screaming, running. This practice followed everyday. Once on the previous day of Vishu, the father cleaned the temple premises, cleaned the inside of the temple. he got exhausted and slept outside the temple in the verandah. he told his son to play nearby not to go far off. the boy was playing near his father, on that afternoon kutty krishnan gave his waist belt which was full of golden bells to the boy as the Vishu Kayneetum. the boy was very happy to receive, he was holding the waist belt and gazing at it. at that time the zamindar arrived at the temple and he saw the golden waistbelt of Krishna in the hands of the boy. he immediately raised an alarm, called all villagers and declared that the father and son are robbers. he seized the waist belt from the boys hand. the father started crying and pleading that they have not stolen anything. at that time kutty krishnan was watching it got very angry.he flung the waist belt from the zamindars hand, it went and fell on a konna tree which was next to the temple, the golden bells of the waist belt became soft yellow flowers. these flowers are called as konna poo which are even today offered to lord krishna in the vishu kani because it pleases lord krishna and reminds of his love for the small boy who was very dear to him.





*Happy  
Vishu!!!* 😊

A happy, prosperous year ahead!



# *GUDHIPADWA* *MARATHI NEW YEAR*





# INTRODUCTION

- ❖ First Holy festival which marks the beginning of the New Year according to Hindu calendar.
- ❖ This falls on Chaitra Shukla Pratipada, the first bright fortnight of the Hindu lunar month of 'Chaitra'.
- ❖ The word Padwa is derived from two syllables,  
Pad+Vaa  
Pad- Means tending towards Perfection and Maturity  
Vaa- Indicates that which increases growth.

# SIGNIFICANCE

## □ NATURAL

- ❖ The Sun is in the first point of Aries which is the first Zodiac sign.
- ❖ This marks the natural beginning of the Spring.

## □ HISTORICAL

- ❖ It symbolizes Lord Rama's Victory and happiness on returning to Ayodhya after slaying Ravana.
- ❖ King Shalivahana defeated Sakas and the Gudhi was hoisted by his people to celebrate his victory
- ❖ Gudhi is believed to ward off evil, invite prosperity and good luck into the house.



# SIGNIFICANCE

## □ SPIRITUAL

- ❖ It is believed that Lord Brahma created the Universe and the Satyayug began.
- ❖ It is ritualistically worshiped and hoisted as a flag which is known as the 'Brahma Dhvaj'.
- ❖ It is one among the three and half auspicious days ('Muhurtas'), every moment of these days is considered auspicious to perform any ritual.

# THE FESTIVE DAY



- ❖ Inverted pot (Kalash) symbolizes Head
- ❖ Stick represents rest of the body
- ❖ Vastra (jari) means shelter
- ❖ Neem-jaggery Prasad signifies the combination bitter and sweet experiences of life. It also purifies blood and strengthens immunity.



# THE FESTIVE DAY





# *Happy Gudhi Padwa*

*May Gudhi Padwa,  
the festival of purity and prosperity  
bring a kalash full of joys,  
riches and blessings to you*



# BAISAKHI



By: Jyoti Rana



# Why is Baisakhi Celebrated ?

1. Baisakhi is a Sikh's new year according to Punjabi Calendar.
  - The New Year starts around Spring time and is celebrated on April 13 or 14 every year.



# 2. Crop Harvesting.

- It is a vibrant Harvest festival of Punjab.
  - It is like a thanksgiving day where farmers celebrate and pay tribute to universe for allowing such a fruitful harvest and also pray for more abundance and prosperity.



# Religious Significance.

- In 1699, the tenth guru, Guru Gobind Singh Ji initiated the Sikh Khalsa, the community of committed Sikh volunteers.





# How is it Celebrated?

- Fairs are organized.





# Bhangra and Gidda





# Langar and Prasad





இனிய தமிழ் புத்தாண்டு நல்வாழ்த்துக்கள்

ईनिय तमिल पुथांडू नल वाल्थुककल

Iniya Tamil Puthaandu Nalvaazhthukkal

By:Shivasundari





Kani Kaanal



*Kai Visesham*







*Maangaai Pachadi  
(Mango pachadi)*





*Thank you!!*




# YUGADHI (Andhra Pradesh)



“Manmadha nama”

ఉగాది  
మభూకాంక్షలు

By: Jyotsna and Manasa



**First new moon after sun  
crosses south-north on  
spring equinox**





**How do we celebrate?**

# Savory Dish Prepared

- **Neem buds/flowers** **Sadness**
- **Jaggery** **Happiness**
- **Green Chili/Pepper** **Anger**
- **Salt** **Fear**
- **Tamarind Juice** **Disgust**
- **Unripen Mango** **Surprise**







# Panchanga sravanm







**Thank you**



# Mahavir Jayanti

BY HARDIK BORA

# Mahavir Jayanti

- ▶ 13<sup>th</sup> day of the rising moon of Chaitra 599 BCE, (falls on 2<sup>nd</sup> April in 2015)
- ▶ Mahavira was born into the royal family of King Siddartha of Kundgraam and Queen Trishala
- ▶ 24<sup>th</sup> Tirthankar of Jains





# Life of Mahavir

- ▶ Mahavir as a child had shown great physical prowess and intellectual acumen too but he renounced the worldly pleasures at the young age of 30.
- ▶ He led a life of intense penance for over twelve years and finally got self-illuminated





# Mahavir Teachings

- ▶ Ahimsā
- ▶ Satya
- ▶ Asteya
- ▶ Brahmacharya
- ▶ Aparigraha



Truth



ब्रह्मचर्य

Brahmacharya:

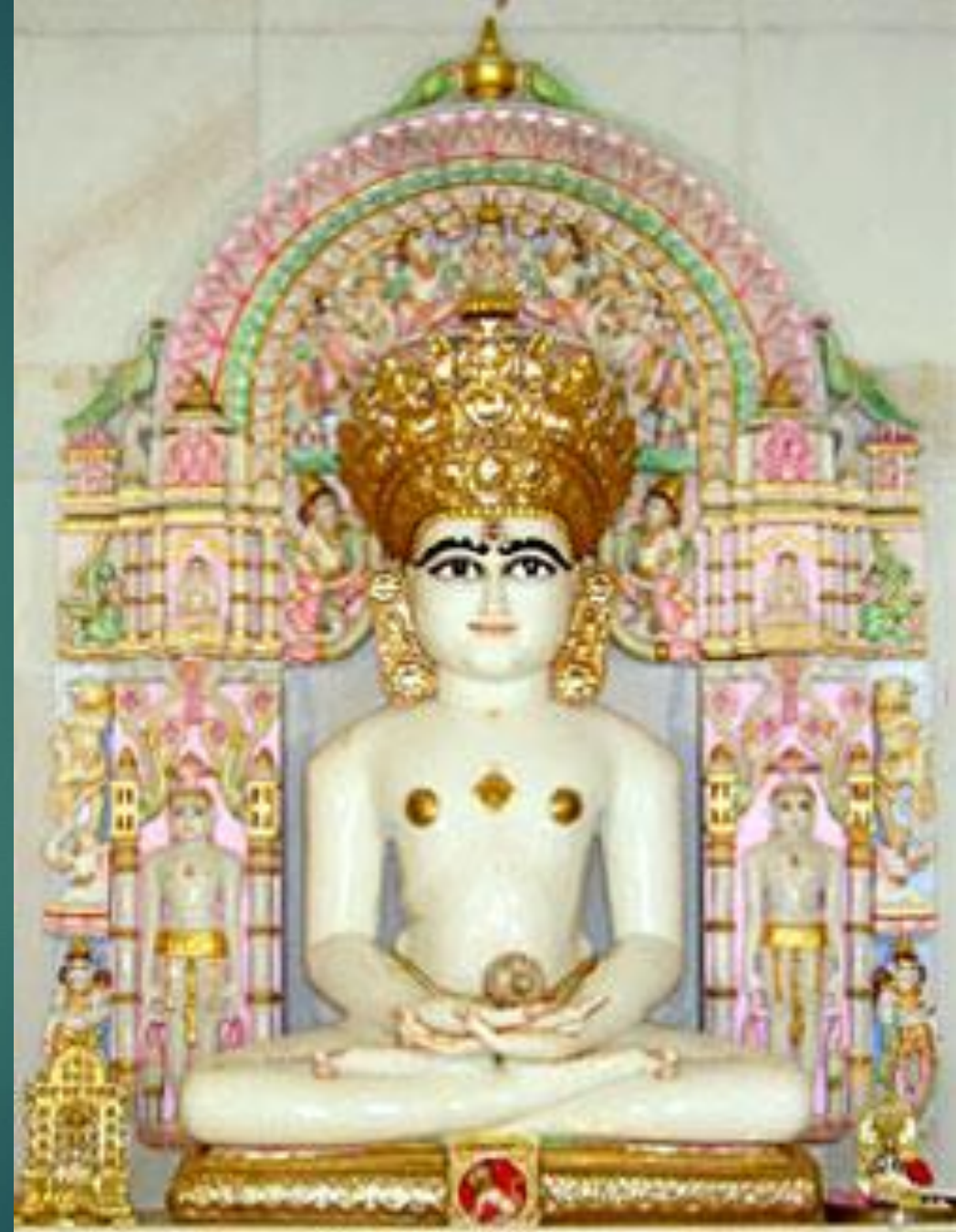
celibacy,  
complete control  
of sexual energy

APARIGRAHA  
NON-POSSESSIVENESS



# His teachings today

- ▶ Ahimsa and Satyagraha
- ▶ Leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King followed his teachings
- ▶ Bhagwan Mahavir is sure to be respected as the highest authority on [Ahimsa](#). If anyone has practiced to the fullest extent and has propagated most the doctrine of Ahimsa, it was Lord Mahavir. - Mahatma Gandhi
- ▶ Mahavir's teachings were for the welfare of humanity and can be the answer to challenges of the modern world



Lord Mahavira



# Celebration

- ▶ Pooja
- ▶ Procession
- ▶ Lectures
- ▶ SwamiVatsalya
- ▶ Forgiveness





May the teachings of Lord  
Mahavir Swami inspires  
you.



Happy Mahaveer  
Jayanti

# Pohela Baisakh (Bengali New Year)



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rIXTaO7SNL4>

By: Arpa Ghosh



# Pana Samkranti (Odisha New Year)



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QOnmzL9eEqM>

By: Adrija, Sambit and Pratik Mishra



# Nowrouz

## The Persian New Year

By: Mehran Samiee

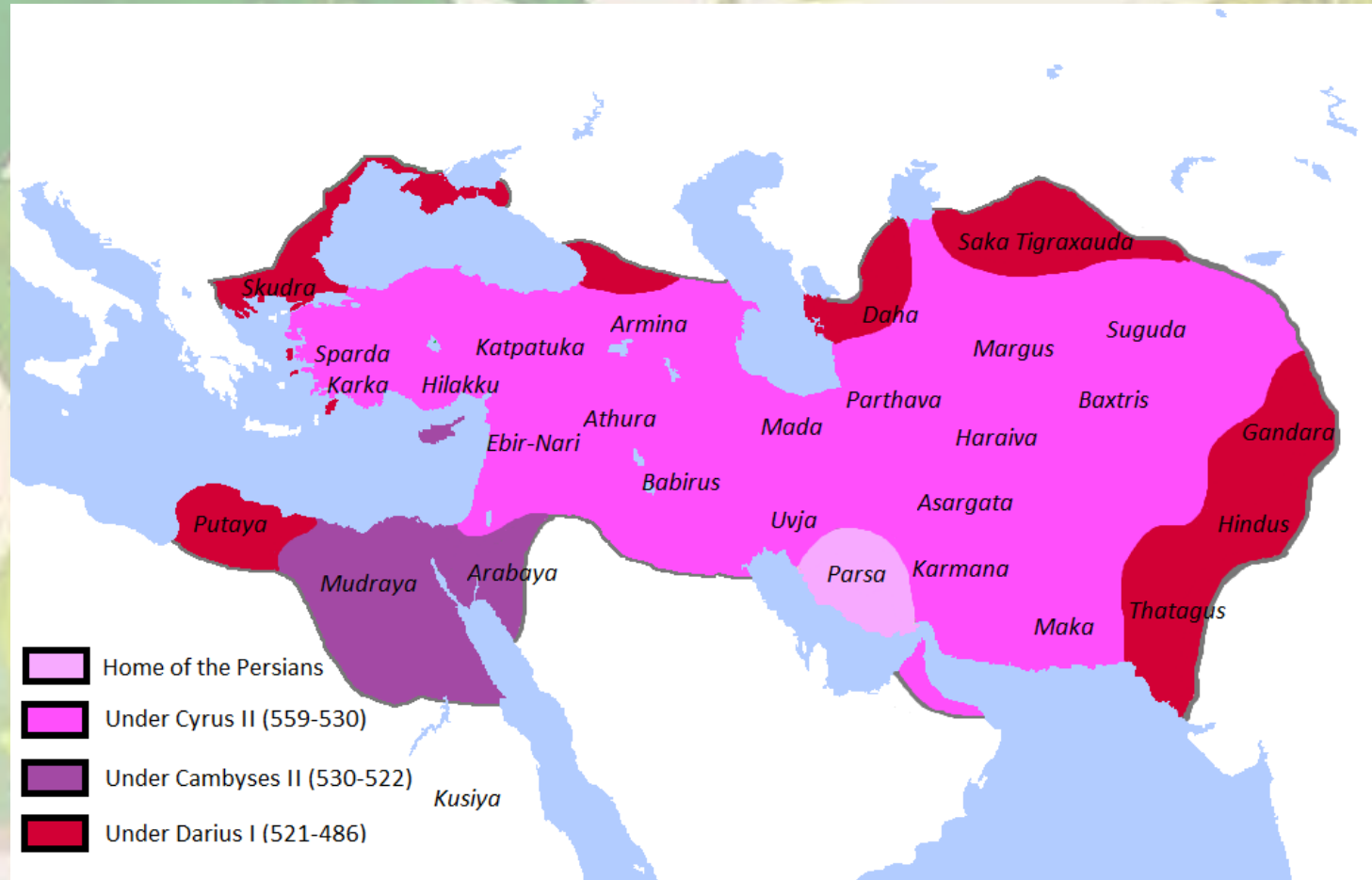
4/4/2015



# Nowrouz (also Navruz, नवरोज़ or नौरोज़ etc.)

- Now meaning New
- Rouz meaning Day
- Nowrouz = New Day
- **Nowruz** is the traditional Iranian festival of spring which starts at the exact moment of the vernal equinox, commencing the start of the spring.
- Around 21<sup>st</sup> of March.

Started in Persian empire 2500 to 3000 years back



Celebrating the first day of Spring!!



Today, celebrated in many countries!



Iran, India, Turkey, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan etc.



Every Iranian family has one of these: Haft-Sin





# Haft-sin (Seven items whose names start with “S”)

Sabzeh- wheat, barley, mung bean or lentil sprouts growing in a dish - symbolizing rebirth

Samanu -sweet pudding made from wheat germ - symbolizing affluence

Senjed- dried oleaster Wild Olive fruit - symbolizing love

Seer - garlic - symbolizing medicine

Seeb - apple - symbolizing beauty and health

Somāq - sumac fruit –  
symbolizing (the color of) sunrise

Serkeh - vinegar –  
symbolizing old-age and patience

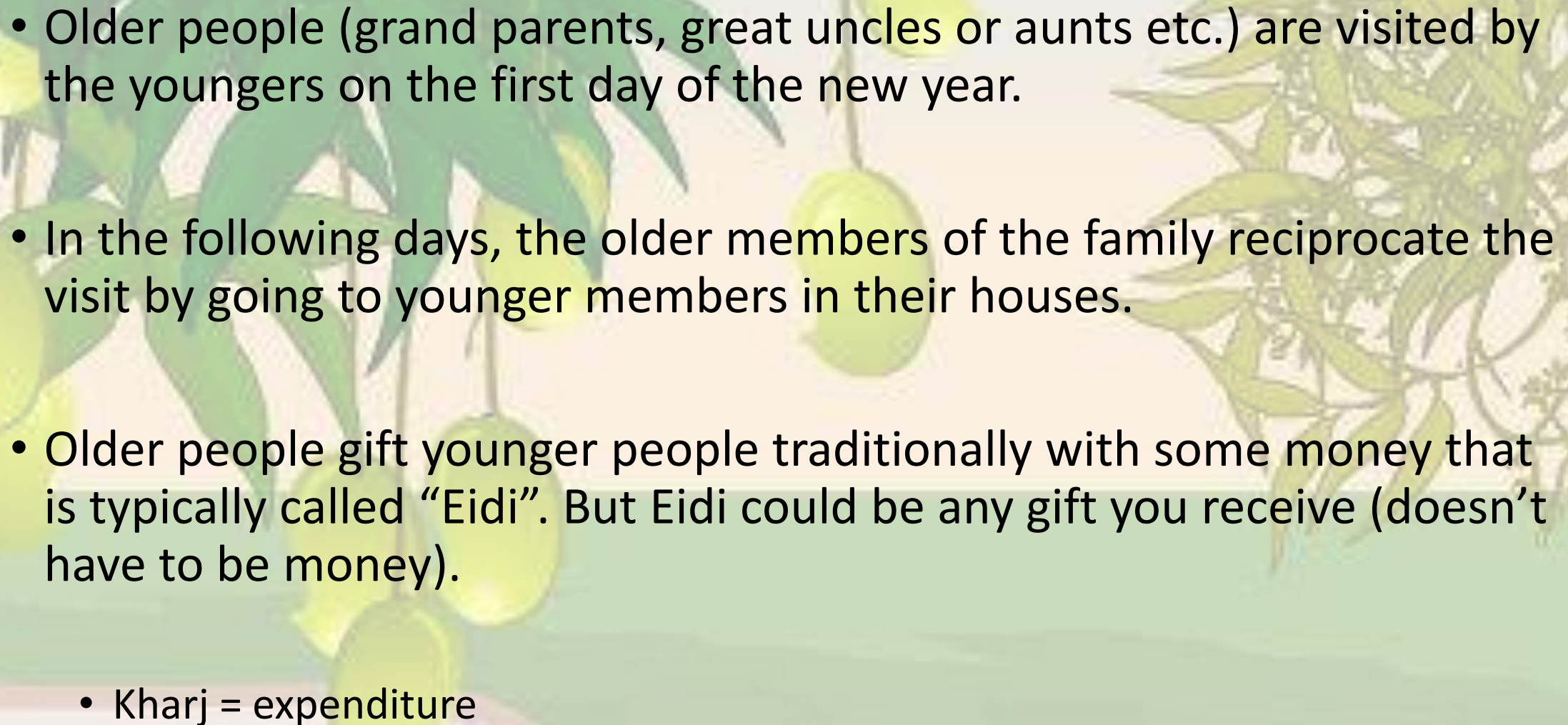




Families gather around Haft-sin at the time  
the new year starts





- 
- Older people (grand parents, great uncles or aunts etc.) are visited by the youngers on the first day of the new year.
  - In the following days, the older members of the family reciprocate the visit by going to younger members in their houses.
  - Older people gift younger people traditionally with some money that is typically called “Eidi”. But Eidi could be any gift you receive (doesn’t have to be money).
    - Kharj = expenditure



# Celebrations

- Two weeks of celebrations
- On the 13<sup>th</sup> day, people go to nature: Family potluck picnic party.





# Get Involved

- Email: [HinduYUVAISU@gmail.com](mailto:HinduYUVAISU@gmail.com)
- Bhagvad Gita Study Circle every Saturday 4.30-5.30
- We will be celebrating International Yoga day on June 21<sup>st</sup>. If you have some ideas or want to get involved, let us know.