

Sarhul Festival

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Sarhul Festival Latest News

Recently, the President of India extended greetings to the countrymen on the occasion of the Sarhul festival.

About Sarhul Festival

- Sarhul, literally **“worship of the Sal tree”**, is among the most revered Adivasi festivals.
- It is **rooted in nature worship** and celebrates the symbolic union of the Sun and the Earth.
- The Sal tree is revered as the **abode of Sama Maa**, the village-protecting deity.
- **Rituals:** A **pahan** (male priest) represents the Sun, while his wife (pahen) symbolizes the Earth, signifying the essential connection between sunlight and soil for sustaining life.
- Sarhul marks the **renewal of life**.
- It is celebrated by various tribes, including **the Oraon, Munda, Santal, Khadia, and Ho**, each with unique names and traditions associated with the festival.
- Sarhul is celebrated in **Jharkhand and parts of Odisha, West Bengal, and Chhattisgarh**.
- **Three-Day Festival**

- Day 1 – Preparations begin, with homes and **Sarna Sthals cleaned**, Sal flowers gathered, and the village priest (pahan) observing a strict fast.
 - Day 2 – Main rituals are **performed at Sarna Sthals** (Sacred Groves), including sacrifices, prayers for prosperity, and cultural performances.
 - Day 3 – Concludes with a **community feast**, featuring Handia (rice beer), ceremonial fishing, and traditional Adivasi cuisine.
- Only after its rituals are completed do **Adivasis begin agricultural activities** like ploughing, sowing, and forest gathering, emphasizing the festival's deep ties to nature and sustenance.

Source: News On AIR

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/sarhul-festival/>

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