



SPECIAL FEATURE

Chaitro Shonkranti celebrations

Every year, towards the beginning of summer as the sun prepares to change its motion, indigenous tribes in the Chittagong Hill Tracts gear up to celebrate the much-awaited, auspicious festival of Chaitro Shonkranti.

This time of the year – when the sun moves towards the north and the length of the day increases – is

wash off sins and enhance communal bond and friendship.

A jovial atmosphere prevails all around as every household prepares celebratory food and sweets. Charity is considered the most benevolent of all acts and is highly encouraged during this time of the year.

The spirit of solar energy permeates every aspect of this celebration

to be beneficial for spiritual and mental well-being.

Some people believe in visiting holy sites and shrines on this day to attain higher religious understanding. Chaitro Shonkranti is one of the auspicious religious festivals in the indigenous community owing to the opportunity it provides to the devotees to wash off their sins and



celebrated with enthusiasm and devotion. Devotees offer prayers to the sun deity as it is the giver of life and sustenance.

A very important aspect of this festival is bathing in rivers, which is believed to absolve one of one's sins and strengthen the mind, body and soul. Members of this community sprinkle water on each other to

as red, orange and yellow are primary colours used. Vibrant decorations are used to set the tone, and men and women choose attires in these colours to add to the mood.

Fancy, vivid ribbons are worn by women, coiled in their beautiful braids and buns. The celebrations continue for a few days as welcoming the sun's new phase is believed

start afresh.

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