



Social festival of India organized by women for women.



हaldi कुंकुम

The festival is more famous in Maharashtra and other western parts of India like Gujarat and Rajasthan. On the day of Haldi kumkum married women get along at one place and pray the God for long life of their respective husbands.

Concept of the Festival:

Haldi Kumkum gatherings begin after Makar Sankranti and continue up to around February month. People invite relatives, old and new friends for the occasion. They exchange Haldi and Kumkum as mark of happy marital life. Haldi means turmeric powder and Kumkum means vermilion powder. On the occasion the host of the Haldi Kumkum offers gifts to invitees. Sometimes Haldi Kumkum is also entertained during spring season means during Chaitra month according to the Hindu calendar.

Historical scoops of Haldi Kumkum:

Haldi Kumkum festival observation started during rule of Marathas and Peshwas in Maharashtra State. Queens of the royal families used to invite their married women friends and relatives to perform Haldi Kumkum custom and they used to give them beautiful gifts. Queens first offered jewelries and precious dresses to Goddess Bhavani or Goddess Paravati before they begin to celebrate the festival.



Food of the Festival:

Hostess of the house decorate her house with floral hangings and decorations. On the event of Haldi Kumkum hostess of the house welcomes the guest and serves different types of welcome drink and snacks to the guests. One of the famous welcome drinks is raw mango juice which is called Karichi Panhe and delicious snacks like Vatti Dal and sprouted pulses cooked with spices. Hostess of the house offers different gifts to invitees like flowers, betel leaves, betel nut, dry coconuts, bangles, vermilion and other novelty things as good symbol of their happy marital life. They share seasonal fruits and vegetables with friends and prepare feast of different fruits like mangoes, melons and jackfruit. They prepare sesame seeds



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laddoos on the occasion and cook sweets like carrot halwa and semolina halwa for guests.

In modern days educated families celebrate the festival like kitty party for married women. They play different fun related indoor games. They arrange menu according to new taste like chaats, juices and cold drinks. If the members of Haldi Kumkum are in very large numbers, then the host of the family arranges caterer service for food and hires a special team for musical and singing evening and to play different types of enjoyable games.

Celebration of the Occasion:

They make red dot on each other's forehead by using Haldi and kumkum as a part of rituals and pray to the God for health and prosperity in life of their husbands and families. Haldi Kumkum has traditional values but nowadays the event becomes more like social gathering. The festival is gaining more and more popularity because it gives some change in every day's monotonous life. Women get chance to dress in their beautiful attire and jewelry. The occasion is especially dedicated to women, so they can enjoy a life differently for one day.



<http://cravecookclick.com/makar-sankranti-haldi-kunku/>