








STATE TIMES

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Karwa Chauth : The Festival for Well-beings of Husband

In our culture, the Karwa Chauth is an important festival for all married women. From sunrise till moonrise, she keeps a fast for the safety of her husband. Keeping a fast without drinking water and eating any food all through the day seems to be a difficult one but the doting wives performs all these with much love and respect in their head and heart for their husbands.

The meaning of Karwa Chauth is offering Argya to the moon using an earthen pot known as Karwa on the Chaturthi of the Karthika month. It falls on the fourth day of the dark fortnight in the Kartika month every year. The origin of this festival is still very hazy but there are definitely some anecdotes associated with this festival. Some of the estimated stories are narrated below which shows the reason behind this celebration:

Tale of the Queen Veervati:
Once upon a time there was a beautiful queen named Veervati who was the only sister among seven loving and caring brothers. In one of the Karwa Chauth she was at her parents place and began a strict fast after sunrise. In the evening she was waiting eagerly for the moonrise as she was suffering from hunger and thirst. The brothers were pained by seeing their sister in suffering. So, they created a mirror in a Pipal tree that made it look as if the Moon is up in the sky. Now, the moment Veervati broke her fast, the news that her husband is dead arrived. She kept on weeping and that's when a Goddess arrived in front and revealed that she was tricked by her brothers. Now, she kept the Karwa Chauth fast with full devotion and seeing the dedication, Yama, the lord of death restored life to her husband.

From the Pages of the Mahabharata:
It is said that Draupadi also observed this Karwa Chauth. Once Arjuna, the one whom Darupadi loved the most went to the Nilgiri mountains for self-penalty and thus the rest of the brothers were facing challenges without him. Now, Draupadi remembered Lord Krishna in this situation to ask what should be done to resolve the challenges. Lord Krishna narrated a story of Goddess Parvati where in a similar situation she performed the Karwa Chauth rituals. So, Draupadi then followed the strict rituals of Karwa Chauth and Pandavas resolved their problems.

The Story of Karwa:
There was a woman named Karwa who was deeply in love with her husband and this intense love gave her lots of spiritual powers. Once her husband was bathing in a river and that was when he was attacked by a crocodile. Now the courageous Karwa bound the crocodile with a cotton yarn and remembered Yama the Lord of death. Yama was seriously afraid of being cursed by such a devoted and doting wife and thus he sent the crocodile to hell and gave life back to her husband. The Story of Satyavan and Savitri: It is said that when Yama, the God of death came to acquire Satyavan's life, Savitri begged in front of Yama to grant him life. But Yama was adamant and seeing that Savitri stopped eating and drinking and followed Yama as he took her husband away. Yama now said Savitri that she can ask of any other boon except the life of her husband. Savitri being a very clever woman asked Yama that she wants to be blessed with children. She is a devoted and loyal wife and won't let any kind of adultery. Thus, Yama had to restore the life into Satyavan so that Savitri can have children.

Why We Celebrate Karwa Chauth?
If we see the popularity of this festival, we see the prominence of North and North Western regions of our country. A huge chunk of the male population of these regions were the soldiers of the Indian Army and officials of the Military Forces and for the safety of these people, women of these regions started fasting. These armed forces, policemen, soldiers, and military personnel protected the country from enemies and the women used to pray to the God for the longevity of their men. The time of this festival coincides with the initiation of the Rabi cropping season which is the wheat sowing season in these aforementioned areas. The women of the families fill the earthen pot or Karwa with wheat grains and offer to the God praying for a great Rabi season.
In ancient India, women of 10-13 years of age were married. Hardly they could enjoy their childhood or early teenage in such a marriage. Communication was also a big obstacle in those days. So, they couldn't come to their parent's home easily and it was also not considered good. So, you can say from an early age, a woman had to take the full responsibility of a new household. From cooking to cleaning, she was the in-charge. But, she was basically all alone away from the loved ones in an unknown house and without any friends too. Where would she go while feeling alone or missing home? So, to resolve this problem, the women started celebrating Karwa Chauth in a grand way where married women of the whole village and some nearby villages used to congregate in one place and spend the day in joy and laughter. They befriended each other and called each other God-friends or God-sisters. One can say that this festival started as a means of enjoyment and to forget the fact that they are alone at their in-laws place. They celebrated the union among themselves on this day and gifted each other bangles, lipsticks, sindoor, etc. to remind each other that there is always a friend somewhere.



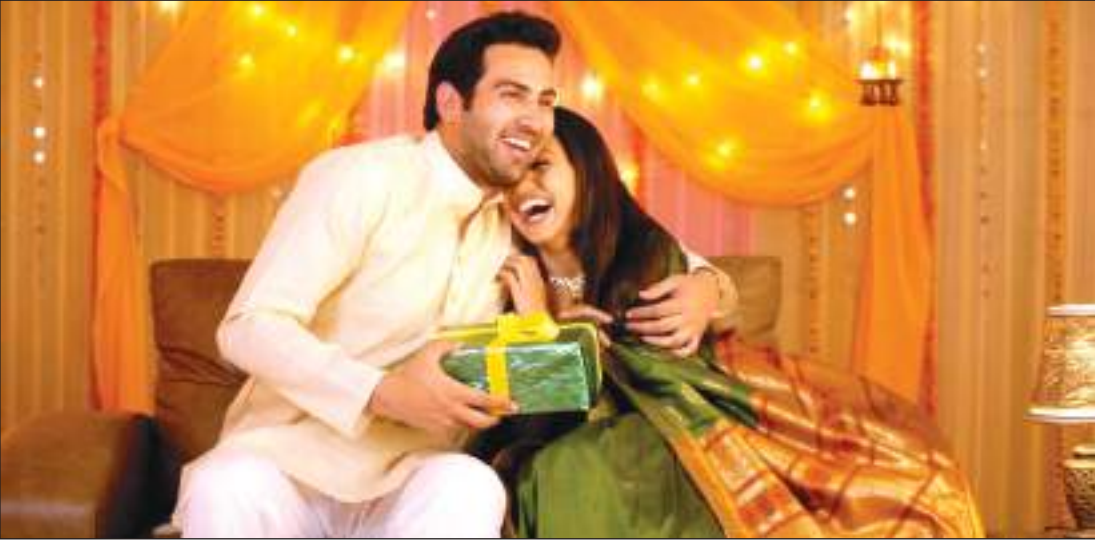
Get ready for Karwa Chauth with these simple makeup and hair style tips



Women love to strut their best looks and when the occasion is as special as Karwa Chauth, they take it up another notch. Primarily observed in north India, this auspicious Hindu festival is celebrated with utmost dedication and sincerity. Married women and some unmarried women celebrate this Indian festival by fasting for husband's well-being and long life or for their desired partner. On this day married women pray for the longevity and good health of their life partner by observing fast for the whole day, without even consuming a drop of water.
Although the whole fasting ritual by abstaining from any kind of solid or liquid consumable might seem difficult, but that does not stop the women to make sure that they look their stunning best for their husband on this day. Yes, women love this day for the opportunity to not just pray for their husband's well being but they also love to participate in all the traditional rituals and ensuring at the same time that they dress up and look perfect from head to toe.
So if you need some help to spruce up your look for Karwa Chauth this year, you have come to the right place. We will share some very easy and practical tips to flaunt your best look this Karwa Chauth. Simply follow the simple makeup & hair style tips given below to look your best on this auspicious day.
Quintessential traditional look
Go grab your brand new nine yards to look like a diva on this auspicious day. If you want to experiment with your look, you can always opt for an Indo-western outfit such as a dhoti saree by draping it in a new way. If you don't want to wear a saree you can choose

from a Lehenga, an Anarkali or a Punjabi dress. You can always choose to ditch the cliched maroons to try some other bright colours such as hot pink, beige and red combination or any other colour.
Hairstyle
Experiment with the hairstyle, you can either try the most convenient bun, or go for stylish braids to keep your hair out of your face. Add some flowers to your bun to give the ultimate traditional twist and making you even more elegant. But if you have short hair, don't worry you can use some fun hair accessories to go with your attire.
Accessories
Do you love jewelry; well Karwa Chauth is the perfect day to flaunt all of them! Bring out your Maang Tikas, bangles and statement earrings. But if you don't like accessorising, the ornate Mangal Sutra along with the Sindoor and Bindi is just enough to complete your look.
Makeup
Red is a classic when it comes to traditional look, but if you are bored of the same old colour, you can go bold this time by trying a whole new colour. Feel free to experiment with shades of pink, violet, gold or any other rich colour to complete your look.
Henna and nail art
It's time to adorn your hands and feet in beautiful and intricate henna or Mehendi designs. Choose from a rich or simple henna designs for your hands and feet this Karwa Chauth as per your wish. Also, do not forget to try some pretty nail art to give a twist to your look and unleash your creativity.

7 thoughtful gift ideas for your wife this festive season



Karwa Chauth is one of the most auspicious Hindu festivals for women in India. It celebrates the unique and special bond between a husband and wife. On this day, married women observe fast from sunrise to moonrise for the safety and longevity of their husbands. This year, Karwa Chauth will be observed on Sunday, October 24, 2021.
The rituals of Karwa Chauth begins early in the morning with 'Sargi'. Married women wake up to eat 'Sargi', a meal that is usually prepared by their mother-in-law and after that, they do not consume even a drop of water until the moon appears in the evening or night.
While women keep fast for the longevity of their husbands and show their love, the man can also make his lady feel special by getting her something special. On this Karwa Chauth, you can give your wife a thoughtful present and shower your love and devotion.
Red Rose Bouquet: What speaks love more than a red rose? A beautiful bouquet of red roses on Karwa Chauth can easily make your wife feel loved and appreciated. You can get it customised from the shop and add a cute greeting card, expressing your feelings.
Diamond Jewellery: They say diamonds are women's best friends and hence, gifting diamond jewellery can never go wrong. Husbands can gift their wives beautiful pendants, a pair of earrings and more and make them feel special.
Makeup Kit: For women, there is no such thing as too much makeup. As a Karwa Chauth gift, you can give your wife a makeup kit and adore her.
Surprise Date: This Karwa Chauth, you can give your wife a precious gift of time and take her out on a surprise date. You can take her out for a brunch or candlelight dinner at her favourite restaurant.
Designer Saree: Husbands can gift their wives a beautiful designer saree and jewellery collection this Karwa Chauth and make her feel pretty.
Designer Bags: Designer bags are the best Karwa Chauth gift you can give your wife. Bags can be a perfect gift for your lady and it will definitely make her happy.
Watches: A gorgeous watch would also be a great gift for your wife, this Karwa Chauth. You can pick one from different styles available on the market and adore her.