

NSS TRAINING COLLEGE CHANGANACHERRY

VISHU – FESTIVAL OF KERALA

Vishu, a major festival in Kerala falls on the first day in the Malayalam month of Medam (April/May). It marks the beginning of a new year in the Malayalam calendar. The auspicious day of Vishu also marks the beginning of agriculture calendar in Kerala and the land would witness the beginning of many agricultural activities. Cultivation of new crops commences on this day and the activities would last up to the Pathamudayam day or the tenth day from the Vishu day. Vishu also has astrological relevance.

Vishu is celebrated to mark the onset of spring and harvest season in the country. It also marks the triumph of Lord Krishna over the demon Narakasura.

One of the most significant events of Vishu is seeing the Vishu Kani. People observing and celebrating the festival see Vishu Kani as the first thing during dawn. It is said that the sighting of Vishu Kani can make the entire year better and bring good luck to people. The Malayalam word "kani" literally means "that which is seen first" so "Vishukkani" means "that which is seen first on Vishu". The traditional belief is that one's future is a function of what one experiences, that the new year will be better if one views auspicious joyful things as the first thing on Vishu.