

MAHALAYA

THE DAY TO REMEMBER OUR ANCESTORS

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"Mahalaya" is the auspicious new moon day that marks the end of "Pitri-paksha", that is the period of the Gods, and the beginning of "Devi-paksha", that is the period of the Goddesses. Countdown for the festival of Durga puja starts on this day.

A Hindu ritual called "Tarpan" is observed on this day whereby people pay homage to their ancestors by offering food and water for their gratification. The banks of the river Ganga are considered the most suitable place for this ritual.





Festive season is knocking the door and everyone feels happy to earn some extra money. So the priest keeps on looking for his "Yajmans" (the customers), others sell items for the rituals and the children living in the streets nearby get into fishing out coins, thrown in the river as offerings, with their magnets.

Some Brahmin pilgrims who come to the place for the ritualistic bathing also work as priests for interested persons. Photographers are after the frames; who knows yours might be the one selected for the next day paper.





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