



Culture

The Government of India is actively pursuing UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) status for Chhath Mahaparva, one of the oldest Vedic festivals dedicated to the worship of the Sun God and Chhathi Maiya. The festival holds immense cultural, spiritual, and ecological value, celebrated predominantly in Bihar, eastern Uttar Pradesh, and parts of Nepal.

Chhath Mahaparva reflects harmony between humans and nature, as its rituals—performed on riverbanks and other natural water bodies—promote environmental awareness and water conservation. The observance cuts across caste and class boundaries, fostering inclusivity and social equality. It is also seen as a tribute to the life-sustaining energy of the Sun, emphasising gratitude, self-discipline, and collective devotion. By seeking UNESCO recognition, India aims to globally acknowledge the festival's rich heritage and its role in promoting ecological consciousness and communal unity.