

Chaṭha Pūjā as Lived Religion: Beliefs, Practices, and Festivities



Thesis submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the award of the
degree of
DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

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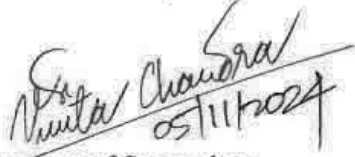
**Department of Humanistic Studies
Indian Institute of Technology (Banaras Hindu University)
Varanasi**

November 2024

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It is certified that the work contained in the thesis titled **Chañha Pūjā as Lived Religion: Beliefs, Practices, and Festivities** by **Akanksha Yadav** has been carried out under my supervision and that this work has not been submitted elsewhere for a degree.

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This thesis is dedicated to my uncle, Late Gautam Kumar Yadav. It was his strong faith in me that made the work possible.

Your influence is forever cherished...

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A Note on Transliteration and Translation

In this thesis, we have employed a systematic method of transliteration to represent words from non-English languages including Hindi, Sanskrit, and other languages using the Latin alphabet. Sanskrit terms are transliterated based on the International Alphabet of Sanskrit Transliteration (IAST) system. For Hindi and Bhojpuri terms, we have transliterated the terms as they are pronounced, e.g., *Ḍom*, instead of *Ḍoma*. Diacritics are not added to names of places. Sanskrit, Hindi and Bhojpuri terms are italicized.

Additionally, the plural forms of Non-English words are used as in English, however, the plural ending is not italicized, e.g., *vratas*. The Indic languages do not distinguish between upper and lower case, however, we have capitalized the first letters of proper nouns like Chaṭha.

Unless otherwise stated, all accompanying English translations are our own and aim at literal accuracy rather than literary effect. Certain crucial Hindi and Sanskrit words that have no precise English synonym or are more expressive in the original language have been transliterated throughout the main body of the text. Their meanings are offered in brackets or footnotes.

List of Images

Chapter 2

- Figure 1: Map showing sites of Data Collection

Chapter 3

- Figure 1: *Parvaitin* in Ḍālā Chaṭha
- Figure 2: Sita Charan Mandir in Munger

Chapter 4:

- Figure 1: Dynamics of culinary features prevalent in religious and festive settings.
- Figure 2: Earthen utensils used for Chaṭha
- Figure 3: Pattern of Food and Foodways during the four-day festival of Chaṭha
- Figure 4: Ritual meal prepared for *nahāe-khāe*
- Figure 5: *Rasiyā and dostī roṭī* prepared for *kharnā*
- Figure 6: Preparations for *Sanjhiyā Arghya* and *Bihāniyā Arghya*
- Figure 7: Bamboo *Sūplā/Sūpa* and *Ḍālā* used for Chaṭha Pūjā
- Figure 8: Decorated *sūplā/sūpa* and brass *sūplā/sūpa* used for Chaṭha Pūjā
- Figure 9: *Āltā* used for Chaṭha Pūjā
- Figure 10: Women wearing *piyarī* for Chaṭha Pūjā

Chapter 5

- Figure 1: *Nāun* using her *naharnī* to apply *mahāvar*
- Figure 2: Prajāpati artisans and their earthen vessels for Chaṭha Pūjā
- Figure 3: Ḍom Mallick artisans making *sūplā* for Chaṭha Pūjā
- Figure 4: Stove-making by female artisans in Sahibganj

Chapter 6

- Figure 1: worshippers washing the *parvaitin*'s clothes and rubbing it on their faces to seek blessings

Chapter 7

- Figure 1: Practice of *daṇḍavat* in Chaṭha Pūjā
- Figure 2: Worshippers preparing their *Kosī* in Chaṭha
- Figure 3: Begging as a reciprocatory practice in Chaṭha