

A Second Charak Festival from Delhi

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ABSTRACT The *Charak puja* is a symbol and forms a key symbol where a variety of other symbols cluster around. The festival is analysed in conjunction with the earlier *Charak puja* seen in Delhi. This gives an idea of the reasons that cluster around the key symbol of the festival. The elements of the festival, involving a period of preparation, fasting and then prayers and hook-swinging, are an essential fabric around which a tapestry of relations and needs are woven. The people then use the available local materials to keep alive a semblance of the rituals that these migrants from West Bengal used to follow. Thus this paper uses the concepts inherent in these local symbols to discover the universal referents of the general culture.