

A Virtual Exhibition on

festivals of India



25/8/2020



Festivals of India



India is a land of festivals and fairs. Virtually celebrating each day of the year, there are more festivals celebrated in India than anywhere else in the world. Each festival pertains to different occasions, some welcome the seasons of the year, the harvest, the rains, or the full moon. Others celebrate religious occasions, the birthdays of divine beings and saints, or the advent of the New Year. A number of these festivals are common to most parts of India. India is a land of diversification. Every state has its unique art, culture, and tradition. The one thing that is common for all states is the celebration of individual culture and tradition.

Indians celebrate their beliefs, culture, and tradition in the form of festivals. Every festival has its own specific characteristics. Festivals in India are celebrated season-wise and state-wise.

The main reason for the celebration of these festivals is to spread happiness and strengthen the bond between friends and family. Many festivals are local and held at different dates each year. Few are set according to the lunar calendar. The relevance of festivals in India is to honour a deity at a particular temple, celebrate the agriculture cycle or a religious story or event.





The Indian Festivals



The list of the Indian festivals mentioned below are stated in the following order:

- State-specific
- Season-specific
- Andhra Pradesh - Bhisma Ekadasi, Deccan Festival, Pitr, Brahmotsavam
 - Arunachal Pradesh - Pongtu, Losar
 - Assam - Bhogali Bihu
 - Bihar - Chhath Puja
 - Chhattisgarh - Maghi Purnima, Bastar
 - Goa - Carnival, Sunburn festival
 - Gujarat - Navratri, Janmashtami, Kutch Utsav



The Indian Festivals



- Himachal Pradesh - Rakhadumni, Gochi Festival
 - Haryana - Baisakhi, Surajkund Mela
- Jammu and Kashmir - Har Navami, Chhari, Bahu Mela
 - Jharkhand - Karam Utsav, Holi
 - Karnataka - Mysore Dasara, Ugadi
 - Kerala - Onam, Vishu
 - Madhya Pradesh - Lokrang utsav, Diwali
- Meghalaya - Nongkrem festival, Khasis festival
 - Maharashtra - Ganesh Utsav, Gudi Padva
 - Manipur- Yaoshang



The Indian Festivals



- **Mizoram - Chapcharkut Festival**
- **Nagaland - Hornbill festival**
- **Odisha - Rath Yatra, Raja Parba**
- **Punjab - Lohri, Baisakhi**
- **Rajasthan - Gangaur, Teej**
- **Sikkim - Losar, Saga Dawa**
- **Tamil Nadu - Pongal**
- **Telangana - Bonalu, Bathukamma**
- **Tripura - Kharchi Puja**
- **West Bengal - Durga Puja**
- **Uttaranchal - Ganga Dussehra, Kumbh Mela**
- **Uttar Pradesh - Ram Navmi, Ganga Mahotsav, Navaratri**



Interesting Facts about Festivals in India



- Tihar is one of the festivals of India that is dedicated to certain animals and things. They are classified as day of dog, day of crow, day of cows, etc.
- Gotmar festival in Pandhurna is one of the festivals where two large villages perform an act of rivalry against one another by hurling rocks for 24 hours.
- Gajan festival is one such festival where devotees offer sacrifices and perform acts of devotion such as running over hot coals, lying on beds of nails, stepping over children, offering human remains and piercing themselves to win blessings from Hindu gods such as Lord Shiva.
- Snake Boat Races are held in Kerala and several dozens of men race on a boat in Kerala's waterways and canals.



List of (Season-specific) Harvest Festivals in India



Festivals of North India

- Makar Sankranti - January
 - Baisakhi - April
- Ladakh harvest festival - September
 - Lohri - January
- Basant Panchami - January



List of (Season-specific) Harvest Festivals in India



Festivals of South India

- Onam - August
- Pongal - January
- Ugadi - March
- Vishu - April



List of (Season-specific) Harvest Festivals in India



Festivals of East & West India

- Bhogali Bihu - January
- Wangala - November
- Ka Pomblang Nongkrem - November
 - Nuakhai - August
 - Gudi Padwa - March
- Nabanna - November - December



Makar Sankranti - Kite Festival in Gujarat Lohri in North India



Uttarayan - On Uttarayan, you see beautiful skies covered with kites of different sizes, designs, and colours. The International Kite Flying Festival of Gujarat is the most significant festival celebrated in India. The best location to encounter the delightful view of bright skies is either the Sabarmati Riverfront or the [Ahmedabad](#) Police Stadium.





Lohri in North India



Falling on almost the same date every year, i.e. January 15, Makar Sankranti has different festivities associated with it. These are named as Lohri by North Indian Hindus and Sikhs and Uttarayan by Gujaratis.

Lohri- Celebration of Lohri marks the end of winter season. It is celebrated with the beating of Dhol, Nagadas, and singing of traditional Lohri songs. Children visit the neighbourhood asking for treats. The festival is full of life, and you can't afford to miss the North Indian's Lohri. Special celebrations take place in the houses of newborns and newlyweds





Pongal Harvest in Southern Part of India



"Thai Pongal" in its literal sense is the thanksgiving festival to the Sun God for the harvest. It is celebrated between 14 January and 17 January every year. Each day has different occasions to celebrate. The first day is celebrated as Bhogi when old possessions are discarded, and new ones are celebrated. The second day is the main event known as Thai Pongal followed by the third day's event, Maatu Pongal. Kaanum Pongal celebrated on the fourth day gives a happy ending to the festival.





Basant Panchami Celebrating Saraswati



This Hindu Spring festival is either celebrated in January or February. The festival is dedicated to the Hindu Goddess Saraswati. Saraswati Puja takes place on a giant level in the states of [Bihar](#), [West Bengal](#), [Odisha](#), and [Assam](#). People eat yellow and wear yellow. In [Rajasthan](#), people wear jasmine garlands whereas, in [Uttarakhand](#), people also worship Lord Shiva and Parvati as the mother earth. The Sikhs conduct Langar to celebrate the yellow festival.





Kumbh Mela At Prayagraj, Uttar-pradesh



Ever witnessed a stampede of thousands of people? well, that's Kumbh Mela for you. Held once in every 3 years at [Allahabad](#), [Varanasi](#), [Haridwar](#) and [Ujjain](#), the festival is one of the largest pilgrim gatherings around the world. Considered as the most spiritually enlightening festival in the world, Kumbh Mela is a venue of devotees taking a dip in the river to become holy. Although at certain places it's celebrated every 3 years, it's held once in 12 years at some places based on the Vikram Samvat calendar. The number of people that visited Maha Kumbh Mela has crossed 30 million a day over the past years.





Losar- Tibetan New Year



It is mainly celebrated in [Ladakh](#) either at the end of Jan or at the beginning of Feb. The celebration is the amalgamation of ancient rituals, drama, and dances. The "Metho" Ceremony is the main event carried out by Ladakhi people in which they carry flaming torches and chant prayers while they move from street to street to chase away the evil spirits.





Maha Shivratri



The grand festival is celebrated on the occasion of overcoming darkness and ignorance. People fast, wear new clothes and worship Lord Shiva. Main temples of God are visited in Varanasi and [Somnath](#). The Mandi Fair is organized in the town of [Mandi, Himachal Pradesh](#). It is also celebrated as the anniversary of God Shiva and Goddess Parvati in the Kashmiri and Himalayan regions. The [Mahakaleshwar Temple](#), Ujjain is flocked by numerous devotees.





HOLI



The festival of colours is the most amiable festival of the country. Holika Dahan takes place a night before Holi where all negatives are burnt in a bonfire. On the main day, people play with organic colours as they groove on the tunes of music. Gujiya, Mathri, and Thandai are the specialities of the festival. "Lath Maar Holi" is celebrated in the Bhaj region of Mathura. Women playfully beat their husbands' shields with sticks. In the South, offerings are made to Kamadeva, the Indian God of Love. [Dwarka](#), a coastal city of Gujarat, celebrate the festival at [Dwarkadheesh Temple](#).

It is observed as the festival of forgiveness and new beginnings.





The Vasant Chaitra Navaratri



The Vasant Chaitra Navaratri marks the beginning of New year according to Hindu Lunar Calendar. The celebration lasts for nine days. Gujarat hosts enigmatic celebrations in the form of fasting and its traditional folk dance, Garba. The first three days are dedicated to Maa Durga (goddess of energy), next three to Maa Lakshmi (goddess of wealth) and the last three to Maa Saraswati (Goddess of knowledge). The nine days of Navratri ends with Ram Navami.





Rath Yatra Orissa Festival of Chariots



The Rath Yatra is the grand festival celebrated in [Puri](#). The temple deities, Lord Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra and Goddess Subhadra, of the main Jagannath temple of Puri, are removed with the celestial wheel and taken to their respective chariots. The chariots are then taken to the grand avenue of the Gundicha Temple. Lakhs of devotees take part in this Yatra. Foreign channels also provide live telecast of this Yatra.

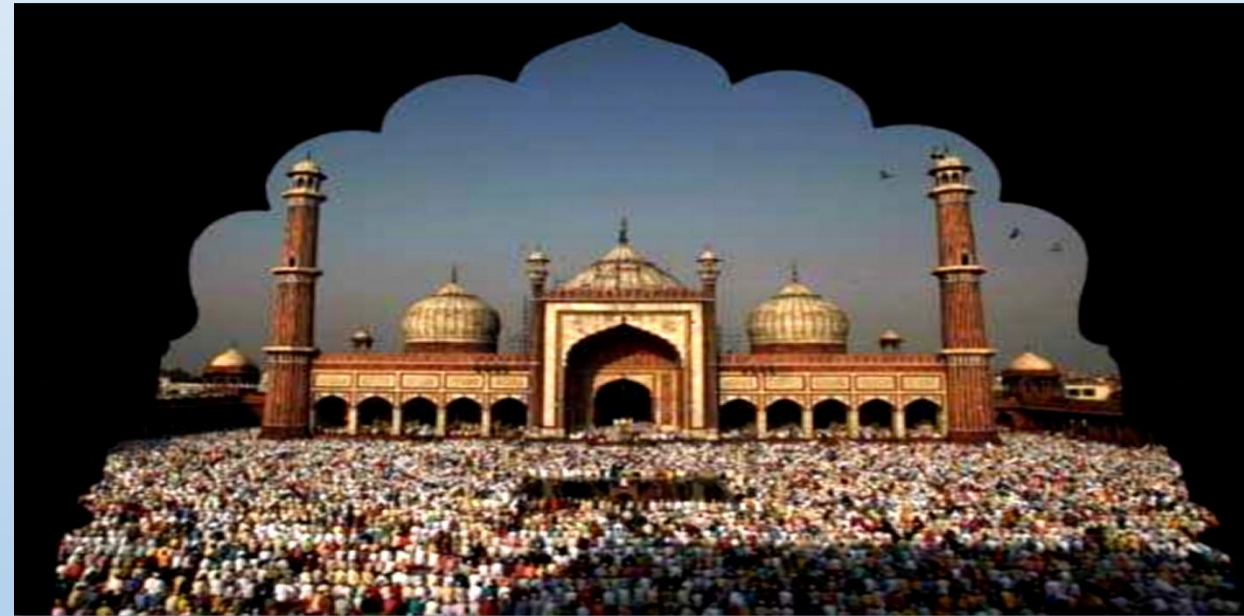




Eid ul-Fitr



The holy festival of Ramjaan consists of month-long fasting. It is believed that fasting makes a man give up his vices which bring him closer to Allah. Muslims form an essential part of cultural strata in India hence Eid is celebrated with holy fasting and offering prayers. It ends with joyful feasting.





Rakshabandhan



The festival commemorates the bond between a brother and his sister. Sisters tie Rakhi on their brothers' wrist to protect them against any evil influences. The brothers bring gifts for their sisters and promise the necessary protection for a lifetime. The festival is widely celebrated in every state of India. It strengthens the love between the two.





Janmashtami



The annual Hindu festival celebrates the birth of Lord Krishna. Different states celebrate the festival in different ways. Rasa Lila, the traditional Krishna Drama is performed in regions of [Mathura](#), [Manipur](#), Assam, Rajasthan, and Gujarat. In Mumbai, Pune, and Gujarat, the event of DAHI HANDI takes place in which groups make human pyramids to reach the yoghurt pot which is tied at a certain height. Traditional dances are performed at the temples in Gujarat. In the Kutch region of Gujarat, farmers decorate the bullock carts with the idols of Krishna to hold Pageantry. In North East and South India people get involved in devotional songs and celebrate the festival. Mathura, Vrindavan, and ISKCON observe the most significant celebrations of the festival.





Nowruz-Parsi New Year



The Zoroastrians in Mumbai commemorate their father's escape from Persia by conducting rituals at fire temples, including traditional feasts and visiting friends.





Ganesh Chaturthi - Maharashtra



It is celebrated as a grand public festival in the states of Maharashtra, Goa, Gujarat, and Chhattisgarh. Mandaps and Pandals are set up With the idols of Ganesha. Many cultural activities like singing, dancing, theatre and orchestral performances take place. The festival is known as Vinayaka Chaturthi in Tamil Nadu. Ganesha idols are made out of clay. In Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, procession marches involving great idols of Ganesha take place from Pazhavangadi Ganapathi Temple to Shankumugham Beach and the icons are immersed in the sea. Modak is the primary sweet dish of the festival.





Onam



Onam is the harvest festival of Kerala falling on the month of Chingam in the Malayalam Calendar. The festival is the commemoration of the Vishnu Avatar-Vamana and the homecoming of the King Mahabali. It is one among the three major Hindu festivals of Kerala along with Vishu and Thiruvathira. Although Onam is a Kerala festival, it is celebrated among Malayali communities around the world with the same vigour and pomp.





Durga Puja



Celebrating the reign of good over evil, the festival celebrates the victory of Goddess Durga over Mahishasura. It is observed over the course of 10 days and is a grand social event in eastern and north-eastern states of India. Though the rituals are long and complicated, they are enjoyed by the devotees. Colourful streets, Pandals, Bhajans and bright lights surround you during the festival time. Also, in the temples of West Bengal, Odisha and Assam(Silchar) actual animal sacrifices are performed to mark the victory of Maa Durga over the buffalo demon. It is celebrated as Mysore Dasara in Karnataka. The dates are subject to change.

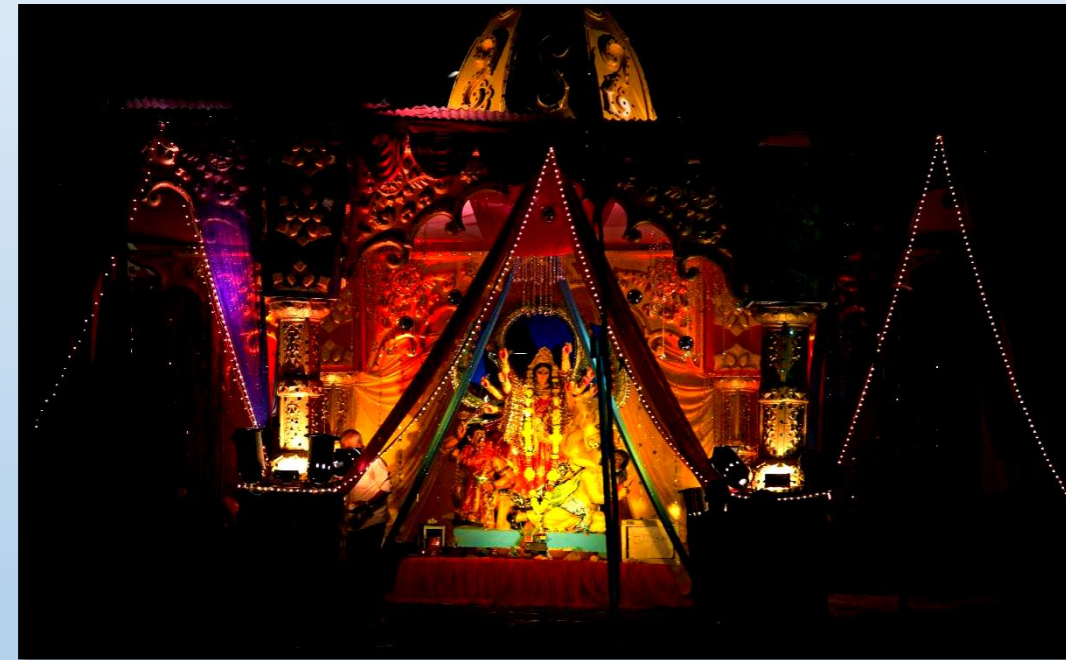




Navratri



Post monsoon Navratri, also known as Sharad Navratri is observed in honour of Maa Durga. In the western and north regions of India, the final day of Navratri is celebrated as Vijayadashami or Dussehra, whereas in northeastern and eastern states it is similar to Durga Puja. The dates depend upon the movements of sun and moon and hence are subject to change. The events of Ramlila take place in North India whereas pandals of Maa Durga are set up in eastern and north-eastern states of the country. It is the main festival of Gujarat hence it observes excellent enthusiasm and zeal among the residents of Gujarat. Garba, the cultural dance is performed in large groups.





Dussehra



Also known as Vijayadashmi, it marks the end of Durga Pooja and celebrates the victory of Good over Evil in the form of victory of Lord Rama over Ravana. Northern India observes Ravana idols being burnt signifying the restoration of faith in good. Thousands of dances and dramas take place portraying the story of Lord Rama's victory. In Kullu Valley, Himachal a large fair is organised, and half a million people visit the parade. In Mewar, Rajasthan, it is observed as the major festival of Rajputs. In Eastern India, goodbyes are bid to the idols of Durga as they are immersed in water. West Bengal celebrates the festival at the most exceptional level with hundreds of parades taking place. One can also visit Mysore to be a part of Grand Mysore Dasara.





Diwali



The country celebrates the return of Lord Rama to Ayodhya after an exile of 14 years in the form of lighting diyas, drawing rangolis, decorating houses, wearing new clothes, distributing gifts and burning crackers. People also worship Goddess Lakshmi(Goddess of wealth and prosperity) and Lord Ganesha(symbolises ethical beginnings). It is known as Kali Puja in West Bengal and Odisha. In Sikhism, it is celebrated as Bandi Chor Diwas during which the people light the Golden Temple of Amritsar and indulge themselves in fireworks. Diwali Melas are organised all over the country. It is a five day festival in Karnataka. Diwali is dedicated to Lord Krishna in Braj region, and therefore Govardhan Mountain is worshipped by the people. The Festival of Lights is enjoyed with great vigour and pomp.





Some Glimpse of Indian Festivals





Source of Information References



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