

# February 2025

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## Festivals

**Basant Panchami, All across Northern India**  
02nd February

**Nagaur Cattle Festival, Nagaur, Rajasthan**  
03rd to 06th February

**Hampi Utsav, Hampi, Karnataka**  
Early February (exact dates TBA)

**Surajkund Crafts Mela, Faridabad, Haryana**  
07th to 23rd February

**Jaisalmer Desert Festival, Jaisalmer, Rajasthan**  
10th to 12th February

**Thaipooam, All across Tamil Nadu and Kerala**  
11th February

**Andalur Kavu Temple Festival, Kannur, Kerala**  
13th to 19th February

**Kuttanellur Pooram, Thrissur, Kerala**  
14th February

**World Sacred Spirit Festival, Jodhpur, Rajasthan**  
14th to 16th February

**Taj Mahotsav, Agra, Uttar Pradesh**  
18th to 27th February

**Palakkad Pariyanampetta Pooram, Palakkad, Kerala**  
19th February

**Khajuraho Dance Festival, Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh**  
20th to 26th February

**The Rose Festival, Chandigarh, Punjab**  
21st to 23rd February

**Baneshwar Fair, Dungarpur, Rajasthan**  
22nd to 24th February

**Maha Shivaratri, All across India**  
25th February

**Shivraatri Festival, All across Nepal**  
26th February

**Natyanjali Dance Festival, Chidambaram, Tamil Nadu**  
26th February to 2nd March

**Losar, All across Sikkim and parts of West Bengal**  
28th Feb to 2nd March

# February 2025



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5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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# Basant Panchami

Basant Panchami, also known as Vasant Panchami, is a Hindu festival celebrating the arrival of spring and the worship of Goddess Saraswati, the deity of knowledge, music, and arts. In 2025, it will be celebrated on February 2nd. On this day, people wear yellow clothes, offer prayers to Saraswati, and prepare traditional sweets like kesar halwa. Schools and colleges often organize special pujas to seek the goddess's blessings for students. It's a vibrant festival that marks the end of winter and the beginning of a new season filled with hope and prosperity.

## Highlights:

- It is the day that marks the beginning of spring and is characterised by hues of yellow
- Many sufi sects also celebrate the arrival of Basant with music and songs dedicated to the divine



**When:** February 2, 2025



**Where:** All across Northern India





# Nagaur Cattle Festival

Nagaur Cattle Festival, also known as Ramdeoji Cattle Fair, is celebrated every year and boasts of being the 2nd largest cattle festival in India attracting thousands of curious travellers. A variety of animals like cattle, bullocks, camels and horses are traded by owners who come from every corner of the state. The animals are finely decorated to lure the buyers. The fair is also popular for its Mirchi Bazaar (red chilly market), which is the biggest in India and also trades wooden items, iron-crafts and accessories.

## Highlights:

- Enchanting folk music and dance performances are organized in the evening
- Camel and bull races, pheasant fights and tug-of-war competitions are a must to view



**When:** February 3 - 6, 2025



**Where:** Nagaur, Rajasthan





# Hampi Utsav

Hampi Utsav, also known as the Vijaya Utsav, is a vibrant festival dating back to the Vijayanagara Kingdom. It features traditional Kannadigas dance, drama, fireworks, puppet shows, and spectacular parades, with drums and pipes adding to the festive atmosphere. Artists from various fields and regions across India gather to celebrate the rich cultural heritage, showcasing the brilliance of yesteryear. The festival brings Hampi to life with its stunning performances and the participation of diverse artists, making it a truly splendid celebration of art and tradition.

## Highlights:

- The festival dates back to the ancient Vijayanagara Kingdom of the 14th century
- Decorated elephants, horses and men dressed in the military style of the Golden Era can be seen



**When:** Early February (Dates TBA), 2025



**Where:** Hampi, Karnataka





# Surajkund Crafts Mela

The Surajkund Mela celebrates the unique diversity of Indian traditions and culture in an ambience, created to represent the ethos of rural India. Surajkund International Crafts Mela showcases some of the most exquisite handlooms and handicrafts of India that are fading away due to cheap machine made imitations. It is one of the most popular and largest fairs in the world where the footfall is estimated to be in millions. The prime highlight of the Surajkund fair is that one Indian state gets a special honour of being the Theme State of the year. The concept of the Theme State was brought upon with a view to promote and focus on the art, craft, culture, and cuisine of one State per year.

## Highlights:

- This is the largest crafts fair in the world.
- Showcases regional and international crafts and traditions.



**When:** February 7 - 23, 2025



**Where:** Faridabad, Haryana





# Jaisalmer Desert Festival

Jaisalmer Desert Festival is a famous cultural and colourful event. The festival showcases the rich and vibrant culture of Rajasthan against the backdrop of the Sam dunes. The festival is host to quirky competitions like Best Moustache, Camel polo, turban tying, 'Mr. Desert' pageant and many more. You will also get a chance to witness Kalbelia dancers dancing to the folksy tunes or even fire dancers showing off their skills. This festival also gives you the opportunity to indulge in the authentic Rajasthani cuisine and purchase quirky souvenirs to take back home.

## Highlights:

- Some interesting sights include puppet show, snake charmers and also lively folk music performances
- The Gair and the fire dance are highlights of the festival



**When:** February 10 - 12, 2025



**Where:** Jaisalmer, Rajasthan





# Thaipooosam

Thaipooosam is celebrated on the first full moon day of the Tamil month of Thai, commemorating the victory of Lord Murugan over the demon Surapadman with a divine spear (vel) granted by Parvati. The festival honors Murugan with acts of sacrifice, gratitude, and penance. It also marks Shiva's cosmic dance (Ananda Tandava) at Chidambaram, witnessed by Murugan and King Rajasimha Pallava. Tamil immigrants introduced the festival to Malaysia and other countries in the 19th century. Devotees perform rituals like carrying kavadis, body piercings, walking on hot coals, and offering milk pots. Celebrated in all Murugan temples across South India, Koorkkenchery and Thayamkulangara near Thrissur are notable for their extensive Kavadi attam and elephant processions.

## Highlights:

- Thaipooosam is a Hindu festival celebrated in honour of Lord Murugan, the son of Shiva and Parvati
- Elephant procession and traditional percussion ensembles



**When:** February 11, 2025



**Where:** All across Tamil Nadu and Kerala





# Andalur Kavu Temple Festival

Theyyam is a captivating religious ritual of Kerala, celebrating ancient tribal culture through dance, mime, and music. Kannur and Kasaragod in North Kerala are the best places to witness Theyyam, with Kannur being highly recommended. Theyyam can be performed in temples, forest shrines, private shrines, or homes. During the ritual, an oracle offers his body to spirits, possibly ancestors, forest heroes, or serpent goddesses, to communicate with villagers, understand their problems, and provide solutions and blessings. Locals believe the possessed Oracle can cure illnesses, ensure good harvests, and drive away evil spirits, making Theyyam a deeply revered tradition.

## Highlights:

- The main attraction is plethora of cultural dance performances in an exceptional way
- Usually held between the months of November to April according to the festival calendar Kerala



**When:** February 13 - 19, 2025



**Where:** Kannur, Kerala





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# Kuttanellur Pooram

This is one of the classical temple festivals of central Kerala. Kuttanellur Devi temple is an ancient temple in the outskirts of Thrissur. Though the festival rituals are quite elaborate, two processions (one in the afternoon and one early in the morning) are the central events of the festival. Both processions feature seven elephants and are accompanied by an elaborate percussion orchestra (melam). Of these the procession early in the morning is especially scenic and is a favourite among festival connoisseurs.

## Highlights:

- Dedicated to Durga, the Goddess of War in Hinduism in Thrissur, Central Kerala
- Pageantry of caparisoned elephants, percussion ensemble, performances of art forms



**When:** February 14, 2025



**Where:** Thrissur, Kerala





# World Sacred Spirit Festival

A private music festival, it is the perfect way to experience the transcendental Sufi music culture in the company of royal attendees who mingle with the crowds. The festival takes place at the majestic settings of the Mehrangarh fort in Jodhpur which is open to the general public. The World Sacred Spirit Festival brings in Sufi artists from across the globe to mesmerize the crowds with their soulful composition and is ranked one of the top Sufi festivals in the world. The Sufi Festival at Nagaur is an intimate affair and is accessible only to the guests staying at the charming Ahichhtragarh Fort (Nagaur Fort). Over 5000 oil lamps illuminate the magnificent fort, creating a mystical ambience.

## Highlights:

- It showcases some of the rare talents from the Sufi world
- A strong amalgamation of the Sufi and the Rajasthani culture

 **When:** February 14 - 16, 2025

 **Where:** Jodhpur, Rajasthan







# Taj Mahotsav

Taj Mahotsav is an annual 10-day event held at Shilpgram in Agra. This festival invokes the memories of the old Mughal era and Nawabi style prevalent in Uttar Pradesh in the 18th and 19th centuries. The festival starts with a procession entailing decorated elephants and camels like the victory processions of Mughal emperors and warlords. Drum beaters, trumpet players, folk dancers, skilled craftsmen and artisans also join the procession.

Artists from all over India come here to display their art and craftsmanship.

## Highlights:

- Reveals the rich cultural heritage of the country
- India's authentic dance forms, handicrafts and cuisines are found in one grand platform



**When:** February 18 - 27, 2025



**Where:** Agra, Uttar Pradesh



# Palakkad Pariyanampetta Pooram

Seven days of cultural and spiritual revelry is what draws people to the great Pariyanampetta Pooram in Pallakad, North Kerala. The rare and the lesser known traditional ritual of Kerala Kalamezhuthu Pattu, where the images of the Goddesses are drawn on the floor using different natural colours is one of the highlights. At night, one gets to see another rare and lesser known folk art form Tholpavakoothu (Shadow Puppetry). The event ends with a procession of around 21 elephants and visitors can also see rare folk arts such Kaalavela (bull effigy) and Kuthiravela (horse effigy) of Kerala.

## Highlights:

- A temple festival lasting seven days.
- Rare and lesser known folk arts of Kerala, Elephant processions and traditional percussion ensembles



**When:** February 19, 2025



**Where:** Palakkad, Kerala





# Khajuraho Dance Festival

Every year, a week-long festival for Indian classical dances is hosted against the spectacular backdrop of the UNESCO World Heritage Site. The venues for this festival are the magnificently lit Chitragupta and Vishwanatha Temple, jewels in the crown of the temples of Khajuraho. The festival has become a popular tradition paying tribute to classical dance, music and art of India. This cultural festival highlights the richness of various Indian classical dance styles such as Kathak, Bharatanatyam, Odissi, Kuchipudi, Manipuri and Kathakali. There are performances from some of the best exponents in the field.

## Highlights:

- This event is to promote cultural heritage and traditional dances of India
- This week-long dance festival takes place in the open spaces in front of the Khajuraho temples

 **When:** February 20 - 26, 2025

 **Where:** Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh





# The Rose Festival

The Rose Festival celebrates the beauty and diversity of roses in Chandigarh. It is held in the Zakir Hussain Rose Garden, which is the largest rose garden in Asia, with over 1,600 species of roses. The garden covers 30 acres of land and has several fountains and pavilions. The festival attracts thousands of visitors who enjoy various cultural performances, competitions, workshops, and stalls offering local cuisine and crafts. Taking place in the last week of February every year, the festival promotes environmental awareness and sustainability through eco-friendly practices. The Rose Festival is a must-visit for nature lovers as well as culture enthusiasts who want to view spring in full bloom.

## Highlights:

- This event is to promote cultural heritage and traditional dances of India
- This week-long dance festival takes place in the open spaces in front of the Khajuraho temples

 **When:** February 20 - 26, 2025

 **Where:** Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh





## Baneshwar Fair

Baneshwar fair is a popular tribal fair held in Dungarpur district in Rajasthan which is attended by a large number of population of Bhils. The Bhil tribe, renowned for their archery skills, are characterized by the bows and arrows they carry. This five-day religious fair held at a small delta formed by the rivers Som and Mahi, pays homage to Shiva and Vishnu. 'Baneshwar', meaning the 'Master of the Delta' in the local language, is derived from the revered Shivlinga kept in the Mahadev Temple in Dungarpur. The fair sees vendors selling their wares like clothing, medicinal herbs, musical instruments, wickerwork and knives as well as the famous bows and arrows.

### Highlights:

- Hundreds of thousands of Bhils from Rajasthan, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh attend the fair
- Traditions and rituals of the Bhil Tribe can be observed during this festival

 **When:** February 22 - 24, 2025

 **Where:** Dungarpur, Rajasthan







# Maha Shivaratri

Maha Shivaratri is a sacred festival honoring Lord Shiva, the destroyer and transformer of the universe. Celebrated on the darkest night of the year, it harnesses a natural upsurge of energy for physical and spiritual well-being. Devotees fast, chant prayers, meditate, and offer milk, water, flowers, and fruits to the Shiva lingam. The festival commemorates Shiva's cosmic dance, his marriage to Parvati, and his swallowing of poison from the ocean's churning. At the Isha Yoga Center in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, the night is marked by meditations and musical performances, drawing thousands from around the world. The center's Adiyogi statue symbolizes the 112 ways of attaining the ultimate.

## Highlights:

- Maha Shivaratri celebrates the grace of Lord Shiva
- One of the best places to experience this festival is at the Isha Yoga Center, in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu



**When:** February 25, 2025



**Where:** All across India



# Shivraatri Festival

Maha Shivaratri in Nepal is a deeply revered festival celebrating Lord Shiva. Held on the 14th day of the dark fortnight in the Hindu lunar month of Phalgun (February or March), it's marked by night-long vigils at temples like the Pashupatinath Temple in Kathmandu. Devotees fast, chant prayers, and offer milk, water, flowers, and fruits to the Shiva Lingam. The festival commemorates Shiva's cosmic dance, his marriage to Parvati, and his swallowing of the poison Halahala. It's a night of spiritual cleansing, overcoming darkness, and attaining liberation.

## Highlights:

- Devotees fast, chant prayers, and offer milk, water, flowers, and fruits to the Shiva Lingam
- Commemorates Shiva's cosmic dance, his marriage to Parvati, and his swallowing of the poison

 **When:** February 26, 2025

 **Where:** All across Nepal





# Natyanjali Dance Festival

Chidambaram Natyanjali - Festival of Dance at Chidambaram is known for its serenity and uniqueness of the devotion of the dancers dedicating their "Natya" (dance) as "Anjali" (offering) and worship to the Lord Nataraja, the Cosmic Dancer of ancient Hinduism. The festival holds for five days. Dancers from all over the world and from all parts of India representing all classical forms like Bharatha Natyam, Kuchupudi, Mohini Attam, Kathak, Odissi, Gaudiya Nritya and Pung Cholam, etc., congregate at Chidambaram and offer their Dance Recitals to Lord Nataraja. The uniqueness of the festival lies in its devotional aspect and thus differs from other dance festivals.

## Highlights:

- This spectacular annual dance festival brings together classical Indian dancers from all parts of the world
- A grand celebration of culture and divinity which represents marvellous display of devotion to Lord Shiva



**When:** February 26 - March 2, 2025



**Where:** Chidambaram, Tamil Nadu







# Losar

Losar Festival celebrates the Tibetan New Year which originated in the 15th century. It is a significant festival of the North East Indian state of Sikkim and is celebrated with great enthusiasm for 8 -15 days every year. Losar is a mix of ancient rituals, music, dance, and drama deeply rooted in Tibetan traditions. The highlight of the Losar festival in Sikkim is the Cham masked dance performance by the lamas in monasteries of Sikkim which lures travellers from across the globe. A day in the festival is also dedicated to the ritual of offering buckets of Tsampa (a mixture of roasted barley flour and butter) on home altars praying for a good harvest in the current New Year.

## Highlights:

- Losar Festival celebrates the Tibetan New Year
- It's an extravagant display of Tibetan traditions, customs and beliefs

 **When:** February 28 - March 2, 2025

 **Where:** All across Sikkim and parts of West Bengal