



# FEI DUNIYA

IT'S YOUR WORLD

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“HAPPY HOLI”

*We Spread Colours of Happiness.*

# 9 MOST UNIQUE CULTURAL FESTIVALS IN INDIA TO LOOK OUT FOR IN 2025

India is, without a doubt, one of the most fascinating countries in the world. With its deep-rooted cultures, learning everything about India as a cultural hub can feel overwhelming. However, cultural festivals provide an engaging way for curious minds to explore its heritage. Steeped in history and spiritual significance, these festivals blend age-old rituals with vibrant music, dance, and regional delicacies. Each festival tells a unique story, reflecting the customs and values of different communities while fostering a spirit of togetherness. Here are some of the best cultural festivals one must check out in 2025.

## Pushkar Camel Fair in Pushkar, Rajasthan

Held in the town of Pushkar every November, the Pushkar Camel Fair is a lively and colorful celebration that ranks among the largest livestock fairs in the world. This annual event showcases camel and cattle trading alongside thrilling activities such as camel races, folk performances, and traditional music and dance.



## Rann Utsav in Rann of Kutch, Gujarat

The ongoing Rann Utsav (November 1, 2024, to March 15, 2025), highlights the region's rich heritage through traditional crafts, folk music, and mesmerizing dance performances. Visitors can immerse themselves in the charm of the salt desert with camel rides, savor authentic local cuisine, and stay in luxurious tents.



## Taj Mahotsav in Agra, Uttar Pradesh

The ongoing Taj Mahotsav (February 18 to March 2) is a vibrant cultural festival celebrated near the majestic Taj Mahal. The festival showcases India's rich art, craft, culture, and cuisine, and captivating folk music and dance performances, exquisite craft exhibitions.



## Khajuraho Dance Festival in Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh

The Khajuraho Dance Festival will be held from February 20 to 26. This week-long celebration of India's classical dance heritage is set against the breathtaking backdrop of the iconic Khajuraho temples. The festival showcases captivating performances of Bharatanatyam, Kathak, Odissi, Kuchipudi, and other traditional dance forms.

## Goa Carnival, Goa

This year, the Goa Carnival is from February 28 to March 4. Goa Carnival is a vibrant and energetic festival that traces its origins to the Portuguese colonial era. This lively event brings the streets to life with dazzling parades, dynamic street performances, rhythmic music, and captivating dance displays.



## Bihu Festival in Assam

Bihu is Assam's most significant festival, celebrated multiple times a year, including Magh Bihu (Bhogali Bihu) in January, Bohag Bihu (Rongali Bihu) in April, and Kati Bihu (Kongali Bihu) in October. Bihu marks the Assamese New Year. While Magh Bihu may be over, travelers can still experience the joy and vibrancy of Bohag Bihu and Kati Bihu.



## Hemis Festival in Ladakh

The Hemis Festival (June or July) is a vibrant two-day celebration held at Hemis Monastery, the largest and wealthiest monastery in Ladakh. The festival honors the birth of Guru Padmasambhava, and showcases mesmerizing mask dances, traditional music, and sacred rituals.



## Makuilongdi Festival in Manipur

The second edition of Makuiluangdi Festival (November 20-23) is a significant cultural event that reconnects the Luangdimai (Zeliangrong) people with their ancestral heritage. The festival will be held in Makuiluangdi village, Senapati District. The festival provides a platform for the community to relive their rich traditions through costumes, arts, cuisine, crafts, dance, and music, all set against the historic landscape of their original settlement. The festival brings together representatives from over 620 Luangdimai villages spread across the three states of Assam, Manipur and Nagaland. The festival fosters a deeper appreciation of their shared history and strengthens efforts to preserve and promote their cultural identity.

## Hornbill Festival in Kohima, Nagaland

The Hornbill Festival is an annual celebration held every December, showcasing the vibrant cultural heritage of Nagaland's diverse Naga tribes. This lively event is one of the best ways to get to know the vibrant Naga culture, traditional music, energetic dance performances, indigenous games, exquisite crafts, and authentic local cuisine. Last year (2024), the Hornbill Festival celebrated its 25th year, and it was attended by artists and visitors from all over India and abroad.



# Maha Kumbh Mela 2025:

## History, Types & Significance Of Maha Kumbh 2025

The largest gathering of faith, Maha Kumbh, attracts millions of devotees, saints, and tourists to participate in this sacred event. Rooted in ancient Hindu mythology, Kumbh Mela is celebrated at four locations in India—Prayagraj, Haridwar, Nashik, and Ujjain—each of which holds immense religious significance. This holy event is also included on UNESCO's Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, demonstrating its global importance. Each has a different periodicity and astrological significance. Among the various types of Kumbh Melas, the Maha Kumbh Mela holds a special place, often regarded as the pinnacle of spiritual gatherings.



### History of Kumbh

The legend of Samudra Manthan, or the Churning of the Ocean, is a captivating tale from Hindu mythology. It recounts the epic struggle between the Devas (gods) and the Asuras (demons) to obtain the Amrita, the nectar of immortality. To achieve this, they joined forces to churn the vast Kshir Sagar, the Ocean of Milk, using Mount Mandara as the churning rod and the serpent Vasuki as the rope. During this arduous process, numerous celestial objects and beings emerged, including the goddess Lakshmi, the moon god Chandra, and the divine cow Kamadhenu.

Finally, the Amrita emerged, and Lord Vishnu, in the guise of the enchanting Mohini, ensured its distribution to the Devas. A fierce battle ensued between the gods and demons over this precious nectar, and drops of it are said to have fallen at four sacred sites in India, marking the locations where the Kumbh Mela is celebrated today. Also, the war for the Kumbh, or sacred pitcher, between the Gods and demons lasted 12 divine days, which is equivalent to 12 years for humans. That is why the Kumbh Mela is held only every 12 years, with the gathering taking place at the holy sites. It is stated that during this time, the rivers are converted into Amrit, and as a result, pilgrims from all over the world travel to the Kumbh Mela to bathe in the essence of purity and eternity.

### Types of Kumbh Mela

Kumbh Mela is categorized based on its frequency and location. Below are the four main types:



#### Ardh Kumbh Mela

The Ardh Kumbh Mela is a massive Hindu pilgrimage held every six years at Haridwar and Prayagraj (Allahabad). It is considered a "half" Kumbh, occurring between the full Kumbh Melas, which happen every twelve years. Millions of devotees gather to bathe in the holy rivers, believing it to be a sacred act that will cleanse their sins and bring them closer to salvation. Each Kumbh Mela is an important spiritual festival, allowing pilgrims to immerse themselves in India's rich spiritual tradition.

#### Purna Kumbh Mela

The Purna Kumbh Mela is held every 12 years at four sacred sites in India: Prayagraj, Haridwar, Nashik, and Ujjain. It is one of the largest and most important religious gatherings in the world, attracting millions of pilgrims from all over the country and beyond. During the Purna Kumbh Mela, pilgrims take a dip in the holy rivers at these sites, believing it will cleanse them of their sins and bring them closer to salvation. The festival is also a time for religious and cultural activities, including processions, prayers, and fairs.



### **Kumbh Mela**

The Kumbh Mela, the world's largest religious gathering, is held every three years at four sacred sites in India: Prayagraj, Haridwar, Nashik, and Ujjain. Millions of Hindus gather to bathe in the holy rivers at these sites, believing it will cleanse them of their sins and bring them closer to salvation. The Kumbh Mela is a massive festival with a rich history and cultural significance, attracting pilgrims from all over the world.

### **Maha Kumbh Mela**

The Maha Kumbh Mela is held every 144 years in India. It is the largest peaceful gathering of humans in the world, with millions of pilgrims participating in various rituals and ceremonies. The main event is the bathing ceremony in the sacred rivers, believed to cleanse sins and bring spiritual liberation. The Maha Kumbh Mela is a significant event in Hindu culture and attracts people from all walks of life.

### **Magh Kumbh Mela**

Magh Kumbh Mela is an annual Hindu pilgrimage festival held in the month of Magh (January/February) at various sacred sites in India. It is a smaller version of the larger Kumbh Mela, which occurs every twelve years. The festival is marked by ritual bathing in sacred rivers, religious discourses, and community fairs.

### **Why is the Maha Kumbh Mela More Important?**

It is believed that taking a dip in the holy waters of the Ganges River during the Maha Kumbh Mela is especially auspicious and can wash away sins and lead to moksha (liberation from the cycle of rebirth). Also, know these key reasons why it is regarded as the most important.

#### **Rarity:**

The Maha Kumbh Mela occurs once every 144 years, making it a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for most individuals. This rarity adds to its allure and importance, as devotees see it as a unique chance for spiritual salvation.

#### **Participation of Sadhus:**

The Maha Kumbh Mela is unparalleled in scale, with millions of people gathering over several weeks. Saints, Naga sadhus, and religious leaders from across India and beyond converge at the event, making it a melting pot of diverse spiritual traditions and practices. The massive participation and the collective prayers create a unique spiritual atmosphere.

Cultural and historical importance: The Maha Kumbh Mela is not just a religious event but also a cultural phenomenon. It serves as a platform for the exchange of ideas, traditions, and philosophies, leaving a lasting impact on Indian society and spirituality.

**Astrological alignment:** The Maha Kumbh Mela is held when the Sun enters Capricorn (Makar Rashi) and Jupiter enters Aries (Mesh Rashi), aligning with specific celestial conditions that are believed to enhance spiritual energies. These astrological alignments are considered highly auspicious for purification and liberation from the cycle of rebirth.

#### **Conclusion**

The various types of Kumbh Mela hold immense significance for devotees seeking spiritual growth and liberation. Among them, the Maha Kumbh Mela stands out as a singular event of extraordinary importance. Rooted in ancient mythology, aligned with rare celestial configurations, and marked by its massive scale, the Maha Kumbh Mela represents the pinnacle of India's spiritual heritage. For those fortunate enough to witness or participate in it, the Maha Kumbh Mela is more than an event; it is a profound spiritual journey and a testament to the enduring power of faith and tradition.



# NATURAL WONDERS OF MAHARASHTRA WORTH TRAVELLING FOR

Maharashtra is a state blessed with diverse landscapes comprising rugged mountains, pristine beaches, and lush forests. For adventure enthusiasts, there is no dearth of activities or attractions. The state's natural wonders are there to keep one busy.

From unique reverse waterfalls to meteor impact lakes, these natural wonders are definitely worth travelling for. Here are some of the most remarkable natural wonders in Maharashtra:

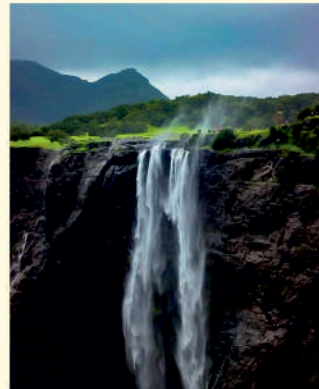


## LONAR CRATER LAKE

Lonar Crater Lake, located in the Buldhana district, was formed over 50,000 years ago by a meteorite impact. The lake is the third largest crater lake in the world. The lake is one of the most interesting places you will find in India. The lake has both saline and alkaline waters.

## KAAS PLATEAU

During monsoon season, Kaas Plateau turns into a riot of colours. Located near Satara, this floral haven is Maharashtra's "Valley of Flowers." Kaas Plateau is famous for its seasonal bloom of vibrant wildflowers. The plateau is home to over 850 species of flowering plants. Some of these plant species are endemic to the region.



## ANJANERI REVERSE WATERFALL

During the rainy season, the reverse waterfall is most visible. On rainy days, the strong winds push the waterfall upwards, creating an interesting spectacle. Anjaneri is a popular trekking destination with plenty of greenery and dramatic cliffs all around.

## TAMHINI GHAT

A mountain pass is called ghat in Maharashtra. Tamhini Ghat is a picturesque mountain pass nestled in the Sahyadri range which turns into a green wonderland during the monsoon season. Tamhini Ghat is located between Pune and the Konkan coast, and is a popular destination for trekkers and bikers.



## AMBOLI GHAT

Amboli Ghat, located in the Sahyadri hills, is a biodiversity hotspot that every nature and wildlife enthusiast should check out. Amboli is home to many endemic species of amphibians and reptiles. If you are someone who live everything related to herping, pick Amboli for your next herping adventures. Amboli is also home to the endemic and critically endangered Amboli toad. The Amboli toad was described as a new species in 2009. For those interested, there are guided herping tours that will take you inside the forest to explore the wildlife.

# IMPORTANT FACTS ABOUT

# PRIME MINISTERS



# INDIA



**JAWAHARLAL NEHRU**

Longest serving PM



**GULZARILAL NANDA**

First acting PM of India



**INDIRA GANDHI**

First and only women  
PM of India

**MURARJI DESAI**

First Indian PM to  
resign from office



**CHARAN SINGH**

Only PM who never  
faced parliament



**RAJIV GANDHI**

Youngest PM of India

**VISHWANATH  
PRATAP SINGH**

First PM to step down after 3  
vote of the No-Confidence Motion



**ATAL BIHARI  
VAJPAYEE**

PM with the shortest Tenure

First non-Congress PM to  
complete the full term



**DR. MANMOHAN SINGH**

First Sikh PM



**NARENDRA MODI**

First PM of India to be  
born after Independence

## Monuments Around the World Symbolizing

# Love

February holds a special place in our hearts, especially with the celebration of Valentine's Day on February 14th. This month has long been associated with love, warmth, and affection, making it a time for people to reflect on the importance of relationships and romantic connections. Love plays a fundamental role in our lives, shaping our relationships, our experiences, and our sense of purpose.

Monuments that symbolize love are timeless and stand as lasting tributes to deep emotions. From stunning architectural structures to symbolic landmarks, these sites highlight human creativity and devotion.

Here are some of the most iconic monuments that represent love across the world:

**Taj Mahal  
(India)**



The Taj Mahal in Agra is perhaps the most famous monument symbolizing love. Built by Emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his beloved wife Mumtaz Mahal, who died during childbirth in 1631, this white marble mausoleum is a masterpiece of Mughal architecture. Its intricate carvings, serene surroundings, and grand symmetry convey the emperor's enduring love and devotion, making it a powerful symbol of eternal affection.

**The Eiffel  
Tower  
(France)**

In Paris, the Eiffel Tower is not just an iconic architectural landmark but a symbol of romance. Often associated with proposals, romantic dates, and weddings, the tower stands tall as a representation of love in the City of Lights. Its presence in Paris, a city famed for its romantic atmosphere, has solidified it as a worldwide symbol of love and passion.



**Ponte dei  
Sospiri  
(Italy)**



The Bridge of Sighs in Venice is a poignant monument with a romantic legend. Historically, it connected the Doge's Palace to a prison, where prisoners would take their last look at the beautiful city before being incarcerated. Today, it is a symbol of love, as couples hope for everlasting romance by sharing a kiss under the bridge. This structure captures the bittersweet nature of love, blending both passion and sorrow.



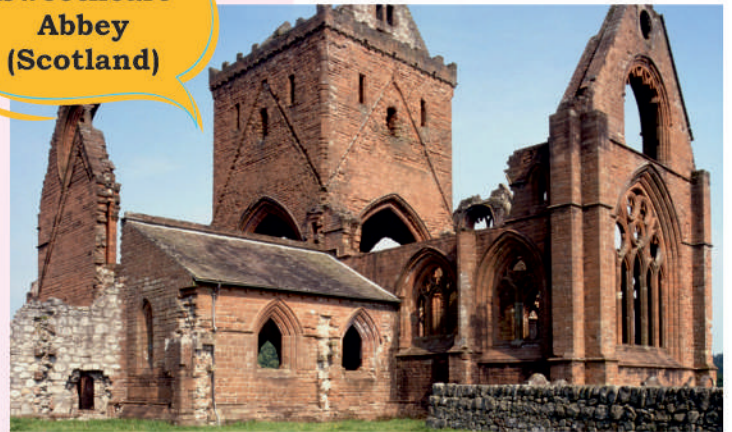
### Romeo and Juliet's Balcony (Italy)



Located in Verona, Italy, Juliet's Balcony is tied to the tragic love story of Romeo and Juliet, made famous by William Shakespeare. Though fictional, the balcony has become a popular destination for lovers from around the world, many of whom leave notes, love letters, and tokens of affection. This historic site represents enduring love, despite the challenges and heartbreak that can come with it.

### Sweetheart Abbey (Scotland)

Sweetheart Abbey, located in the picturesque town of New Abbey in Scotland, is a testament to the love between Lady Dervorgilla and her husband, John Balliol. After John's death, Lady Dervorgilla had his heart embalmed and buried with her at the abbey. The romantic story behind this gesture, paired with the abbey's stunning architecture, makes it one of Scotland's most poignant symbols of eternal love.



### Mirabell Palace (Austria)



In Salzburg, Austria, Mirabell Palace and its stunning gardens are renowned for their beauty and romantic history. The palace, with its meticulously designed grounds, is often associated with the love story of Prince-Archbishop Wolf Dietrich and his beloved Salome Alt. The gardens, where lovers can stroll along picturesque paths, have also been immortalized in the film *The Sound of Music*, adding to its status as a romantic landmark.

### Kodai-ji Temple (Kyoto, Japan)

Kodai-ji Temple, located in the ancient city of Kyoto, Japan, is a serene and spiritual place often associated with love. It was built in 1606 by the widow of Toyotomi Hideyoshi, a prominent Japanese leader, to honour her late husband. The temple, with its tranquil gardens and beautiful architecture, symbolizes both love and devotion, and serves as a reminder of how love can transcend time.



# Discover your true self

*When the raindrops fell too hard, they could not throw the flower on the ground because it was already on the ground.*

A story is told of a small flower. It was a grass-flower, and it grew in a garden, in the shade of its almost broken wall. Some stones of the wall had fallen on the grassy ground. Among these stones, and almost covered by them, grew the grass-flower.

The flower could not see much of the world due to the stones. When the storms came, they could not uproot the flower, because the stones protected it from the gusts. When the sun shone too brightly, the flower had no problem, because it was shaded by the stones. When the raindrops fell too hard, they could not throw the flower on the ground because it was already on the ground.

At a little distance from the tiny grass flower grew some rose flowers. One night, the grass-flower prayed to God, 'I have been a grass-flower for long. Please make me a rose flower.'

God replied, 'Life as a rose flower will not be easy. No sooner than a rose blooms, than it is plucked. When the rain falls, the tender petals of the rose fall to the ground. You are much safer being a grass-flower.'

The flower replied, 'I have spent enough days in safety. Now I want to experience life as a rose, if only for one day.' Other grass-flowers nearby gave words of advice, 'We have heard stories that some of our ancestors also tried the same madness and got nothing but trouble out of it. Our collective experience says that we are fine where we are.' The flower said, 'I can never feel the heat of the sun fully, I can never fight the storms, I can never stand against the falling rain.'

The other flowers said, 'You fool! What is the need? We are living a comfortable life in the shade of stones.'

The flower kept repeating its prayer, and, in the morning, it became a rose. A little later, a storm started, and the flower swayed dangerously. Its petals started falling to the ground. By noon, the sun came out in full force. Due to the heat, the rose started wilting.

By evening, a heavy rain fell and uprooted the flower. The flower fell on the grassy ground near other grass-flowers. They told the flower, 'You are a fool to have given up your life like this. You invited these troubles on yourself. There was safety in our old way of life, which you should have never left.'

The dying flower said, 'By living one day as a rose flower, I have discovered my true self. I have fought storms, faced the sun, and withstood pouring rains. I am dying after living, but you are living like dead.'



Aryan Jani



Chirag Trivedi



Heena Parmar



Kandarp Mehta



Manoj Patil



Hemant Chaudhary



Nikhil Parmar



“  
FEI Family  
members in  
Ahmedabad Office  
”

Pankaj Chouhan



Rajesh Pal



Rakesh Rehwadi



Ramesh Parmar



Sunil Joshi



Santosh Tayde



Viram Singh Chouhan



## BIRTHDAYS

01st	Varada Karbhari	Intl. Division
01st	Rutuja Mohite	Corporate
08th	Arya K	Bangalore
10th	Kunal Surti	Mumbai
10th	Aradhya P.K	Bangalore
10th	Amit Ghosh	Kolkata
11th	Roshan. B J	Chennai
15th	Vishal Narula	Mumbai
16th	Hareesh Kumar K	Corporate
19th	Anisa Murugan	Corporate
19th	Rupesh Koli	JNPT Warehouse
20th	J. Nirmal Kumar	Chennai
20th	Vishnu P.R	Hyderabad
22th	Kumar Naidu	Mumbai
23rd	Dilip Atkari	Mumbai
23rd	Aby T K	Kochi
25th	Chirag Trivedi	Ahmedabad
26th	Meet Makwana	PCL
26th	Lalit Monde	Corporate
27th	Aishwarya Biju	PCL
31st	Sathiya Guru	Chennai
31st	Shubha Shetty	Corporate

## WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

02nd	Sanjib Sil	Kolkata
07th	G V K Hariharan	Chennai
09th	Shri Krishan Sharma	Delhi
10th	Kumar Naidu	Mumbai
11th	Pankaj Kotak	PCL
12th	K. Suresh	Chennai
12th	Puja Mhaskar	Corporate
13th	Ashok Jha	Mumbai
14th	Rajesh Surve	Mumbai

## NEW ADDITIONS TO THE FEI FAMILY

Pankaj Singh Chouhan	Ahmedabad
Sarthak Gaur	Delhi
Dipesh Gorule	Intl. Division
Devendrakumar Mishra	Mumbai
Sathyadurgaprasad Kudipudi	Mundra

## CELEBRATIONS FOR THE MONTH

Date	Celebrating
08th (Saturday)	Second Saturday
14th (Friday)	Holi
31st (Monday)	Ramzan Id

## FORM - IV

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**I, K. S. P. Nair**, hereby declare that the Particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge & belief.

Date: 01.03.2025

sd/-