

1. Diwali: The Festival of Lights



Diwali, one of the most prominent Hindu festivals of India, is celebrated with a lot of pomp and show. During this festival of lights, houses are decorated with clay lamps, candles, and Ashok leaves. People wear new clothes, participate in family puja, burst crackers, and share sweets with friends, families, and neighbors.

Significance: The festival marks the return of Lord Rama, along with his wife Sita and brother Lakshmana, after a long exile of 14 years.

Key attractions: Homes decorated with fancy lights, candles and clay lamps, bustling shops and markets, and fireworks and crackers

When: The darkest new moon night of Kartik month of the Hindu lunisolar calendar, which corresponds to mid-October – mid-November as per the Gregorian Calendar

Where: All over the country

Diwali 2018: 7th November (Wednesday)

2. Holi: The Festival of Colours



Also known as the festival of colors, holi is one of the famous festivals of [India](#), celebrated with a lot of fervor across the country. On the eve of Holi, people make huge Holika bonfires and sing and dance around it. On the day of Holi, people gather in open areas and apply dry and wet colors of multiple hues to each other, with some carrying water guns and colored water filled balloons.

Significance: It signifies the victory of good (Prince Prahlad) over evil (Holika) and the arrival of spring.

Key attractions: Holika bonfire, playing with colors, and bhang thandai

When: Full moon (Purnima) of the Phalgun month of the Hindu lunisolar calendar, which corresponds to the month of March of the Gregorian calendar

Where: Almost all over the country; most vibrant celebrations can be seen in North Indian states

3. Dusshera: The Triumph of Good Over Evil



Image Source

Dussehra, also referred to as *Vijayadashami*, is also among the most famous festivals of India. It is celebrated in different forms countrywide. Ramlila (enactment of scenes from Ramayana) is held everywhere for 10 days. It's culminated with "*Ravan Dahan*" – the burning of huge effigies of Ravana, Meghnath, and Kumbhakaran which is a real spectacle to see.

Significance: It celebrates the death of the demon king Ravana at the hands of Lord Rama.

Key attractions: Hustle bustle of the decorated markets, Ram-Leela acts, and the big event of the burning of effigies of Ravana, Meghnad, and Kumbhakaran

When: 10th day of the month of Ashwin according to the Hindu lunisolar calendar, which corresponds to September or October of the Gregorian calendar

Where: Pan India

4. Navratri: The Nine Days of Faith and Devotion



Image Source

Navratri festival is celebrated by all people throughout India in different ways. In Gujarat, it is a nine-day celebration of rejuvenating Garba nights and highly energetic Dandiya Raas dances. People are dressed in beautiful, colorful traditional clothes and the environment is very youthful and invigorating.

Significance: It represents the celebration of the Goddess Amba (Power) in nine different forms.

Key attractions: The 9 days of dance festivities in Gujarat, the exquisite Chaniya Choli's (traditional skirt & blouse), and the Gujarati cuisine – Sabudana Khichdi, Mandavi Paak, Singoda ki Kheer, and Potato Wafers

When: The first nine days of the month of Ashwin according to the Hindu lunisolar calendar, which corresponds to September or October of the Gregorian calendar

Where: Almost all over the country; most vibrant in Gujarat, Maharashtra and the metros

5. Durga Puja: Cleansing Oneself of All Evils



Image Source

One of the important Hindu festivals of India, Durga Puja is celebrated with grandeur by Bengalis, throughout the country. The 10 days of fast, feast, and worship of Goddess Durga are accompanied by cultural songs, dances, and dramas. Huge and beautiful Durga idols are made and placed in specially made artistic Pandals(canopies). People dress in traditional wear and go around the pandal – hopping, praying, and feasting.

Significance: It commemorates Lord Rama's invocation of Goddess Durga before going to war with the demon king Ravana.

Key attractions: Plush pandals, incredibly beautiful ten armed Durga idols, and the puja

When: 10th day of Ashwina Shukla paksha according to the Hindu lunisolar calendar, which corresponds to September or October of the Gregorian calendar

Where: Kolkata and the metros are the best places to be in India during Durga Puja celebrations

6. Krishna Janmashtami: The Birth of the Mighty and Mischevious



Janmashtami is again a beautiful one among the most important religious festivals of India. Janmashtami celebrations in Mathura and Vrindavan are very popular. People fast throughout the day and break it with a special meal after dusk. Visiting temples, praying, dancing, and singing bhajans (hymns) at midnight is a part of the celebrations of the birth of Lord Krishna. Often, small children dress up like Lord Krishna on this day. Images and picturization of Krishna's life story are depicted in the "*jhaankis*" in temples.

Significance: It is the annual celebration of the birthday of Lord Krishna.

Key attractions: The Janmashtami puja and festivities in the temples and the *jhaankis* of Lord Krishna

When: The 8th day (*Ashtami*) of the Krishna Paksha (dark fortnight) of the month of Bhadrapad according to the Hindu lunisolar calendar, which corresponds to August or September of the Gregorian calendar

Where: Celebrated by the Hindu community all over, but the festivities at Mathura and Vrindavan are very popular

7. Ganesh Chaturthi: Eleven Days of Pampering Lord Ganesha!



Ganesh Chaturthi, another one of important Hindu religious festivals of India, is a 10-day affair of colorful festivities. Huge handcrafted Ganesh idols are installed in homes or outdoors, in public pandals. Pujas are performed in the morning and the evening. The last day is the day of Visarjan – immersion of an idol in a water body. Cultural activities of singing, dancing, and theater, and free medical and blood donation camps are held.

Significance: It's the birthday of Lord Ganesha, the elephant-headed God.

Key attractions: The beautifully crafted life size idols of Ganesha, and the immersion ceremony

When: The 4th day of the first fortnight (Shukla Chaturthi) in the month of Bhadrapada of the Hindu lunisolar calendar, which corresponds to August or September of the Gregorian calendar

Where: Celebrated in the states of Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh with fervor and gaiety

8. Gurupurab: Religious Processions and Peaceful Hymns



On the most important Sikh festival of India, special assemblies on the lives and teachings of the gurus, and langars (community meals) are organized in the gurudwaras. Karah Prasad is distributed among all, and hymn chanting processions are held in the city. People light up their homes with lamps and candles and burst crackers to celebrate Gurpurab.

Significance: It is the celebration of the anniversaries of the ten Sikh Gurus.

Key attractions: The soulful Bhajan-Kirtan (hymns), Gurbani in the Gurdwaras, the Langar and the Karah Prasad

When: The full moon day in the month of Kartik of the Hindu lunisolar calendar, which corresponds to November of the Gregorian calendar

Where: Celebrated by the Sikh community all over the world, especially in Punjab

9. RakshaBandhan: Strengthening the Bond of Kinship



[Image Source](#)

One of the famous festivals of India, Rakhi is celebrated among Hindu. Signifying the brother-sister bonding, during Rakhi, the sister performs *Aarti* (prayer), applies *tilak*, and ties rakhi (a sacred thread) on the brother's wrist wishing his well being. The brother, in return, vows to protect the sister. Another festival which has a strong similarity to Rakhi is Bhaidoj which comes just after Diwali.

Significance: It symbolizes the strong bonding of a brother and sister.

Key attractions: The ritual of Rakhi and the brightly decked up markets showcasing a colourful variety of rakhis and sweets

When: The full moon day of Shravana month of the Hindu lunisolar calendar, which corresponds to August of the Gregorian calendar

Where: Particularly in North, Central and West India

10. Eid-Ul-Fitr: Sumptuous Buffets and Sweet Festivities



Eid is one of the major festivals of India for the Muslim community. People dress up in fineries, attend a special community prayer in the morning, visit friends, and relatives and exchange sweets. Children are given *idi* (money or gift) by elders.

Significance: It celebrates the conclusion of the holy month of fasting called Ramadan.

Key attractions: The beautifully decked up markets and mosques, the morning Eid namaz at the mosques, and the sweet dishes.

When: On the 1st day of the month of Shawwal of the lunar Hijri calendar, which corresponds to July of the Gregorian calendar

Where: Celebrated by Muslims all over the country

11. Bihu: Dance, Music, and Laughter



[Image Source](#)

Popular among the festivals of India celebrated in the North East, Bihu is the harvest festival of Assam. During the month-long celebrations, young men and women wear their traditional clothes and perform the Bihu dance in the village fields and courtyards. During Bihu celebrations in India, a community feast is held with a lot of fanfare.

Significance: It's the traditional new year celebration of Assamese.

Key attractions: The Bihu dance and the local cuisine – coconut laddoo, til pitha, ghila pitha, and fish pitika

When: 14th or 15th April

Where: Celebrated by the Assamese diaspora around the world, especially in Assam

12. Hemis: Soothing Chants and COlourful Costumes



[Image Source](#)

Hemis, the two-day religious festival from Ladakh, is one of the most important festivals of India. It attracts a lot of locals and foreign tourists each year. The festivities include the *Cham dance* done by the priests to the tune of the traditional music of cymbals, drums, trumpets played by the monks. It's among the most unique types of festival where the dancing priests dress up in elaborate brocade outfits and masks.

Significance: It's the celebration of the birth anniversary of spiritual leader Padmasambhava, founder of Tibet Tantric Buddhism.

Key attractions: The scenic Hemis monastery and the Cham dance

When: 10th day (called Tse-Chu in the local language) of the Tibetan lunar month, which corresponds to June or July of the Gregorian calendar

Where: Ladakh, Jammu & Kashmir

Hemis 2018: Begins on 23rd June (Saturday)

13. Onam: Welcoming the Mighty Mahabali



Onam is among the important festivals of India, wherein people wear traditional wear, adorn houses with Pookalam (floral designs), and prepare Onasadya (elaborate meal of about 13 dishes). Events such as Vallamkali ([snake boat race](#)), Kaikottikali (clap dance), [Kathakali dance](#), and Pulikali procession (artists dressed and painted like tigers and hunters) are held.

Significance: It celebrates the homecoming of the legendary king Mahabali.

Key attractions: The spectacular Snake Boat Race, the enigmatic Kaikottikali dance, and the Elephant procession

When: In the month of Chingam of the Malayalam calendar, which corresponds to August or September of the Gregorian calendar

Where: Celebrated by people of all communities in the state of Kerala.

Onam 2018: Begins on 15th August (Wednesday)

14. Pongal: Rich Rangolis and Sweet Savories



The four-day long harvest festival of South India is one of the most famous festivals of India. People prepare Pongal dish and wear their traditional attire. Celebrations include bonfires, dance, cattle races, sweets, and savories. The houses look resplendent with Kolam designs (traditional floral designs made with rice, colored powders, and flower petals)

Significance: It's a festival of thanksgiving to nature representing the first harvest of the year.

Key attractions: The variety of Kolam designs and cattle races

When: 14th or 15th January

Where: Celebrated by Tamils all over India, primarily in Tamil Nadu

Pongal 2018: Begins on 14th January (Sunday)

15. Christmas: Endless Merry Making



Image Source

One of the most famous and awaited festival in the world, Christmas happens to be of sheer significance for elders and children alike. Everyone regardless of their religion wait for this day, children specifically for the surprise gifts from Santa. All the churches are lit up and decorated to celebrate the birth of Lord Jesus.

Significance: Birthday of Lord Jesus

Key attractions: Christmas tree decoration, prayers, birth of Lord Jesus and Santa Claus

When: 25th December

Where: The festival is celebrated across India. The best places to celebrate Christmas in India are Goa, Pondicherry, and Kerala.

16. Easter: Easter Eggs And Delish Cakes

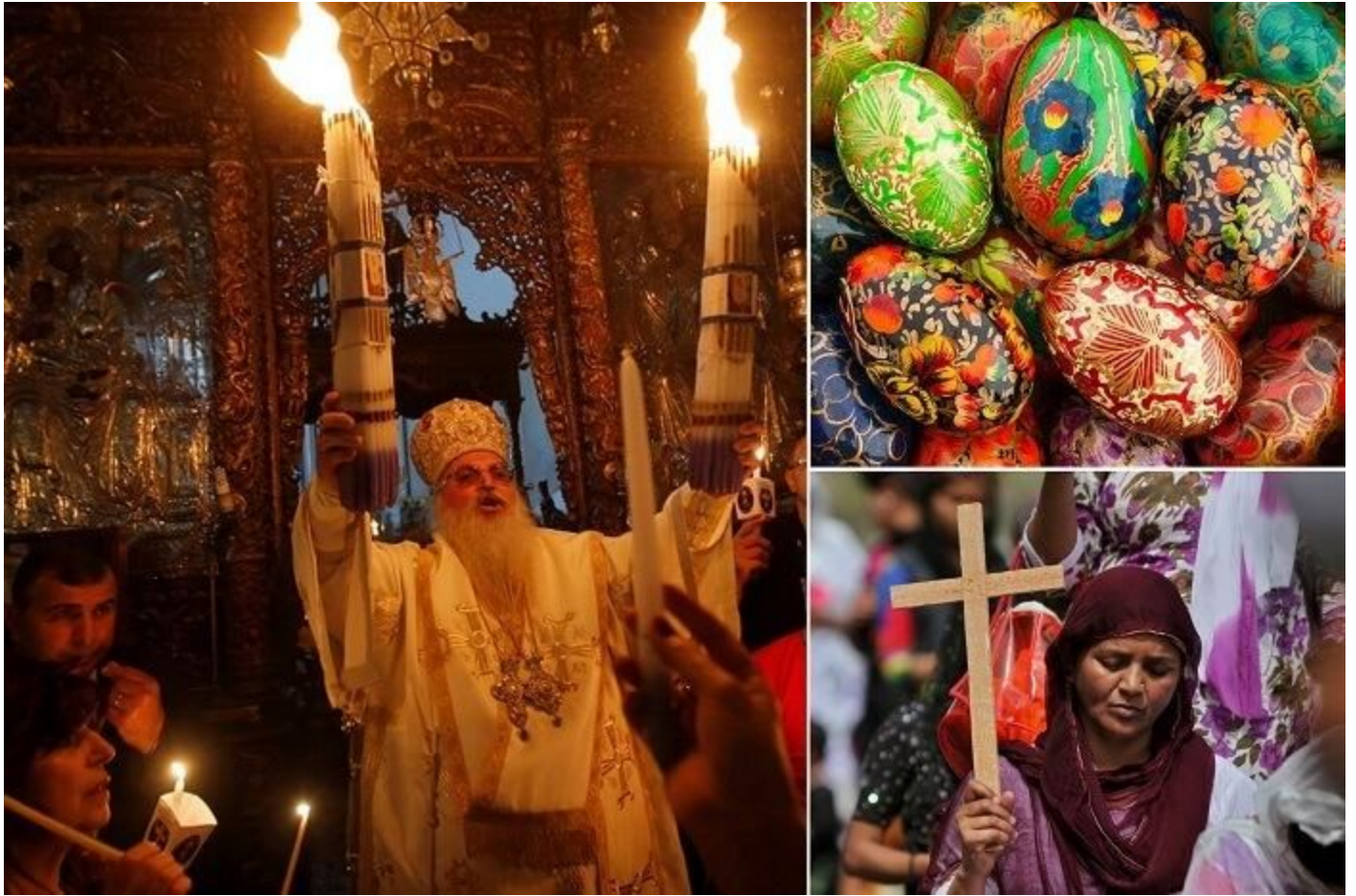


Image Source

Just like other festivals, Easter is also celebrated with much fervour and great religious solemnization in different parts of the country. Celebrated during Spring, Easter celebrations in India are distinguished by various colourful decorations, dance and plays, sinmel and plum cakes, and bright lanterns adorning the streets.

Significance: Resurrection of Lord Jesus

Key attractions: Folk songs and dance, Easter eggs, cakes, chocolates, street decorations

Easter 2018: 1st April (Saturday)

Where: The festival is celebrated across India. The best places to celebrate Easter in India are Goa, Pondicherry, and Kerala.

17. Baisakhi: The Rich Traditions and Cultural Prosperity



Image Source

Baisakhi is primarily a festival celebrated by the Sikh community of Punjab and those around the world. It celebrates the welcoming of the harvest season for the rabi crops. The Sikhs celebrate this festival with a lot of excitement and enthusiasm by performing local folk dances such as Gidhha and Bhangra. The festival is of great religious significance in India as it marks the day when the tenth Guru of Sikhs, Guru Gobind Singh, laid out the foundation stone for the Panth Khalsa-the Order back in 1699.

Significance: Welcoming the harvest season

Key attractions: Folk dance like Bhangra and Giddha, Punjabi feasts, decorations in houses and Gurudwaras

When: 13th or 14th April (Saturday)

Where: The festival is celebrated across Sikh communities in India. The best place to celebrate Baisakhi in India is Punjab.

The myriad of important festivals of India boast of the nation's rich and varied culture and the religious sentiments of the people. Hope this list of festivals in India sparked an urge to travel to different places and be a part of celebrations. If you want to know a little more about the Indian festive spirit, these commonly-asked questions will be helpful.

Which are the famous festivals of North India?

Lohri and Baisakhi in Punjab, Hemis Festival in Kashmir, and Bihu Festival in North East India are among the famous festivals of north India. They celebrate the harvest season with dance, music, and lip-smacking food.

Other famous festivals of North India, like Teej, Janmashtmi, and Kumbha Mela are religious festivals and nation wide celebrations loaded with traditions and customs of Hindus.

Which are the famous festivals of South India?

Onam and Pongal are the main harvest festivals in South India celebrated in August-September and January respectively. Offering prayers to Hindu deities and family feasts are the highlights of these festivals. Besides, Nehru Trophy Race in Kerala is a popular festival that sees large audience flocking to see the competition. Another one of famous festivals of South India is the Hampi Festival. These celebrations in India are held in Karnataka and exhibits the essence of culture and history through music, dance, drama, and art.

Which are the different festivals related to farming celebrated in India?

Onam, Makar Sankranti, Baisakhi, Lohri, Wangala, Nuakhai, and Ugadi are some famous [harvest festivals in India](#). The celebrations include a community gala featuring prayers to God, family gatherings, new clothes, music, dance, and feasts.

Which festival is celebrated in spring season?

Holi is the major festival celebrated in Spring Season in India. The festival is also given names like Festival of Colors and Festival of Love. It is celebrated with organic colors and water while a number of delicacies such as gujiya and dahi bhalle are prepared in different states of the country.