

Festivals of Haryana, Names, Significance, Traditions, Major Celebrations

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Festivals of Haryana reflect the state's rich agricultural traditions, religious beliefs, folk culture and community life. Important festivals such as Lohri, Baisakhi, Teej and Gita Jayanti are celebrated through traditional rituals, fairs, music, dance and community participation. Haryana also hosts important cultural events such as the Surajkund International Crafts Mela, which promotes handicrafts, handlooms and folk traditions.

Major Festivals of Haryana

The festivals of Haryana are closely connected with the agricultural cycle, changing seasons, religious traditions and the cultural heritage of Kurukshetra. Lohri and Baisakhi are associated with seasonal and agricultural traditions, Teej is a major monsoon festival, and Gita Jayanti is associated with Kurukshetra. The state is also known for important cultural events such as the Surajkund International Crafts Mela.

List of Major Festivals of Haryana

The major festivals of Haryana and their important features are given below:

Lohri

- Lohri is a winter festival celebrated in January.
- People celebrate it around bonfires with folk songs, music and community gatherings.
- It is closely associated with seasonal change and agricultural traditions.

Baisakhi

- Baisakhi is an important harvest festival celebrated in April.
- It is associated with the agricultural cycle and the harvesting season.
- In Haryana, it is celebrated through fairs, cultural programmes, music and traditional activities.
- The Baisakhi Festival at Pinjore also includes handlooms, handicrafts and cultural programmes.

Hariyali Teej

- Hariyali Teej is an important monsoon festival, mainly celebrated by women.
- It is associated with the arrival of the monsoon and the month of Sawan.
- Traditional celebrations include swings, folk songs, dances and festive gatherings.
- The festival is also associated with Goddess Parvati and her devotion to Lord Shiva.

Gita Jayanti and International Gita Mahotsav

- Gita Jayanti is associated with Kurukshetra, an important religious and historical centre of Haryana.
- It commemorates the traditional belief that Lord Krishna delivered the teachings of the Bhagavad Gita to Arjuna at Kurukshetra.
- The International Gita Mahotsav is mainly organised in Kurukshetra.
- The celebrations include Gita recitation, religious discourses, Bhagavad Katha, devotional music, dance, dramas, exhibitions and cultural programmes.
- Deep Daan and other religious activities at Brahma Sarovar are important features of the celebrations.
- The Haryana Government has been organising the Gita Mahotsav since 1989.

Surajkund International Crafts Mela

- The Surajkund International Crafts Mela is held annually at Surajkund in Faridabad district.
- It was first organised in 1987 and was upgraded to an international level in 2013.
- The Mela showcases Indian handicrafts, handlooms and folk traditions.
- It provides artisans and craftspeople with a platform to display and promote traditional crafts.
- Folk music, dance, cultural performances and craft demonstrations are important features.
- It is organised by the Surajkund Mela Authority and Haryana Tourism in collaboration with the Union Ministries of Tourism, Textiles, Culture and External Affairs

Pinjore Heritage Festival

- The Pinjore Heritage Festival is associated with the Yadavindra Gardens at Pinjore in Panchkula district.
- It promotes the historical and cultural heritage of the region.
- The festival includes cultural programmes and activities related to Haryana's heritage and tourism.
- It contributes to the promotion of heritage **tourism** in the state.

Mango Mela

- The Mango Mela is held at Yadavindra Gardens, Pinjore.
- It provides mango growers with a platform to display and promote different varieties of mangoes and mango products.
- The event includes exhibitions, competitions, cultural programmes and a crafts bazaar.
- It is organised by Haryana Tourism in association with the Horticulture Department, Haryana

Other Important Festivals of Haryana

Haryana also celebrates:

- Diwali
- Holi
- Janmashtami
- Navaratri
- **Guru Nanak** Jayanti
- Guga Navami
- Kartik Cultural Festival
- Makar Sankranti
- Somvati Amavasya
- Bhakti and Sufi festivals
- Local fairs and pilgrimage gatherings

These festivals reflect Haryana's religious traditions, seasonal customs, agricultural heritage and folk culture.

Festivals of Haryana Significance

The festivals and cultural events of Haryana are important because they:

- **Reflect agricultural traditions:** Lohri and Baisakhi are closely linked with seasonal changes and farming activities.
- **Preserve religious heritage:** Gita Jayanti highlights the importance of Kurukshetra as a major religious and cultural centre.
- **Promote folk culture:** Festivals such as Teej preserve traditional songs, dances and customs.
- **Support artisans:** The Surajkund International Crafts Mela provides a platform and market for traditional artisans and craftspeople.
- **Promote tourism:** Religious festivals, fairs and heritage events strengthen cultural and heritage tourism.

- **Strengthen community life:** Festivals encourage community participation and help pass cultural traditions from one generation to the next.

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