

Festivals and Fine Arts

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1. Hindu festivals by month and region
2. Classical fine arts of Indian origin
3. Festival calendar by Telugu month and AP temple festivals

1 Hindu festivals by month and region

India's big Hindu festivals (Ugadi, Rama Navami, Vinayaka Chavithi, Dasara, Deepavali, Sankranti, Shivaratri, Holi) run on the lunar calendar except solar Sankranti, each carries a Puranic story, and every region keeps them under its own name, alongside great gatherings such as the Kumbh Mela, Pushkaralu and Puri's Rath Yatra. (Month-by-month calendar and Andhra temple festivals: HC-FA-03.)

Core facts

- **Telugu calendar:** lunar (**chandramana**), **amanta** (month ends on Amavasya). **Sankranti** is the only major festival fixed by the **Sun** (sauramana).
- **Kumbh Mela:** four sites, **Prayagraj, Haridwar, Ujjain, Nashik**; each site every **12 years**; on UNESCO's intangible heritage list since **2017**.
- **Pushkaralu:** a river's 12-day festival when **Brihaspati (Jupiter)** enters its rashi; each river once in **12 years**.
- **Rath Yatra (Puri, Odisha):** **Ashadha Shukla Dvitiya; Jagannatha, Balabhadra, Subhadra**.

The big festivals at a glance

Festival	Tithi (Telugu calendar)	Story / point	Other names, other states
Ugadi	Chaitra Shuddha Padyami	Brahma began creation (Brahmanda Purana)	Yugadi (Karnataka), Gudi Padwa (Maharashtra), Sajibu Nongma Panba (Manipur), Cheti Chand (Sindh), Navreh (Kashmir)
Sri Rama Navami	Chaitra Shuddha Navami	Rama born in Punarvasu star	Sita Rama Kalyanam in the Telugu states
Vinayaka Chavithi	Bhadrapada Shuddha Chaviti	Puja with 21 leaves	Public Ganeshotsav by Tilak, 1893 ; Pillaiyar Chaturthi (Tamil Nadu)
Dasara	Ashvayuja Shuddha Padyami–Dashami	Durga kills Mahishasura ; Rama kills Ravana	Durga Puja (Bengal), Mysuru Dasara, Garba (Gujarat), Bathukamma (Telangana)
Deepavali	Ashvayuja Amavasya	Narakasura killed; Rama returns; Lakshmi	Kali Puja (Bengal), Bandi Chhor Divas (Sikhs)
Sankranti	Pushya; Sun enters Makara (about 14 January)	Uttarayana begins	Pongal (Tamil Nadu), Uttarayan (Gujarat), Magh Bihu (Assam)
Maha Shivaratri	Magha Bahula Chaturdashi	Shiva appears as the Jyotirlinga	Night-long jagarana

Festival	Tithi (Telugu calendar)	Story / point	Other names, other states
Holi	Phalguna Purnima	Holika burnt; Kama Dahanam in the south	Lathmar Holi, Dol Jatra, Shigmo, Yaosang
Krishnashtami	Shravana Bahula Ashtami, Rohini star	Krishna, 8th child of Devaki	Dahi Handi (Maharashtra), Utlā Panduga (Andhra)
Raksha Bandhan	Shravana Purnima	Draupadi ties cloth on Krishna's finger	Jandhyala Purnima (Telugu), Narali Purnima, Avani Avittam

Explained

Ugadi.

- **Ugadi** is the Telugu form of **Yugadi**: yuga (age) + adi (beginning). Other stories: Kali yuga began; Vishnu as **Matsya** recovered the Vedas from **Somakasura**; start of the **Shalivahana Shaka** era.
- **Ugadi pachadi** has **six tastes** (shadruchulu): neem flowers **bitter** (sorrow), jaggery **sweet** (joy), raw mango **astringent** (new challenges), salt (zest), tamarind **sour**, chilli or pepper **pungent**.
- **Panchanga Shravanam**: the year's almanac is read. The panchangam has **five limbs**: **tithi, vara, nakshatra, yoga, karana** (rashi is not one of them).
- The nine days from Ugadi to Rama Navami are **Vasanta (Chaitra) Navaratrulu**.
- April solar new years are a separate group, on Mesha Sankranti: **Puthandu** (Tamil Nadu), **Vishu** (Kerala), **Vaisakhi** (Punjab), **Bohag Bihu** (Assam), **Poila Baishakh** (Bengal).

Sri Rama Navami. Rama, Vishnu's **7th** avatar, born at noon (Abhijit muhurtam) in **Punarvasu** star, **Karkataka** lagna, after Dasharatha's **Putrakameshti** led by sage **Rishyashringa**. In the Telugu states the **Kalyanam** matters more than the birthday. At **Bhadrachalam** (temple built by **Bhakta Ramadasu**) the government sends **silk clothes and pearl talambralu**, a custom from **Tana Shah's** (Qutb Shahi) time. After bifurcation Andhra Pradesh holds the state celebration at **Vontimitta** (Kodandarama temple, **Kadapa** district). Prasadam: **panakam** and **vadapappu**; many begin writing **Ramakoti** that day.

Vinayaka Chavithi.

- **Birth**: Parvati shaped a boy from her bathing paste (nalugu pindi); Shiva cut off his head; an **elephant's head** was fixed.
- **Ganadhipatyam**: to win lordship of the ganas, Kartikeya flew round the worlds on his peacock; Vinayaka **circled his parents three times** on his mouse and won.
- **Moon curse**: the Moon laughed at him, so seeing the moon this night brings false blame; hearing the **Syamantaka mani** story removes it.
- **21 leaves** (Ekavimshati patra puja), e.g. machi, garika, maredu, jammi, and Tulasi, offered to Ganesha on this day only; **undrallu, kudumulu**; immersion on **Ananta Chaturdashi**. Big pandals: **Khairatabad** (Hyderabad), **Lalbaugcha Raja** (Mumbai).

Dasara (Devi Navaratrulu).

- Coming at the start of **Sharad** ritu, the nine nights are also called **Sharannavaratrulu**; the 10th day is **Vijayadashami**. Dasara is read as "removal of ten sins".
- **Mahishasura** had Brahma's boon that no man could kill him. The gods' powers joined as **Durga**, who rode a **lion**. Gifts: **Shiva** trident, **Vishnu** discus, **Varuna** conch, **Vayu** arrow, **Yama** staff. She killed him with the trident on the 10th day: **Mahishasuramardini**.
- **Navadurga**, day by day: 1 **Shailaputri**, 2 **Brahmacharini**, 3 Chandraghanta, 4 Kushmanda, 5 Skandamata, 6 Katyayani, 7 **Kalaratri**, 8 Mahagauri, 9 **Siddhidhatri**.
- **Shami (jammi) tree**: the Pandavas hid their weapons in a Shami tree near **Virata's** capital (Matsya) for the 13th year (ajnatavasam) and took them back on Vijayadashami; hence **Shami puja** and **Ayudha puja**.
- **Across India**: **Vijayawada** Kanaka Durga ends with the **Hamsa vahana teppotsavam** on the **Krishna**; **Mysuru** carries **Chamundeshwari** on the elephant howdah (**Ambari**); **Telangana** keeps **Bathukamma** and looks for the **Palapitta** (Indian roller) bird on Vijayadashami; **Kolkata** Durga Puja ends with immersion in the **Hooghly**; **Gujarat** dances Garba and Dandiya; the north stages **Ramlila** and burns Ravana. Vijayanagara's "**Rayala Dasara**" under Krishnadevaraya was described by the Portuguese traveller **Domingo Paes**.

Deepavali: five days in the north.

Day	Name	Tithi	Point
1	Dhanatrayodashi	Ashvayuja Bahula Trayodashi	Dhanvantari Jayanti ; buying gold
2	Naraka Chaturdashi (small Deepavali)	Ashvayuja Bahula Chaturdashi	Oil bath before sunrise
3	Deepavali (main day)	Ashvayuja Amavasya	Lakshmi puja in the evening (pradosha)
4	Bali Padyami / Govardhana puja	Kartika Shuddha Padyami	Vamana sends Bali to Patala; Krishna lifts Govardhana
5	Yama Dvitiya (Bhai Dooj)	Kartika Shuddha Dvitiya	Yama eats at sister Yamuna's house

- **Narakasura** could die only at his **mother's** hands; **Satyabhama**, an amsha of **Bhudevi** (his mother), killed him with Krishna.
- Other stories: Rama's return to Ayodhya; **Lakshmi** rose from the churned ocean; Vishnu's boon to **Bali**.
- **Customs**: **abhyanga snanam** with sesame oil (Lakshmi in oil, Ganga in water); lamps drive out **Alakshmi**; many Andhra homes do the **Kedara Gauri vratam**.
- **Regions**: Bengal worships **Kali** (Kali Puja); Gujarat's new year **Bestu Varas** is the next day, with new account books (Chopda Pujan); Tamil Nadu celebrates on **Naraka Chaturdashi** itself; Sikhs mark **Bandi Chhor Divas**, Guru **Hargobind's** release from **Jahangir's** prison (Gwalior fort); Odisha lights jute sticks for ancestors (Kaunria Kathi); Maharashtra begins with **Vasubaras** (cow and calf puja). Deepavali joined UNESCO's intangible heritage list in **2025**.

Sankranti (Pedda Panduga).

- **Bhogi**: gratitude to **Indra**, the rain god; **Bhogi mantalu** (bonfire of old things); children showered with **regi pallu**.

- **Makara Sankranti:** the Sun passes from **Dhanu** into **Makara**; **Uttarayana** (six months = one day of the gods) begins; tarpanam with **black sesame**; Haridasu, Gangireddulu, muggulu with gobbemmalu.
- **Kanuma:** thanksgiving to **cattle** (and birds); saying "**Kanuma nadu minumu tinali**" (eat black gram); no travel. **Mukkanuma** follows.

Telugu day	Tamil Nadu	Others
Bhogi	Bhogi Pongal	Lohri (Punjab, Haryana); Bhogi Habba (Karnataka)
Makara Sankranti	Pongal	Uttarayan kite flying (Gujarat); Magh (Bhogali) Bihu (Assam); Makara Vilakku (Kerala)
Kanuma	Mattu Pongal	Cattle races in many places

Maha Shivaratri. Moon in **Ardra** star; every Krishna Chaturdashi is a Masa Shivaratri. Stories: Shiva appeared as an endless pillar of light while **Brahma (swan)** and **Vishnu (boar)** failed to find its ends (Lingodbhava, placed at **Arunachalam**); he held the **halahala** in his throat (**Neelakantha**); Shiva-Parvati's wedding. Observances: fast, **jagarana**, **bilva** archana, Rudrabhishekam. Palkuriki Somanatha's **Panditaradhy Charitra** describes **Srisaillam's** Shivaratri.

Element	Pancha Bhuta linga	Place
Earth	Prithvi	Kanchipuram (Ekambareswara)
Water	Jala	Jambukeswaram (Tiruvanaikaval)
Fire	Agni	Arunachalam (Tiruvannamalai)
Air	Vayu	Srikalahasti (Andhra Pradesh)
Space	Akasha	Chidambaram

Holi. Holika, sister of **Hiranyakashipu**, had a boon against fire; she sat in a fire with **Prahlada** and burnt while he escaped (Holika Dahan, the night before). In the south it is **Kama Dahanam**: Shiva burnt **Manmatha** with his third eye. Colours recall Krishna and Radha. Day two is **Dhulivandan** (colours). Regional forms: **Lathmar Holi** at **Barsana** (women beat men with sticks); **Dol Jatra** (Bengal; Tagore's Vasantotsav at Santiniketan); **Hola Mohalla** (Sikhs); **Shigmo** (**Goa**); **Yaosang** (Manipur); **Phagwah** (Bihar); Dol Purnima (Odisha).

Krishnashtami. Born in Kamsa's prison at Mathura, **8th avatar, 8th child, Ashtami tithi**. Andhra: **Utlā Panduga** (pots hung and broken); Tirumala holds **Gokulashtami Asthanam** and next day **Sikyotsavam** (utla festival). Manipur enacts Rasa Lila.

Raksha Bandhan (Shravana Purnima). Stories: Draupadi tied a strip of her saree on Krishna's bleeding finger; **Lakshmi** tied a raksha on **Bali** to win Vishnu back; **Shachi** tied one on **Indra** before battle; Rani **Karnavati** sent a rakhi to **Humayun**; Yamuna and Yama. Names: **Jandhyala Purnima** (Telugu: sacred thread renewed, Upakarma), **Avani Avittam** (Tamil Nadu, Kerala), **Narali Purnima** (west coast, coconut to Varuna), Kajari Purnima (Madhya Pradesh). **Tagore** used it for Hindu-Muslim unity during the Partition of Bengal (1905).

Kumbh Mela.

- Story: during the churning, **Garuda** carried the amrita pot and drops fell at four places. **Adi Shankaracharya** is credited with organising it.

Place	State	River
Prayagraj	Uttar Pradesh	Sangam of Ganga, Yamuna, unseen Saraswati
Haridwar	Uttarakhand	Ganga
Ujjain	Madhya Pradesh	Shipra
Nashik	Maharashtra	Godavari

- **Cycle:** **Ardh Kumbh** every **6 years** at **Haridwar and Prayagraj**; **Purna Kumbh** every 12 years at each site; **Maha Kumbh** after 12 Purna Kumbhs (**144 years**) at Prayagraj; **Magha Mela** every year at Prayagraj.
- **Customs:** **Shahi Snan** (royal bath), led by the **Naga sadhus** of the **akhadas** (Juna, Niranjani, Mahanirvani); **Kalpavasam**, a month in riverside huts on sattvic food.

Pushkaralu. Pushkara, holder of the power of all tirthas, stays in a river while **Brihaspati** is in that river's rashi: **Adi Pushkaram** is the first 12 days, **Antya Pushkaram** the last 12. Rites: Pushkara snanam, pitru tarpanam, danams, nadi harati. Kumbh also uses Jupiter but adds the Sun and Moon and has only four sites.

Rashi	River	Rashi	River
Mesha	Ganga	Tula	Kaveri
Vrishabha	Narmada	Vrischika	Bhima (some lists: Tamraparni)
Mithuna	Saraswati	Dhanus	Tapati (some lists: Brahmaputra)
Karkataka	Yamuna	Makara	Tungabhadra
Simha	Godavari (last 2015)	Kumbha	Sindhu
Kanya	Krishna (last 2016)	Meena	Pranahita

Puri Rath Yatra (Ghosha / Gundicha Yatra).

Chariot	Deity	Wheels
Nandighosha (red, yellow)	Jagannatha	16
Taladhwaaja (red, green)	Balabhadra	14
Darpadalana (red, black)	Subhadra	12

- **Snana Yatra** on Jyeshtha Purnima, then 15 days of **Anavasara** (no darshan). **Pahandi**: deities carried to the chariots. **Chhera Pahara**: the **Gajapati king** sweeps the chariots with a **gold-handled broom**. The chariots go about 3 km to the **Gundicha** temple ("aunt's house") for 9 days; the return is the **Bahuda Yatra**.
- Chariot building starts on **Akshaya Tritiya**; new neem-wood idols every 8, 12 or 19 years (**Navakalevara**); India's second-biggest Rath Yatra is at **Ahmedabad**.

Regional festivals of India.

Festival	State	When	Point
Onam	Kerala	Chingam (Aug–Sep), 10 days from Atham to Thiruvonam	Mahabali's yearly visit; pookalam, Onasadya, snake-boat races
Bihu	Assam	Bohag/Rongali (April), Kati/Kongali (Oct), Magh/Bhogali (Jan)	Rice cycle; Bohag Bihu is the new year
Vaisakhi	Punjab	13–14 April (solar)	Harvest; Khalsa founded at Anandpur Sahib, 1699
Thai Poosam	Tamil Nadu	Thai month, Pusam star	Murugan gets the vel; kavadi
Chhath	Bihar	Kartika Shuddha Shashthi	Sun and Chhathi Maiya; arghya to setting and rising sun
Karwa Chauth	Punjab, Haryana, UP, Rajasthan	Kartika Krishna Chaviti	Wives fast; moon seen through a sieve
Bhai Dooj	North India	Kartika Shuddha Dvitiya	Bhau Beej (Maharashtra), Bhai Phonta (Bengal), Bhai Tika (Nepal)
Bathukamma	Telangana	Pettala Amavasya to Durgashtami	Flower tower to Gauri; last day Saddula Bathukamma
Bonalu	Telangana	Ashadha	First bonam at Jagadambika temple, Golconda fort
Hornbill	Nagaland	1–10 December, Kisama near Kohima	"Festival of festivals" of the Naga tribes
Kullu Dussehra	Himachal Pradesh	From Vijayadashami	Raghunath ji; valley gods gather

Other faiths' festivals asked in the paper.

- **Buddha Purnima** (Vaishakha Purnima): birth (**Lumbini**, 563 BCE), enlightenment (**Bodh Gaya**, age 35), mahaparinirvana (**Kushinagar**, age 80) fell on the same tithi; **Vesak** in Sri Lanka.
- **Gurpurab**: Guru **Nanak's** birth (**1469**, Talwandi, now Nankana Sahib) on **Kartika Purnima**. **Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti** (born 1666, Patna; died at Nanded). **Hola Mohalla** (1701, Anandpur Sahib) shows martial skills.
- **Mahavir Jayanti**: Chaitra Shukla Trayodashi; born at Kundagrama near Vaishali.
- **Nowruz**: Parsi new year on **21 March** (equinox); linked with King **Jamshed**; Haft-Sin table of seven "S" items.

Common traps

✗ "Vinayaka Chavithi is in Ashvayuja." ✓ **Bhadrapada** Shuddha Chaviti; **21** leaves.

✗ "Sri Rama Navami is in Vaishakha." ✓ **Chaitra** Shuddha Navami, **Punarvasu** star.

✗ "Krishna killed Narakasura alone." ✓ **Satyabhama** (amsha of his mother Bhudevi) killed him; Naraka could die only at his mother's hands.

✗ "Kanuma honours the gods." ✓ It is thanksgiving to **cattle and birds**; Bhogi honours **Indra**.

✗ "Sankranti is the Sun entering Makara from Kumbha." ✓ From **Dhanu**.

✗ "Rashi is one of the five limbs of the panchangam." ✓ Tithi, vara, nakshatra, yoga, karana.

✗ "The Kumbh Mela is held at Varanasi or on the Krishna." ✓ Prayagraj, Haridwar, Ujjain (**Shipra**), Nashik (Godavari).

✗ "Ardh Kumbh is held at Ujjain and Nashik." ✓ **Haridwar and Prayagraj**, every 6 years.

✗ "Rath Yatra carries Krishna, Balarama and Radha." ✓ **Jagannatha, Balabhadra, Subhadra**; the return is **Bahuda**.

✗ "Thai Poosam is a Kerala festival." ✓ **Tamil Nadu**; Onam is Kerala.

✗ "Baisakhi is a Himachal festival; Shigmo is Bengali." ✓ Baisakhi **Punjab**; Shigmo **Goa**.

✗ "Srisailam is a Pancha Bhuta linga." ✓ It is a Jyotirlinga; Andhra's Pancha Bhuta linga is **Srikalahasti** (Vayu).

✗ "Bhadrachalam is in Andhra's Khammam district (book)." ✓ **Bhadradri Kothagudem**, Telangana; AP's state Rama Navami is at **Vontimitta**.

✗ "Pushkaram rivers: Sindhu for both Dhanus and Kumbha (book)." ✓ **Sindhu = Kumbha**; Dhanus is Tapati (or Brahmaputra).

✗ "Bonalu began after a plague (book)." ✓ The **1813** epidemic was **cholera**.

Quick revision

- Ugadi Chaitra Shuddha Padyami: Brahma's creation; pachadi six tastes, neem = bitter; panchangam five limbs.
- Rama Navami Chaitra Shuddha Navami, Punarvasu; AP's state kalyanam at Vontimitta (Kadapa).
- Vinayaka Chavithi Bhadrapada Shuddha Chaviti: 21 leaves; won the ganas by circling his parents.
- Dasara: Sharannavaratru; Navadurga Shailaputri → Siddhidhatri; Shami near Virata; Paes on Rayala Dasara.
- Deepavali Ashvayuja Amavasya; Dhanatrayodashi (Dhanvantari) → Naraka → Deepavali → Bali Padyami → Yama Dvitiya.

- Sankranti: Sun Dhanu → Makara; Bhogi (Indra; Lohri), Kanuma (minumu), Mukkanuma.
- Holi Phalguna Purnima: Holika, Kama Dahanam; Lathmar Barsana, Shigmo Goa, Yaosang Manipur.
- Kumbh: Shipra at Ujjain; Ardh 6 yrs (Haridwar, Prayagraj); Maha 144 yrs; Kalpavasam; UNESCO 2017.
- Pushkaralu by Jupiter: Simha–Godavari, Kanya–Krishna, Makara–Tungabhadra, Meena–Pranahita.
- Rath Yatra Ashadha Shukla Dvitiya: 16/14/12 wheels; Chhera Pahara by the Gajapati; Bahuda return.

2 Classical fine arts of Indian origin

India's fine arts (painting, sculpture, music, dance and poetry, with architecture and drama) trace themselves to the Vedas and Bharata's Natya Shastra; they live on as classical dances, the Carnatic and Hindustani music systems, three temple styles, schools of painting and sculpture, Sanskrit and Telugu literature, and a growing UNESCO list.

Core facts

- **Fine arts (lalita kalalu)** give joy; useful arts give gain. The classic five: **painting, sculpture, music, dance, poetry**. Painting is 2D, sculpture 3D; arts are **drishya** (seen) or **shravya** (heard). Poetry ranks highest, and drama highest among kavyas: "**Kavyeshu natakam ramyam**".
- **64 arts (chatushashti kalas)**: the classic list is in Vatsyayana's **Kamasutra**; Krishna and Balarama learnt them in 64 days from **Sandipani**.
- **Music's root: Samaveda** (birthplace of Indian music); its upaveda is **Gandharva Veda**.
- **Natya Shastra** by **Bharata Muni**: drama, dance, music; the "**fifth Veda**" (Natya Veda).
- **Seven notes (saptaswaras)**: Sa Ri Ga Ma Pa Da Ni (Shadjam, Rishabhram, Gandharam, Madhyamam, Panchamam, Dhaivatam, Nishadam); an octave holds **22 shrutis**.
- **Two systems: Hindustani** (north) and **Carnatic** (south), separate from about the 13th century. Carnatic ragas: **72 melakartas** (janaka, parent ragas) and the **janya** ragas born from them; Hindustani ragas: **10 thaats (V. N. Bhattachande)**.
- **Eight classical dances** (Sangeet Natak Akademi); the Ministry of Culture adds **Chhau**.
- **Temple styles: Nagara** (north), **Dravida** (south, begun by the **Pallavas**), **Vesara** (Deccan, a blend of Nagara and Dravida).
- **Shiva's dance** is **tandava** (vigorous); **Parvati's** is **lasya** (graceful).

Treatises and their authors

Treatise	Author	Period / patron	About
Natya Shastra	Bharata Muni	About 200 BCE–200 CE	Drama, dance, music; rasa
Brihaddeshi	Matanga	About 8th–9th c.	First to define raga
Dasharupaka	Dhananjaya (commentary by Dhanika)	10th c.	Ten kinds of drama; nritya vs natya
Abhinaya Darpana	Nandikeshvara	Medieval	Gestures (hastas); dancers' handbook
Gita Govinda	Jayadeva	12th c., Odisha	24 ashtapadis on Radha–Krishna
Sangita Ratnakara	Sharngadeva	13th c., Yadava court, Devagiri	Music and dance; base of both systems

Treatise	Author	Period / patron	About
Nritta Ratnavali	Jayapa Senani	13th c., Kakatiya general	Dance, incl. Perini, desi forms
Swaramela Kalanidhi	Ramamatya	1550, Vijayanagara	Ragas grouped under melas
Chaturdandi Prakashika	Venkatamakhin	17th c., Thanjavur	72 melakarta scheme
Manasara	Manasara	Medieval	Vastu and sculpture
Vishnudharmottara (Chitrastuta)	Purana section	Gupta age	Rules of painting
Kavyamimamsa	Rajashekara	10th c.	Poetics; kavi samayas

Classical dances

Dance	State	Remember it by
Bharatanatyam	Tamil Nadu	Once Sadir (Attam) ; Tanjore brothers; Rukmini Devi Arundale , Kalakshetra
Kuchipudi	Andhra Pradesh	Siddhendra Yogi ; grew from Yakshaganam ; spoken lines; Bhama Kalapam; Tarangam
Kathakali	Kerala	Men's dance-drama; make-up pacha, kathi, thadi ; Vallathol
Mohiniyattam	Kerala	Solo, lasya, white and gold; revived by Swathi Thirunal and Vallathol
Kathak	Uttar Pradesh	Story-tellers; spins; Lucknow and Jaipur gharanas
Odissi	Odisha	Tribhanga ; Maharis of Puri; songs from Gita Govinda
Manipuri	Manipur	Ras Lila; stiff mirror-worked skirt (Kumil)
Sattriya	Assam	Sankardev ; sattras (monasteries); recognised 2000
Chhau	Odisha, Jharkhand, West Bengal	Masked martial dance; UNESCO 2010

Folk dances by state

State	Folk dances
Andhra Pradesh	Kolatam, Dhimsa (Araku), Veeranatyam, Tappeta Gullu, Burrakatha, Tholu Bommalata
Telangana	Perini Sivatandavam , Gusadi, Lambadi
Rajasthan	Ghoomar , Kalbelia
Gujarat	Garba, Dandiya Raas
Punjab	Bhangra, Giddha

State	Folk dances
Maharashtra	Lavani, Tamasha
Karnataka	Yakshagana (Bayalata), Dollu Kunitha
Kerala	Theyyam, Pulikali, Kaikottikali
Assam	Bihu

Explained

Natya Shastra, rasa and the three kinds of dance.

- **Rasa:** Bharata gives **eight** (shringara, hasya, karuna, raudra, veera, bhayanaka, bibhatsa, adbhuta); **shanta** as the ninth is defended by **Abhinavagupta**, making the **navarasas**. Each rasa grows from a lasting emotion (sthayi bhava).
- **Four abhinayas:** **angika** (body), **vachika** (speech, song), **aharya** (costume), **sattvika** (inner feeling).
- **Nritta:** pure rhythmic dance. **Nritya:** dance with expression, **bhava-ashraya** (based on bhava); angika abhinaya leads; acting out word meanings. **Natya: rasa-ashraya** (based on rasa); sattvika abhinaya leads; acting out a whole story. The **Dasharupaka** (Dhananjaya, with Dhanika's commentary) set this difference. Natya is the fullest of the three.
- **Four classes of instruments:** **tata** (strings: veena), **sushira** (wind: flute), **avanaddha** (skin: mridangam), **ghana** (solid: cymbals, ghatam).

Music: names and facts.

- Puranic chain: Brahma → Saraswati → Narada → Gandharvas (hence "Gandharva ganam"). A lion-headed veena-like object from Harappa is cited (Heras) as the oldest instrument; **Samudragupta** appears playing the **veena** on his gold coins.
- **Purandara Dasa** (Karnataka, 15th–16th c.): "**Pitamaha** of Carnatic music"; sarali swaras and alankaras in raga **Mayamalavagowla**.
- **Carnatic Trinity**, all born at **Tiruvarur**: **Thyagaraja** (Rama; mostly **Telugu**; Pancharatna kritis; Aradhana at Tiruvaiyaru), **Muthuswami Dikshitar** (**Sanskrit**; signature Guruguha), **Syama Sastri** (devotee of goddess **Kamakshi**; swarajatis).
- **Hindustani:** **Amir Khusrau**, poet of **Alauddin Khilji's** court, blended Persian and Indian music (qawwali; credited with khayal); **Tansen** of **Akbar's** court, linked with raga **Deepak**, said to light lamps (Megh is said to bring rain); forms **Dhrupad** (oldest), **Khayal**, Tarana; **Thumri**, **Dadra** and **Ghazal** are **light classical**.

Instrument	Masters
Santoor	Shivkumar Sharma
Sitar	Ravi Shankar, Vilayat Khan
Sarod	Amjad Ali Khan
Shehnai	Bismillah Khan

Instrument	Masters
Flute	Hariprasad Chaurasia, Pannalal Ghosh, T. R. Mahalingam
Tabla	Zakir Hussain
Mridangam	Palghat Mani Iyer, Karaikudi Mani, Ella Venkateswara Rao
Veena; violin	Emani Sankara Sastri, Chittibabu; Dwaram Venkataswamy Naidu (violin)

Deities and instruments: Shiva **damaru**, Saraswati **veena**, Krishna **flute**, Narada and Tumburu **tambura**.

Telugu composers.

Composer	Place, time	Patron / ruler	Known for
Annamacharya	Tallapaka , 1408–1503	Saluva Narasimha	About 32,000 sankirtanas on Venkateswara ; copper plates at Tirumala
Kshetrappa	Movva , 17th c.	Nayaka courts	Padams signed Muvva Gopala
Bhadrachala Ramadasu (Kancherla Gopanna)	Bhadrachalam, 17th c.	Abul Hasan Tana Shah (Golconda)	Built Bhadrachalam temple; kirtanas on Rama
Thyagaraja	Tiruvarur, 1767–1847	none (refused court)	Telugu kritis on Rama

Dances: more detail.

- **Bharatanatyam**: margam alarippu → jatiswaram → shabdam → **varnam** → padam → tillana; shaped by the Tanjore Quartet; revived by E. Krishna Iyer and **Rukmini Devi Arundale**, who founded **Kalakshetra** (Chennai, **1936**); names: Balasaraswati, Yamini Krishnamurthy.
- **Kuchipudi**: dance-drama of the Brahmin **Bhagavatulu** of **Kuchipudi** village (Krishna district); founder (mulapurusha) **Siddhendra Yogi**, author of **Bhama Kalapam**; it grew from **Yakshaganam** and keeps **spoken dialogue**; **Tarangam** is danced on the rim of a **brass plate**; masters **Vedantam Lakshminarayana Sastry**, **Vempati Chinna Satyam**, Shobha Naidu, Raja-Radha Reddy.
- **Odissi**: traces in Kharavela's **Udayagiri** caves; **Kelucharan Mohapatra**, Sonal Mansingh.
- **Manipuri**: Vaishnava **Ras Lila**; the **Kumil** is a stiff, barrel-shaped skirt with mirror work; Manipur's **Sankirtana** (drumming, singing, dancing) is on UNESCO's list (**2013**).
- **Kathakali**: from **Ramanattam**; **Kerala Kalamandalam** (1930) by **Vallathol Narayana Menon**. **Kathak**: Mughal and Awadh courts; **Birju Maharaj**.
- **Perini Sivatandavam**: the "**dance of warriors**" of the **Kakatiyas**, danced to Shiva before battle; described in Jayapa's **Nritta Ratnavali**; poses carved at **Ramappa**; revived by **Nataraja Ramakrishna**. **Kolatam** (stick dance) and **Tholu Bommalata** (leather puppets) are old Telugu entertainments.

Temple architecture.

Style	Region, founders	Marks	Examples
Nagara	North; from the Guptas	Curved shikhara over a square sanctum	Khajuraho (Chandelas), Somnath

Style	Region, founders	Marks	Examples
Kalinga (Nagara branch)	Odisha	Rekha deul, jagamohana	Lingaraja, Puri, Konark
Dravida	South; Pallavas began, Cholas developed	Stepped vimana , tall gopurams , tank	Brihadeeswara (Rajaraja I), Mahabalipuram rathas
Vesara (Deccan)	Badami Chalukyas ; Hoysalas	Blend of Nagara and Dravida	Aihole, Pattadakal, Belur, Halebidu ; Kakatiya temples (book)

Temple	Builder	When	Note
Thousand Pillar Temple , Hanamkonda	Rudradeva (Kakatiya)	1162–63	Star-shaped, three shrines
Ramappa , Palampet	Recherla Rudra , Ganapatideva's general	1213	UNESCO World Heritage, 2021
Konark Sun temple	Narasimhadeva I , Eastern Ganga	About 1250	Chariot of the Sun; UNESCO 1984
Kailasanatha , Ellora Cave 16	Rashtrakutas (Krishna I)	8th c.	Cut from one rock
Vitthala , Hampi	Vijayanagara kings	15th–16th c.	Stone chariot , musical pillars
Veerabhadra , Lepakshi	Virupanna and Viranna	1530s	Monolithic Nandi, hanging pillar, ceiling murals

Painting.

- **Bhimbetka** (Madhya Pradesh): rock-shelter paintings about **30,000** years old (hunting, animals, dances); brought to light by **V. S. Wakankar**. Images carved into rock are **petroglyphs**.
- **Ajanta** (Maharashtra): Buddhist murals; caves **9 and 10** from the **Satavahana** period, most others Gupta–Vakataka; Jataka tales, **Padmapani**. **Ellora** Kailasanatha, **Bagh** and **Sittannavasal** (Jain) also hold murals.
- **Lepakshi**: ceiling murals, gems of the **Vijayanagara** school: Shiva's tandava, Shiva and Parvati at a board game, and a huge **Veerabhadra** panel. Hampi's Hazara Rama temple tells the Ramayana in stone and paint.
- **Thanjavur painting**: **gold foil**, bright colours, large deities (often Krishna); flourished under the **Maratha rulers of Thanjavur** (18th c.).
- **Kalamkari**: "**kalam**" = **pen**; painted or printed temple cloths of Andhra (pen work at **Srikalahasti**, block printing at **Machilipatnam**–Pedana).
- **Miniatures**: Pala palm leaves (east), Jain Kalpasutras (Gujarat), **Mughal** (Mir Sayyid Ali, Abdus Samad, Mansur), then Rajput, Pahari, Deccani.
- **Modern**: **Raja Ravi Varma** (gods in human form); **Abanindranath Tagore** founded the **Bengal School** to bring **Indian nationalism** into painting ("father of modern Indian art"); Nandalal Bose, Amrita Sher-Gil, Jamini Roy; **M. F. Husain** and the Progressive Artists' Group; Telugu **Bapu**.

Sculpture schools.

School	Patrons	Stone	Mark
Gandhara	Kushans (Kanishka)	Grey schist	Indo-Greek; early Buddha images with halo
Mathura	Kushans, Guptas	Spotted red sandstone	Indigenous; headless Kanishka statue
Amaravati	Satavahanas, Ikshvakus	Greenish-white limestone	Buddha shown by symbols; narrative panels

Mauryan polished stone pillars (Sarnath lion capital) began stone art; Gupta works include **Deogarh** (Vishnu on Shesha) and **Udayagiri** (Varaha); Hoysala carving recalls the sculptor **Jakkana**.

Theatre and literature.

- **Kutiyattam** (Kerala): oldest living **Sanskrit theatre**. **Mudiyettu** (Kerala): ritual drama of goddess **Kali** killing the demon **Darika**. **Yakshagana** in coastal Karnataka is called **Bayalata**; the Telugu Yakshaganam (Veedhi Bhagavatam) once flourished under the Thanjavur Marathas.
- **Kridabhiramam** by **Vinukonda Vallabharaya**: a street play (veedhi natakam) on life in Kakatiya **Orugallu**.
- Modern stage: Marathi drama began with **Vishnudas Bhave's "Sita Swayamvar"** (1843); **Prithviraj Kapoor** founded **Prithvi Theatres** (1944); Bengal's **Nil Darpan**; Harikatha and Burrakatha in Andhra.
- **Kavya forms**: padya (verse), gadya (prose), **champu (verse and prose mixed)**, vachana kavita (free verse); marga (Sanskrit model) vs desi (regional, e.g. Palkuriki Somana's Basava Puranam).
- **Pancha Mahakavyas**: **Raghuvamsha** and **Kumarasambhava** (Kalidasa), **Kiratarjuniya** (**Bharavi**: Arjuna and Shiva as a hunter), **Shishupalavadha** (**Magha**), **Naishadhiyacharita** (**Sriharsha**: Nala–Damayanti). The last three are the **Brihatrayi**.
- **Kavi samayas** (poets' conventions, e.g. the chakora drinks moonlight, fame is white) were explained by **Rajashekhara** in **Kavyamimamsa**. Poetics: Bhamaha's Kavyalankara, Dandin's Kavyadarsha.

UNESCO intangible heritage from India.

Element	Year	Region
Kutiyattam; Vedic chanting; Ramlila	2008	Kerala; all India; north India
Ramman	2009	Garhwal, Uttarakhand
Chhau ; Kalbelia; Mudiyettu	2010	East India; Rajasthan; Kerala
Buddhist chanting of Ladakh	2012	Ladakh
Sankirtana	2013	Manipur
Thathera brass craft	2014	Jandiala Guru, Punjab
Yoga; Nowruz	2016	All India
Kumbh Mela	2017	Four sites
Durga Puja in Kolkata	2021	West Bengal
Garba	2023	Gujarat

Element	Year	Region
Deepavali	2025	All India

AP angle

- **Kuchipudi** is Andhra's classical dance; tradition says **Abul Hasan Tana Shah** granted Kuchipudi village to its performers. It is **not** on UNESCO's intangible list.
- **Annamacharya** (Tallapaka) wrote the earliest known sankirtanas in pallavi-charanam form; TTD's Annamacharya Project and **M. S. Subbulakshmi** made them famous.
- **Kakatiya** arts: Thousand Pillar and Ramappa temples, **Nritta Ratnavali**, Perini, and (per the book) the woman painter **Machaladevi**.
- **Vijayanagara** in Andhra: **Lepakshi** murals and sculpture, **Swaramela Kalanidhi** (Ramamatya).
- **Amaravati** school: **Amaravati**, **Nagarjunakonda**, **Jaggayyapeta**.
- **Kalamkari** of **Srikalahasti** and **Machilipatnam**.
- Modern masters: **Mangalampalli Balamuralikrishna**, **Dwaram Venkataswamy Naidu**, **Emani Sankara Sastri**, **Yamini Krishnamurthy**, **Nataraja Ramakrishna** (Andhra Natyam, Perini).

Common traps

X "Sangita Ratnakara is by Jayadeva." ✓ **Sharngadeva**; Jayadeva wrote the **Gita Govinda**.

X "The Natya Shastra first defined raga." ✓ **Matanga's Brihaddeshi**.

X "The 64 arts are in the Manu Smriti." ✓ Vatsyayana's **Kamasutra**.

X "Nritya is rasa-based." ✓ Nritya is **bhava**-based; **natya** is rasa-based.

X "Kuchipudi was danced by Maharis in the Jagannatha temple." ✓ That is **Odissi**; Kuchipudi grew from **Yakshaganam** under Siddhendra Yogi.

X "Ghoomar is Gujarat's dance; Yakshagana is Kerala's." ✓ Ghoomar **Rajasthan**; Yakshagana **Karnataka**.

X "Sattriya is from Manipur." ✓ **Assam**.

X "Vesara is Nagara plus Kalinga; Dravida began with the Cholas." ✓ Vesara = **Nagara + Dravida**; Dravida began with the **Pallavas**.

X "Ramappa was built by Rudradeva in 1162." ✓ Ramappa: **Recherla Rudra, 1213**; Rudradeva built the **Thousand Pillar Temple**.

X "Kailasanatha at Ellora is a Pallava temple." ✓ **Rashtrakutas**; the Kanchi Kailasanatha is Pallava.

✗ "Amaravati sculpture is in white marble (book)." ✓ **Greenish-white limestone**, loosely called Palnad marble.

✗ "Lepakshi is Vesara work by Basavanna (book)." ✓ Vijayanagara (Dravida line) work by **Virupanna and Viranna**.

✗ "Amir Khusrau served Akbar." ✓ **Alauddin Khilji**; Tansen served Akbar.

✗ "Gandharva Veda is the Rigveda's upaveda." ✓ **Samaveda's**.

Quick revision

- Five fine arts; poetry highest; "Kavyeshu natakam ramyam"; 64 kalas in the Kamasutra.
- Samaveda → Gandharva Veda; Natya Shastra (Bharata) = fifth Veda; Brihaddeshi first defined raga.
- Nritta rhythm, nritya bhava, natya rasa (Dasharupaka); 8 rasas + shanta.
- 7 swaras, 22 shrutis; 72 melakartas (Venkatamakhin) → janya ragas; 10 thaats (Bhatkhande).
- Kuchipudi AP (Siddhendra Yogi, Yakshaganam, Tarangam); Odissi tribhanga, Gita Govinda; Manipuri Kumil.
- Annamayya (Saluva Narasimha), Ramadasu (Tana Shah), Syama Sastri (Kamakshi); Khusrau (Khilji), Tansen (Deepak).
- Nagara north, Dravida Pallavas, Vesara = Nagara + Dravida; Thousand Pillar Rudradeva, Ramappa Recherla Rudra 1213.
- Konark Narasimhadeva I; Ellora Cave 16 Rashtrakutas; Hampi stone chariot; Lepakshi Virupanna and Viranna.
- Bhimbetka MP; Ajanta 9-10 Satavahana; Thanjavur Marathas; kalam = pen; Bengal School Abanindranath.
- UNESCO: Kutiyattam, Ramlila 2008; Chhau, Mudi yettu 2010; Sankirtana 2013; Kumbh 2017; Garba 2023; Deepavali 2025.

3 Festival calendar by Telugu month and AP temple festivals

The Telugu year runs on the lunar amanta calendar from Ugadi in Chaitra to Holi in Phalguna; this note walks through it month by month, with the tithi of each festival, and then lists the Andhra temple festivals and village jatara that an Endowments officer must know.

Core facts

- **Telugu calendar: chandramana** (lunar), **amanta**: a month ends on **Amavasya**. The north mostly uses **purnimanta** (month ends on Purnima).
- Each month has a bright half (**Shukla / Shuddha paksha**) and a dark half (**Krishna / Bahula paksha**), 15 tithis each.
- Month names come from the star near that month's full moon: Chitra → Chaitra, Vishakha → Vaishakha, Krittika → Kartika, Magha → Magha.
- **Six ritus, two months each**: Vasanta (Chaitra, Vaishakha), Grishma (Jyeshtha, Ashadha), Varsha (Shravana, Bhadrapada), **Sharad** (Ashvayuja, Kartika), Hemanta (Margashira, Pushya), Shishira (Magha, Phalguna).
- **60-year cycle** of named years (samvatsaras), Prabhava to Akshaya.

The year month by month

Telugu month	Festival	Tithi / day	Remember it by
Chaitra	Ugadi	Shuddha Padyami	Telugu new year
Chaitra	Sri Rama Navami	Shuddha Navami	Kalyanam; Vontimitta, Bhadrachalam
Vaishakha	Akshaya Tritiya	Shuddha Tadiya	Simhachalam Chandanotsavam ; Parashurama Jayanti
Vaishakha	Narasimha Jayanti	Shuddha Chaturdashi	Ahobilam, Simhachalam, Penchalakona
Vaishakha	Buddha Purnima	Purnima	Birth, enlightenment, nirvana
Vaishakha	Telugu Hanumajjayanti	Bahula Dashami	End of the 41-day Hanumat deeksha
Jyeshtha	Nirjala Ekadashi; Eruvaka Punnami	Shuddha Ekadashi; Purnima	Fast without water; first ploughing
Ashadha	Rath Yatra (Puri)	Shuddha Vidiya	Jagannatha, Balabhadra, Subhadra
Ashadha	Tholi Ekadashi (Devashayani)	Shuddha Ekadashi	Vishnu sleeps; Chaturmasya begins

Telugu month	Festival	Tithi / day	Remember it by
Ashadha	Guru Purnima (Vyasa Purnima)	Purnima	Vyasa's birthday
Shravana	Naga Panchami	Shuddha Panchami	Astika saves the snakes
Shravana	Varalakshmi Vratam	Friday before Purnima	Married women; Charumati's story
Shravana	Raksha Bandhan; Jandhyala Purnima	Purnima	Sacred thread renewed
Shravana	Krishnashtami	Bahula Ashtami	Rohini star; Utla Panduga
Bhadrapada	Vinayaka Chavithi	Shuddha Chaviti	21 leaves
Bhadrapada	Ananta Chaturdashi; Mahalaya paksha	Shuddha 14th; dark half	Ganesh immersion; offerings to ancestors
Ashvayuja	Devi Navaratri, Dasara	Shuddha Padyami to Dashami	Vijayadashami on the 10th
Ashvayuja	Atla Taddi	Bahula Tadiya	"Telugu Karwa Chauth"
Ashvayuja	Naraka Chaturdashi, Deepavali	Bahula 14th, Amavasya	Narakasura; Lakshmi puja
Kartika	Nagula Chavithi ; Kartika Somavarams	Shuddha Chaviti; Mondays	Milk poured into anthills
Kartika	Ksheerabdi Dwadashi; Kartika Purnima	Shuddha 12th; Purnima	Tulasi puja; Jwala Thoranam, Deva Deepavali
Margashira	Subrahmanya Shashthi; Gita Jayanti	Shuddha Shashthi; Shuddha Ekadashi	Skanda; Gita day
Margashira / Pushya	Mukkoti (Vaikuntha) Ekadashi	Shuddha Ekadashi in Dhanurmasam	North gate (Vaikuntha dwara) darshan
Pushya	Bhogi, Sankranti, Kanuma	About 13-15 January	Sun enters Makara; cattle
Magha	Vasanta Panchami (Sri Panchami)	Shuddha Panchami	Saraswati; aksharabhyasam
Magha	Ratha Saptami	Shuddha Saptami	Surya Jayanti; Arasavalli
Magha	Bhishma Ekadashi	Shuddha Ekadashi	Vishnu Sahasranama day
Magha	Maha Shivaratri	Bahula Chaturdashi	Srisailam, Srikalahasti, Kotappakonda
Phalguna	Holi (Kamuni Punnami)	Purnima	Kama Dahanam
Phalguna	Kotha Amavasya	Amavasya, eve of Ugadi	Anakapalli Nookambika jatara begins

Explained

Vaishakha.

- **Akshaya Tritiya** ("never diminishing"): one of the **three-and-a-half muhurtams**, days that need no muhurtam: **Ugadi, Akshaya Tritiya, Vijayadashami** in full and **Bali Padyami** as the half. Events placed on it: start of **Treta yuga**; **Parashurama Jayanti** (6th avatar); **Vyasa began dictating the Mahabharata to Ganapati**; **Kuchela** (Sudama) brought flattened rice to Krishna; the Pandavas got the **Akshaya patra** from Surya. Temples: **Simhachalam Chandanotsavam** (sandal paste removed, nijarupa darshanam); **Badrinath** reopens after six months; Puri's chariot building starts. Customs: gold buying, gift of a water pot (udakumbha danam) and a fan.
- **Hanuman Jayanti**: north India and many regions keep **Chaitra Purnima**; Andhra and Telangana keep **Vaishakha Bahula Dashami** ("**Telugu Hanumajjayanti**"), ending the **41-day Hanumat deeksha**; Parashara Samhita puts his birth on this tithi in Purvabhadra star. Betel-leaf (aaku) puja, vada garland, sindhuram. Tamil Nadu: Margashira Amavasya.

Jyeshtha and Ashadha.

- **Eruvaka Punnami** (Jyeshtha Purnima): "eru" plough + "vaka" start; oxen and plough worshipped, the first furrow (tholi chalu) cut; in places, Balarama Jayanti.
- **Guru Purnima** (Ashadha Purnima): birthday of **Vedavyasa** (Krishna Dvaipayana, son of Parashara and Satyawati), who divided the Veda into four; the **Buddha's first sermon** at **Sarnath**; sanyasis begin **Chaturmasya** (four months in one place).

Shravana.

- **Naga Panchami** (Shuddha Panchami): sage **Astika** stopped **Janamejaya's** snake sacrifice (after Takshaka killed Parikshit); milk poured into anthills; no ploughing that day. In Andhra **Nagula Chavithi** in Kartika is the bigger day.
- **Varalakshmi Vratam**: married women, on the **Friday just before Shravana Purnima** (book: the second Friday). Shiva tells Parvati the vrata; Lakshmi appears in a dream to **Charumati** of **Kundina** town. Kalasham, **toram of nine threads and nine knots** tied on the right hand, vayanam to married women; Varalakshmi = the eight Lakshmis together.
- **Kanwar Yatra**: north Indian Shiva devotees carry Ganga water in a kavadi, never set down, for abhishekam in Shravana; Sultanganj to **Baidyanath** (Deoghar, Jharkhand) is the "Bol Bam" yatra.

Ashvayuja and Kartika.

- **Atla Taddi** (Ashvayuja Bahula Tadiya): for unmarried girls and married women; Parvati kept it to win Shiva. Henna the day before, early meal (**uyyala poddu**), swings, **10 atlu** offered to Gauri and given as vayanam; ends on seeing the moon.
- **Nagula Chavithi** (Kartika Shuddha Chaviti, four days after Deepavali): fast, milk and **chimmili** (sesame-jaggery), chalimidi at anthills.
- **Kartika Purnima**: Shiva destroyed the three cities (**Tripurari Purnima**); lamps on amla and in leaf boats; **Jwala Thoranam** (burning grass arch) at Shiva temples; **Dev Deepawali** at Varanasi, **Karthigai Deepam** at Tiruvannamalai, **Boita Bandana** (toy boats) in Odisha; **Guru Nanak's** birthday.

Margashira to Magha.

- **Mukkoti / Vaikuntha Ekadashi:** Vishnu, with the three crore gods, gives darshan through the **north (Vaikuntha) gate**. The power born from Vishnu that killed the demon **Mura** was named **Ekadashi**; **Nammalvar** attained Paramapada this day. **Tirumala** keeps the gate open for **10 days**; **Srirangam** holds the 21-day Pagal Pattu and Ra Pattu; **Bhadrachalam** a float festival on the Godavari.
- **Vasanta Panchami** (Magha Shuddha Panchami): **Saraswati's birthday**; **aksharabhyasam**; yellow clothes; **Basara** (Nirmal district, Telangana) is the main centre.
- **Ratha Saptami** (Magha Shuddha Saptami): **Surya Jayanti**, son of **Kashyapa and Aditi**; the Sun's chariot turns north. Bath with **seven arka (jilledu) leaves**; milk rice cooked in the sun on chikkudu leaves. At **Tirumala**, Malayappa Swami rides **seven vahanams** in one day ("Ardha Brahmotsavam"): Suryaprabha, Chinna Sesha, Garuda, Hanumantha, Kalpavriksha, Sarvabhupala, Chandraprabha.

Ekadashis worth knowing.

Ekadashi	Month (Shuddha)	Point
Nirjala	Jyeshtha	Fast without water
Tholi / Devashayani	Ashadha	Vishnu sleeps; Chaturmasya
Uttana / Prabodhini	Kartika	Vishnu wakes
Mokshada (Gita Jayanti)	Margashira	Gita day
Mukkoti / Vaikuntha	In Dhanurmasam	North gate opened
Bhishma	Magha	Vishnu Sahasranama; Antarvedi kalyanam

Brahmotsavam: the order of a temple festival. **Ankurarpanam** (sowing seedlings, the start) → **Dhwajaroohanam** (Garuda or Nandi flag hoisted; gods invited) → morning and evening **vahana sevas** → **Rathotsavam** → **Chakrasnanam / Avabhritha snanam** (holy bath that **ends** it) → **Dhwajavarohanam**. A Pushpayagam or Pavitrotsavam may follow to make up for lapses.

AP angle

Temple festivals of Andhra.

Temple	Festival	When	Highlight
Tirumala (Venkateswara)	Annual Brahmotsavam (9 days)	Kanya masa, Sept-Oct	Garuda Seva 5th night; Rathotsavam 8th day; Chakrasnanam in Swami Pushkarini 9th day
Tirumala	Vasanthotsavam; Pavitrotsavam; Teppotsavam	Chaitra; Shravana; Phalguna	Spring festival; purifying threads; float festival
Tiruchanur (Padmavathi)	Kartika Brahmotsavam	Kartika	Ends with Panchami Theertham

Temple	Festival	When	Highlight
Simhachalam (Varaha Lakshmi Narasimha)	Chandanotsavam	Vaishakha Shuddha Tadiya	Once-a-year nijarupa darshanam
Simhachalam	Giri Pradakshina	Ashadha Shuddha Chaturdashi	Walk of about 32 km round the hill
Vijayawada (Kanaka Durga)	Dasara	Ashvayuja	Daily alankarams; Hamsa vahana teppotsavam on the Krishna
Srisailem (Mallikarjuna)	Shivaratri Brahmothsavam; Ugadi	Magha; Chaitra	Pilgrims on foot from Karnataka at Ugadi
Vontimitta (Kodandarama)	Rama Navami Brahmothsavam	Chaitra	State festival ; kalyanam on a moonlit night
Arasavalli (Surya)	Ratha Saptami	Magha	Sun's rays reach the deity's feet
Kanipakam (Vinayaka)	Brahmothsavam	From Vinayaka Chavithi	Swayambhu Vinayaka
Visakhapatnam (Kanaka Mahalakshmi)	Margashira festival	Thursdays of Margashira	Goddess in an open shrine
Annavaram (Satyanarayana)	Kalyanam	Vaishakha Shuddha Ekadashi	Satyanarayana vratam centre

Kotappakonda (Maha Shivaratri). Near **Narasaraopet**, now **Palnadu** district (earlier Guntur). The hill is **Trikuta** (three peaks named for Brahma, Vishnu, Rudra); the deity **Trikoteswara (Trikuteswara)** is Shiva as **Dakshinamurthy**. Hallmark: **prabhalu**, bamboo-and-cloth towers 60–100 feet tall, drawn up on bullock carts; bullock races. Legend: the devotee **Anandavalli** looked back on the climb and Shiva, following her, turned to stone there.

Lepakshi Utsavalu. A state cultural festival (usually February–March) at **Lepakshi**, **Sri Sathya Sai** district (earlier Anantapur). The **Veerabhadra temple** was built by the brothers **Virupanna and Viranna**, governors at Penukonda under Achyutadevaraya (1530s). Sights: the great **monolithic Nandi**, the **hanging pillar**, ceiling paintings (HC-FA-02). Name story: Rama told the fallen **Jatayu "Le pakshi"** (rise, bird).

Sirimanu Utsavam, Vizianagaram. Festival of **Paiditali Ammavaru** on the **first Tuesday after Vijayadashami**, after the Tolella Utsavam the night before. **Paidimamba**, sister of king **Vijayarama Raju** (Pusapati), drowned herself in the **Pedda Cheruvu** on hearing of his death after the **Bobbili war (1757)**; her idol was later found in the tank (Vanam Gudi). The priest rides atop a **tamarind pole** about 50–60 feet tall (siri = wealth, manu = pole) three times from the fort to the temple; a white-elephant figure and the Anjali Ratham go with it.

Other jatara.

- **Nookambika (Nookamma), Anakapalli:** month-long jatara from **Kotha Amavasya** (Phalguna Amavasya, the **eve of Ugadi**); temple linked with **Kakralapudi Appalaraju** (about 1450); "nooka" = grain; offering of cattle tethers (palupula sambaram).

- **Gangamma Jatara, Tirupati:** week-long, Vaishakha (May); devotees in disguises (**veshalu**).
- **Prabhala Teertham, Jaggannathathota (Konaseema):** on **Kanuma**; prabhas of the **11 Rudras** carried across fields and a canal.
- **Antarvedi:** Lakshmi Narasimha kalyanam on **Bhishma Ekadashi** (Magha).

Common traps

✗ "Telugu Hanumajjayanti is on Chaitra Purnima." ✓ **Vaishakha Bahula Dashami** (Chaitra Purnima is the north's date).

✗ "The three-and-a-half muhurtams are Ugadi, Deepavali, Sankranti." ✓ Ugadi, **Akshaya Tritiya, Vijayadashami**, and half of Bali Padyami.

✗ "Vasanta Panchami is Chaitra Shuddha Panchami." ✓ **Magha** Shuddha Panchami; Ratha Saptami is **Magha Shuddha Saptami**.

✗ "Guru Purnima is in Shravana." ✓ **Ashadha** Purnima; Shravana Purnima is Jandhyala Purnima.

✗ "Naga Panchami's saviour of snakes was Takshaka." ✓ **Astika**; Takshaka killed Parikshit.

✗ "Atla Taddi is in Kartika." ✓ **Ashvayuja Bahula Tadiya**; its north Indian match is Karwa Chauth.

✗ "Chandanotsavam is at Tirumala." ✓ **Simhachalam**, on Akshaya Tritiya.

✗ "Avabhritham starts a festival." ✓ It **ends** it; the start is **Ankurarpanam**.

✗ "Kotappakonda is in Guntur district; its god is Mallikarjuna (book: Guntur)." ✓ **Palnadu** district since 2022; deity **Trikoteswara**.

✗ "Lepakshi was built by Basavanna and Veeranna (book, one place)." ✓ **Virupanna and Viranna**.

✗ "Paidimamba was Vijayarama Raju's queen." ✓ His **sister**.

✗ "Nookambika jatara is on the Amavasya after Ugadi (book)." ✓ **Kotha Amavasya**, the day **before** Ugadi.

Quick revision

- Calendar: lunar, amanta; Shuddha (bright) and Bahula (dark) pakshas; six ritus.
- Vaishakha: Akshaya Tritiya (Chandanotsavam, Vyasa–Ganapati, Parashurama); Telugu Hanumajjayanti Bahula Dashami.
- Ashadha: Rath Yatra, Tholi Ekadashi, Guru Purnima (Vyasa; Buddha at Sarnath).
- Shravana: Naga Panchami (Astika), Varalakshmi (Charumati), Jandhyala Purnima, Krishnashtami.
- Ashvayuja: Dasara, Atla Taddi (Bahula Tadiya), Deepavali; Kartika: Nagula Chavithi, Kartika Purnima.

- Mukkoti Ekadashi in Dhanurmasam: north gate; Tirumala 10 days.
- Magha: Vasanta Panchami (Basara), Ratha Saptami (seven vahanams at Tirumala), Shivaratri.
- Brahmotsavam: Ankurarpanam → Dhvajarohanam → vahanams → Rathotsavam → Avabhritham → Dhvajavarohanam.
- Kotappakonda: Trikoteswara, prabhalu; Lepakshi: Virupanna and Viranna.
- Sirimanu: Paiditali, sister of Vijayarama Raju, first Tuesday after Vijayadashami; Nookambika: Kotha Amavasya.