

2026

Calendar



**speak
marathi**

A NOTE TO OUR SPEAK MARATHI FAMILY



Namaskaar and a happy new year to you!

We are thrilled to present you with this **one-of-a-kind, thoughtfully crafted Marathi Calendar!** We designed this specifically as a gift for to help you find your way "home" in the Marathi culture.

This calendar was created with your unique journey in mind. We know that many of you are foreigners building lives with Marathi-speaking partners, or adults who grew up outside India and are now eager to reclaim your heritage. It is also for the parents who want to ensure their children, being raised abroad, grow up with a deep, lived connection to their roots.

Learning a language is the first step, but living the culture is where the **magic happens.** We have translated the complex looking traditional calendar into a clear, English-language guide so you can step confidently into every celebration with the people you love.

Have you ever wondered **why the dates of our festivals change?** The secret lies in the phases of the moon! Once you understand the phases, you'll always be in sync with celebrations like Akshay Tritiya and Ganesh Chaturthi.

To make this calendar a part of your daily life, we suggest you **print** the entire year for your desk or display it month-by-month on your fridge. With sections that talk about the festivals, what is to be done, cultural meanings, and curated shopping lists we've provided, you can **participate** in traditions like Makar Sankraant or Diwal|ee with newfound confidence. Above all, we encourage you to practice the Marathi names for days and months out loud, **weaving the language** into the heart of your home. Since this calendar is designed to spread cultural joy, please feel free to share the PDF with your friends and family so they can also print and enjoy it! We view this as a growing community project, so if you have any suggestions or ideas, please let us know—your feedback will help us create an even more helpful version for you next year. Our hope is that this calendar brings you closer to your family, one moonlit day at a time.

With love,

The Speak Marathi Team

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DAYS OF THE WEEK IN MARATHI



- RAVEEVAAR (Sunday)
- SOMVAAR (Monday)
- MANGALVAAR (Tuesday)
- BUDHVAAR (Wednesday)
- GURUVAAR (Thursday)
- SHUKRAVAAR (Friday)
- SHANIVAAR (Saturday)

MONTHS IN THE MARATHI CALENDAR

- Chaitra (March–April)
- Vaishakh (April–May)
- Jyeshtha (May–June)
- Ashadh (June–July)
- Shraavan (July–August)
- Bhadrapad (August–September)
- Ashwin (September–October)
- Kaartik (October–November)
- Margashirsh (November–December)
- Paoosha (December–January)
- Maagh (January–February)
- Faalgun (February–March)

NAMES OF THE LUNAR DAYS

- 1st Pratipada (Pruh-tee-puh-daa)
- 2nd Dwitiya (Dwee-tee-yaa)
- 3rd Trutiyaa (Troo-tee-yaa)
- 4th Chaturthee (Chuh-toor-thee)
- 5th Panchamee (Pun-chuh-mee)
- 6th Shashthi (Shush-thee)
- 7th Saptami (Sup-tuh-mee)
- 8th Ashtami (Ash-tuh-mee)
- 9th Navmee (Nuv-mee)
- 10th Dashmee (Dush-mee)
- 11th Ekaadashee (Ay-kaa-duh-shee)
- 12th Dwadashee (Dwaa-duh-shee)
- 13th Trayodashee (Truh-yo-duh-shee)
- 14th Chaturdashee (Chuh-toor-duh-shee)
- 15th day of the Shukla Paksha: Pournimaa (Full Moon)
- 15th day of the Krushna Paksha: Amaavasyaa (New Moon)

ABOUT THE SHUKLA PAKSHA (S) AND KRUSHNA PAKSHA (K) NOTATION IN THIS CALENDAR

In the traditional Marathi lunar calendar, each month is divided into two phases of the moon:

SHUKLA PAKSHA (S) - WAXING PHASE:

This is the period when the moon grows from New Moon to Full Moon. It represents brightness, growth, and increasing light. In this calendar, dates that fall in the Shukla Paksha are marked with S after the month's name.

KRUSHNA PAKSHA (K) - WANING PHASE:

This is the period when the moon moves from Full Moon to New Moon, gradually decreasing in size. It represents the fading of light. Dates in the Krushna Paksha are marked with K after the month's name.

HOW TO READ THE DATE FORMAT:

[Marathi month name] + S/K + [Tithi number]

Paoush S 13 (for 1 January 2026)

- Paoush → the Marathi lunar month
- S → the date falls in Shukla Paksha (waxing phase)
- 13 → it is the 13th tithi (lunar day) of this phase

RAVEEVAAR	SOMVAAR	MANGALVAAR	BUDHVAAR	GURUVAAR	SHUKRAVAAR	SHANIVAAR
				1	2	3  PAOOSHA POURNIMAA
4 PAOOSHA K 1	5 PAOOSHA K 2	6 ANGARAK SANKASHI-UH CHATURTHI PAOOSHA K 3	7 PAOOSHA K 4	8 PAOOSHA K 5	9 PAOOSHA K 6	10 PAOOSHA K 7
11 PAOOSHA K 8	12 PAOOSHA K 9	13 PAOOSHA K 10	14 MAKAR SANKRANT  PAOOSHA K 11	15 PAOOSHA K 12	16 PAOOSHA K 13	17 PAOOSHA K 14
18 PAOOSHA AMAAVASYAA 	19 MAAGH S 1	20 MAAGH S 2	21 MAAGH S 3	22 MAAGH S 4	23 MAAGH S 5	24 MAAGH S 6
25 MAAGH S 7	26 REPUBLIC DAY (INDIA)  MAAGH S 8	27 MAAGH S 9	28 MAAGH S 10	29 MAAGH S 11	30 MAAGH S 12	31 MAAGH S 13

MAKAR SANKRANT:

Maharashtrians celebrate this festival by exchanging tilgu (sesame-jaggery sweets) and greeting each other with:

“Tilgu ghyaa, goad goad bolaa!”

It marks the beginning of longer days and is associated with flying kites, and sharing sweets.

PHRASES TO REMEMBER:

“Tilgu ghyaa, goad goad bolaa!”

HOW IT IS CELEBRATED:

Host a Til-Gu Exchange: You don't need a large party. Simply prepare or buy small sesame and jaggery sweets and share them with your neighbours, friends, or Marathi-speaking in-laws. It is a beautiful way to explain your heritage to your local community.

Virtual "Kite Flying": In many countries, the weather in January isn't ideal for outdoor kite flying. You can still honour the tradition by decorating your home with small paper kites or watching a kite-flying festival online with your children to explain the symbolism of reaching for the skies.

A Simple Festive Meal: Prepare a traditional Marathi meal. The star of the day is Gujachi Poji (flatbread stuffed with jaggery and sesame) or a simple Bajra Khichdi. These “warming” foods are scientifically designed to provide heat to the body during the winter.

SHOPPING LIST:

Sesame Seeds (Til) and Jaggery (Gu): The two most important ingredients for making the traditional sweets that symbolise friendship.

Black Traditional Attire: Uniquely, Makar Sankranti is the only Indian festival where wearing black is encouraged, as black absorbs heat to keep you warm in the winter. Look for a black saree or kurta.

Sugar Granules (Halwa): These are tiny, spiked sugar candies often worn as jewellery by brides and infants during their first Sankranti (Borhan).

Small Clay Pots (Sugad): If you want to perform the traditional pooja, you will need these small pots to fill with new harvest grains, carrots, and sugarcane.

RAVEEVAAR	SOMVAAR	MANGALVAAR	BUDHVAAR	GURUVAAR	SHUKRAVAAR	SHANIVAAR
 1 MAAGH POURNIMAA	2 MAAGH K 1	3 MAAGH K 2	4 MAAGH K 3	5 SANKASHI-UH CHATURTHI MAAGH K 4	6 MAAGH K 5	7 MAAGH K 6
8 MAAGH K 7	9 MAAGH K 8	10 MAAGH K 8	11 MAAGH K 9	12 MAAGH K 10	13 MAAGH K 11	14 MAAGH K 12
 15 MAHAA SHIVRATRI MAAGH K 13	16 MAAGH K 14	 17 MAAGH AMAAVASYAA	18 FAALGUN S 1	 19 SHIVAAJI JAYANTEE FAALGUN S 2	20 FAALGUN S 3	21 FAALGUN S 4
22 FAALGUN S 5	23 FAALGUN S 6/7	24 FAALGUN S 8	25 FAALGUN S 9	26 FAALGUN S 10	27 FAALGUN S 11	28 FAALGUN S 12

MAHAA SHIVRATRI:

A simple way to celebrate is by observing a partial or full fast (Upvaas), opting for traditional "Sattvic" foods like Sabudana Khichdi or fruits to experience the Marathi tradition of self-restraint. Many living abroad create a serene atmosphere at home by lighting a lamp, chanting the "Om Namah Shivaya" mantra, and staying awake for a portion of the night to reflect on the victory of light over darkness.

HOW IT IS CELEBRATED:

- The Vigil (Jagaran):** Devotees stay awake all night, chanting "Om Namah Shivaya" and singing hymns to represent staying conscious through the "darkness" of ignorance.
- Abhishekam:** The Shiva Lingam is bathed with milk, honey, water, and sandalwood paste to signify the purification of the soul.
- The Three-Leaf Offering:** Offering Bel Patra (Bael leaves) is essential; the three leaflets represent the three eyes of Shiva or the three functions of creation, preservation, and destruction.
- Fasting:** Most observers follow a strict fast or consume only fruits and milk (Phalahar) to detoxify the body and focus the mind.

SHOPPING LIST:

- Fresh Milk and Honey:** Used for Abhisheka (ritual bathing) of the Shiva Lingam.
- Bael Leaves (Bilva Patra):** These three-lobed leaves are considered sacred to Lord Shiva; if fresh ones aren't available at your local Indian store, dried or silver versions are often used.
- Rudraksha Beads:** Many people choose this day to start wearing or meditating with a Rudraksha mala.
- Fasting Essentials:** Ingredients like Sabudana (tapioca pearls), Shengdana (peanuts), and Shingada peeth (water chestnut flour) to prepare traditional Marathi fasting meals.
- Vibhuti (Sacred Ash):** To apply to the forehead as a symbol of detachment.
- Dhatara Flowers:** White flowers traditionally offered to Shiva.

SHIVAJI JAYANTEE:

Shivaji Jayanti celebrates the birth anniversary of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, the legendary founder of the Maratha Empire known for his administrative genius and bravery. For families abroad, it is a day to honor the values of courage and self-rule while connecting with the rich history of Maharashtra. Many celebrate by narrating stories of his valor or singing traditional powadas to keep his inspiring legacy alive for the next generation.

NEW VOCABULARY:

- Raja (राजा): King.
- Killa (किल्ला): Fort.
- Talwar (तलवार): Sword.
- Mavala (मावळा): A soldier in Shivaji Maharaj's army, often referring to the loyal people of the Maval region.
- Swarajya (स्वराज्य): Self-rule or independence, the core mission of Maharaj's life.
- Garva (गर्व): Pride, often used in the context of "Marathi Garva" (Marathi pride).

RAVEEVAAR	SOMVAAR	MANGALVAAR	BUDHVAAR	GURUVAAR	SHUKRAVAAR	SHANIVAAR
1 FAALGUN S 13	2  HOLĒE FAALGUN S 14	3  DHULIVANDAN FAALGUN Pournimaa FAALGUN K 1	4 FAALGUN K 2	5 FAALGUN K 3	6 SANKASHI-UH CHATURTHI FAALGUN K 4	7 FAALGUN K 5
8 RANG-UH PANCHAMI FAALGUN K 6	9 FAALGUN K 7	10 FAALGUN K 8	11 FAALGUN K 9	12 FAALGUN K 10	13 FAALGUN K 11	14 FAALGUN K 12
15 FAALGUN K 13	16 FAALGUN K 14	17 FAALGUN K 15	18 FAALGUN K 16	19  GOODHEE PAADVAA CHAITRA S 1	20 CHAITRA S 2	21 CHAITRA S 3
22 CHAITRA S 4	23 CHAITRA S 5	24 CHAITRA S 6	25 CHAITRA S 7	26  RAAM NAVMEE CHAITRA S 8	27 CHAITRA S 9	28 CHAITRA S 10
29 CHAITRA S 11	30 CHAITRA S 12	31 CHAITRA S 13				

HOLEE- HOLIKA DAHAN

Holi begins with **Holika Dahan**, a ritual bonfire symbolizing the victory of good over evil while serving as an ancient practice to cleanse the air of winter bacteria. Families gather to offer coconuts and wood to the flames, transitioning into spring with a healthy, refreshed environment. For those abroad, this tradition remains a powerful way to celebrate spiritual purity and seasonal rejuvenation with their community.

DHULIVANDAN

Dhulivandan occurs the morning after Holika Dahan, marking the official start of spring by traditionally applying the sacred ashes from the bonfire to the forehead. This act symbolizes the transient nature of life and celebrates the triumph of the devotee Prahlad, whose purity survived the flames that turned evil to dust. Historically, these ashes were also valued for their medicinal properties, helping to protect the skin from bacteria during the seasonal shift from winter to spring. Today, the ritual signifies a clean slate, where old grudges are left behind in the ashes to make way for new beginnings and community harmony.

RANG-UH PANCHAMEE

Rang Panchami serves as the vibrant finale to the Holi season, focused on social harmony and joy through the playful exchange of colors and water. It is a day for communities to break down social barriers and reconnect with the spirited essence of Marathi culture, regardless of where they are in the world.

GOODHEE PAADVAA

Goodhee Paadvaa marks the beginning of the Marathi New Year and the arrival of spring, celebrated with the hoisting of a decorative "Goodhee" flag to symbolize victory and prosperity. The festival commemorates mythological events such as Lord Brahma's creation of the universe and Lord Rama's triumphant return to Ayodhya, signifying the win of good over evil. Families traditionally celebrate by cleaning their homes, creating vibrant rangolis, and sharing a bittersweet prasad of neem and jaggery to represent the diverse experiences of life.

SHOPPING LIST:

Goodhee Setup: A bamboo stick, a bright silk cloth (saffron or green), and a copper/silver pot.
Decoration: Fresh marigold garlands, mango leaves, and vibrant rangoli powders.
Traditional Items: Gaathi (sugar candy garland) and neem leaves for the Goodhee's peak.
Food: Puran Poli, Shrikhand, and a small amount of jaggery for the ritual prasad.
Attire: A traditional Kurta or Saree to participate in the festive spirit.

RAAM NAVMEE

Ram Navami celebrates the birth of Lord Rama, the seventh avatar of Lord Vishnu, who is revered as the epitome of righteousness, truth, and ideal conduct. The festival is marked by temple visits, the chanting of the Ramayana, and a symbolic birth celebration at noon to honor the triumph of "Dharma" over evil.

RAVEEVAAR	SOMVAAR	MANGALVAAR	BUDHVAAR	GURUVAAR	SHUKRAVAAR	SHANIVAAR
			1 CHAITRA S 14	2  HANUMAAN JAYANTEE CHAITRA POURNIMAA	3 CHAITRA K 1	4 CHAITRA K 2
5 SANKASHI-UH CHATURTHI CHAITRA K 3	6 CHAITRA K 4	7 CHAITRA K 5	8 CHAITRA K 6	9 CHAITRA K 7	10 CHAITRA K 8	11 CHAITRA K 9
12 CHAITRA K 10	13 CHAITRA K 11	14  AMBEDKAR JAYANTEE CHAITRA K 12	15 CHAITRA K 13	16 CHAITRA K 14	17  CHAITRA AMA VASYAA	18 VAISHAKH S 1
19  AKSHAY TRUTIYAA VAISHAKH S 2	20 VAISHAKH S 3/4	21 VAISHAKH S 5	22 VAISHAKH S 6	23 VAISHAKH S 7	24 VAISHAKH S 8	25 VAISHAKH S 9
26 VAISHAKH S 10	27 VAISHAKH S 11	28 VAISHAKH 12	29 VAISHAKH S 13	30 VAISHAKH S 14		

HANUMAAN JAYANTEE

Significance: Celebrates the birth of Lord Hanuman, the ultimate symbol of strength, humility, and devotion to Lord Rama.
Rituals: Devotees visit temples at sunrise, chant the Hanuman Chalisa, and apply orange sindoor for protection.
The Message: It honors the "Sankat Mochan" (Remover of Obstacles), reminding us that faith and courage can overcome any challenge.

AMBEDKAR JAYANTEE

Ambedkar Jayanti honors Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the architect of the Indian Constitution who dedicated his life to fighting social discrimination and ensuring equality for all. Known as Equality Day, it is a national tribute to his legacy of justice, liberty, and the empowerment of marginalized communities.

AKSHAY TRUTIYAA

Akshaya Trito is one of the most powerful and auspicious days in the Hindu calendar. The word Akshaya means "never diminishing" or "eternal," and it is believed that any investment, good deed, or new beginning made on this day will yield lifelong prosperity and success.

HOW IT IS CELEBRATED:

Clean and Refresh: Start the day by cleaning your living space. In Indian culture, a clean home is an invitation for Goddess Lakshmi (the goddess of wealth) to enter.
The "Yellow" Theme: Wear something yellow or gold. Yellow symbolizes purity, meditation, and the harvest.
Make a Positive Investment: The tradition is to buy something that holds value. While many buy gold, you can simply start a new savings goal, buy a book to learn a new skill, or invest in a "growth" item like a houseplant.

HOW IT IS CELEBRATED (CONTD.):

Practice "Daana" (Charity): This is the most important part of the day. Donating food, water, or clothes to those in need on this day is believed to bring "unending" good karma.
Start a New Venture: If you've been putting off a project—starting a blog, a fitness routine, or a new business—this is the "perfect" day to take the first step.

SHOPPING LIST:

Something Eternal: A small piece of gold or silver (a coin or simple jewelry) is traditional. If that's not in the budget, a new earthen pot or high-quality rock salt are traditional "affordable" alternatives that symbolize grounding and cleansing.
Yellow Flowers: Marigolds are best, but any yellow flowers will work to brighten your home.
Puja Basics: Incense sticks (sandalwood or jasmine) and a small lamp (diya) with ghee or oil.
Fresh Sweets: Buy or make Puran Poli (sweet flatbread) or Shrikhand (sweetened yogurt).
Seeds or a Plant: A Tulsi (Holy Basil) plant or even simple vegetable seeds to plant in your garden.
Ingredients for Prasad: Rice, milk, jaggery, and honey to make a simple sweet offering.

RAVEEVAAR	SOMVAAR	MANGALVAAR	BUDHVAAR	GURUVAAR	SHUKRAVAAR	SHANIVAAR
 31 ADHIK JYESHTHA POURNIMAA					 1 MAHARASHTRA DIN BUDDH-UH POURNIMA VAISHAKH POURNIMAA	2 VAISHAKH K 1
3 VAISHAKH K 2	4 VAISHAKH K 3	5 ANGARAK SANKASHTI-UH CHATURTHI VAISHAKH K 4	6 VAISHAKH K 4	7 VAISHAKH K 5	8 VAISHAKH K 6	9 VAISHAKH K 7
10 VAISHAKH K 8	11 VAISHAKH K 9	12 VAISHAKH K 10	13 VAISHAKH K 11	14 VAISHAKH K 12	15 VAISHAKH K 13/14	16  VAISHAKH AMAAVASYAA
17 ADHIK JYESHTHA S 1	18 ADHIK JYESHTHA S 2	19 ADHIK JYESHTHA S 3	20 ADHIK JYESHTHA S 4	21 ADHIK JYESHTHA S 5	22 ADHIK JYESHTHA S 6/7	23 ADHIK JYESHTHA S 8
24 ADHIK JYESHTHA S 9	25 ADHIK JYESHTHA S 10	26 ADHIK JYESHTHA S 11	27 ADHIK JYESHTHA S 11	28 ADHIK JYESHTHA S 12	29 ADHIK JYESHTHA S 13	30 ADHIK JYESHTHA S 14

ADHIK MAHINAA

Adhik Mahina, also known as Purushottam Maas or Mal Maas, is an "extra" lunar month added to the Hindu calendar approximately every 32.5 months to align it with the solar year.

Because it is the only month without a Sankranti (the sun's entry into a new zodiac sign), it was originally considered "impure." However, according to tradition, Lord Vishnu took this month under his protection, naming it after himself (Purushottam) and making it the most spiritually potent time for devotees.

HOW IT IS CELEBRATED:

Focus on Devotion: It is a time for "internal cleaning." People spend more time chanting mantras (like the Vishnu Sahasranama), reading the Bhagavad Gita, and performing Satyanarayan Puja.

Multiplied Merit: It is believed that any good deed, prayer, or donation made during this month yields ten times the spiritual merit (punya) compared to other months.

Acts of Charity (Daana): Donating food (Annadan), water, and clothes is highly recommended. A specific tradition in Maharashtra involves donating 33 Anarsas (a sweet snack) to symbolize the extra days of the leap month.

Fasting (Vrat): Many observe a partial fast, eating only one Sattvic (pure) meal a day or avoiding specific foods like onions and garlic.

What to Avoid: Since this is a month for spiritual growth rather than worldly gain, "Kamya Karmas" (desire-driven ceremonies) like marriages, housewarmings (Griha Pravesh), and starting new businesses are traditionally avoided.

BUDDH-UH POURNIMA

Buddha Purnima, or Vesak, is a "thrice-blessed" day that commemorates the birth, enlightenment (Nirvana), and death (Parinirvana) of Gautama Buddha. It is a time focused on inner peace, reflection, and living in accordance with the values of non-violence and compassion. The full moon during Buddh-uh Pournima is the brightest pournima of the year.

HOW IT IS CELEBRATED:

Visit a Vihara/Temple: Devotees gather at Buddhist temples to offer flowers, light candles, and burn incense, symbolizing the light of wisdom. Practice Mindfulness: Many participate in group meditation and listen to sermons on the Eightfold Path to refocus their spiritual intentions.

"Dana" (Charity): A central part of the day involves acts of kindness, such as donating food to monks, helping the needy, or releasing caged birds as a symbol of freedom.

Bathing the Buddha: A symbolic ritual where water is poured over a statue of the baby Buddha to represent the purification of the mind. Eat "Kheer": It is traditional to prepare and share sweet rice pudding (Kheer), remembering the maiden Sujata who offered it to Buddha to break his long fast.

SHOPPING LIST:

White Clothing: Symbolizes purity and is the traditional color to wear on this day.

Flowers & Candles: Lotus flowers are preferred (symbolizing enlightenment), along with candles or oil lamps.

Vegetarian Food: Many observe a strict vegetarian diet on this day; you'll need ingredients for Kheer (rice, milk, sugar) and simple Khichdi.

Incense: Sandalwood or floral scents to create a meditative atmosphere at home.

RAVEEVAAR	SOMVAAR	MANGALVAAR	BUDHVAAR	GURUVAAR	SHUKRAVAAR	SHANIVAAR
	1	2	3 SANKASHI-UH CHATURTHI	4	5	6
	ADHIK JYESHTHA K 1	ADHIK JYESHTHA K 2	ADHIK JYESHTHA K 3	ADHIK JYESHTHA K 4	ADHIK JYESHTHA K 5	ADHIK JYESHTHA K 6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
ADHIK JYESHTHA K 7	ADHIK JYESHTHA K 8	ADHIK JYESHTHA K 9	ADHIK JYESHTHA K 10	ADHIK JYESHTHA K 11	ADHIK JYESHTHA K 12	ADHIK JYESHTHA K 13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
ADHIK JYESHTHA K 14	 ADHIK JYESHTHA AMAAVASYAA NIJ JYESHTHA S 1	NIJ JYESHTHA S 2	NIJ JYESHTHA S 3	NIJ JYESHTHA S 4	NIJ JYESHTHA S 5	NIJ JYESHTHA S 6
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
NIJ JYESHTHA S 7	NIJ JYESHTHA S 8	NIJ JYESHTHA S 9	NIJ JYESHTHA S 10	NIJ JYESHTHA S 11	NIJ JYESHTHA S 12	NIJ JYESHTHA S 13
28	29	30				
NIJ JYESHTHA S 14	 VAT-UH POURNIMAA NIJ JYESHTHA POURNIMAA	NIJ JYESHTHA K 1				

VAT-UH POURNIMAA

Vat Purnima is a significant festival celebrated by married Hindu women, primarily in Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Gujarat. It falls on the full moon day of the Jyeshtha month and honors the legendary devotion of Savitri, who famously tricked Lord Yama (the God of Death) into returning her husband Satyavan's life.

HOW IT IS CELEBRATED:

The Banyan Tree (Vat Vruksh): Women gather around a Banyan tree, which symbolizes longevity and the Trimurti (Brahma, Vishnu, and Shiva).

The Sacred Thread: They tie a white cotton thread around the trunk of the tree while circling it seven times, praying for their husband's long life and the well-being of their family across seven births.

Fasting: Women observe a fast throughout the day, often breaking it only after the prayer and offerings are completed.

Offerings: Seasonal fruits like mangoes, jackfruit, and black jamun, along with soaked chickpeas (harbhara), are offered to the tree and later shared with other women.

THE SYMBOLISM

The festival is a celebration of strength and determination. Just as the Banyan tree has deep roots and spreading branches that provide eternal shade, the prayer is for a marriage that remains strong and protective through all of life's challenges.

RAVEEVAAR	SOMVAAR	MANGALVAAR	BUDHVAAR	GURUVAAR	SHUKRAVAAR	SHANIVAAR
			1 NIJ JYESH _I HA K 2	2 NIJ JYESH _I HA K 2	3 SANKASH _I -UH CHATURTHI NIJ JYESH _I HA K 3	4 NIJ JYESH _I HA K 4
5 NIJ JYESH _I HA K 5	6 NIJ JYESH _I HA K 6	7 SANT-UH TUKARAM PAALKHI -DEHU NIJ JYESH _I HA K 7	8 SANT-UH DNYANESHWAR PAALKHI-AALANDI NIJ JYESH _I HA K 8	9 NIJ JYESH _I HA K 9	10 NIJ JYESH _I HA K 10/11	11 NIJ JYESH _I HA K 12
12 NIJ JYESH _I HA K 13	13 NIJ JYESH _I HA K 14	14  NIJ JYESH _I HA AMAAVASYAA	15 ASHAD _H S 1	16 ASHAD _H S 2	17 ASHAD _H S 3/4	18 ASHAD _H S 5
19 ASHAD _H S 6	20 ASHAD _H S 7	21 ASHAD _H S 8	22 ASHAD _H S 9	23 ASHAD _H S 9	24 ASHAD _H S 10	25 DEVSHAYANEE ASHAAD _H EE EKAADASHEE ASHAD _H S 11
26 ASHAD _H S 12	27 ASHAD _H S 13	28 ASHAD _H S 14	29  GURUPURNIMAA ASHAD _H POURN _I MAA	30 ASHAD _H K 1	31 ASHAD _H K 2	

SANT-UH TUKARAM PAALKHI -DEHU

The Dehu Palkhi is a grand spiritual procession that commemorates the journey of Sant Tukaram Maharaj, the revered 17th-century Bhakti poet, from his birthplace in Dehu to Pandharpur. Thousands of Varkaris (devotees) walk hundreds of miles on foot, dressed in traditional white attire and carrying saffron flags while chanting the "Vitthal-Gajjar" to the beat of cymbals. The procession features a beautifully decorated chariot housing the "Padukas" (symbolic footwear) of the saint, serving as a moving temple that unites people across all social barriers. This centuries-old tradition reaches its peak during the Ashadhi Ekadashi, representing a profound journey of faith, community service, and selfless devotion to Lord Vitthal.

SANT-UH DNYANESHWAR PAALKHI-AALANDI

The Alandi Palkhi is a massive spiritual pilgrimage that carries the "Padukas" of Sant Dnyaneshwar Maharaj, the 13th-century philosopher-saint, from his Samadhi place in Alandi to Pandharpur. Accompanied by hundreds of Dindis (organized groups), thousands of barefoot Varkaris journey for over 20 days, filling the air with the rhythmic chants of "Maui-Mauli" and devotional hymns. A highlight of this journey is the Ashwa (Horse) Ringan, where a sacred unmounted horse gallops through a human circle, believed to be carrying the invisible spirit of the saint himself. The procession is a living testament to the Bhakti movement, emphasizing equality and brotherhood as devotees of all ages walk together to meet Lord Vitthal on Ashadhi Ekadashi.

GURUPURNIMAA

Guru Purnima is a sacred day dedicated to expressing gratitude toward our teachers, mentors, and spiritual guides. It falls on the full moon day of the Hindu month of Ashadha and is also celebrated as Vyasa Purnima, marking the birth anniversary of Veda Vyasa, the sage who classified the Vedas and authored the Mahabharata.

HOW IT IS CELEBRATED:

Guru Puja: Devotees visit their gurus or mentors to offer flowers, fruits, and dakshina (symbolic offerings) as a mark of respect and seeking their blessings.

Paduka Pujan: In many spiritual traditions, the symbolic footwear (Padukas) of the Guru is washed and worshipped.

Satsang & Chanting: People gather to listen to spiritual discourses, chant mantras, or read the teachings of their lineage.

Reflection: It is a day to reflect on the knowledge received over the past year and to reaffirm one's commitment to self-improvement and learning.

SHOPPING LIST:

Fresh Flowers: Especially lotuses or yellow marigolds to offer as a sign of purity.

Fruit Basket: Traditional seasonal fruits (like mangoes or bananas) to give as an offering.

Sweets (Mithai): To share with your teacher or community after the ceremony.

Diya & Incense: To light during your morning reflection or prayer.

A Notebook/Journal: To start a new "learning journey" or to write down wisdom you've gained.

RAVEEVAAR	SOMVAAR	MANGALVAAR	BUDHVAAR	GURUVAAR	SHUKRAVAAR	SHANIVAAR
30 SHRAAVAN K 2	31 SANKASHI-UH CHATURTHI SHRAAVAN K 3					1 ASHADH K 3
2 ASHADH K 4	3 ASHADH K 5	4 ASHADH K 6	5 ASHADH K 7	6 ASHADH K 8	7 ASHADH K 9	8 ASHADH K 10
9 ASHADH K 11	10 ASHADH K 12	11 ASHADH K 13	12 ● ASHADH AMAAVASYAA	13 SHRAAVAN S 1	14 SHRAAVAN S 2	15 SHRAAVAN S 3
16 SHRAAVAN S 4	17  NAAG PANCHAMEE SHRAAVAN S 5	18 SHRAAVAN S 6	19 SHRAAVAN S 7	20 SHRAAVAN S 8	21 SHRAAVAN S 9	22 SHRAAVAN S 10
23 SHRAAVAN S 11	24 SHRAAVAN S 12	25 SHRAAVAN S 13	26 SHRAAVAN S 13	27 NARALEE POURNIMAA	28  SHRAAVAN POURNIMAA RAKSHAA BANDHAN	29 SHRAAVAN K 1

NAAG PANCHAMEE

Nag Panchami is a unique festival dedicated to the worship of snakes (Nagas), who are revered as protectors of the earth and symbols of divinity in Hindu culture. In Maharashtra, it is especially significant for farmers and families seeking protection and prosperity.

WHAT IS DONE (TRADITIONS & RITUALS):

Worship of Snake Idols: Families worship clay or metal idols of cobras. In villages, women often visit anthills (the natural homes of snakes) to offer prayers.

Symbolic Milk Offering: While traditionally milk was offered to live snakes, it is now common and encouraged to offer milk to idols or pictures of Nag Devta to ensure the safety and health of the animals.

No Digging or Cutting: Farmers do not plow their fields, and households avoid digging the earth or using sharp objects like knives or needles to ensure no snakes are accidentally harmed.

Brother-Sister Bond: Many women perform the puja specifically for the protection and long life of their brothers.

Swing Rituals: In rural Maharashtra, it is a playful tradition for women and children to hang swings from trees and sing folk songs.

SHOPPING LIST:

Clay Snake Idol or Poster: A small representation of a five-hooded cobra.
Milk & Honey: For the symbolic ritual bath (Abhishekam) of the idol.
Turmeric (Haldi) & Vermillion (Kumkum): For applying Tilak to the idol or drawings.
Flowers: Specifically marigolds or small white flowers.
Puffed Rice (Lahya): A traditional snack often offered during this puja.
Sweets: Ingredients for Kheer (milk pudding) or Puran Poli.

NARALEE POURNIMAA

Narali Purnima is a major coastal festival in Maharashtra that marks the end of the monsoon and the official beginning of the new fishing season. The fishing community honors the sea god, Lord Varuna, by offering decorated coconuts to the ocean to pray for calm waters and protection during their voyages.

Fishermen freshly paint their boats, adorn them with colorful flags, and perform traditional Koli dances and songs to celebrate the sea's bounty. The day is famous for its delicious coconut-based delicacies, especially Narali Bhaat (sweet coconut rice) and Karanjis, shared among the entire community.

RAKSHAA BANDHAN

Rakshaa Bandhan is a heartwarming festival that celebrates the eternal bond of love and protection between brothers and sisters. The name literally translates to "the bond of protection," where a sister prays for her brother's well-being and a brother vows to protect his sister throughout her life.

HOW IT IS CELEBRATED:

The Rakhi Ceremony: The sister performs an Aarti (prayer with a lamp) for her brother, applies a Tilak (vermillion mark) on his forehead, and ties a Rakhi (sacred thread) around his right wrist.

The Vow & Gifts: In return, the brother gives his sister a gift and reaffirms his commitment to stand by her through all of life's challenges.

Sweet Beginnings: The ceremony concludes with the siblings feeding each other sweets, symbolizing the sweetness of their relationship.

Universal Connection: Today, the festival has evolved; people tie Rakhis to close friends or mentors, to signify a bond of mutual care & protection.

SHOPPING LIST:

The Rakhi: A decorative thread or bracelet (available in a vast variety of designs at Indian stores).

Puja Thali Items: A small plate containing a Diya (lamp), Kumkum (red powder), and a few grains of Rice.

Indian Sweets: Popular choices include Kaju Katli, Gulab Jamun, or Ladoo.

A Thoughtful Gift: Traditionally chocolates, jewelry, or clothes for the sister, but any token of appreciation works!

Traditional Attire: Wearing a bright Kurta or Saree adds to the festive joy.

RAVEEVAAR	SOMVAAR	MANGALVAAR	BUDHVAAR	GURUVAAR	SHUKRAVAAR	SHANIVAAR
		1	2	3	4	5 DAHEE HANDEE 
		SHRAAVAN K 4/5	SHRAAVAN K 6	SHRAAVAN K 7	SHRAAVAN K 8	SHRAAVAN K 9
6	7	8	9	10	 11	12
SHRAAVAN K 10	SHRAAVAN K 11	SHRAAVAN K 12	SHRAAVAN K 13	SHRAAVAN K 14	SHRAAVAN AMAASVASYAA	BHADRAPAD S 1
13	 14 GANESH CHATURTHEE	15	16	17	18	19
BHADRAPAD S 2	BHADRAPAD S 3	BHADRAPAD S 4	BHADRAPAD S 5	BHADRAPAD S 6	BHADRAPAD S 7	BHADRAPAD S 8
20	21	22	23	24	 25 ANANTA CHATURDASHEE	 26
BHADRAPAD S 9	BHADRAPAD S 10	BHADRAPAD S 11	BHADRAPAD S 12	BHADRAPAD S 13	BHADRAPAD S 14	BHADRAPAD POURNIMAA
27	28	29	30			
BHADRAPAD K 1	BHADRAPAD K 2	ANGARAK SANKASHI-UH CHATURTHI BHADRAPAD K 3	BHADRAPAD K 4			

DAHEE HANDEE

Dahee Handee celebrates the playful spirit of young Lord Krishna by recreating his famous attempts to steal butter from earthen pots hung high above the ground. Groups of participants, known as Govindas, form massive human pyramids to reach and break a suspended pot filled with curd, milk, and honey. The event is a high-energy display of teamwork, physical grit, and coordination, accompanied by loud music, water splashes, and cheering crowds. In Maharashtra, these celebrations foster deep community bonds and offer significant prizes, making it one of the most thrilling and competitive street festivals.

GANESH CHATURTHEE

Ganesh Chaturthi is one of India's most vibrant festivals, celebrating the birth of Lord Ganesha, the elephant-headed god of wisdom, prosperity, and the "remover of obstacles." In Maharashtra, it is a 10-day extravaganza that transforms streets into massive art galleries filled with music and devotion.

HOW IT IS CELEBRATED:

Pranapratishta: Beautifully crafted clay idols of Ganesha are brought home or into large public marquees (Pandal) with chants of "Ganpati Bappa Morya!"

Daily Rituals: Families perform Aarti twice a day, offering fresh flowers, incense, and Ganesha's favorite sweet, the Modak.

Community Pandal: Large-scale public celebrations feature massive idols (like the famous Lalbaugcha Raja) and social activities like blood donation drives or cultural plays.

Visarjan (Immersion): On the final day (Anant Chaturdashi), the idols are carried in massive processions to the sea or local lakes to be immersed in water, symbolizing Ganesha's return to Mount Kailash.

SHOPPING LIST FOR GANESH CHATURTHI:

Ganesh Idol: Look for an eco-friendly clay idol (Shadu Mati) that dissolves easily in water.

Modaks: These are sweet dumplings stuffed with coconut and jaggery. You can buy them fresh at Indian sweet shops or get a "Modak Mold" to make them.

SHOPPING LIST FOR GANESH CHATURTHI (CONTD):

Durva Grass: A special bundle of 21 blades of grass, which is a traditional offering to Ganesha.

Red Flowers: Specifically Hibiscus, as it is believed to be the Lord's favorite.

Incense & Camphor: For the daily prayer rituals (Puja).

Decoration: Bright fabrics, fairy lights, and "Makhar" (a decorative throne or arch for the idol).

ANANTA CHATURDASHEE

Ananta Chaturdashee is the grand and emotional finale of the 10-day Ganesha festival, as well as a day to honor Lord Vishnu in his "Anant" (infinite) form. It is a day that blends high-energy public celebration with deep personal spirituality.

HOW IT IS CELEBRATED:

Ganesh Visarjan: This is the primary event in Maharashtra. Huge processions take to the streets with music, dancing, and drums to escort Ganesha idols to rivers or the sea for immersion.

The Anant Thread: Devotees tie a sacred silk thread with 14 knots (symbolizing the 14 worlds of the universe) on their right wrist. This "Anant Sutra" is believed to provide protection and infinite prosperity.

Salt-Free Fasting: Many families observe a fast on this day, consuming only fruits or milk, and perform a special "Anant Puja" involving 14 types of offerings.

The Farewell: As the idol is immersed, devotees shout "Ganpati Bappa Morya, Pudhchya Varshi Lavkar Ya!" (Lord Ganesha, come back early next year!), signifying that while the form leaves, his energy stays.

SHOPPING LIST:

Anant Sutra: A protective silk thread (usually red or orange) with 14 knots.

Flower Garlands: Large quantities of marigolds for the final farewell procession.

Gulal (Pink Powder): To celebrate and throw during the immersion parade.

Coconuts: To be offered to the water body before the idol is immersed. Sweets: Ladoos or Modaks to distribute as the final Prasad.

RAVEEVAAR	SOMVAAR	MANGALVAAR	BUDHVAAR	GURUVAAR	SHUKRAVAAR	SHANIVAAR
				1	2	3
				BHADRAPAD K 5	BHADRAPAD K 6	BHADRAPAD K 7/8
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
BHADRAPAD K 9	BHADRAPAD K 10	BHADRAPAD K 11	BHADRAPAD K 12	BHADRAPAD K 13	BHADRAPAD K 14	 GHAT-UH STHAAPANAA BHADRAPAD AMAAVASYAA
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
ASHWIN S 1	ASHWIN S 2	ASHWIN S 3	ASHWIN S 4	ASHWIN S 5	ASHWIN S 6	ASHWIN S 7
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
ASHWIN S 7	ASHWIN S 8	 DASAARA ASHWIN S 9	ASHWIN S 10	ASHWIN S 11	ASHWIN S 12	ASHWIN S 13
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
ASHWIN S 14	 ASHWIN POURNJIMAA	ASHWIN K 1/2	ASHWIN K 3	SANKASHI-UH CHATURTHI ASHWIN K 4	ASHWIN K 5	ASHWIN K 6

GHAT-UH STHAAPANAA

Ghat-uh Sthaapanaa marks the beginning of the nine-day Navratri festival, symbolizing the invocation of Goddess Shakti. It is a ritual of "sowing the seeds" of prosperity and welcoming the divine feminine energy into the home.

HOW IT IS CELEBRATED:

The Sacred Jar (Kalash): A copper or earthen pot is filled with water, coins, and betel nuts. A coconut is placed on top, surrounded by mango leaves.

Sowing the Grain: The pot is placed on a layer of soil in which seven types of grains (Saptadhanya) are sown. By the end of Navratri, these sprout into lush green stalks, symbolizing a fertile and successful harvest.

The Eternal Flame (Akhand Jyot): A lamp is lit and kept burning continuously for all nine days and nights to represent constant light and wisdom.

Daily Puja: Each day, fresh flower garlands are offered to the Goddess, and families gather for prayers and traditional songs.

SHOPPING LIST:

Earthen Pot (Ghat): A simple clay pot for the base and a smaller one for the Kalash.

Clean Soil & Grains: Potting soil and a mix of seeds like wheat, barley, and lentils.

Coconut & Mango Leaves: To crown the sacred pot.

Chee & Cotton Wicks: To maintain the nine-day eternal lamp.

Sweets: Halwa or milk-based sweets for the daily offering.

NAVRATRI

Navratri, meaning "Nine Nights," is a powerful festival dedicated to the Goddess Durga and her nine divine forms (Navadurga). It celebrates the victory of Goddess Durga over the buffalo-demon Mahishasura, symbolizing the triumph of good over evil and the strength of the feminine spirit.

HOW IT IS CELEBRATED:

The Nine Colors: Each day is associated with a specific color representing a quality of the Goddess. People wear that color to stay in harmony with the day's energy.

Fasting (Vrat): Many observe a special diet, avoiding grains, onions, and garlic, eating "Sattvic" foods like fruits, milk, and Sabudana (tapioca).

HOW IT IS CELEBRATED:

Dance (Garba & Dandiya): In many regions, the nights are filled with high-energy folk dances. People dress in traditional Chaniya Cholis and Kediyus, dancing in circles to symbolize the cyclical nature of life.

Kanya Puja: On the eighth or ninth day, young girls are worshipped as living embodiments of the Goddess, offered food, and given small gifts.

SHOPPING LIST:

Traditional Attire: Look for colorful, embroidered clothes with mirror work for dance nights.

Navratri Food Staples: Stock up on Sabudana, Makhana (fox nuts), Singhare ka atta (water chestnut flour), and fresh fruits.

Dandiya Sticks: A pair of colorful wooden sticks for dancing.

Nine Garlands: If you are doing the Ghatasthapanaa, you will need fresh flowers daily to honor the different forms of the Mother.

DASRAA

Dasara is the grand conclusion to Navratri, celebrated as the day of "Victory." It commemorates two major triumphs of good over evil: Goddess Durga defeating the demon Mahishasura and Lord Rama defeating the ten-headed demon king, Ravana.

HOW IT IS CELEBRATED:

Shastra Puja: People clean and worship their "tools of the trade," including books, musical instruments, computers, vehicles, and machinery, seeking success in their professions.

Apta Leaves (Gold): In Maharashtra, there is a beautiful tradition of exchanging leaves from the Apta tree, which are symbolized as "gold," to wish others prosperity and friendship.

Simolanghan: This ritual involves symbolically "crossing the border" of one's village or limitations, signifying a fresh start and the courage to conquer new territories.

Effigy Burning: In many parts of India, massive statues of Ravana are filled with crackers and set on fire to symbolize the destruction of ego and vice.

SHOPPING LIST:

Marigold Flowers (Zendu): Huge quantities are used to make garlands for front doors, vehicles, and businesses.

Apta Leaves: To exchange with family and friends as "symbolic gold."

Sweets: Shrikhand and Puri are the traditional festive meal components.

New Ventures: This is considered the most auspicious day of the year to buy a new car, home, or start a business.

RAVEEVAAR	SOMVAAR	MANGALVAAR	BUDHVAAR	GURUVAAR	SHUKRAVAAR	SHANIVAAR
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
ASHWIN K 7	ASHWIN K 8	ASHWIN K 9	ASHWIN K 10	ASHWIN K 11	ASHWIN K 12	ASHWIN K 13
 8 NARAKA CHATURDASHI LAKSHMI PUJAN ASHADH K 14	 9 ASHWIN AMAAVASYAA	10 DEEPAWALI PAADWAA 	11 BHAAUBEEZ 	12	13	14
		KAARTIK S 1	KAARTIK S 2	KAARTIK S 3	KAARTIK S 4	KAARTIK S 5
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
KAARTIK S 6	KAARTIK S 7	KAARTIK S 8	KAARTIK S 9	KAARTIK S 9	KAARTIK S 10/11	KAARTIK S 12
22	23	 24	25	26	27	28
KAARTIK S 13	KAARTIK S 14	KAARTIK POURNIMAA	KAARTIK K 1	KAARTIK K 2	SANKASHI-UH CHATURTHI KAARTIK K 3/4	KAARTIK K 5
29	30					
KAARTIK K 6	KAARTIK K 7					

DIWALI

Diwali, the "Festival of Lights," is India's grandest celebration, signifying the victory of light over darkness and knowledge over ignorance. It spans five days, each with its own deep spiritual and social significance.

HOW IT IS CELEBRATED:

The Five Days of Diwali

Dhanteras: The festival of wealth where people clean their homes and buy gold, silver, or new utensils to welcome prosperity.

Naraka Chaturdashi: Celebrates the defeat of the demon Narakasura. It is traditional to have an Abhyang Snan (ritual oil bath) before sunrise.

Lakshmi Pujan: The main event. Families light oil lamps (diyas) and perform prayers for Goddess Lakshmi (wealth) and Lord Ganesha (wisdom).

Padwa: Celebrates the bond between husband and wife and marks the start of a new business year for many.

Bhau Beez: Similar to Raksha Bandhan, this day celebrates the love between brothers and sisters with a special tikka ceremony and feast.

SHOPPING LIST:

Diyas & Lanterns (Kandil): To decorate your balcony and entrance.

Rangoli Colors: To create geometric patterns on the floor to welcome guests and divinity.

New Clothes: Wearing new, traditional outfits is a central part of the celebration.

Faral (Sweets & Snacks): Stock up on Ladoos, Karanji, Chakli, and Sev.

Firecrackers: Small sparklers (Phuljhadi) are traditional for bringing "light" to the night.

RAVEEVAAR	SOMVAAR	MANGALVAAR	BUDHVAAR	GURUVAAR	SHUKRAVAAR	SHANIVAAR
		1	2	3	4	5
		KAARTIK K 8	KAARTIK K 9	KAARTIK K 10	KAARTIK K 11	KAARTIK K 12
6	7	 8	 9	10	11	12
KAARTIK K 13	KAARTIK K 14	KAARTIK AMAAVASYAA	DEV DEEPAVALEE MARGASHIRSH S 1	MARGASHIRSH S 1	MARGASHIRSH S 2	MARGASHIRSH S 3
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
MARGASHIRSH S 4	MARGASHIRSH S 5	MARGASHIRSH S 6	MARGASHIRSH S 7	MARGASHIRSH S 8	MARGASHIRSH S 9	MARGASHIRSH S 10
20	21	22	 23	24	 25	26
MARGASHIRSH S 11	MARGASHIRSH S 12	MARGASHIRSH S 13	SHREEDATTA JAYANTI MARGASHIRSH POURNIMAA MARGASHIRSH S 14	MARGASHIRSH K 1	CHRISTMAS MARGASHIRSH K 2	SANKASHI-UH CHATURTHI MARGASHIRSH K 3
27	28	29	30	31		
MARGASHIRSH S 4	MARGASHIRSH S 5	MARGASHIRSH S 6	MARGASHIRSH S 7	MARGASHIRSH S 8		

MARGASHIRSH LAKSHMI VRAT

Margashirsh Lakshmi Vrat is a beloved tradition in Maharashtra, observed every Thursday during the Hindu month of Margashirsh. It is dedicated to Goddess Mahalakshmi, the deity of wealth, fortune, and light.

HOW IT IS CELEBRATED:

The Kalash Installation: Every Thursday morning, a sacred pot (Kalash) is set up with water, coins, and mango leaves. A coconut is placed on top and draped with a small piece of cloth to represent the Goddess.

The Vrat Katha: Women read the Mahalakshmi Vrat Katha (a sacred story) which emphasizes the importance of cleanliness, kindness, and devotion.

Offerings: A special meal is prepared and offered as Naivedya, typically including sweet items like Kheer or Puran Poli.

The Udyapan: On the final Thursday of the month, a concluding ceremony is held where married women and young girls are invited for "Haldi-Kumkum" and given small gifts.

SHOPPING LIST:

Mahalakshmi Vrat Book: Contains the essential stories and prayers for the day.

Coconut & Mango Leaves: For the weekly setup of the Kalash.

Five Fruits: A traditional offering to the Goddess.

Incense & Camphor: To perform the Aarti in the morning and evening.

Lotus or Yellow Flowers: These are considered the favorite flowers of Goddess Lakshmi.

SHREE DATT-UH JAYANTI

Datt-uh Jayanti marks the birth of Lord Dattatreya, who is regarded as the combined form of Brahma, Vishnu, and Mahesh. It is an important spiritual day for many Maharashtrian families.

HOW IT IS CELEBRATED:

On this day, devotees offer prayers, perform puja, chant Datta mantras, and visit temples dedicated to Lord Datta.

Many people observe fasting, offer food to the needy, and seek blessings for wisdom, peace, and guidance.

In Maharashtra, devotees often greet each other with "Shree Guru Datt-uh", reflecting devotion and reverence.

DEV DEEPAVALEE

Dev Deepavali, also known as **Devdivalee** marks the beginning of Margashirsha. It is believed to be the day when the gods descend to earth to celebrate with humans.

HOW IT IS CELEBRATED:

On this day, homes and temples are decorated with panatee (diyas), and lamps are lit to welcome divine light and positivity. Devotees visit temples, offer prayers, and express gratitude, symbolising the victory of light over darkness.

DECEMBER FUN FACT

In Marathi, Christmas is called **Nataal**, and Santa Claus is fondly known as **Nataal Baabaa**.



NOTES

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