

South Asian Festivals 2026: Holi, Diwali, Eid & Baisakhi - Cultural Shifts and R

Festivals · Practice Test · 10 Questions

1. In 2026, Baisakhi, a significant harvest festival and Sikh New Year celebration, will be observed on April 14th. This date coincides with other regional new year celebrations across South Asia. Which of the following is NOT typically celebrated around the same time as Baisakhi?

- A) Vishu in Kerala
- B) Puthandu in Tamil Nadu
- C) Pohela Boishakh in Bangladesh
- D) Eid al-Fitr

2. Holi, the festival of colors, is celebrated differently across India. In which northern Indian state is 'Lathmar Holi,' where women playfully beat men with sticks, a famous tradition?

- A) Punjab
- B) Haryana
- C) Uttar Pradesh
- D) Rajasthan

3. Maha Shivaratri, a major Hindu festival honoring Lord Shiva, is observed on February 15, 2026. In Nepal, a significant event during this festival is the gathering of thousands of devotees at which prominent temple?

- A) Manakamana Temple
- B) Pashupatinath Temple
- C) Boudhanath Stupa
- D) Swaminarayan Temple

4. Diwali, the Festival of Lights, is celebrated by Hindu, Sikh, and Jain communities. In 2026, Diwali begins with Dhanteras on November 6th and the main celebration, Lakshmi Puja, falls on Sunday, November 8th. What does Dhanteras traditionally signify?

- A) The triumph of good over evil
- B) The release of Guru Hargobind
- C) Wealth and prosperity
- D) The birth of Lord Rama

5. Durga Puja is a grand festival celebrated in West Bengal and other parts of India. The festival culminates on Dashami with 'Sindoor Khela.' What is the significance of Sindoor Khela?

- A) A ritualistic bathing of the idol
- B) A communal feast for devotees
- C) Married women applying vermilion to each other
- D) The immersion of the Durga idol

6. Chhath Puja, primarily celebrated in Bihar, Jharkhand, and eastern Uttar Pradesh, is dedicated to the Sun God. The festival involves rigorous fasting and offerings. Which of the following is NOT a traditional ritualistic day within the four-day Chhath Puja celebration?

- A) Nahay-Khay (Bathe and Eat)
- B) Kharna Puja
- C) Sandhya Arghya (Evening Offering)
- D) Holi Dahan (Bonfire)

7. Eid al-Adha commemorates the willingness of Prophet Ibrahim to sacrifice his son. In South Asia, this festival is also known by another name. What is it?

- A) Bakr Eid
- B) Shab-e-Barat
- C) Milad un Nabi
- D) Ramadan

8. Ram Navami, celebrating the birth of Lord Rama, falls on March 26, 2026. While celebrated across India, in South India, a common practice during this festival involves:

- A) Playing with colors
- B) Organizing martial arts demonstrations
- C) Recitations of the Ramayana and classical music performances
- D) Bonfire rituals

9. Baisakhi is not only a harvest festival but also marks the formation of the Khalsa Panth by Guru Gobind Singh in 1699. This historical event imbues the festival with a deep sense of:

- A) Agricultural prosperity
- B) Community service and equality
- C) Spiritual renewal
- D) Artistic expression

10. Holi celebrations are diverse. In Maharashtra and Gujarat, community gatherings for Holi often focus on:

- A) Martial arts and mock battles
- B) Singing, dancing, and sweets
- C) Ritualistic bathing in rivers
- D) Storytelling through traditional dances