

South Asian Festivals & Cultural Shifts: A 2025 Deep Dive

South Asia · Answer Key · 10 Questions

1. The 2025 South Asian Literature and Art Festival (SALA) is themed "Thoughts Without Borders." Which of the following is a key objective of this theme?

- A) To promote classical South Asian art forms.
- B) To examine borders like caste, class, and gender that separate people.**
- C) To exclusively focus on literary works from South Asian diaspora.
- D) To create a platform for traditional folk art performances.

2. Which of the following film festivals in South Asia is celebrating its 15th anniversary in 2025 with the theme 'Legacy'?

- A) Jaffna International Cinema Festival
- B) Druk International Film Festival
- C) iSAFF (International South Asian Film Festival)**
- D) Bengaluru International Short Film Festival

3. Climate change is projected to have significant impacts on South Asian festivals. Which traditional festival practice is particularly vulnerable to disruptions caused by erratic rainfall and water scarcity?

- A) The playing of 'Dhaak' (Bengali drum) during Durga Puja.
- B) The creation of elaborate flower carpets (Pookalam) for Onam.
- C) The immersion of Ganesh idols in water bodies.**
- D) The use of specific clay for Ganesh idols.

4. The New Sounds Festival 2025 in Bristol is a key event for South Asian music. Which of the following is a new music series being launched at this festival?

- A) Bhangra Beats**
- B) Raga Rock Revival
- C) Sufi Soul Sessions
- D) Indo-Jazz Fusion Fest

5. Which Indian film achieved the milestone of being the first Marathi-language film to win the World Cinema Dramatic Grand Jury Prize at the Sundance Film Festival in 2025?

- A) Dhurandhar
- B) Chhaava
- C) Cactus Pears (Sabar Bonda)**
- D) Saiyaara

6. The Mandala Makers Festival in Chicago is expanding its offerings in 2025 to include a South Asian-inspired version of which electronic music genre for the first time?

- A) Techno
- B) House
- C) EDM (Electronic Dance Music)**
- D) Dubstep

7. In 2025, regional cinema in India is projected to capture a significant share of the national box office. Approximately what percentage of the national box office is this share expected to be?

- A) Around 15%
- B) Roughly 35%**
- C) About 50%
- D) Nearly 70%

8. The Asia NOW 2025 art fair, held in Paris, will feature a new section called 'The Third Space.' What is the primary focus of this new section?

- A) Solo exhibitions by established artists.
- B) Emerging artists from Central Asia.
- C) Hybridity and collaboration between galleries.**
- D) Digital art installations exclusively.

9. The Serendipity Arts Festival 2025 in Goa is scheduled to take place in December. Which of the following musical performances is highlighted for the festival?

- A) A Hindustani semi-classical ensemble.**
- B) A traditional Bhutanese mask dance performance.
- C) A fusion of Carnatic and Western classical music.
- D) A Sufi qawwali performance.

10. The 2025 edition of the IAAC Literary Festival includes book talks on various themes. Which of the following books is specifically mentioned as a discussion topic, focusing on culinary arts?

- A) Maha Kumbh: A Spiritual Odyssey
- B) Malai: Frozen Desserts Inspired by South Asian Flavors**
- C) Poetry - Embayed by Usha Akella
- D) The India Cookbook: From the Tables of My Friends