



## 2008 Holidays and Festivals in India

Month	Day(s)	Holiday Name	Significance	Type
Jan	1	Id ul Zuha / Bakrid	Islam Festival. Feast of the Sacrifice.	National
Jan	14-16	Pongal	Harvest festival. Major festival in the southern states. Regions: Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh	Regional
Jan	19	Muharram	Islamic New Year.	National
Jan	26	Republic Day	Republic Day of India.	National
Feb	16	Maha Shivarathri	Solemn worship of Hindu deity, Lord Shiva. Fasting and chanting takes place mostly at night. Regions: Delhi, Maharastra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and in all Hindu communes.	Regional
Mar	21	Good Friday	Anniversary of the Crucifixion of Jesus Christ	National
Mar	22	Holi / Holika / Medin Poya / Dola Purnima	Festival of Colors observed mainly in the northern states. Number of days varies according to local government policy. Regions: Maharastra, Punjab, Delhi, Andhra Pradesh	Regional
Mar	22	Sikh New Year's Day	Nanakshahi Era 538 begins. Regions: Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and in all Sikh communes.	Regional
Mar	23	Easter	Anniversary of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.	National
Apr	1	Half Yearly Bank Closing		National
Apr	1	Miladun-Nabi (Birthday of Prophet Mohammed)	Birth anniversary of Prophet Mohammed.	National
Apr	14	Ram Navami	Commemorates the birth of Lord Rama. Regions: Maharastra, Andhra Pradesh and in all Hindu communes.	Regional
Apr	18	Mahavir Jayanti	Birth anniversary of Mahavir the founder of Jainism.	National
Apr	14	Dr B.R. Ambedkar's birthday	Architect of Indian constitution. Regions: Maharastra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh	Regional
Apr	14	Vishu / Mesadi / Tamil New Year's Day	New Year festival. Major festival in the southern states. Regions: Tamil Nadu, Kerala.	Regional
May	1	May Day	Labor Day. Regions: Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh	Regional
May	1	Maharashtra Day	in the state of Maharastra.	Regional
May	13	Buddha Purnima	Marks the birth and enlightenment of Buddha.	National
Aug	15	Independence Day	Independence Day of India.	National
Aug	27	Ganesh Chaturthi / Vinayaka Chaturthi	Birth anniversary of Lord Ganesha. One of the Major festivals. Regions: Maharastra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and in all Hindu communes.	Regional
Sept	4	Janmashtami (Smarta) / Sri Krishna Jayanti	Birth anniversary of Lord Krishna. Regions: Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and in all Hindu communes.	Regional
Sept	5	Onam	Harvest festival. Regions: Kerala and in all Malayalee communes.	Regional
Sept	30	Half Yearly Bank Closing		National
Oct	1	Ayudha Pooja	Festival for the Workman. To all the workers the worship of their tools is a must on this day. After the poojas are carried out the machines are left to rest for the day. Major festival for business people and students in the southern states. Regions: Tamil Nadu, Karnataka.	Regional
Oct	2	Gandhi Jayanti	Birth anniversary of Mahatma Ghandhiji the Father of the Nation.	National
Oct	9	Dussehra (Vijay Dashami)	Worship the Goddess Durga. One of the major festivals. Number of days varies according to local government policy.	National
Oct	14	Id ul Fitr (end of Ramadan)	Significance to Islam.	National
Oct	15	Maharishi Valmiki's birthday	the rishi who wrote the epic Ramayana. Region: Delhi	Regional
Oct	28	Diwali (Deepawali)	Festival of Lights. Major festival of India. Number of days varies according to local government policy.	National
Nov	13	Guru Nanak's birthday	Birth anniversary of Guru Nanak the founder of Sikh faith.	National
Dec	25	Christmas	Birth of Jesus Christ.	National

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