

## Christmas



Christmas isn't a major religious occasion in India, as Christians make up less than 5% of India's population. However, you'll still be able to find traditional Christmas cheer in many parts of the country.

**When** : December 25 each year.  
**Where** : Various locations in India.

## Sunburn Festival Goa



Jayati Saha is a self-taught photo-artist, with an extremely sensitive eye that has captured moments glistening with human emotions. Her forte is seeing the unseen and the unnoticed.

Based out of Kolkata, India, she is peripatetic and her journeys have taken her to the India not known or seen by many.

Her work has been widely appreciated and have been exhibited in India and abroad. She is also a contributor at the Getty Images Inc., USA.

for information : [www.jayatisaha.com](http://www.jayatisaha.com)

The biggest outdoor dance party to hit India's beaches, the Sunburn Festival is into its eight year this year. The festival features well known artists and DJs from the electronic dance music scene all around the world. It's spread across three days, multiple stages, and numerous genres of music.

**When** : December 27-29, each year.  
Midday until 10 p.m.

**Where** : Vagator, Goa.

## Mt Abu Winter Festival



Surprisingly, Rajasthan isn't all desert! The cool, green hill settlement of Mt Abu is like an oasis, full of flourishing rivers, lakes, waterfalls, and forests. It becomes vibrant during the annual Winter Festival (a Summer Festival is also held there in May each year), which captures the spirit of Rajasthani tribal life and culture. Enjoy ceremonial processions, folk performances, fireworks, and competitions such as skating races, boat races, horse races, and tug-of-war.

**When** : December 29-31 each year.  
**Where** : Mt Abu, Rajasthan.

Source : web

## Cultural Calendar

### December 2014

# 05

Friday 3.00 pm

**Friday Matinee: Pardes**  
**Directed by Subhash Ghai**  
Hindi (Duration 3 hrs)  
Venue : ICC Auditorium

# 09

Tuesday 2.00 pm

**Seminar**  
**for ICC Hindi students**  
Venue: ICC Auditorium

# 11

Thursday 6.00 pm

**A presentation of tradition folk songs & drums**  
**By Ravibandhu Vidyapati and ensemble**  
Venue: ICC Auditorium

# 16

Tuesday 6.00 pm

**Bharatha Natyam recital**  
**By Sahana Balasubramanya from India**  
Venue: ICC Auditorium

# 19

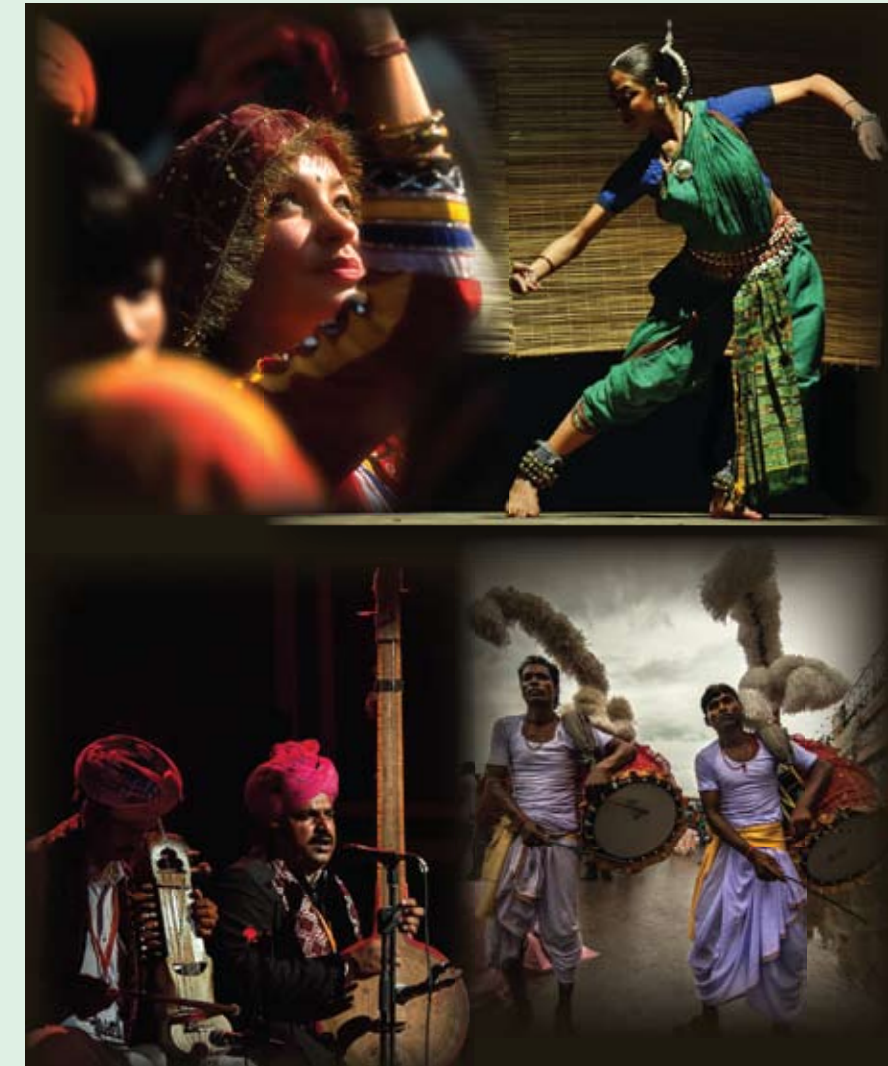
Friday 6.00 pm

**Bharatha Natyam Recital**  
**By Neewin Hershah,**  
**Bhaskars Arts Academy, Singapore,**  
**and Nrityalaya Aesthetics Society, Singapore**  
Venue: ICC Auditorium



# Sanskarika

Newsletter of the Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo December 2014



UNIE ARTS, 2330195

Programmes subject to change  
Admission to all programmes are on first come first served basis  
**All are cordially invited**



## 'HAPPENINGS' in India in December 2014

India comes alive in December with an eclectic mix of traditional and modern festivals and events. From classical to folk, from traditional to contemporary dance music, and local performers to international DJs, it's all on offer. Not to forget Christmas celebrations as well!

### Calcutta International Classical Guitar Festival

Calcutta Classical Guitar Society, a registered not-for-profit society, started the Calcutta International Classical Guitar Festival and Competition in 2010 to hone the interests and aspirations of Indian classical guitarists. CCGS is the only such society in the country which actively works for the betterment of classical guitarists in India. The Festival brings to India renowned and respected classical guitarists from all over the world to come

and teach classical guitar aspirants from all across the country. The competition is an international one -for which participants come from all over the world. Over the years this festival has put Kolkata in the global map and it has become Asia's largest classical guitar festival and definitely one of the most prestigious festivals in the world. With its competition, master classes, and concerts, it is truly international in nature. Rabindranath Tagore Centre, ICCR Kolkata have been an ardent support to this festival since its inception in 2010. **When : December 15th to 19th, 2014**  
**Where : ICCR Kolkata**

### International Sand Art Festival



Held to coincide with the five day Konark Festival at the Sun Temple, Orissa, the International Sand Art Festival sees renowned international and local artists competing to create the best sand sculptures. **When : December 1-5, 2014.**  
**Where : Chandrabhaga Beach, Konark, Orissa.**

### Hornbill Festival



The unique Hornbill Festival, named after the bird, shows just how diverse a country India really is. Held in a tiny and remote

north eastern state of India, the festival is one of the largest celebrations of the indigenous warrior tribes of the region. It features traditional arts, dances, folk songs, games, and music concerts in the evenings. Local handicrafts are also on sale during the festival. **When : December 1-10, 2014.**  
**Where : Kisama Heritage Village (near Kohima town), Nagaland.**

### Rann Utsav



This desert festival highlights the vibrancy of the Kutch region's culture and heritage. The days are filled with folk dances and music, adventure sports, handicrafts, food stalls, and excursions to surrounding destinations. On the fringe of the Rann of Kutch white salt desert, the government sets up hundreds of luxury tents to accommodate visitors. It's best on full moon nights to see the moon shining on the salt. (December 5-6, January 4-5, and February 3-4). The festival concludes with Holi celebrations on March 5-6. **When : December 1, 2014-March 5, 2015.**  
**Where : Dhordo, Kutch, Gujarat.**

### Karthikai Deepam



A festival celebrated by Hindus in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh, Karthikai Deepam

takes place in a particularly spectacular way in the holy town of Tiruvannamalai. On the evening of Karthikai day, a huge fire lamp is lit high up on Mount Arunachala. Pilgrims come from far and wide to walk around the mountain, and to pray to Lord Shiva. It's believed that Lord Shiva appeared as an endless flame of light before Lord Vishnu and Lord Brahma. Hence, oil lamps are lit in homes as well. **When : December 5, 2014.**  
*(The festival starts 10 days prior to this, on November 26, 2014, and there are daily street processions of various gods).*  
**Where : Tiruvannamalai, Tamil Nadu.**

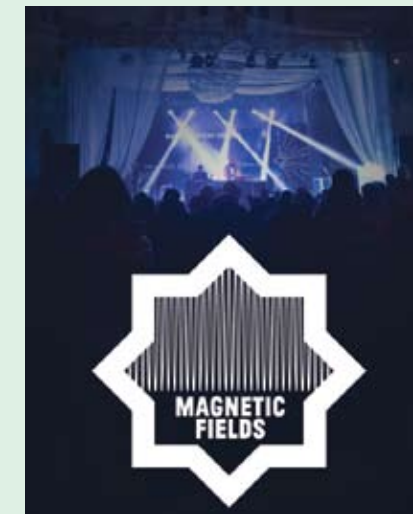
### Dhaulti-Kalinga Mahotsav



The Dhaulti-Kalinga Mahotsav is hosted by the Odisha Dance Academy (ODA) and Art Vision. It combines martial dance, which celebrates the victory of peace over war, with classical and folk dances of the state. The festival's location is evocative. It's held in the hills alongside the historic Daya River, at the place where Emperor Ashok is believed to have fought the last battle of the Kalinga war before surrendering the sword and embracing Buddhism. **When : December 10-14, 2014.**  
**Where : Shanti Stupa/Peace Pagoda, Dhaulti Hill, on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar, Orissa.**

### Magnetic Fields Festival

India's newest music festival is an intimate affair, limited to 500 people, which will be held on two stages at a restored 17th century palace hotel in Rajasthan. On offer will be cutting-edge music from both bands and DJs, fashion, art, and food. Attendees



can either camp in luxury tents or stay in rooms at the hotel. Its premises are extensive and include courtyards, swimming pool, and ballrooms. Decorations are expected to create the vibe of a magical, fantasy carnival. **When : December 12-14, 2014.**  
**Where : Alsisar Mahal, Shekhawati region of Rajasthan. (5 hours from Delhi/4 hours from Jaipur).**

### Kochi-Muziris Biennale



The Kochi-Muziris Biennale is a contemporary art exhibition. This year, there will be 95 artists from 30 countries, spread over 11 venues including existing galleries and halls, and site-specific installations in public spaces, heritage buildings and disused structures. Artworks will be created from a variety of mediums including film, installation, painting, sculpture, new media and performance art. **When : December 12, 2014-March 29, 2015.**  
**Where : Kochi and the Muziris region and surrounding islands, Kerala.**

### Shilpgram Art and Craft Fair



Anyone who loves shopping should make it a point to try and catch this impressive arts and crafts fair. Over 400 artisans and craftsmen from all over India come to set up stalls at the fair, which takes place in a sprawling artisans' village set up by the government. Folk dances and cultural programs are also held as part of the festival. It's a great way to experience rural India culture. **When : December 21-30 each year.**  
**Where : Shilpgram, near Udaipur, Rajasthan.**

### Cochin (Kochi) Carnival



The colorful Cochin Carnival evolved from Portuguese new year celebrations held in Cochin during colonial days. Rather than being a traditional cultural event, it's more about feasting and fun, with competitions, games, beach sports, dirt bike races, dancing, and fireworks. The carnival concludes with a huge procession on New Year's Day. **When : Last week of December to January 1 each year.**  
**Where : Fort Kochi, Kerala.**