

# Punjab's Musical Heritage Comes Alive at Bharat Parv 2026 with Punjabi Folk Orchestra and Qalandri Dhamal

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The rich musical and spiritual heritage of Punjab will be presented at Bharat Parv 2026 at the historic Red Fort, New Delhi, with captivating performances by the Punjabi Folk Orchestra and Qalandri Dhamal on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2026.

The Punjabi Folk Orchestra is a unique ensemble developed using a wide range of traditional Punjabi folk instruments such as Dhol, Dholki, Taal-Koze, Tansari, Flute, Nagara, Chimta, Sap, Kara, and Vanjli. This orchestra brings together rhythmic, melodic, and percussive folk instruments into a single, structured musical presentation. Traditional Punjabi folk melodies have been thoughtfully composed and arranged for orchestral performance, preserving their authentic folk essence while presenting them in a collective and harmonious form.



The orchestra is performed by a group of twelve students, each playing a specific instrumental role. Their performance highlights teamwork, coordination, and a deep understanding of Punjabi folk music traditions. This initiative not only contributes to the preservation of Punjabi folk music but also provides students with valuable practical exposure to ensemble performance and folk orchestration techniques.

Adding a spiritual dimension to the event, Qalandri Dhamal, a traditional Sufi folk dance of Sindh and Punjab, will also be performed. Qalandri Dhamal is a devotional dance expressing love and surrender to God and Sufi saints, most notably associated with the shrine of Lal Shahbaz Qalandar in Sehwan Sharif.



The performance features powerful music created with instruments such as dhol, ghadyal, sorna, shankh, and tumba, accompanied by rhythmic clapping and devotional chants like “Damadam Mast Qalandar.” The energetic beats guide dancers into a joyful and spiritual state. The movements are free-flowing and expressive, with dancers spinning, stomping, and swaying to the rhythm. Many perform barefoot, adorned with heavy ghungroos, symbolizing humility and spiritual surrender.

Qalandri Dhamal represents spiritual freedom, love, unity, and devotion, transcending boundaries of caste, religion, and social status. Through music and movement, it spreads a powerful message of peace and communal harmony.

Together, the Punjabi Folk Orchestra and Qalandri Dhamal performances promise to offer audiences at Bharat Parv 2026 an immersive experience of Punjab’s vibrant cultural and spiritual traditions.

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