



Marathi–Malayali Ethnic Fest 2026 to be Held in Mumbai from 20–22 February

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The Nehru Science Centre, a unit of the National Council of Science Museums under the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, in collaboration with the All Mumbai Malayali Association (AMMA), will organise the 7th edition of the Marathi–Malayali Ethnic Fest 2026 from 20th to 22nd February 2026 at its premises in Worli, Mumbai. Celebrated under the theme “Where Science Meets Tradition” the three-day festival aims to symbolically connect the cultural legacies of the Sahyadris and the Western Ghats while promoting national integration, scientific temper and cultural harmony.

A major highlight of the festival is its extensive educational outreach. More than 1,000 schools from Mumbai and neighbouring regions have been formally invited to participate in various competitions, including Drawing, Patriotic Group Songs, Quiz and Folk Dance. Winning schools will be awarded trophies, while individual participants will receive medals and certificates. All registered participants will be provided complimentary access to the Science Centre galleries, ensuring a meaningful blend of education, creativity and experiential learning.

Shri Umesh Kumar Rustagi, Director, Nehru Science Centre, stated that science and culture evolve together and are not separate entities. He emphasised that the festival provides a unique platform for thousands of students to explore the scientific principles embedded in traditions and to appreciate their heritage while embracing a scientific temper. Shri Jojo Thomas, Festival Director and President of AMMA, remarked that the festival reflects India’s unity in diversity, drawing a parallel to the Pookalam that brings together flowers of many colours. He also highlighted the introduction of a special focus on poetry and skilled artists in this year’s edition. AMMA is widely known for its iconic floral carpets (Pookalam) displayed at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus.

The evenings from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM will feature vibrant cultural performances by eminent artists from Maharashtra and Kerala. The Maharashtra segment will include Koli, Lavani, Mangala Gauri and Gondhal, while the Kerala segment will present Mohiniyattam, Bharatanatyam, Margamkali, Thiruvathira and Oppana. The event will be graced by distinguished dignitaries from the cultural, educational and social sectors.

The festival will be held from 20 to 22 February 2026 between 10:00 AM and 8:00 PM at the Nehru Science Centre, Dr. E. Moses Road, Worli, Mumbai. Admission to the festival is free for all. The initiative seeks to provide a vibrant and inclusive

platform where science, culture and education converge, strengthening appreciation for India's diverse heritage among students and the general public alike.

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