

Losar Festival in Ladakh (Important) (Download PDF)

(January 2, 2018)

The traditional festival of Losar was celebrated in Ladakh in Jammu and Kashmir to mark the beginning of New Year. The 10-day festival began with illumination of religious and residential places and by visiting monasteries for prayer.

Image of Losar Festival

Significance of Losar

- The Losar festival marks the beginning of New Year in Ladakh and Tibet region and falls in December.

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- Losar is Tibetan word for ‘new year’
- It is most important festival of the region and an important social and religious celebration.

Celebrations on Losar

- Ladakhi Buddhists make religious offering before their deities in the domestic shrines or in the Gompas.
- A medley of cultural events, ancient rituals and also traditional performances are performed
- It is marked by music events accompanied with dancing and celebration, dinner with relatives.
- Houses are decorated with good luck signs.
- Prayer flags are hoisted in important religious places to welcome the New Year.

Losar Internationally

- Losar is also celebrated by Tibetan Buddhism.
- Holiday is celebrated on various dates depending on location (Tibet, Nepal, and Bhutan) and tradition.
- The holiday is a new year’s festival, celebrated on the first day of the lunisolar Tibetan calendar, which corresponds to a date in February or March in the Gregorian calendar.
- Because the Uyghurs adopted the Chinese calendar, and the Mongols and Tibetans adopted the Uyghur calendar Losar occurs near or on the same day as the Chinese New Year and the Mongolian New Year.
- Losar customs also vary slightly across the countries

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