



# Raulane Festival

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Bright, colourful, and quite fascinating photos of the Raulane festival from Himachal Pradesh recently went viral on social media, with users discussing the unique ritual and culture of a centuries-old tradition.

## About Raulane Festival

It is a traditional festival celebrated in Kalpa, Kinnaur district, Himachal Pradesh, in winter or early spring.

It is believed to be around 5,000 years old.

This ancient festival honours celestial fairies, known as Saunis, said to be radiant and gentle beings.

Locals believe that the Saunis protect villagers during harsh winters by offering warmth and guidance.

During the festival, two men symbolically "marry" and become vessels for the Saunis, embodying a divine couple, the Raula (groom) and the Raulane (bride).

They get dressed in heavy woollen robes, ornaments and unique face masks.

They also perform a slow, meditative dance at the Nagin Narayan Temple, and the whole community joins in.

The Raulane festival preserves ancient Himalayan culture and traditions, with villagers coming together to honour their protectors.