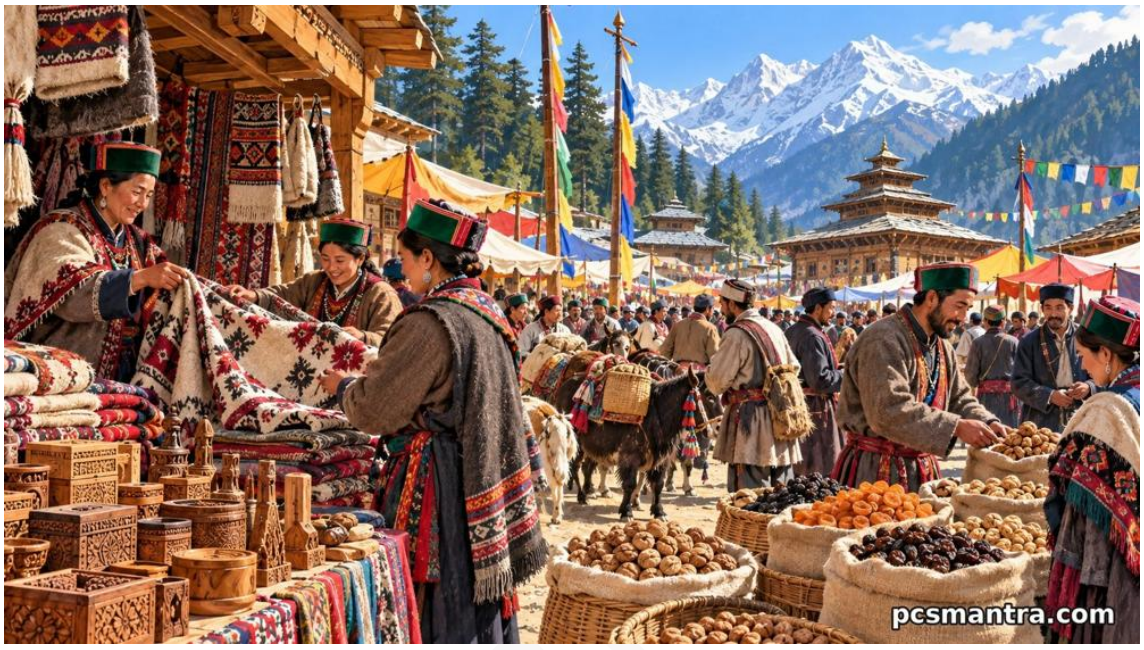
Lavi Fair 2026: Medieval Trade-Route Heritage and Today's Cultural Identity



News reference: fair scheduled for 11-14 November 2026; source feature 7 November 2026 | Prelims: Indian culture, geography and historical trade routes

Original symbolic image: pcsmantra.com

Why in the News

According to the Shimla district administration's event schedule, the International Lavi Fair is fixed for 11-14 November 2026. This fair of Rampur Bushahr in Himachal Pradesh offers a window into trade, local products and Himalayan cultural contacts. The scheduled dates should not be taken as proof that the fair has already opened or concluded.

Location and Historical Importance

Rampur Bushahr lies on the left bank of the Sutlej river in Shimla district of Himachal Pradesh. According to the municipal council, it is about 130 kilometres from Shimla and stands on the old Hindustan-Tibet road.

Rampur was the winter capital of the former Bushahr princely state. The Lavi fair is tied to trading links between Tibet, Kinnaur and the Indian plains.

The Rampur municipal council's history note mentions the exchange of horses and swords as a symbol of a trade treaty and friendship between Bushahr and Tibet. The 1961 census quoted on the same page associates the treaty with the reign of Raja Kehar Singh; the page also gives Kesari Singh as another form of the name. No precise treaty year is claimed here.

What Was Bought and Sold?

The municipal council's account lists wool, pashmina, dry fruits, horses, pattu, namda, chilgoza (pine nuts) and local handicrafts. The fair has been a meeting point between mountain products and plains markets. Alongside trade, folk music and cultural programmes form part of its social

identity.

The Distinction for the Exam

Remember the Lavi fair through Rampur Bushahr, the Sutlej and Himachal Pradesh. Old routes and historical trade ties are not evidence of any open permission for cross-border trade today. Fair dates are confirmed from the current district event schedule; do not treat an old general description on a history page as a 2026 administrative notice.

Prelims Practice Questions

Question 1: Consider the following statements about the Lavi fair:

I. It is associated with Rampur Bushahr in Himachal Pradesh.

II. Rampur Bushahr is situated on the left bank of the Sutlej river.

III. It is an event linked only to the tradition of maritime trade.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) I and II only

(b) II and III only

(c) I and III only

(d) I, II and III

Answer and Explanation

Answer: (a)

Statements I and II are correct. The Rampur municipal council's account confirms the location and the river.

Statement III is incorrect: Lavi's trading heritage is tied to Himalayan land routes and Bushahr-Tibet relations, not to maritime trade alone.

Question 2: Which of the following groups best matches the traditional trading identity of the Lavi fair?

(a) Petroleum, ships and sea salt

(b) Wool, dry fruits and local handicrafts

(c) Only information-technology services

(d) Only space-launch equipment

Answer and Explanation

Answer: (b)

The municipal council's account lists products such as wool, pashmina, dry fruits, horses and local handicrafts. The other options do not describe the fair's stated trading identity.

Syllabus mapping:Prelims: Indian culture and geography - fairs, river banks, historical trade routes

Sources

Shimla district administration - International Lavi Fair 2026, 11-14 November

Rampur Municipal Council - history of the town and the Lavi fair

The Hindu, 7 November 2026 - feature on the Lavi fair

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