Illustration: Sabhyata Gupta, AIS Saket, XII D



From electrifying line-ups at Sunburn to Coachella's legendary sets, music festivals are more than just concerts. They're temporary universes where sound, culture, and human energy collide in a vibrant rush. Kashni Mahajan, AIS Saket, XI D, brings you a tour of the most iconic music festivals across the globe; each with unforgettable moments that echo long after the final beat drops.





GLASTONBURY | UN

Category: Britain's most historic & greenfield contemporary music festival. Where: A five-day celebration in Somerset, blending music & activism. Highlights: Witnessed performances from David Bowie to Beyoncé; features Pyramid Stage design and cosy tents. Legacy: Rooted in the 1960s counterculture and free-festival movements, it's a cultural pilgrimage that celebrates all kinds of acts from rock and pop to folk and experimental.

SUNBURN FESTIV AL | INDIA

Category: Asia's largest EDM festival. Where: Born on Goa beaches, it's now hosted in Pune every December. Sunburn ignited India's EDM revolution. Highlights: Multi-day lineups featuring DJs like Martin Garrix, Tiësto, David Guetta, and Swedish House Mafia. Legacy: A trailblazer for India's dance music scene, merging music, travel, and spectacle. Sunburn's spin-offs - Sunburn Arena and Sunburn Campus - carry its beats worldwide. It brought global EDM culture into India.

BELGUM

Category: Top electronic fest. Where: Held annually since 2005 at the De Schorre park, Belgium. Highlights: DJ line-ups like Armin van Buuren, David Guetta, Hardwell, Martin Garrix, and Avicii. Legacy: Its unique stages & storytelling create a fantasy world. Repeatedly voted 'Best Music Event of the Year', Tomorrowland inspired spin-offs like Tomorrow-World, USA, Tomorrowland, Brazil &Tomorrowland Winter, France.



DONAUINSELFEST | VIENNA

Category: World's most attended music festival. Where: Hosted annually for three days on the Donauinsel (Danube Island), Vienna. Falco's electrifying 1993 performance Highlights: and the Backstreet Boys' show in 1999. Legacy: It's free; drawing crowd in millions. Began in 1983 by politician Harry Kopietz as a one-day party for 15,000 people; 160,000 came instead.

CO ACHELLA USA

Category: Most expensive globally. Where: Held every April at Empire Polo Club in Indio, California.

Highlights: Headlining acts redefine pop culture, from Beyoncé's historymaking performance to Blackpink's K-pop breakthrough show.

Legacy: Besides its star power, it's also known for an experience of fusing music, large-scale art installations, and cuisine. A symbol of modern festival culture: it blends music, fashion. art & social media aesthetics.

