

2014-15



LORD SHIVA

The inspiration of all dance!



Dear Friends,

In the cities we are barely aware of the seasons, except to complain of the heat in summer and the cold in winter. We seldom look at the sky to admire the beauty of the moon and the stars are barely visible through the fog of pollution.

Our villagers are close to the earth, their mother. The seasons dictate their work. The moon is their street light.

In my travels around the country I have always been intrigued by the variety of folk dances the rural people perform. They draw movements from their rituals, their festivals, their harvests and turn these into dance.

Their dances are for all to join in, for all to sing along, for all to participate in their own way. It is an expression of unity, of joy and of thanksgiving - for health, harvest and happiness.

So this Year, I wish you all good health, a bountiful harvest and every happiness.

Burman

Pradip Burman

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Gautam Partho Roy has been an artist for over 30 years. He has been painting pictures for our calendars for several years now. You may remember His "Warriors of Light", the "Durgas" and the "Great Indians"

His versatility, his vision and of course, his talent seems to be limitless. He responds to every challenge with enthusiasm. It sometimes difficult to believe it is the work of the same person, as his style and his medium changes fluidly to match the topic.

We hope you enjoy the brilliance of the colours and the movements he has frozen in time.



Gautam Partho Roy

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THE FOLK DANCES OF INDIA ¹⁴⁻¹⁵

This year, the theme for our calendar demanded much more than we bargained for. The selection caused many arguments, with each of us pushing our personal favourites; the choice of style; research; layouts and finally the actual paintings. So now you have a financial year calendar that will take you to the end of next March. We hope the result was worth the wait. The classical dances of India are well known to all Indians and are now world famous. Less well known are the folk dances. Every State and many regions within the States have their own special dances - for harvests, festivals, weddings and some just for the joy of dancing. This year we would like to take you around the villages of India, the cradles of India's rich and colourful heritage, where traditions, unchanged for centuries, are maintained. There are well known dances, such as the *Bhangra* from Punjab and the *Garba* from Gujarat. There are also the *Bihu* of Assam, *Thapattam* from Tamil Nadu, *Cheraw* from Mizoram and many others. Intrinsic to these dances are brilliantly coloured costumes; amazing varieties of turbans; exquisite local jewelry - where every ornament has a significance; hairstyles varying from one long braid to a sideways top-knot; bells around ankles, wrists, and/or waists; sticks, swords, shields and even stilts are part of the panoply. Given the limitations of twelve months, many graceful and exotic dances could not find place. We have chosen two dances from the North, South, East, West, Centre and North East of our beautiful country.

