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CULTURAL FESTIVALS OF INDIA

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India, also known as the Republic of India, is a country in South Asia. It is the seventh-largest country by area and with more than 1.3 billion people. It is the second-most populous country and the most

populous democracy in the world. There are 29 states and 7 union territories in this country [1].

The history of India includes the prehistoric settlements and societies in the Indian subcontinent; the advancement of civilisation from the Indus Valley Civilisation to the eventual blending of the Indo-Aryan culture to form the Vedic Civilisation; the rise of Hinduism, Jainism, and Buddhism; the onset of a succession of powerful dynasties and empires for more than three millennia throughout various geographic areas of the Indian subcontinent, including the growth of Muslim dominions during the Medieval period intertwined with Hindu powers; the advent of European traders and privateers, resulting in the establishment of British India; and the subsequent independence movement that led to the Partition of India and the creation of the Republic of India [3].

The culture of India refers to the thousands of distinct and unique cultures of all religions and communities present in this country. India's languages, religions, dance, music, architecture, food and customs differ from place to place within the country. Indian culture spans across the Indian subcontinent and has been influenced by a history that is several millennia old. Many elements of India's diverse cultures have a profound impact across the country and all over the world.

One thing that India is the most famous for is celebrating lots of festivals. India is called the land of festival and fairs and it is the only country which celebrates its each day with new festival. Each day here witness the very new event. In India there are more than 36 crore Gods and

Goddess which are worshiped every year without any hindrance. India as a nation gets to celebrate festivals of different types, tastes and colors and that is what makes festivities in this country so special to experience [2].

One of the most colourful festivals celebrated in the world, **Holi**, is representative of India's essence and vibrancy. The beautiful cultural festival celebrated across two days in March is a special festival marked all across the country. The night before the colour playing family and friends gather to burn a bonfire to commemorate the sacrifice of Holika and the next day people come out and play with colours and water in the spirit of joy. Among the famous places to celebrate Holi in India, Mathura, Vrindavan, Dwarka and Kumaon region of Uttarakhand are best [1].

The festival of festivals, **Diwali** is one of the most widely celebrated cultural festivals in India, marked across communities and regions. The festival of light marks the home coming of Lord Ram from his exile to his kingdom. The festival sees households decorated in beautiful electronic lights along with diyas and rangolis. In the evening there is a grand puja of Goddess Lakshmi the harbinger of wealth with crackers burnt after it to mark the end of the festival. Diwali celebrations are best seen in the northern parts of the country such as Up, Rajasthan, Punjab and Delhi [1].

The birthday of Lord Krishna a revered Hindu God is celebrated on the day of **Janmasthanmi**. The Krishna temples all across the country are decorated beautifully and see crowds of thousands turn up to offer their prayers to the god. The twin cities of Mathura and Vrindavan become a

place of great festivities during this time with many famous temples such as Iskon and Bake Bihari decorated beautifully and are full of devotees late into the night. This religious festival is usually marked in the months of August or September [2].

One of the biggest religious festivals in India and the month long fasting prior to that is known as **Eid-al-Fitr (Ramadan)**. It is fervently celebrated by millions of Muslims all across the country. It is a great advantage to have Muslims friends around this time as you get to enjoy the Iftar Parties every evening during Ramadan and gorge upon some delicious sweet dishes on the day of Id. Cities such as Lucknow, Delhi and Hyderabad see joyous celebrations and fanfare during Id. The festival is also symbolic of the brotherhood and cultural uniqueness of India [1].

The biggest day in the life of a Buddhist, **Buddha Purnima** is celebrated across the Buddhist world as the day of birth, enlightenment and death of Gautam Buddha. India, the land of Gautam Buddha's enlightenment and death sees great celebration of his life and teachings by the Buddhist temples and followers in the country. Devout Buddhists gather around at their nearest temples with flowers and candle sticks, offering prayers and singing hymns. Bodh Gaya in Bihar is the best place to witness the enchanting celebrations of Buddha Purnima in India [1].

Perhaps the one of the biggest and widely celebrated as cultural and as religious festivals in the world, **Christmas** is also celebrated with the same zeal and zest in India too. The decorated churches, the Santa Claus and the Christmas Eve gifts are part of the whole experience of celebrating

Christmas by not only Christians but people from other religion too. The best place to experience the beauty of Christmas is in Old Goa, Meghalaya and Cochin where one can visit beautiful churches and witness the excitement on the streets which is usually missing in northern and western parts of the country [3].

Although Christians constitute a meager 3% of the total population in India, the festive spirit of **Easter** is no less. Being multi-ethnic, the country respects and honors every religion and celebrates Easter with the same religious solemnization as any other festival. A springtime festival, the celebrations start with Lent and end with Easter Sunday.

Easter eggs and Easter bunnies form the major attractions during Easter. Hence, these elements are largely sold in stores and people exchange these items with one another as gifts. Chocolate cakes, flowers and colorful lanterns are also presented as gifts to people. Wonderful carnivals throng at the beach state of India, Goa, where various street plays, songs and dances are staged. This rejoicing and jubilation continues for a week or two. Good Friday has been declared as a public holiday by the Indian Government. Since its holiday time, it is common to watch people rush out to the getaway destinations to enjoy the extended weekend. The most popular holiday destinations, undoubtedly, include the exotic beaches of Goa, the striking backwaters of Kerala and marvelous architectural landmarks of Andhra Pradesh [3].

Maha Shivaratri is an annual festival dedicated to the Hindu god Shiva, and is particularly important in the Shaivism tradition of Hinduism.

Unlike most Hindu festivals which are celebrated during the day, the Maha Shivaratri is celebrated at night. Furthermore, unlike most Hindu festivals which include expression of cultural revelry, the Maha Shivaratri is a solemn event notable for its introspective focus, fasting, meditation on Shiva, self-study, social harmony and an all-night vigil at Shiva temples.

The celebration includes maintaining a jaagaran, an all-night vigil and prayers, because Shaiva Hindus mark this night as overcoming darkness and ignorance in one's life and the world through Shiva. Offerings of fruits, leaves, sweets and milk to Shiva are made, some perform all-day fasting with Vedic or tantric worship of Shiva, and some perform meditative yoga in Shiva temples, "Om Namah Shivaya", the sacred mantra of Shiva, is chanted through the day.

Maha Shivaratri is celebrated over three or ten days based on the Hindu luni-solar calendar. Every lunar month, there is a Shivaratri (12 per year). The main festival is called Maha Shivaratri, or great Shivaratri, and this is on 13th night (waning moon) and 14th day of the month Phalgun (Magha). According to the Gregorian calendar, the day falls in either February or March [1].

Onam is an ancient Hindu festival of Kerala that celebrates rice harvest. It falls in the calendar month of Chingam, which in Gregorian calendar overlaps with August-September. According to legends, the festival is celebrated to commemorate King Mahabali whose spirit is said to visit Kerala at the time of Onam.

Onam is a major annual event for Malayali people in and outside Kerala. It is a harvest festival, one of three major annual Hindu celebrations along with Vishu and Thiruvathira, and it is observed with numerous festivities. Onam celebrations include boat races, tiger dances, flower arrangement, worship, women's dance, mask dance, martial arts, music, plantain offerings, costumes, folk songs and dance, and other celebrations.

Onam is the official state festival of Kerala with public holidays that start four days from Onam eve. Major festivities take places in Thiruvananthapuram, capital of Kerala. It is also celebrated by Malayali diaspora around the world. Though a Hindu festival, non-Hindu communities of Kerala participate in Onam celebrations considering it as a cultural festival. However, some non-Hindus in Kerala denounce its celebration as a cultural event because they consider it as a religious festival [4].

Vishu is the New Year Hindu festival celebrated in the Indian state of Kerala, nearby regions and their diaspora communities. The festival follows the solar cycle of the lunisolar as the first day of month called Medam. It therefore always falls in the middle of April in the Gregorian calendar on or about 14 April every year.

Vishu literally means equal, and in the festival context it connotes the completion of spring equinox. The festival is notable for its solemnity and the general lack of pomp. The festival is marked by family time,

preparing colourful auspicious items and viewing these as the first thing on the Vishu day. In particular, Malayali seek to view the golden blossoms of the Indian laburnum (Kani Konna), money or silver items (Vishukkaineetam), and rice. The day also attracts firework, play by children, wearing new clothes (Puthukodi) and the eating a special meal called Sadhya, which is a mix of salty, sweet, sour and bitter items.

The Vishu arrangement typically includes an image of Vishnu, typically as Krishna. People also visit temples like SabarimalaAyyappan Temple or Guruvayur Sree Krishna temple or Kulathupuzha Sree BaalaShastha Temple to have a Vishukkani Kazhcha (viewing) in the early hours of the day [5].

So, India may be truly named as land of festivals, land of cultural diversity; hence every festival is celebrated here with great pomp and show.

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ІСТОРИЧНІ ФРАЗЕОЛОГІЗМИ В УКРАЇНСЬКІЙ МОВІ

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Зрозуміти душу народу, його історичний шлях просторами вічності допомагають характерні для його мови поєднання слів – фразеологізми. Українська мова славиться багатю фразеологією. Це усталені в мові вислови, прислів'я й приказки, різні жартівливі й анекдотичні вирази, крилаті слова тощо. У них відбита глибока мудрість народу, його вікова культура, боротьба проти неправди; виражено ставлення до праці, науки; засуджуються негативні риси людини.

«Виразні семантико-стилістичні якості фразеологізмів – їх образність, картинність, жива внутрішня форма – відсвіжують мовлення, роблять його невимушеним, соковитим, містким, дотепно-влучним» [4, с. 250]. Наприклад: *бігати як курка з яйцем, під лежачий камінь вода не тече, держи язик за зубами* тощо.