

## UNIT - 3

## Festivals - The Colours of Human Life

### ACTIVITY -1 Pre-task

We all love festivals. Festivals break monotony and they add colour to our routine lives. Festivals are occasions to celebrate some natural phenomena, season, historical, social, political, environmental, personal, cultural, traditional or agricultural significance. Various days of importance from local to international levels are celebrated throughout the year.

**(A) Work in pairs. Look at the following images and provide the information asked under each picture i.e. Name of festival/day, day of celebration, type of festival, place/s of celebration and significance. First is given as an example, do the rest of the items.**



**Name of festival** : Independence day

**Day of celebration** : 15<sup>th</sup> August

**Type of festival** : National festival

**Place/s of celebration** : All over India

**Significance** : India got freedom on 15<sup>th</sup> August 1947.



Name of festival/day : \_\_\_\_\_

Day of celebration : \_\_\_\_\_

Type of festival : \_\_\_\_\_

Place/s of celebration : \_\_\_\_\_

Significance : \_\_\_\_\_



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Day of celebration : \_\_\_\_\_

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Name of festival/day : \_\_\_\_\_

Name of festival/day : \_\_\_\_\_

Day of celebration : \_\_\_\_\_

Day of celebration : \_\_\_\_\_

Type of festival : \_\_\_\_\_

Type of festival : \_\_\_\_\_

Place/s of celebration : \_\_\_\_\_

Place/s of celebration : \_\_\_\_\_

Significance : \_\_\_\_\_

Significance : \_\_\_\_\_

**(B) Work in groups and find out suitable expressions of greetings based on the occasion. Respond in the blanks given in the following table. An example is given for you.**

Occasion	Related Expressions
Birthday celebration	Many many happy returns of the day / Happy Birthday
Wedding celebration/ Marriage anniversary	
Good result in Exam	
Promotion in job	
A relative is sick	
Mother's day	

## ACTIVITY - 2

(A) The present generation, especially the young make more use of cell phones and computers. Therefore writing letters to friends and relatives is gradually forgotten. Here, two pen –friends, Bharat and Jamshed exchange letters describing how they celebrated their New Year Day. Read and enjoy the following personal letters.

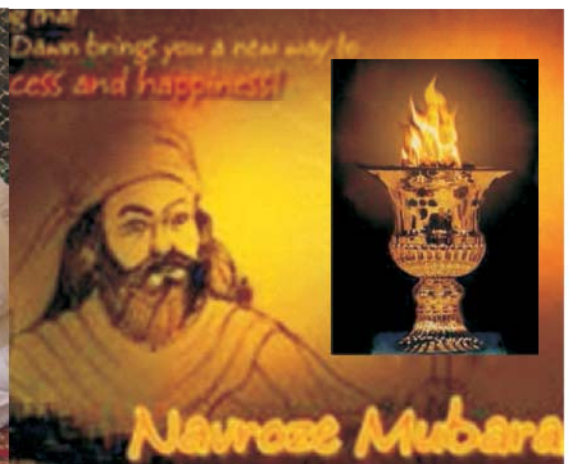
### FESTIVALS - HAPPY TIME TOGETHER

2.1. 16, Parsi Colony,  
Alkapuri Road,  
Baroda.

2.2. 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2007

2.3. Dear Bharat,

2.4. I have not heard from you for a long time. I hope you are fine. Two months back you had asked me how we celebrated our New Year. But I was busy with my first test and also with Navroze or Pateti, our Parsi New Year celebration. We Parsis are a small community. We came from Iran and settled in Gujarat. We worship Fire and our temple is called “Agiyari”, i.e. “Fire Temple”. We offer sandalwood sticks to the sacred fire and recite prayers. Men and children cover their heads with small caps and women cover their heads with saris. We all greet and wish ‘Sal Mubarak’ to each other.





2.5. On Pateti, everyone wakes up early, gets ready and wears new clothes. We decorate our houses and steps at the entrance with chalk and coloured powder in different shapes just like rangoli and with flowers and garlands. On this day, special dishes are prepared. Parsi food is very delicious. We prepare 'rava' from sooji, milk and sugar and decorate a variety of dishes with fried almonds and raisins. We visit each other's houses and give gifts and food to poor Parsi families. From an early age, we children learn the importance of sharing with others. Men and women mix freely with each other.

2.6. I am interested to know how you celebrate your festivals in Assam. I hope you will reply soon.

2.7. With love,

2.8. Jamshed

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**Key Words**

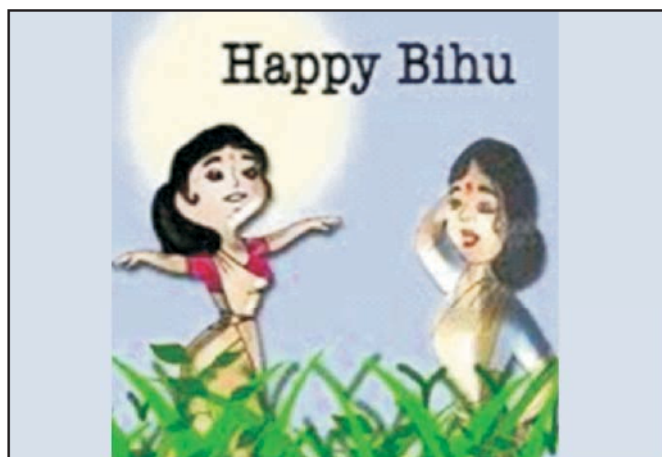
pen friend – person with whom  
one builds a friendship by  
exchanging letters  
sacred – holy

2.1 16, Biswas society,  
Guwahati,  
Assam.

2.2. 10<sup>th</sup> December 2007

2.3. Dear Jamshed,

2.4. Thank you for your letter. I was also busy with my school tests. I was very happy to read about your Navroze celebration.



2.5. You know Assam is a small state in the east of India. Our biggest festival is 'Bihu'. There are three Bihus -Bohag Bihu, Magh Bihu and

Kati Bihu connected with spring, winter and autumn seasons respectively. But Bohag Bihu is our major festival.

It is spring, New Year and agricultural festival- all in one. Assam becomes rich and lush in spring. Trees and flowers bloom and their fragrance and birds' songs fill the air. People also sing, dance, play games and enjoy themselves. That is why the "Bohag Bihu" is also called "Rangoli Bihu" (i.e. Bihu of merriment). Bohag is the first month of the Assamese calendar and the advent of God. We seek blessings from the elders. We also give gifts to each other.

People play games like 'Kanijuj' (egg fighting), 'dhop' (ball game) and 'hau' (a form of kabaddi). Bihu songs and dances are as special as Bihu food specialities like 'chira' (flattened rice), 'pitha' (rice cakes) and 'laru' (sweet balls). We worship 'tulsi' on this day.

- 2.6. We also enjoy this special festival as you enjoy Navroze. Do come to Guwahati next year and celebrate 'Bihu' with us. Please give my pranam to your parents.
- 2.7. Your loving friend,
- 2.8. Bharat

**Key Words**

lush – thick and strong  
bloom – flowering  
advent – arrival

**(B) Answer the following questions.**

1. Where did the Parsis come from?
2. Whom do the Parsis worship? Name the temple.
3. What do men wear while offering prayers?
4. What are the special dishes prepared on Parsi New Year?
5. What do the Parsi children learn from an early age?
6. Where is Assam situated?
7. Name the biggest festival in Assam. Mention the season with which it is connected.
8. Why is "Bohag Bihu" called "Rangoli Bihu"?

9. Which are the games played especially on Bihu? Name the Bihu food specialties prepared on New Year day.
10. Find out similarities and differences between "Pateti" and "Bihu" festivals.

### ACTIVITY - 3

#### TWO FACTS - ONE FICTION

**The teacher divides the students in groups of four in each. For dividing the class, the teacher can use roll no (1 to 4 and succeeding numbers in each four) or use chits or randomly distribute them in groups. Follow the sequence of the activity given below:**

- Step 1: All group members think of two things about themselves that are true (facts) and one that is not (the fiction). Here as per the subject matter of the lesson, task can be carried out. e.g. students think of their own festival, religion, community and prepare facts and fictions.
- Step 2: One at a time, each student tells group mates the three self-descriptive statements without saying which is fiction and which are facts. e.g. 'I come from Kerala. I fly kites on Uttarayan. We prepare many dishes on this day'.
- Step 3: Group mates ask questions to try to figure out which statement is fiction. e.g. 'Where is Kerala situated? Which is their major festival? Do they fly kites?'
- Step 4: Group mates work together to guess which statement is fictitious and give reasons for their guesses.
- Step 5: Group mates share with the class something interesting they learned about each of their group members.

### ACTIVITY - 4

**In the main text, words like 'a variety of dishes' are given. Please note that a singular word is used to describe a number of persons or things taken together. Such words are called collective nouns. In the bracket given below, a list of collective nouns is mixed up. Work in groups or pairs and identify**



them for its suitable category and fill in the blanks in the following categories with appropriate words from the bracket. You can take the help of your teacher or use a dictionary or a thesaurus. One example is given for you.

[range, bunch, bouquet, pack, album, fleet, stack, kennel, team, swarm, litter, herd, haul, flock, tribe, flock, regiment, gang, band, crew, choir]

Words related to People	Words used for Animals	Words used for Things
A <u>class</u> of students.	A <u>catch</u> of fish.	A <u>galaxy</u> of stars.
A _____ of singers.	A _____ of birds/ sheep.	A _____ of wood.
A _____ of sailors.	A _____ of fish.	A _____ of ships.
A _____ of musicians.	A _____ of deer/ cattle/ elephants/ goats/ buffaloes.	An/A _____ of stamps/ autographs/ photograph
A _____ of thieves.	A _____ of puppies/kittens/cubs.	A _____ of cards.
A _____ of soldiers.	A _____ of bees/ants/rats/flyes.	A _____ of flowers.
A _____ of tourists.	A _____ of horses/ducks/oxen.	A _____ of keys.
A _____ of natives.	A _____ of dogs.	A _____ of mountains.

### ACTIVITY - 5

- (A) Work individually and write a paragraph using simple past tense in about 50 to 100 words about how you had celebrated “Uttarayan”. After writing it, share your views in the class.
- (B) Work in groups and fill in the blanks in the following paragraph with appropriate forms of verb in the past tense. Make necessary changes in the paragraph to convert it in narrating past events.

Festivals indeed not only \_\_\_\_\_ (*add*) colour to our routine life but they also \_\_\_\_\_ (*rejuvenate*) our lives with new zest, energy and love for life. Festivals are a means of preservation and transmission of our rich cultural heritage from generation to generation and \_\_\_\_\_ (*inculcate*) values and morals in lives. Festivals are of various kinds such as religious, national, cultural, historical, social traditions, customs and based on some beliefs and



legends. Festivals are usually \_\_\_\_\_ (*take*) as a time for enjoyment but there are some festivals which are \_\_\_\_\_ (*celebrate*) to pay tribute and homage to the sacrifice of great martyrs or some religious significance e.g. Good Friday, Mohrumm etc... India \_\_\_\_\_ (*to have*) great diversity, being multilingual and multi-religious nation. Different festivals \_\_\_\_\_ (*to be*) celebrated in different regions and parts of the country and each has its own importance.

**(C) Closely study the sample of letters given above in activity: 2. Each paragraph or section of letters is assigned numbers. Work in groups and match the following column A with column B.**

Column A	Column B
1. The Heading	(a) 2.4 & 2.5
2. The Greeting/salutation	(b) 2.6 & 2.7
3. The body or main text	(c) Not given
4. Conclusion	(d) 2.1 & 2.2
5. The signature line	(e) 2.3
6. Post script (PS)	(f) 2.8

## ACTIVITY - 6

**(A) Here is the information provided for the ingredients and the method of preparing Parsi sweet dish 'Rava'. Read it carefully and work in pairs or groups to complete the following dialogue with the help of words given in the box.**

preparation, fine, are, aroma, absorbed, ivory, thick, burn, sprinkle

### Ingredients

- 7 litre fresh creamy Milk
- 1 kg. Rava/ Semolina
- 1.7 kg Sugar
- 1.5 kg Ghee
- 1½ tbsp. Cardamom Powder
- 1½ tbsp. Nutmeg Powder
- 2 tsp. Vanilla Essence
- 25 g. Pistachios
- 100 g. Almonds
- 150 g. Charoli
- 300 g. seedless Raisins
- 1½ litre Water
- 1 Pink Rose
- 4 tbsp. Ghee

Sheela : Hi dear, how \_\_\_\_ you?

Mina : I'm \_\_\_\_\_. Thank you. How are you?

Sheela : I'm also fine. In our last meet, you had asked me about Parsi sweet dish recipe "Rava". Please make note of the procedure of \_\_\_\_\_. First of all, boil pistachios and almonds separately. Now, remove their skin and slice them finely. Place a large flat bottomed vessel on slow flame and combine ghee and rava in it.

Mina : Wait a minute. \_\_\_\_\_ we make use of any edible oil instead of ghee?

Sheela : No, as you get its wonderful \_\_\_\_\_ through the use of ghee only. Now, cook the rava till it has \_\_\_\_\_ all the ghee, stirring continuously. Cook till the rava has attained a \_\_\_\_\_ colour. Add water and sugar. Stir continuously till the sugar is dissolved and the mixture turns \_\_\_\_\_. Pour milk, while stirring constantly, and cook till the mixture absorbs the entire milk. Increase the flame to high and cook for another 15 to 20 minutes till you get a thick liquid solution. Add nutmeg and cardamom powder. Mix well, ensuring that the rava does not \_\_\_\_\_ or form granules. When the preparation turns thick and sticky, remove the vessel from the fire. Stir in vanilla essence and pour the liquid into glass dishes or silver salvers. Place a small frying pan on fire and heat 4 tbsp ghee. Add charoli, pistachios and almonds. Fry them lightly. Add the raisins and toss them. When the raisins start puffing up, remove the frying pan



from the fire. \_\_\_\_\_ the fried nuts on the rava along with pink rose petals. Now the dish is ready to eat.

Mina : Thank you very much for providing such a new recipe. I'll try it out today. Bye.

Sheela : Bye. Take care.

### ACTIVITY - 7

**Read the following poem and enjoy its simplicity.**

#### CHRISTMAS COMES



Christmas comes with children singing,  
Christmas comes with sleigh bells ringing,  
Christmas comes with frosty nights,  
Christmas comes with snowball fights.

Christmas comes with Santa Claus,  
Christmas comes with snowy floors,  
Christmas comes with robins and reindeer,  
Christmas comes with a hearty cheer.

Christmas comes with gold, frankincense and myrrh,  
Christmas comes with Jesus' birth,  
Christmas comes with angels from afar,  
Christmas comes with a wondrous star.

Christmas comes now, at last,  
 Christmas comes, like in the past,  
 Christmas comes after such a long wait,  
 Christmas comes and it will be great.

- Amy Darnbrook

### Key Words

sleigh – a light vehicle, horse-drawn, used esp. over snow or ice  
 frosty – covered with frost or ice  
 frankincense – has a sweet, warm, balsamic aroma  
 myrrh – an aromatic gum resin  
 wondrous – wonderful or marvelous

### ACTIVITY - 8

In the poem, there are certain words which rhyme with others. Find out the rhyming words from the poem.

E.g.	last	-	past	Afar	-	
		-	ringing		-	past
	Nights	-		Wait	-	
		-	Cheer		-	

### ACTIVITY - 9

(A) Work in pairs. Write an email to your friend informing about which national or international day/s you celebrate in your school. Also inform him/her which day of national or international significance you like the most and why. Having written in your note book, share your email with your partner. The pair mate then suggests corrections or modifications if required. You can take help of the following hints.

### Clues :

14<sup>th</sup> January - International Kite Flying Day

8<sup>th</sup> March - International Women's Day, etc.



## ACTIVITY -10

- (A) Prepare a calendar with a list of festivals and days celebrated throughout the entire year at state, national and international levels taking into account each day of the twelve months of the year. Write few sentences about each day celebrated, its significance, why is it celebrated etc. e.g. Ugadi, Vasant Panchami, Baishakhi, Lohri, Dussehra, Onam, Pongal, Sakranti
- (B) Do a project work in groups on gathering information about Parsis- their social lives, beliefs, life style, birth, death and marriage ceremonies, reasons of getting late marriages, problem of community, achievements and contribution of Parsis. Make them share the findings in their reports with other classmates.

### Helpline

**ACTIVITY - 1 (A):** Make students work in groups to enlist such festivals or days celebrated all over the world with significance from the point of view of social, cultural, religious, political, economical, historical, seasons, agricultural or great individual's lives etc.

Make learners work in pair or groups to find out similarities and differences by comparing any two days of celebration.

We can add points like specialities of the day, special food items prepared, scientific reasons and beliefs behind some rituals or traditions like taking special food items etc. for the extended activity. The teacher can provide scaffolding first as an example. Make students work in pairs or groups and let them share their experiences of the activity.

**Activity - 1 (B) :** Extend this activity by making students work in pairs and do role play or prepare dialogue with four turns with two characters. Afterwards they can enact dialogue in the classroom.

**Activity - 2 (B) :** Make students - work in small groups of four or five and collect more information on when and how Parsis came to India. Read history and find facts and stories related to the reasons of their arrival in India, problems they faced in getting settled, customs, traditions, rituals and beliefs they have, their contribution in Indian economy and social lives. Make them write a report on their group work and share in the

classroom. Make the leader of group. For more information please visit-

<http://www.happywink.org/newyearfestival/assamese-new-year.html>

<http://www.happywink.org/newyearfestival/parsi-new-year.html>

**Activity - 3 :** The above task is meant for development of Aural –oral skills. It is basically meant for knowing one another, not only about their festivals but their culture, beliefs, life style, etc. We can extend this activity by asking students to do group work about their likes, dislikes, study, personal life, family etc. and make them share in the classroom.

**Activity - 4 :** Make students work in pairs or groups. Don't provide answers directly. Encourage them to make use of dictionary. We can make use of web resources or visit Oxford online dictionary and thesaurus to extend this activity more.

**Activity - 5 (A) :** Provide students interesting topics like ,”My Favourite festival”, “The festival of light-Dipawali” etc. Provide students points to help them write paragraph.

**Activity - 6 (A) :** We can give other activities based on the above content. e.g. how to prepare laru, chira etc. of Assamese dishes or how to play Assamese games as traditionally played on Bihu. For more information on new year of Parsis and Assamese, please visit

<http://festivals.iloveindia.com/jamshed-e-navroz/recipes/ravo.html>

<http://www.discoveredindia.com/festival-tourism-in-india/assam-bihu.htm>

**Activity - 9 (A) :** As today many people make use of computer technology and often get confused with the use of English, as the kind of variety used in computer software is American English. We have developed our own variety called Indian English which is based on/and influenced from traditional model of British English. Hence it is very essential to make students aware of these facts very early. Another fact is that we use informal English in day-to-day spoken conversation whereas for the study purposes we make use of Academic English. The teacher should provide such extended activities with scaffolding (examples of tasks) to differentiate various kinds of English. You can find more information from

<https://teflastic.wordpress.com/worksheets/writing/email/formality/formal-informal-links/>

<http://www.parapal-online.co.uk/resources/letters.html>

<https://teflastic.wordpress.com/worksheets/writing/email/formality/informal-email-errors/>

<http://www.usingenglish.com/files/pdf/email-formality.pdf>

The teacher can help out students by allowing them to bring cell phones as mobile can also be medium of learning language. e.g. MALL]



### Going beyond the text

Use the internet or your school library resources in order to collect more information and images, videos on various local, regional, national and international festivals. You can visit for more information on festivals of India – <http://www.festivalsofindia.co.in/>

And more images on festivals of Gujarat, and other states of India from -  
<https://www.google.co.in/search?q=images+of+festivals+of+india...>

And you can watch videos related to celebration of festivals from  
<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/India-Festival-2013>

You can use web resources on Letter Writing such as :

[http://www.readwritethink.org/materials/letter\\_generator/](http://www.readwritethink.org/materials/letter_generator/)

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/revisewise/english/writing/13\\_act.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/revisewise/english/writing/13_act.shtml)