

LESSON – 3

OUR NATIONAL CELEBRATIONS AND FESTIVALS

UNIT – I

A1 Pre-reading

ACTIVITY-1 :

Discuss the following questions with a friend.

1. Do you observe national celebrations ?
2. Do you enjoy festivals? Why ?
3. Which is your favourite festival ?
4. What do you do that day ?

Let's now read a lesson on some important festivals of our country.

B1. Let's read.

We are proud of our national celebrations. We enjoy those days and celebrate the events. We also observe several festivals.

A festival is a time for fun, joy and celebration¹.

India is a land of festivals. Some festivals are common to the whole country while others are celebrated only in some parts of the country.

1. enjoying a day as an important day by doing something special

NATIONAL CELEBRATIONS AND FESTIVALS

National celebrations are observed throughout the country. The important celebrations of our country are : Independence Day, Republic Day and Gandhi Jayanti.

The Independence Day:

Every year on the 15th of August we celebrate our Independence Day. India won her independence from the British rule this day in the year 1947.

A function is held at Red Fort in Delhi this day, every year. The Prime Minister of India hoists¹ the National Flag and delivers² a speech to the nation. All over the country, the National Flag is hoisted. We remember the freedom fighters of the country, this day.

1. to raise or pull something upto a higher position.

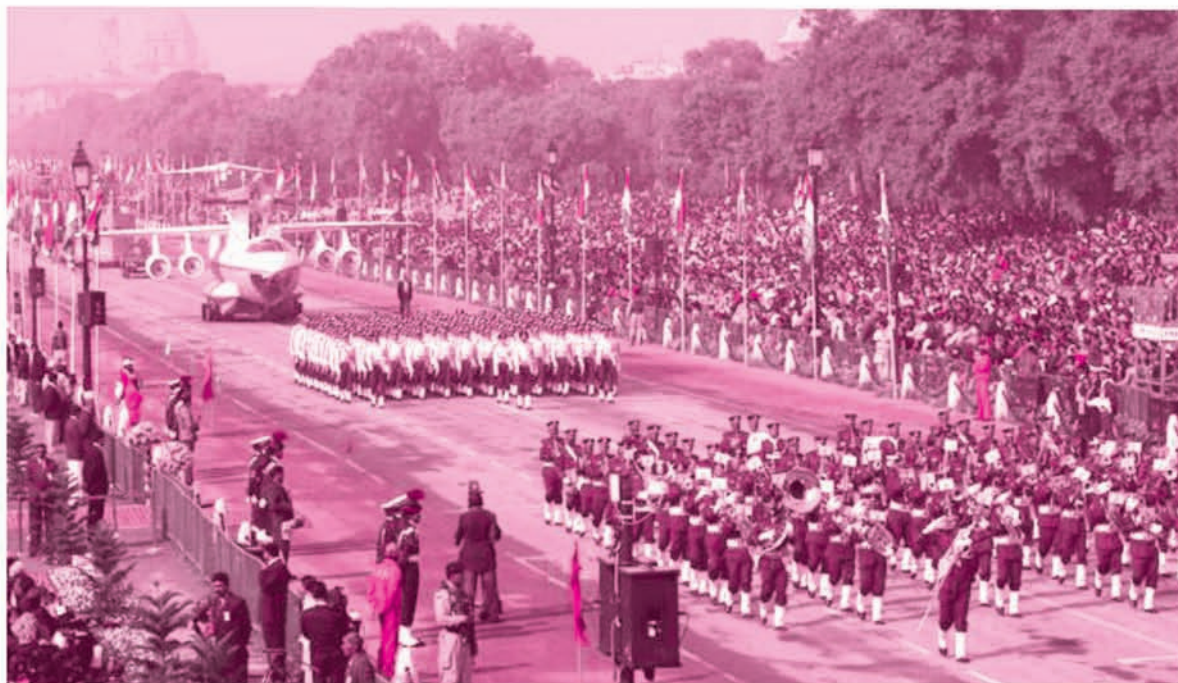
2. to give speech talk etc.



The Republic Day.

On the 26th of January every year we celebrate the Republic Day. It is on this day in the year 1950 that India became a *Republic*³. The President of India hoists the National Flag. A grand parade is held at Vijay Chowk in New Delhi. The *three armed forces*⁴, the Delhi police, NCC cadets, *folk dancers*⁵ and school children take part in it. Children in colourful dresses make the parade lively. Parades take place in state capitals, too. The National Flag is hoisted all over the country.

3. a country having an elected head, and not a king or a queen.
4. Army, Navy & Air Force
5. traditional dancers of particular area.



The Gandhi Jayanti :

The Gandhi Jayanti is celebrated on the 2nd of October every year. This is the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, who is lovingly called the “Father of the Nation”. He was the leader who made India free from the British rule. A function is held at Gandhiji’s Samadhi at Raj Ghat in New Delhi. On this day we pay our respect to the great leader and promise to follow his teachings on truth and non-violence⁶.

6. using peaceful methods, not force, to bring about a change.





C1. Let's understand

ACTIVITY-2

- a) Why do we observe national celebrations ?

Ans :

.....

- b) Where is the Red Fort ?

Ans :

.....

c) When did India become a free country ?

Ans :
.....

d) When do we celebrate the Republic Day ?

Ans :
.....

e) Who take part in the Republic Day Parade in New Delhi ?

Ans :
.....

f) Who hoists the National Flag in New Delhi on the Republic Day ?

Ans :
.....

g) Who is called the Father of the Nation ?

Ans :
.....

h) When do we celebrate the Gandhi Jayanti ?

Ans :
.....

i) Why is Rajghat famous ?

Ans :
.....

j) Why do we remember Mahatma Gandhi ?

Ans :
.....

ACTIVITY-3

Fill in each blank, choosing the right answer from the alternatives.

- a) India became a Republic on _____.
- i) 15 August 1947 ii) 26 January 1950
- b) Mahatma Gandhi was born on _____.
- i) 2 November 1869 ii) 2 October 1869
- c) _____ is a National festival.
- i) The Republic Day ii) The Saraswati Puja

ACTIVITY - 4

Say True or False.

- The President is the elected head of our country.
- The Prime Minister takes the salute on the Republic Day.
- Truth and non-violence made Gandhi a Mahatma.
- India is ruled over by a king.

UNIT - II

A2- Pre-reading

ACTIVITY-5.

You have already read about the three important national celebrations of India.

Do you remember them? They are :

- a)
- b)
- c)

Can you say when each of them is celebrated ?

You know that India is a country of many religions and cultures.

The text below tells us about some festivals which are celebrated by different religious groups. Read the text silently.

RELIGIOUS FESTIVALS

Diwali

Diwali is called 'The festival of lights'. It is celebrated by the Hindus. They believe that on this day Lord Rama returned to Ayodhya after living in the jungles for 14 years. On this day people decorate their houses with candles and lights in the evening. Children light crackers and fireworks. They wear new clothes and eat lots of sweets. On Diwali people worship Goddess Laxmi and pray for wealth and prosperity for the whole year.



Id-UI-Fitre

Id-UI-Fitre is celebrated by the Muslims. A monthlong period of fasting ends on this day. On this day the Muslims wear new clothes and visit the mosque to offer prayers.

6. put arms around something as a sign of love or friendship



They embrace⁶ and greet one another with Id-Mubarak. Food, money and clothes are given to the poor on this day.

Christmas

Christmas is a festival of the Christians. It is celebrated on the 25th of December every year. Jesus Christ was born on this day. On the occasion of Christ's birth, Christmas trees are decorated in churches, and Christmas cakes are offered. Children love to receive gifts from Father Christmas or Santa Claus.



Guruparva

Guruparvas are festivals celebrated by the Sikhs. On these days, Sikhs celebrate the birthdays of their Gurus. Grand processions are taken out in towns and cities. The Sikhs go to Gurudwaras to offer prayers. Free meals are distributed to the poor these days.



C2. Let's understand

ACTIVITY-6

1. Diwali is the festival of (Fill in the blank choosing the right answer)
(a) colours (b) flowers (c) lights (d) fruits

Ans:.....

2. How do the people decorate their houses ?

Ans:.....

.....

3. What do children like to do on Diwali ?

Ans:.....

.....

4. What do the Hindus pray for on this day ?

Ans:.....
.....

5. Who celebrate Id-ul-Fitre ?

Ans:.....
.....

6. Why do they go to the mosques on this day ?

Ans:.....
.....

7. Who celebrate Christmas ?

Ans:.....
.....

8. When is Christmas observed ?

Ans:.....
.....

9. Why do children wait for Santa Claus ?

Ans:.....
.....

10. Who celebrate Guruparvas ?

Ans:.....
.....

11. Where do the Sikhs go to offer prayers ?

Ans:.....
.....

Activity – 7

Match the words in **Column A** with the words in **Column B**. One has been done for you.

A

Santa Claus

Ram Jan

Red Fort

Raj Ghat

Republic Day

B

Independence Day

Christmas

Id

The President of India

Gandhi Jayati

ACTIVITY – 8

Put a tick mark (✓) against the right ones.

- a) Lord Rama returned to Ayodhya on Diwali.
- b) The Hindus pray to Saraswati on Diwali.
- c) The Muslims go to the mosque to offer prayers.
- d) Jesus Christ was born on the 1st of January.
- e) Grand processions are taken out on Guruparvas.

D. let's look at the words.



ACTIVITY-9

Match each word or phrase in **Column A** with its meaning given in **Column B** -

A

celebrate

hoist

Republic

Parade

take place

greet

B

a country governed by an elected president.

to enjoy a day as a special day

to lift something to a higher position using ropes.

marching in lines;

to welcome

to happen

Activity-10

Fill in the blanks, using the words given in brackets.

(fasting, celebrate, festivals, hoists, decorate)

- India is a land of _____.
- On the 15th of August we _____ our Independence Day.
- The President of India _____ the National Flag on the Republic Day.
- The Hindus _____ their houses with candles and lights on Diwali.
- _____ makes us healthy.

Activity – 11

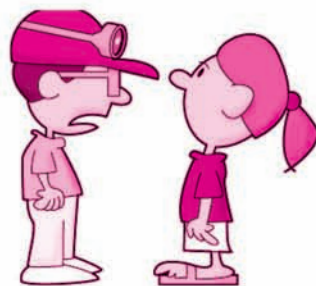
Look at the example (a). Make words and write the words in the space given.

- colour + full = colourful
- hand + full = _____
- house + full = _____

E. Let's talk

ACTIVITY-12

- Father : Papun, where are you going now ?
Pupun : I am going to school.
Father : Why so early ?
Pupun : Today is the Independence Day. Don't you remember, Father?
Father : Oh, Yes. What are you going to do at the school ?
Pupun : I will attend the ceremony.
Father : When will you come back ?
Pupun : After the parade and the functions are over..
Father : You must come back immediately after the parade.
Pupun : Oh, sure, I'll come back after the parade.
Father : Ok, go then.
Pupun : Thank you, father.



F. Let's learn language

ACTIVITY-13:

Look at the example and change the sentences accordingly.

Example :

(i) The National Flag is hoisted all over the country.

Ans. We hoist the National Flag all over the country.

a) i) A function is held at Red Fort on the Independence Day.

ii) We

b) i) The 2nd of October is celebrated as the Gandhi Jayanti.

ii) We

c) i) Diwali is called the festival of lights.

ii) We

d) i) Holi is called the festival of colours.

ii)

e) i) Id-ul-Fitre is celebrated by the Muslims.

ii)

f) i) Guruparvas are celebrated by the Sikhs.

ii)

ACTIVITY-14

Look at the example and fill in the blanks with the right words.

Example:

see

saw

seen

a) hoist

b) take

c) hold

d) greet

e) bake

ACTIVITY-15

Fill in the blanks, using the words given in brackets.

(in, throughout, for, on, with, at)

- a) A festival is a time _____ fun and joy.
- b) National festivals are celebrated _____ the country.
- c) India won her independence _____ the 15th of August.
- d) A grand parade is held _____ Vijay Chowk _____ New Delhi.
- e) The Hindus decorate their houses _____ candles and lights on Diwali.

ACTIVITY-16

Use the appropriate form of the word given in brackets. Look at the example and answer accordingly.

Example : The boy did the work himself. (he)

- a) The mother cooked the food _____. (she)
- b) The children cleaned the floor _____. (they)
- c) We visited the place _____ (we).

G. Let's write

Activity – 17

- a) Which festivals are celebrated as national festivals ?

.....

- b) Why do we remember Mahatma Gandhi ?

.....

- c) How do children enjoy the festival of lights ?

.....



d) How do you observe the Independence Day in your school ?

.....

e) Who takes salute at New Delhi on the Republic Day?

.....

ACTIVITY – 18

Write a paragraph on 'How you celebrate the Republic Day' in your school. You may use the 2nd and 3rd paragraphs on page 22 as support.

Ans.

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