

## CULTURAL FESTIVALS

A **festival** is an event ordinarily celebrated by a [community](#) and centering on some characteristic aspect of that community and its [religion](#) or [traditions](#), often marked as a local or national [holiday](#), [mela](#) or [eid](#). Next to religion and [folklore](#), a significant origin is [agricultural](#). Food is such a vital resource that many festivals are associated with [harvest](#) time. Religious commemoration and thanksgiving for good harvests are blended in events that take place in [autumn](#), such as [Halloween](#) in the northern hemisphere and [Easter](#) in the southern.

Festivals often serve to fulfill specific communal purposes, especially in regard to commemoration or thanksgiving. The celebrations offer a sense of belonging for religious, social, or geographical groups, contributing to [group cohesiveness](#). They may also provide [entertainment](#), which was particularly important to local communities before the advent of mass-produced entertainment. Festivals that focus on cultural or ethnic topics also seek to inform community members of their traditions; the involvement of [elders](#) sharing stories and experience provides a means for unity among [families](#).

In [Ancient Greece](#) and [Rome](#), festivals such as the [Saturnalia](#) were closely associated with social organisation and political processes as well as religion.<sup>[1][2][3]</sup> In modern times, festivals may be attended by strangers such as tourists, who are attracted to some of the more eccentric or historical ones.<sup>[4]</sup>



A Festival at [Antwerp](#), 17th century



### Country Festival in [Swabia](#)

The word "festival" was originally used as an adjective from the late fourteenth century, deriving from [Latin](#) via [Old French](#).<sup>[5]</sup> In [Middle English](#), a "festival dai" was a religious holiday.<sup>[6]</sup> Its first recorded use as a noun was in 1589 (as "Festifall").<sup>[5]</sup> Feast first came into usage as a noun circa 1200,<sup>[7]</sup> and its first recorded use as a verb was circa 1300.<sup>[8]</sup> The term "feast" is also used in common [secular parlance](#) as a synonym for any large or elaborate [meal](#). When used as in the meaning of a festival, most often refers to a [religious festival](#) rather than a film or art festival. In the [Philippines](#) and many other former Spanish colonies, the Spanish word **fiesta** is used to denote a communal religious feast to honor a [patron saint](#).

### Traditions [\[edit\]](#)

Many festivals have religious origins and entwine cultural and religious significance in traditional activities. The most important religious festivals such as [Christmas](#), [Hanukkah](#), [Diwali](#) and [Eid al-Adha](#) serve to mark out the year. Others, such as [harvest festivals](#), celebrate seasonal change. Events of historical significance, such as important military victories or other nation-building events also provide the impetus for a festival. An early example is the festival established by [Ancient Egyptian](#) Pharaoh [Rameses III](#) celebrating his victory over the Libyans.<sup>[9]</sup> In many countries, royal holidays commemorate dynastic events just as agricultural holidays are about harvests. Festivals are often commemorated annually.

There are numerous [types of festivals](#) in the world and most countries celebrate important events or traditions with traditional cultural events and activities. Most culminate in the consumption of specially prepared food (showing the connection to "feasting") and they bring people together. Festivals are also strongly associated with national holidays. Lists of national festivals are published to make participation easier.<sup>[10]</sup>

### Types of festivals [\[edit\]](#)

## Religious festivals[[edit](#)]

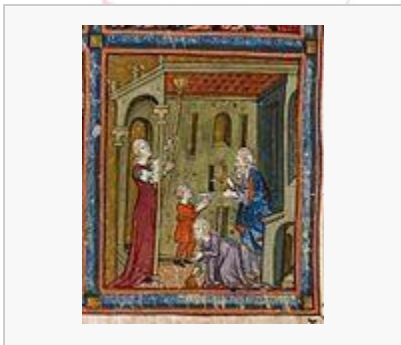
Main article: [Religious festival](#)

Among many [religions](#), a **feast** is a set of celebrations in honour of [God](#) or [gods](#).<sup>[11]</sup> A feast and a festival are historically interchangeable. Most religions have festivals that recur annually and some, such as [Passover](#), Easter and Eid al-Adha are [moveable feasts](#) - that is, those that are determined either by lunar or agricultural cycles or the calendar in use at the time. The [Sed festival](#), for example, celebrated the thirtieth year of an Egyptian [pharaoh](#)'s rule and then every three (or four in one case) years after that.<sup>[12]</sup>

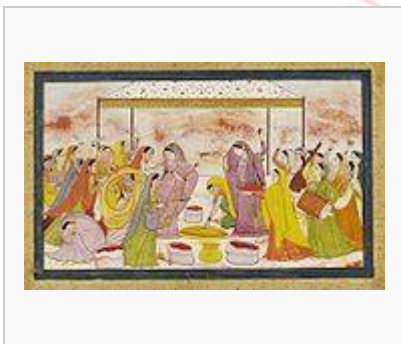
In the [Christian liturgical calendar](#) there are two principal feasts, properly known as the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord (Christmas) and the Feast of the Resurrection, (Easter). In the [Catholic](#), [Eastern Orthodox](#), and [Anglican](#) liturgical calendars there are a great number of lesser feasts throughout the year commemorating saints, sacred events or doctrines.

[Buddhist](#) religious festivals, such as [EsalaPerahera](#) are held in Sri Lanka and Thailand.<sup>[13]</sup> [Hindu festivals](#), such as [Holi](#) are very ancient. The [Sikh](#) community celebrates the [Vaisakhi](#) festival marking the new year and birth of the [Khalsa](#).<sup>[14]</sup>

### Religious festivals

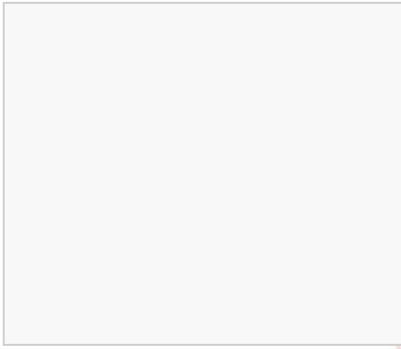


Cleaning in preparation for [Passover](#) (c.1320)



Radha celebrating [Holi](#),

Kangra, India (c1788)



A [Christmas](#) mass at the [Church of the Nativity](#), in [Bethlehem](#), Palestine (1979)



Moors and Christian festival in [Villena](#), Spain.

**Arts festivals** [\[edit\]](#)

*Main article:* [Arts festival](#)

Among the many offspring of general arts festivals are also more specific types of festivals, including ones that showcase intellectual or creative achievement such as [science festivals](#), [literary festivals](#) and [music festivals](#).<sup>[15]</sup> Sub-categories include [comedy festivals](#), [rock festivals](#), [jazz festivals](#) and [buskers festivals](#); [poetry festivals](#),<sup>[16]</sup> [theatre festivals](#), and [storytelling festivals](#); and re-enactment festivals such as [Renaissance fairs](#).

[Film festivals](#) involve the screenings of several different films, and are usually held annually. Some of the most significant film festivals include the [Berlin International Film Festival](#), the [Venice Film Festival](#) and the [Cannes Film Festival](#).

**Arts festivals**



[Pushkin](#) Poetry Festival,  
Russia



Television studio at the Hôtel  
Martinez during the [Cannes  
Film Festival](#), France (2006)



The opening ceremony at  
the [Woodstock rock festival](#),  
USA (1969)

### **Food and drink festivals**[\[edit\]](#)

*Main article:* [Food festival](#)

A food festival is an event celebrating food or drink. These often highlight the output of producers from a certain region. Some food festivals are focused on a particular item of food, such as the [National Peanut Festival](#) in the United States, or the [Galway International Oyster Festival](#) in Ireland. There are also specific beverage festivals, such as the

famous [Oktoberfest](#) in Germany for [beer](#). Many countries hold festivals to celebrate [wine](#). One example is the global celebration of the arrival of [Beaujolais nouveau](#), which involves shipping the new wine around the world for its release date on the third Thursday of November each year.<sup>[17][18]</sup> Both Beaujolais nouveau and the Japanese rice wine [sake](#) are associated with harvest time.

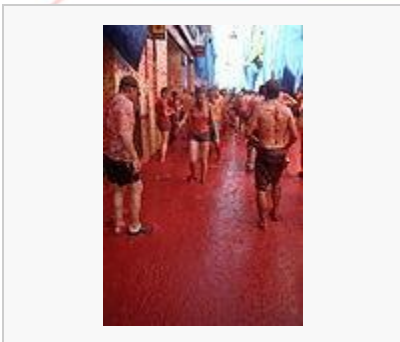
### Food and drink festivals



[Soweto Wine Festival](#), South Africa (2009)



[Holi](#) Nepal (2011)



[La Tomatina](#), Spain (2010)



Beer horse cart from the Hofbräuhaus brewery at [Oktoberfest](#) Germany (2013)

Seasonal and harvest festivals [\[edit\]](#)

### **Indian festivals and their artistic significance**

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#### **Etymological derivation of the word Festival**

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Following are the important festivals celebrated in different parts in different times:-

1. MakarSankranti : This a major harvest festival celebrated when the glorious Sun God begins ascendancy into the Northern Hemisphere. i.e. in mid-January when the sun moves into the Tropic of Capricorn (known as Makar in Hindi). It is probably one of the few Hindu festivals that is always celebrated on the same date, January 14, each year. It is celebrated across the country in myriad cultural forms with great devotion, fervour and gaiety.

Apart from being a harvest time festival, it also ushers in an auspicious period — in fact it is the end of a month in which any auspicious functions are not held.

To mark the sun's journey into the Northern Hemisphere, people in the state of Tamil Nadu in south India celebrate "Pongal" at this very time of MakarSankranti. Pongal is a four day long harvest festival of thanksgiving to nature.

Significance : The festival of MakarSankranti is associated with much cultural significance.

The Puranas say that on this day the Sun visits the house of his son Shani, who is the Swami of MakarRashi. This day symbolizes the healthy relationship of father and son. It is the son who has the responsibility to carry forward his father's dream and the continuity of the family.

It is also said that, on this day ended the terror of the 'Asuras' by finishing them off and burying their heads under MountMandara. So this occasion also represents the end of negativities and beginning of an era of righteous living.

2. VasantPanchami : VasantPanchami, the fifth day of spring, is celebrated by propitiating Goddess Saraswati. As she symbolizes the constant flow of wisdom, she also represents the full blossoming of multi-hued Nature, kindling the light of inspiration and hope.

Significance : It is believed that on this day Goddess Saraswati was born. She is always shown clad in white, the colour of purity. The tulsi mala or rosary made of tulsi beads represents perseverance and consistency in 'Sadhana' or 'Bhakti'.



The Vedas held in her hand signify knowledge and wisdom which form the basis of the 64 art forms. She holds a pen in one hand, the power to manifest truth through words. “Gyanyog” or the path of wisdom is the force to dispel ignorance.

The colour yellow is of special importance during VasantPanchami as it signifies the coming of spring, after a long, arduous winter, and is also the colour of the energy-giving sun: the mustard fields in bloom are a bright yellow, exuding the warmth of spring. Fittingly, the radiance is associated with knowledge, symbolized by Goddess Saraswati.

3. Mahashivratri : Mahashivratri or Shiva Jayanti is a festival imbued with deep spiritual meaning and celebrated on the thirteenth night of the waning moon of Phalgun as per the Hindu Calendar.

Significance : Shiva symbolizes the universally worshipped form of God, the Eternal light. Shiva who is “Kalyankari”, is the “Benefactor of all souls.” Mahashivratri is, therefore, the memorial of the divine incarnation and divine acts of the incorporeal God. Shiva is the Supreme Father, He who performs the triple role of creation, sustenance and destruction. This divine trinity is symbolized as Brahma, Vishnu, Mahesh in Hindu theology.

Devotees observe fast, sing bhajans, and offer prayers to Lord Shiva. It is believed that devotion on Mahashivratri would free devotees from past sins. The festival is especially important for women as it is believed that Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati, his consort, would bestow marital bliss.

4. Holi : Holi is an abundant celebration of joy, goodness and the season of spring, celebrated on PhalgunPoornima (full moon) as the birthday of Manu, the start of ‘Samvat’ (first day in the Hindu Calendar). Holi is observed a fortnight after Mahashivratri which falls a day before ‘amavasya’, the darkest night of the month. Spiritually it signifies light prevailing over darkness, fear and ignorance.

Holi is associated with the smearing of colours and the Holika bonfire, in which dry sticks and cow dung are put to fire and corn seeds burnt to the point of losing their power to germinate. The fire represents burning away of what is old and worn out. The Holi festivities have a central message — let bygones be bygones, bury old hatchets, and start anew in the spirit of spring.

Significance : The scriptures throw light on the origin of Holi. The story of Prahlad in Vishnu Puran projects the triumph of good over evil.

Prahlad is devoted to Lord Vishnu while his father king Hiranyakshyap, is an atheist engaged in religious persecution. To distract his son from the path of devotion, the father resorts to ruthless methods, but fails. Finally, the evil king takes the help of his sister Holika who was blessed by Lord Brahma not to be consumed by fire. She enters a bonfire with Prahlad in her lap and for misusing the boon, Holika gets burnt to ashes and Prahlad comes out unscathed : The unrelenting king tries then to kill his son’s mentor Lord Vishnu who emerges from a

pillar as half-man, half-lion (Lord Narsimha) and destroys the king. The people of the Kingdom celebrate the death of the evil king and coronation of Prahlad by playing with colours, and the celebration has come to be known as Holi. Colours are thrown on each other to symbolize decorating self and others with the divine colours of universal peace, love, purity, amity and brotherhood.

5. Good Friday & Easter : Good Friday commemorates the sufferings and death of Jesus Christ. It was the day he was nailed to the cross. So what was “good” about that fateful Friday? According to the Bible, “Christ died that He might bring us to God.” And from the cross He prayed for the enemies who had crucified Him, saying, “Father forgive them for they know not what they do.” The Messiah suffered, died, and rose again on the third day. Since then, his followers have been preaching the message of repentance and forgiveness.

Significance : Easter is a reminder of the loving spirit of Christ who stood for sacrifice, love, prayer, selfless service and devotion. Easter marks the end of Lent, a forty-day period of fasting, prayer and penance.

In many ancient cultures, eggs were a common symbol of new life. In medieval times, eggs came to represent the Lord’s resurrection. Just as Christ broke out of the tomb on Easter morning, the yolk of the egg breaks out of its shell when cracked. The decoration of eggs for easter is part of the folk traditions of many cultures.

6. Ramnavami : The festival of Ram Navami marks the birthday celebrations of the Hindu God Rama, the seventh incarnation, of Lord Vishnu. According to the Hindu Calendar, it falls on the 9<sup>th</sup> (navami) day of the Chaitra month in the spring season. Celebrations of Ram Navami start on GudiPadwa, the first day of Chaitra, and continue for nine days.

Significance : Rama is a symbol of sacrifice, a model of brotherhood, an ideal administrator, a warrior unparalleled. The term ‘Ram Rajya’ stands for the most exalted concept of a welfare state. Rama was not only Divine but he was invested with the highest values of an enriched tradition started by Raghu. The essence of Rama is therefore the essence of excellence in every pursuit. It has been said of Rama’s reign in Ayodhya ” ... it was such that no suffering of mental, bodily or physical nature afflicts its citizens. There is no animus and everyone is conscious of his duty. There is no poverty, no untimely death, no want. The forests are lush and the ecosystem healthy.” Rama, as “MaryadaPurush” the ideal human being of Vishnu’s incarnate, is a great role model whose popularity transcends borders and cultures.”

7. Baisakhi : Baisakhi is a harvest festival and marks the ripening of the Rabi harvest especially in the Punjab. Baisakhi is also inextricably linked with the Sikh tradition. It was on the auspicious day of Baisakhi in 1699 that the Tenth Guru of Sikhs Guru Gobind Singh, founded the KhalsaPanth or the Order of Pure Ones and gave a unique identity to Sikhas. On that day the Guru

administered “amrit” or nectar to his first batch of five disciples making them Singhs, a martial community. By doing so, he eliminated the differences of high and low and established that all human beings were equal.

The day of Baisakhi has significance for the Hindus as it was on this day in 1875 that Swami DayanandSaraswati founded the Arya Samaj – a reformed sect of Hindus who are devoted to the Vedas for spiritual guidance and have discarded idol worship.

Baisakhi day has relevance even for Buddhists as Gautam Buddha attained enlightenment and Nirvana on this auspicious day.

Baisakhi is a time to resurrect the ancient contract of man with nature – a time for renewal and fresh hope which the traditional New Year brings in.

### **Summer and Monsoon Time Festivals :**

Hot summer months are followed by Monsoons, as new life is created after a parched summer. The Monsoon brings relief not only to people but also brings many religious celebrations. Shravan, Guru Purnima, Janmashtmi, the birth anniversary of Prophet Muhammed and Navroz are some of the festivals in this period.

1. **Guru Purnima :** The full moon day of Ashadh is observed as a sacred day in memory of the great sage Vyasa. The Indian tradition sees God in the Guru, as someone who can lead us from spiritual darkness to divine light.

**Significance :** On this day all spiritual aspirants and devotees worship Vyasa in honour of his divine personage. This day is of significance to the farmers as it heralds the setting in of the much-needed rains. It is a good time too begin your spiritual -Sadhana” or lessons. The period of (chaturmas’ (four months) begins from this day.

2. **Shravan, RakshaBandhan, NarialPurnima :** RakshaBandhan is celebrated during the bright fortnight in the month of Shravan. The BhavishyaPuranareferes to a battle between the deities and demons. The king of the deities, Indra, was feeling depressed, when his wife Sachi took a thread, charged it with sacred verses for protection and tied it on Indra’s hand. Through the strength of this thread, India conquered his enemies. Over time, the manner of celebration underwent modifications. RakshaBandhan is a sacred festival for sisters and brothers. In Mumbai, the fisherfolk celebrate NarialPurnima on this day, where coconuts are thrown into the sea to propitiate the sea God, Varuna.

3. **Janmashtmi :** Also known as Gokulashtami, this is a Hindu festival celebrating the birth of Lord Krishna, an awatar of Vishnu. It is observed on the eighth day (ashtmi) of the dark half or Krishna Paksha of the month of Bhadrapad. **Significance :** The birthday of Hinduism’s favourite. Lord Krishna is very special as the Hindus consider him their leader, hero, protector, philosopher, teacher and friend all rolled into one.

Song and dance and fasting mark the celebration of this festive occasion. In the state of Maharashtra people enact the God's childhood attempts to steal butter and curd from earthen pots beyond his reach. A similar pot is hung high above the ground and groups of young people form human pyramids to try and reach and break it.

4. Ganesh Chaturthi : This festival is celebrated on the fourth day of the waxing moon in the month of Bhadrapad. The festival last for 10 days, ending on AnantChaturdashi, the fourteenth day of the waxing moon period.

Significance : The son of Shiva and Parvati, Ganesh is the Lord of wisdom and success. The elephant's trunk has the strength to uproot a tree as well as the finesse to pick up a needle. Hence Ganesh's trunk symbolizes the fact that the wise person has both immense strength and fine discrimination. Ganesh has large ears – a wise person hears all. He has four hands. In one hand, he holds a lotus, the symbol of enlightenment. In the other a hatchet – the old Karma gets cut when enlightenment comes. The third hand holds "laddus" – sweetmeats which are the rewards of a wise life. Ganesh is never seen eating the laddus – a wise man never partakes of the rewards of his deeds. He is not attached to them. The fourth hand is shown blessing people. Ganesh has only one tusk, the other broken one symbolising that the wise is beyond duality. He is shown sitting with one foot on the ground and the other resting above on his knee – the wise person is of this earth, yet not entirely of the earth.

Ganesh is shown seated on a rat, among the greediest of all animals. The rat is a symbol of our senses which are never satisfied. Left uncontrolled, our senses crave new tastes, new experiences, that keep growing forever. A wise person rides on his senses, keeping them under control.

5. Navrathri&Dussehra : Navratri means nine nights, during which the nine forms of Shakti/Devi are worshipped. The tenth day is referred to as Vijaydashmi or Dussehra. The beginning of autumn (as is spring) is an important junction of climatic and solar influence and is taken as an opportunity to worship the Divine Mother.

Significance : On Dussehra day, Ram killed the great demon Rawana and hence is a celebration of good over evil. Large effigies of Ravana are set on fire and in burning these effigies people symbolically burn the evil within and follow the path of truth and goodness.

### **Winter Time Festivals:**

After, Dushera, winter begins to set in. Diwali, the festival of lights is one of the grand festivals in this season. The birth anniversary of Guru Gobind Singh, Christmas and Haj are some other festivals in this period.

1. Diwali : The aesthetically appealing Diwali illumination dates back to many millennia when the jubilant citizens of Ayodhya welcomed Rama back after exile.

Significance : Lord Rama went into exile for 14 long years and when he finally returned, the citizens of Ayodhya celebrated the joyful reunion by illuminating their homes.

Ayodhya is likened to our hearts, and Rama, the supreme object of our love and devotion. Due to misconceptions we too have exiled the Lord from our hearts. Just as Ayodhya became a ghost town, when Rama departed from our hearts we were filled with anxiety, depression, stress and our lives were empty and sad. We however, are often slow to realise and recognise the cause of our problems. Diwali signifies return of Rama to Ayodhya. Our celebration of Diwali will remain incomplete if we only light lamps – how can we welcome the Lord back into our heart and experience the essence of Diwali?

While lighting the earthen lamps we must light our hearts with divine wisdom and love. The festival of lights symbolizes the lighting up of our inner consciousness towards realisations of the Divinity that lies dormant within our hearts.

2. Christmas : Christmas is a festival celebrated on December 25' all over the world to commemorate the birth of Jesus Christ. It is a secular holiday throughout the world.

Significance : The basic message of Christmas is that God, the Almighty Creator of the Universe, has come into this world in the human form for the salvation of the world. Christ was born in a world characterized by ignorance, greed, hatred and superstition. He brought about a transformation and a new era dawned. He was born in a stable to humble and poor parents. This implies that spiritual awakening will come to one who is humble and poor.

3. Eid-ul-fitr : Eid-ul-fitr marks the end of the holy month of fasting, Ramadan. 'Eid' is an Arabic word meaning "festivity", and "Fite means breaking the fast. The festival celebrates the conclusion of the month-long days of dawn-to-sunset fasting during the entire month of Ramadan.

Significance : Fasting during the month teaches people to stay away from worldly desires and focus entirely on the Lord and thank him for his blessings. The communal aspects of the fast express the basic values of the Muslim Community – empathy for the poor, charity, worship, steadfastness, patience, etc. Fasting is also believed by some scholars to extol fundamental distinctions, lauding the power of the spiritual realm while acknowledging the subordination of the physical realm.

Note : Bakri Eid or Eid-al-Adha is the festival of sacrifice. It is celebrated on the 10th day of the last Islamic month of the Lunar Islamic calendar.

## **Arts festivals**

Among the many offspring of general arts festivals are also more specific types of festivals, including ones that showcase intellectual or creative achievement such as science festivals, literary festivals and music festivals. Sub-categories include comedy festivals, rock festivals, jazz festivals and buskers festivals; poetry festivals, theatre festivals, and storytelling festivals; and re-enactment festivals such as Renaissance fairs.

Film festivals involve the screenings of several different films, and are usually held annually. Some of the most significant film festivals include the Berlin International Film Festival,

the Venice Film Festival and the Cannes Film Festival and in India Filmfare, Stardust, IIFA etc.

## **Artistic Significance of Indian Festivals**

The following may be regarded as the artistic significance of Indian festivals:-

### **1. Exhibition of different forms of art:-**

Peoples showcase different arts through different festivals. Competitions like paintings, singings, music, dance, drama etc .are the part and parcel of Indian festivals. The Ladies coloured the entry of the house with Rangoli, Alpana etc.in different parts of India which is an evidence of the rich cultural heritage of our past.

### **2. Role Playing of God and Goddess:-**

These festivals can be appreciated only with some imagination. When an individual participates in Durga Puja or takes part in Ram Lila, he/she immediately imagines the real behind the unreal. He/she worships the idols or image but imagines the God whom these images represent. Acting is a form of Art and angeriness, sadness, dancing form like Natraj or Tandav nrutya, fighting scene between the God/Goddess and the devils during religious/historical drama shows artists talents in best possible manner.

### **3. Expression of happiness:-**

Festivals are a kind of expression of happiness. When people feel joy at the time of harvest or any other event, the whole community is full of happiness and they exhibit their happiness through art and aesthetics in festivals.

### **4. Unity in Diversity:-**

India is one and festivals are many .Eternal God is one, Gods are many. When peoples celebrate festivals irrespective of caste, creed, religion colour and sex and mix and participate with different events they generally forget their differences and united which is the essence of world's oldest democracy in India.

### **5. International Understanding:-**

Ministry of culture organizes different events and at the same time sends Indian Arts i.e. Music, Dance, drama, Songs, Paintings and invite the eminent artists of other countries to India for better understanding of their culture, arts, and aesthetics. This cultural exchange helps in International understanding among different nations which is the need of the hour.

### **6. Develops Sense of Patriotism:-**

Some events are never forgotten. May be those events are historical or mythological. For example Sahidi Diwas, Independence Day etc. When competition like patriotic songs, dramatic events based on the life of freedom fighters and paintings competitions held among the school/ college students that instill a sense of pride / patriotism among them. When the old song “Aye mere waton ke logon” by Lata Mangeskar played in this occasions people’s eyes are filled with tears. Such efforts are very much helpful for emotional integration also.

#### **7. Helpful to transmit the art to the next generation:-**

When a child witness different events celebrated by the elders in festivals he/she learns a lot. A growing child is a potential citizen of tomorrow. Now days due to nuclear family different heritage festivals are organize by the educational institutions to acquaint the child to equip them to their glorious past.

#### **8. Importance of colours:-**

The importance of colours played a crucial role in almost all festivals. Colours are the symbols of our emotions. Colours have a very important role in our life. During festivals peoples and kids wear colourful clothes, purchase colourful things; foods etc. which motivate and develop a positive attitude towards life.

#### **9. Develop aesthetic values:-**

During festivals the whole house as well as the surroundings’ is cleaned with utmost care .Peoples not only gives importance to beautification of their residence but also to their surroundings. There is a positive relationship between art and aesthetics. According to hindu tradition, satyam, shivam, sundaram. i.e. where there is truth and beauty, shiva or the god resides there. Different forms of arts are presented in festivals beautifully. In this age of cut throat competition and nuclear family structure, festivals provide the peoples an aesthetic sense of life.

#### **10. A platform for creative self-expression:-**

Festivals are the occasion when an individual’s expresses his pent up emotions freely forgetting the pains and sorrows of daily life. The arts may be dance or music, may be painting or photography, may be literature or writing poetry the artists expresses his inner feelings, thoughts ideas freely. It provides a platform for creative self-expression. It’s often seen that great arts and literature are the byproduct of emotional outburst.

#### **11. Helpful for the promotion of the culture and civilization.**

The religious practices and rituals of different immigrants of Indian origin breathed new life into festivals in foreign countries especially in celebration over child birth, naming of children, marriages, sowing and harvesting of crops, coronation ceremony. Later generation of the immigrant families too decides to stay on and keep the lamp of Indian civilizations burning there. Records indicate that many Buddhist kings appointed Brahmin ministers and

advisors. The simple and relatively non- ritualistic nature of Buddhism had an influence on the Hindu festival celebration.

### **12. Outlets of inner talents:-**

Festivals provide a medium to outlets different talents among peoples. When people witness performances of different form of arts by different people during festivals they also realize there potentials and developed courage to perform something. In this way many raw talents show the lights of the day.

### **13. Contribution of religion over art:-**

Mostly festivals are associated with religion. These religious feelings helps to cultivate different arts- making colorful rangoli during puja , paintings in walls, decorating the kalash, puja thali, decorating the temples, deities, lords etc. helpful for the promotion of artistic sense even among the house wife, local folks.

### **14. International significance: -**

At no other time of the year is the influence of brahimical culture so visible in south East Asia as during the dusserah celebrations'. The frenzied drum beating, conch glowing (bhoppu) and dancing on the streets which characterizes the festivities in India are re-enacted with as much enthusiasm and fervor in places like Cambodia, Thailand and Indonesia. Even the ritual taging of Ram lila plays and the burning of the demon king Ravans effigy are emulated in different parts of the world. Be it jagananth puri rath yatra or Garba of Gujrat , be it deepawali of Delhi or holy of Mathura, now all these festivals are celebrated globally. Not only peoples of India but also the foreigners took active parts in celebrations of these festivals which helps the culture , arts and aesthetics of India helps to rich every nook and corner of the globe.

Festivals are integral parts of life. It breaks the monotony of life and helps us to develop a positive outlook. In spite of several difference difficulties, pains, and suffering of day to day life festivals helps us to cherish us as god human being by developing a sense of service and sacrifice and last but not the least live harmoniously with unity in diversity.

ज्ञानं चक्षुर्मनुष्याणाम

