

Festivals of India

Dr. G. Dinakara*

M.A., B.Ed., Ph.D., Lecturer in Kannada, Seshadripuram Composite P.U. College, Seshadripuram, Bengaluru

Abstract – India is a country with great grandeur and celebrations. Unity in diversity is the spirit of India, where there are various religious, customs, tradition, beliefs, rites and rituals within the sphere are followed without any discrimination of caste, creed and colour. This Research article gives a brief view on festivals celebrated across India.

Key Words: Festivals, Religions, Belief, Tradition, Culture, Legacy Celebration, Rituals.

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SUBJECT:

Festivals reflect our **culture** and heritage which depicts the idea of **celebration** of the festivals in rejoicing with diligence, devotion and happiness.

The festivals have a legacy of our ancestors bestowed on us with the right kind of belief and thoughts put-forth by them. Every festival plays an important role in our social life. It has its own significance in every religion for that matter. The celebration in our social set-up changes according to their social belief. Every festival has a mythological background, history based upon our ancestor's belief, experience and practice taken into account. It is the staunch belief that our ancestors had in celebrating the festivals that has become the integral part of every religion, tradition, caste, creed and the culture of our nation which can be appreciated even today. We can also see that the specific rituals, beliefs, custom and practices of every religion in celebrating festivals across our country.

In English for '**festival**' it is called as '**feast**', festivity, in German as '**fest**', in Russian it is '**festival**'. All these words are derived from Latin word '**festivus**'. In Kannada, we call it '**Habba**' – which has been derived from Sanskrit word '**Parva**'. Similarly in Telugu it is called as '**Pandaga**' and in Tamil it is '**Pantika**'. In Arabic it is called as '**Eid**'.

Every religion is unique in its own way in celebrating the festivals. **Ugadi, Makara Shankranti, Sri Rama Navami, Gowri-Ganesh, Navarathri (Dasara), Deepavali, Shivaratri, Holi** are the main festivals for Hindus.

Muslims celebrate **Moharam, Ramzan, Bakrid and Eid** as main festivals in India.

Christians celebrate **Christmas, Good-Friday, Easter** as significant festivals according to their own rites and rituals with great fervour. Likewise, Jain's celebrate **Mahaveer Jayanthi, Paryushan parva** and Buddhists celebrate **Buddha Jayanthi**. In this way all **religions** celebrate in their own way the festivals with great pomp and show.

Apart from these festivals, we also celebrate National Festivals in which **Independence Day** stands for freedom of the Nation, **Republic Day, Gandhi Jayanthi** are prominent ones. These days in one or the other way represent the patriotic spirit with all. All these are celebrated across India with great fervour to have the feeling of nationalism amongst all Indians.

In Karnataka – **Kannada Rajyotsava** represents a provincial (State formation day) festival for Kannadigas take pride in celebrating Rajyotsava, the festival of our land to bring awareness and to spread the greatness and significance of our land, language and the magnificent culture, literature, art and architecture.

CONCLUSION:

Thus, the festivals have prominent ways of celebrations. In these festivals people take active part in celebration. The custom and tradition, practices, processions, fair and fasting are some festivities. Everyone celebrate with devotion and happiness. These signify our Great Tradition of India and all in oneness.

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Corresponding Author

Dr. G. Dinakara*

M.A., B.Ed., Ph.D., Lecturer in Kannada,
Seshadripuram Composite P.U. College,
Seshadripuram, Bengaluru

dinakarg2014@gmail.com