



Chapter
1

Festivals

→ UNIT-1

We and Our Surroundings



national festival	Gurupurab	Onam
Independence Day	religious festival	Id
Republic Day	Children's Day	Holi
Gandhi Jayanti	Teacher's Day	Ganesha Chaturthi
Moharram	Dussehra	Pongal
social festival	Christmas	Diwali
tableau	effigy	exile



explanation

India is a land of festivals. A festival is a day on which we celebrate an important event with great joy and enthusiasm. Some festivals are celebrated for one day, whereas other festivals are celebrated for more than one day. In our country we celebrate two types of festivals:

- National festivals
- Religious and social festivals

Importance of festivals

- Festivals bring joy in our lives.
- Festivals teach us to live peacefully.
- They develop in us, feelings of love and brotherhood.
- Some festivals remind us of great people.
- We clean and decorate our houses to give them a bright look on festivals.
- We buy sweets and clothes on festivals.

National festivals

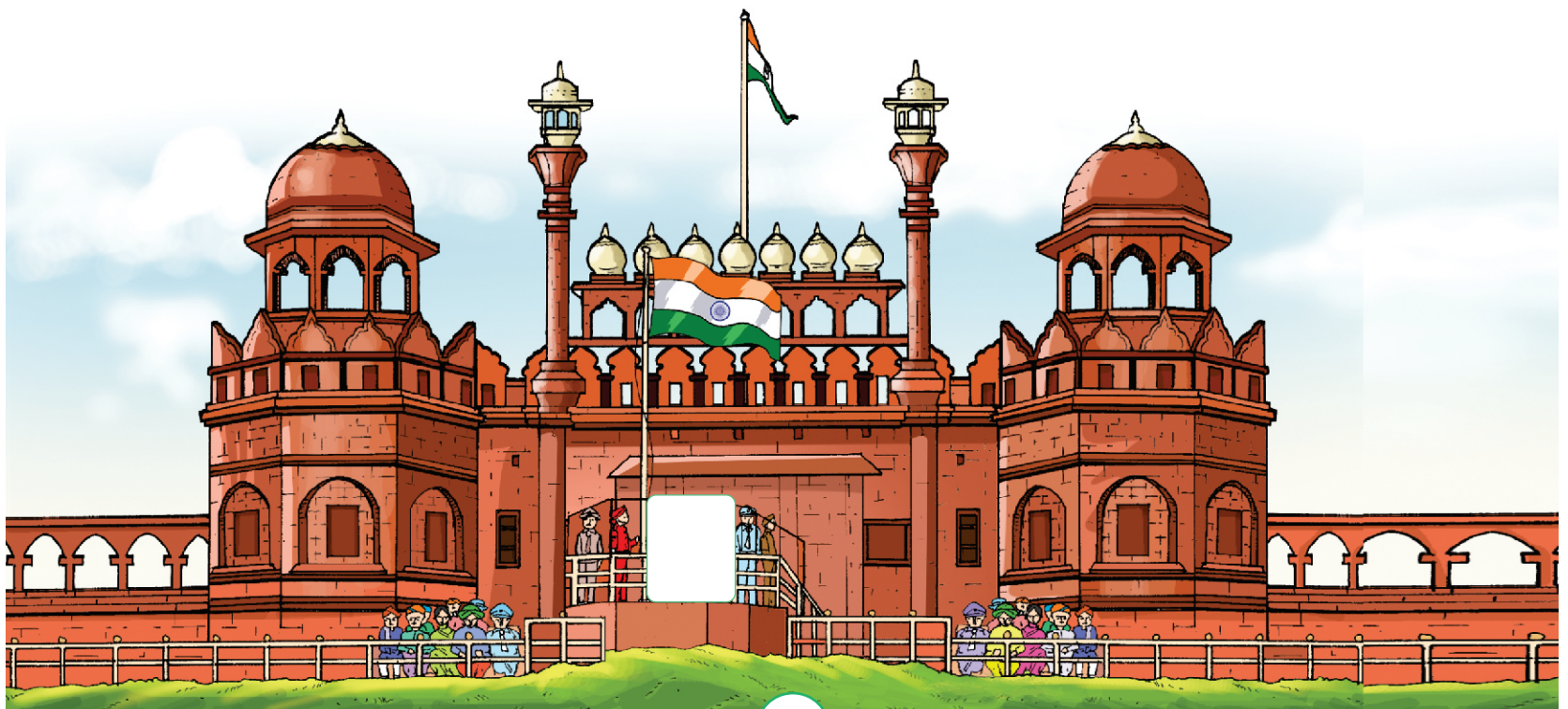
The festivals celebrated by the whole nation or country are called national festivals. Our national festivals are the Independence Day, Gandhi Jayanti and the Republic Day.



Independence Day

Independence Day is celebrated on the 15th of August every year. On this day in 1947, India became free from the British rule. We remember our great freedom fighters who gave their lives for the freedom of our country. It is celebrated all over the country. The national flag is hoisted at all important places and buildings. On this day, the Prime Minister of the country hoists the national flag and delivers a speech at the Red Fort in Delhi.

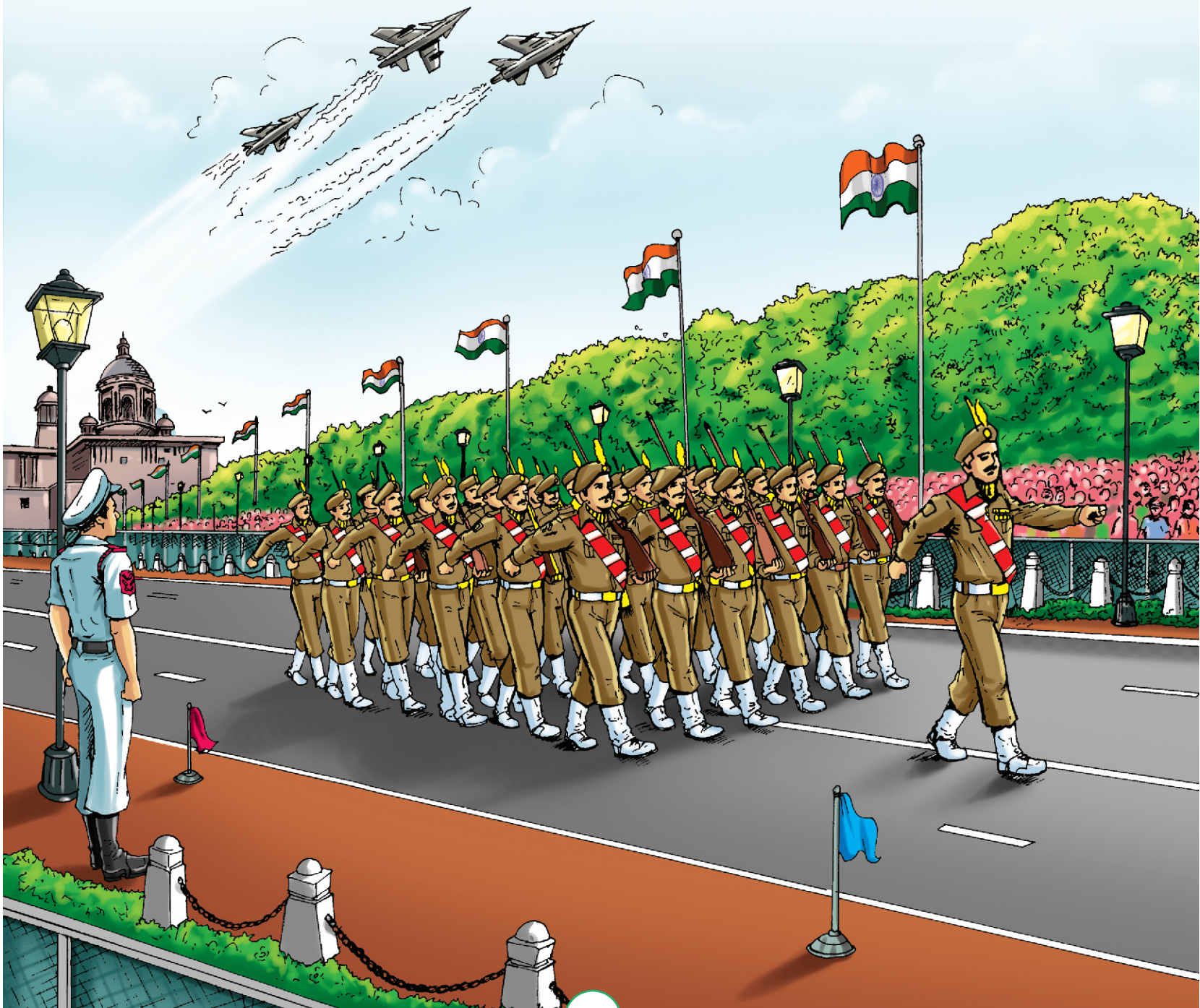
Paste a picture of the present Prime Minister of India in the white box given below.



Republic Day

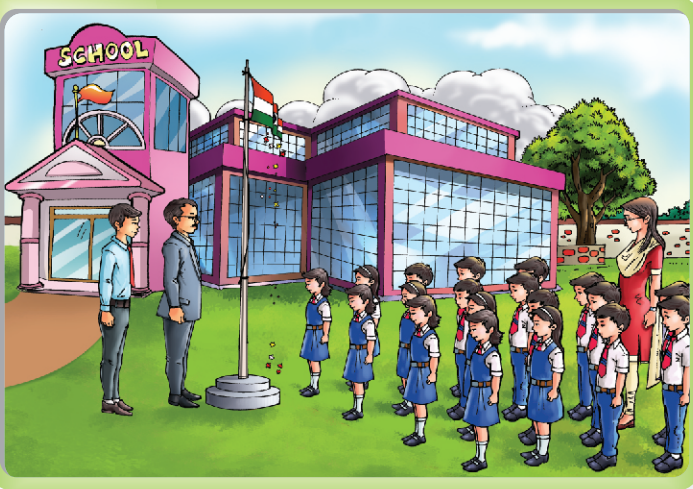
Republic Day is celebrated on the 26th of January every year. On this day in 1950, India became a Democratic Republic.

In Delhi, Republic Day is celebrated with great pomp and show. A parade is held on the Raj Path. The President of India takes the salute from the marching soldiers of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Police and NCC. They display their weapons, tanks and fighter planes. School children, folk dancers and tableaux from various states also take part in this parade.





In the Republic Day parade, some children come riding on decorated elephants. Do you know who they are? They are the brave children, who have won awards from the President of India for some act of bravery.



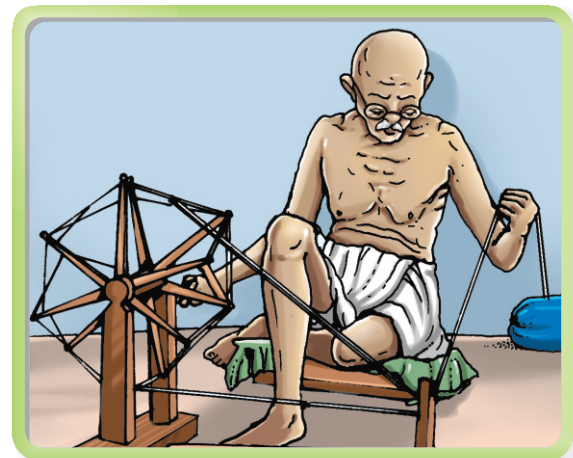
All the schools in our country celebrate this day with great pride. The school principal hoists the National Flag.

We should keep the following points in mind while the flag is hoisted.

- Always stand in attention when the national anthem is being sung.
- Sing the national anthem with pride.
- Always respect the national flag by holding it high.

Gandhi Jayanti

Gandhi Jayanti is celebrated on the 2nd of October. On this day in 1869, Mahatma Gandhi was born. He was a great man. He loved peace and truth. He helped us to get freedom for our country. He is called the Father of our Nation. On this day, we remember Gandhiji and his teachings. The President, the Prime Minister and other great leaders of the country pay their respects, at the samadhi of Gandhiji at Raj Ghat, in New Delhi.





activity

Get into three groups. Each group will choose to represent one of the following leaders of our country, either our President, our Prime Minister or Gandhiji. Each group must prepare a speech based on its leader and his/her role for the country on the relevant festival.

Record below, which leader was represented by your group and on which festival the speech was given.

	Role played	Speech given on
Group 1	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Group 2	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Group 3	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>



explanation

Religious and Social Festivals

In India, we have people of different religions. There are Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Christians and many others. People of all religions live together and celebrate their festivals to love and honour God. People also celebrate some social events, like sowing of seeds, harvesting of crops and arrival of a new season as festivals. In our country people celebrate all festivals with great joy. Now, let us learn about some religious and social festivals of our country.



Dussehra

Dussehra is celebrated all over India in the month of October or November. It is celebrated in honour of Lord Rama's victory over Ravana. This festival is celebrated for ten days. For the first nine days, Ramlila is staged. On the tenth day, the effigies of Ravana, Kumbhkarana and Meghanada are burnt. Dussehra marks the victory of good over evil.



Diwali

Diwali is the festival of lights. It is celebrated twenty days after Dussehra. It is believed that on this day Lord Rama came back to Ayodhya after 14 years of exile. We celebrate Diwali by cleaning our houses and decorating them with lamps, candles and diyas. We wear new clothes and give gifts and sweets to our friends and relatives. We worship Goddess Laxmi on this day. Children have fun bursting crackers.



Holi

Holi is a popular festival of North India. It is a festival of colours. People colour each other with gulal and coloured water. They sing and dance with joy. People also light a bonfire on the night before Holi. This is done to show the victory of good over evil.

Paste your picture in the blank space.



Raksha Bandhan

This festival falls in the month of August. On this day, sisters tie colourful threads around their brothers' wrists. This thread, called 'Rakhi', strengthens the bond of love between them. The sister prays to God for her brother's health and happiness. The brother, on his part, promises to help his sister in times of need.

Id

Id is celebrated by Muslims in the holy month of Ramzan. Throughout this month, Muslims fast from dawn to dusk. Id marks the end of fasting in Ramzan. On this day, people wear new clothes and go to mosques to offer prayers called Namaz. After the prayers, they greet each other and say 'Id Mubarak'. A special sweet dish called 'sewian' is prepared in every house.



Christmas

The 25th of December is celebrated as Christmas every year because Jesus Christ was born on this day. People decorate their houses. A small Christmas tree is set up in every house. It is decorated with stars, bells and glass bulbs. Churches are beautifully decorated and mass is held to celebrate the occasion. People exchange Christmas gifts and send greetings to their friends and relatives. Children believe that Santa Claus brings gifts for them on Christmas eve.



Ganesha Chaturthi

We celebrate Ganesha Chaturthi to mark the importance of Lord Ganesha in Hindu religion. This festival lasts for ten days and is celebrated with great pomp and show, especially in Maharashtra. People make beautiful idols of Lord Ganesha. They worship these idols for nine days. On the tenth day, the idols are immersed in a river or sea.



Gurupurab

The Sikh festivals are celebrated as gurupurabs. They mark the birthdays and the martyrdom days of the Sikh gurus. Processions are taken out before the gurupurabs. People sing hymns as they go around their locality. On the festival day, prayers are held in gurudwaras, followed by an open meal called 'langar'.



Get into groups. Each group will choose any one festival. Collect pictures related to that festival. Using these pictures make a collage to represent that festival.

In the table below, write three things you do and three things you shouldn't do on the festival you have shown in the collage.

	Things we do on:	Things we don't do on:
1.	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
2.	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
3.	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>



explanation

Onam

Onam is the main festival of Kerala. It falls in the month of August or September. It lasts for four days. People sing, dance and have boat races during this festival. The most famous of these boat races is the Snake-Boat race.



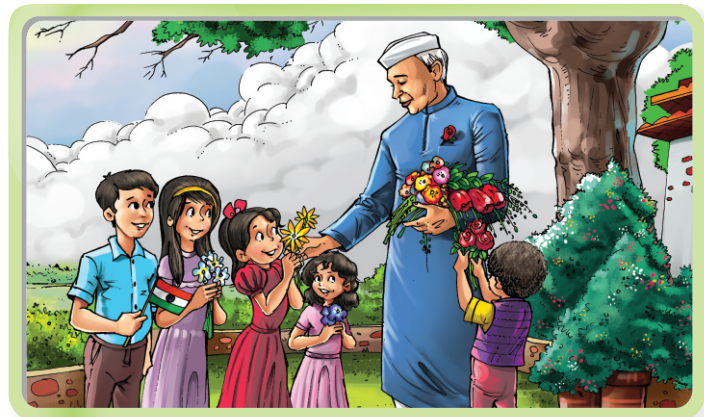
Pongal

Pongal is the festival of Tamil Nadu. It falls in the month of January. It lasts for three days. On this day, people offer rice and fruits to the Sun God and worship the cow.

In India, we also observe some important days like Teacher's Day and Children's Day.

Children's Day

November 14th is celebrated as Children's Day. On this day in 1889, Jawaharlal Nehru was born. He was the first Prime Minister of India. He loved children very much and they called him Chacha Nehru.



Teacher's Day

September 5th is celebrated as Teacher's Day. Dr. S. Radhakrishnan was born on this day in the year 1888. He was the first Vice President of India. He was a great man. He started his life as a teacher. We celebrate his birthday as Teacher's Day.

Interesting: _____



explanation

We also celebrate many other festivals like Easter, Good Friday, Moharram, Basant Panchami and Baisakhi. In fact, the list is very long. On some festivals, fairs are held and many kinds of shows are arranged. A large number of people visit these fairs and enjoy them.

You now know

- India is a land of festivals.
- Festivals bring joy to our lives.
- Festivals develop in us feelings of love and brotherhood.
- Our national festivals are: Independence Day, Republic Day and Gandhi Jayanti.
- Id is the most important festival of Muslims.
- The main festivals celebrated by Hindus are Diwali, Holi, Dussehra and Ganesh Chaturthi.
- The main festivals celebrated by Sikhs are Gurupurabs.
- Christmas and Easter are the main festivals of Christians.
- Some of our social festivals are Onam, Pongal, Raksha Bandhan, Basant Panchami, Baisakhi.
- In India we celebrate some important days like Teacher's Day and Children's Day.



exercise

A. Choose the correct word to fill in each blank:

Id Holi Red Fort Christmas Raj Ghat Children's Day

1. A holy fire is lit on the night before _____.
2. The birthday of Jesus Christ is celebrated as _____.
3. The samadhi of Mahatma Gandhi is known as _____.
4. The birthday of Jawaharlal Nehru is celebrated as _____.
5. On Independence day, our Prime Minister hoists the National flag and delivers speech at the _____ in Delhi.
6. The festival in which you get to eat lots of 'sewian' is _____.

B. Name the festivals that are celebrated on the following dates:

1. 2nd October _____
2. 15th August _____
3. 26th January _____
4. 5th September _____
5. 14th November _____
6. 25th December _____

C. Match the following:

- | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| 1. 'Langar' | <input type="checkbox"/> | Cow worship |
| 2. Pongal | <input type="checkbox"/> | Gurupurab |
| 3. 2 nd October | <input type="checkbox"/> | Teacher's Day |
| 4. 5 th September | <input type="checkbox"/> | Children's Day |
| 5. 14 th November | <input type="checkbox"/> | Gandhi Jayanti |
| 6. Playing with colours | <input type="checkbox"/> | Diwali |
| 7. Festival of lights | <input type="checkbox"/> | Holi |

project report

Find out what the colours on our flag stand for and where can we see these in our daily lives. Document this in your project book.

Collect four pictures showing ways in which we can pay respect to our nation, for example, by hoisting our National Flag high in the sky, keeping our environment clean and green, spreading the message of love and peace, etc. Paste these pictures in your project book.

