



Class- 7

Sub- English

Unit-5

Section-A

Chapter name - Festivals of India

1. What do most festivals in Nagaland celebrate? How is the Hornbill Festival different?

Most festivals in Nagaland revolve around agriculture. Hornbill festival showcases a melange of tribal art and culture in a spectacular week-long event in early December every year.

2. Why was the Hornbill Festival initiated by the government? What are the highlights of the festival?

Hornbill Festival was started to encourage inter-tribal interaction and to promote cultural heritage of Nagaland. The highlights of the festival are folk songs, traditional dances, fashion shows, crafts, parades, indigenous games and sports including wrestling and traditional Naga archery, food fair,))

3. When is Onam celebrated? What does the festival celebrate?

Onam is celebrated during the Malayalam month of Chingam (August-September). The festival marks the annual visit of the demon king Mahabali from patala.

4. How do the people of Kerala celebrate Thiruvonam? What is the significance of the feast on the occasion?

Thiruvonam is celebrated by preparing elaborate dishes for a nine-course vegetarian meal called the Onamsadya. The feast conveys to the visiting king Bali that the state still enjoys the same level of prosperity as it did during his rule.

5. Write shorts notes on the following terms:

(a) **Pookalam:** Pookalam is a floral carpet made by the women using blossoms of several varieties and colours. Women gather together in their finest clothes and spend hours together trying to come up with the most intricate pookalam design.

(b) **Onamsadya:** It is an elaborate preparation of the nine-course vegetarian meal on the last day of Onam. The idea behind this preparation is to convey to the visiting king Bali that the state still enjoys the same level of prosperity as it did during his rule.

(c) **Vallamkali:** Snake boat races of Kerala are known as Vallamkali. They symbolize Kerala's backwater culture and have been added to Onam celebrations since around 1972. Men compete in teams to row to the finish line. On the day of the race, people flock to the banks to witness the fiesta. The event is organised by the state.

(d) **Pulikali:** It is a colourful mask dance of Kerala where dancers wear loud masks usually resembling that of a tiger's face. The dancers can also be found with the entire bodies painted to resemble a tiger's stripes. This dance form is characterised by aggressive animalistic moves. During Onam, the dancers go from door to door entertaining people and collecting gifts in return.