



We get information about various communities from their language. Gujarati speaking people belong to Gujarat and Marathi speaking people belong to Maharashtra. Along with language different regions have their own customs, cuisine, dress, poetry, dance, music and painting. In our country we also find local culture of different areas, which we call indigenous culture. There has been a cultural exchange among these cultures for centuries. Although some of the special traditions of some areas are still intact.

### Development of Local Languages in India

**Malayalam :** The Chera Kingdom of Mahodayapuram which was established in the 9<sup>th</sup> century was a part of present day Kerala. This culture is known as Malayalam culture as it combines Kerala culture with its language Malayalam. Malayalam is the main language spoken in Kerala. Sanskrit has a lot of influence on it. In the fourteenth century, the book 'Lilatilakam' on grammar and poetry was written in 'Manipravalam' style.

**Bengali :** The Bengali language is believed to have originated from Sanskrit.

Till fifteenth century sub-language and dialects combined together and took form of the common literary language, which became the colloquial language of West Bengal. Tribal languages, Persian language and the influence of European languages on Bengali language is seen from the beginning of British rule in India.

Early Bengali literature can be divided into two parts : Sanskrit influenced and independent. The first part includes translation of Sanskrit epics and second part includes Nath literature.

**Gujarati :** India is a nation associated with many languages and dialects. In ancient times languages like Sanskrit, Prakrit, Tamil were popular in India. Over a period of time, many of the regional languages developed. The establishment of regional states gave impetus to the development of regional languages and many languages were evolved from Sanskrit as well as Tamil in South India. The development of regional languages accelerated from the eighth century and Khadi-boli, Awadhi, Bengali, Gujarati, Marathi, Malayalam, Telugu and Kannada language evolved. In the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> centuries Gujarati language evolved from various language forms derived from Sanskrit.

Apbhransha is the mother of Gujarati language. Acharya Hemchandra started the Apbhransha language. Gujarati language developed after Sanskrit-Prakrit-Apbhransha language.

A new 'literary era' of Gujarati language began from the time of Narsinh Mehta. Narsinh Mehta, Mirabai and Bhalan came up as the facilitators of this new era. All three of them developed the Gujarati literature with the development of devotional (Bhakti) literature.

Narsinh Mehta composed works like 'Shamaldas no Vivah', 'Kunvarbai nu Mameroo', 'Hundi', 'Sudamacharitra', 'Dana Leela' etc. Mirabai has also composed many verses in devotion of lord Krishna as a main theme. Bhalan was the first to use the term 'Gurjar Bhakha' for the Gujarati language in his works. He was a Modh Brahman of Patan. He is known as the 'Father of Akhyana'. His famous works include. 'Dhruvakhyana', 'Mrugi-Akhyana', 'Shiv-Bhildi dialogue' etc.

### Do This

Make a book that gives information about the works of the three poets.



## Festivals of India

**Jagannath-Rathayatra :** Many religious sects are connected with Jagannath Rath Yatra. Among them the Jagannath sect in Puri, Odisha is well known. Jagannath means Lord of the World (Nath of the World) which is synonymous with the word Vishnu. In twelfth century King Anant Verman of Gang-dynasty decided to build the Jagannath temple at Puri. In 1230 A.D, King Anang Bhim III dedicated his kingdom to Jagannath and declared himself as his representative. The Mughal, Marathas and the East India company who conquered Odisha tried to establish their dominance over the temple. They believed that by gaining the control over the temple, the local people / community would also accept their rule.

A special Rathayatra is organized every year in Puri; in which Jagannathji, the incarnation of Vishnu, sits in a charriot and travels in Puri. Many people from all over the world come to participate in this festival.

**Holi :** Holi is celebrated in India, but it has special significance in North India. The festival lasts for two days; the first day is Holi and the second day is Dhuleti.

This day is celebrated as the victory of good over evil power. On this day, Holi is celebrated in the evening and Holi is lit. Dhuleti is celebrated by sprinkling colours on one another.

**Lathmaar Holi-Barsana :** Holi celebrated in Barsana (Uttar Pradesh) is known as Lathmaar Holi. Barsana is the birthplace of Radhaji. Here, the men of Nandagam (Lord Krishna's land) come to play Holi with the women of Barsana and try to hoist flag at Radhaji's temple. Men are greeted with Lattha (thick sticks) by women. Hence, this Holi is known as Lathmaar Holi.

**Lohri (Punjab) :** This festival is similar to Holi. This festival is celebrated by Sikh community on 13<sup>th</sup> January before Makarsankranti. They light a fire at night, worship and circumambulate, offering sweets in it. The festival is also believed to symbolize the victory of light over darkness. This festival is joyfully celebrated by the Sikh community living in the surrounding areas of Punjab, Haryana and Delhi.

**Pongal :** Pongal is the main festival of Tamil Nadu. Apart from Tamil Nadu, the festival is also celebrated in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. Pongal is celebrated on the first day of Tamil month 'Thai' (Mid-January). On this day, a sweet dish called 'pongal' is prepared.

### Know This

In Tamil, Pongal means 'to boil', Pongal is made by boiling rice, moong dal, milk and sugar in a pot. This dish is considered auspicious.

**Onam :** Onam is an important festival celebrated in Kerala. Onam is a festival celebrated for 10 days in the first month of the Malayalam calendar (August-September). Flower decorations, a variety of dishes, dancing, singing and boat races are the speciality of this festival. Boating is also known as 'Vallamkali'. A meal called 'Saadiya' is prepared for this festival.



Vallamkali

**Diwali :** Diwali is a festival, celebrated with pomp and show in India. Festivals like Waghbaras, Dhanteras, Kalichaudas, New Year, Bhaibeej and Labhpacham are also associated with this festival. This festival is also known as festival of lights.

### Activity

Discuss how you celebrate the New Year

**Durga Puja :** Durga Puja has a special significance in West Bengal. Durgadevi's victory over Mahishasur is celebrated with the Durga Puja festival. This festival is celebrated for 10 days. It ends with a special ritual and immersion of idol of Mataji in the water. This festival is celebrated in a small or large scale in almost all the states.



**Durga Puja**

**Christmas :** The birthday of Jesus Christ is celebrated on 25<sup>th</sup> December by Christians as

Christmas. During this festival homes and streets are decorated with christmas trees and other decorations. On this day they go to church, light candles, pray and give gifts to one another. They celebrate the first day of January as the New Year.

**Moharram :** Muslims celebrate Moharram as a day of mourning in memory of the martyrdom of grandson of Hazrat Muhammad Paygambar Sahib. On this day 'Tazia' (Procession) is taken out. Muslims mourn in black dress.

**Eid :** There are two Eids celebrated in Islam :

- (i) Eid-ul-Fitr and (ii) Eid-ul-Adha

**Eid-ul-FITR** is also known as Ramzan Eid. After the completion of the fast of the holy month of Ramzan, on the day of Ramzan Eid, Muslims pray together in group and after the prayer they greet one another 'Eid Mubarak'.

Eid-ul-Adha means Eid of sacrifice. This Eid is associated with the holy Haji (holy journey to Kaba in Mecca).

**Pateti :** Pateti is an important festival of the Parsis. The last five days of Parsi year are celebrated as a religious festival. The last of these five days is celebrated as the 'Day of Repentance' Pateti. Parsis sincerely repent for their mistakes, crimes or sins.



On the day of Pateti, Parsis go to 'Agiyari' and pray for repentance as given in their prayer book called "Avesta".

They celebrate the second day of Pateti as Navroj (the first day of New Year).

**Chetichand :** Chetichand is the festival of Sindhi people. The day of Chaitra Sud Beej is celebrated by the Sindhis as the first day of the year. They wish one another a Happy New Year. On this day they take out procession of diety Jhulelal and the devotees distribute 'Tahiri' (sweet rice) as prasad.

### Festivals of Gujarat

**Navratri :** The days from Aso sud ekam to Aso sud nom are celebrated as 'Navratri'. Navratri is the festival of adoration of Maa Shakti. During these nine days people worship Maa Durga. Garba and Dandia Raas is played in Navratri. Garba is the identity of Gujarat.

**Uttarayan :** It is the transition of the sun from Dhan Rashi to Makar Rashi. This festival is also known as 'Makarsankranti'.

**Rathyatra :** Like Rathayatra of Jagannath Puri, Jagannathji's Rathayatra takes place in different parts of India on the day of Ashadh sud bij. The Rathayatra of Ahmedabad is especially attractive. Thousands of people including elephants, horses, akhadas, monks and saints participate in Rathayatra. Rathayatra starts after performing 'Pahindavidhi'. In the Rathayatra, Lord Jagannath, elder brother Balram (Balbhadra) and sister Subhadra ride in the chariot and go around in the town.



**Rathyatra**

#### To Know

- The credit of starting Rathayatra in Gujarat goes to Santshri Nrusinhdasji (1878 A.D).
- The front of the chariot is cleaned with broom made of gold which is called Pahindavidhi.

**Fairs :** Fairs held in various districts of Gujarat have become the identity of that district. Tarnetar fair (Surendranagar), Vautha festival (Ahmedabad), Bhavnath fair (Junagadh), Shamlaji-Gadadhar festival (Shamlaji, Aravalli), Palli fair (Rupal, Gandhinagar), Bhadarvi Poonam fair (Ambaji, Banaskatha), Sarkhej fair (Ahmedabad), Gol-Gadhedo fair (Garbada, Dahod), Chitra-Vichitra fair (Sabarkantha), Madhavpur fair (Madhavpur, Porbandar), Miradatar's Urs Mubarak (Unawa, Mehsana) are famous fairs.

### Activity

To get special information about the fairs held in various districts of Gujarat, read the 'Balsrishti' published by the Gujarat State School Textbook Board. For this read August 2016 A.D 'Fair Special Issue'.

### India's Main Classical Dances

Classical dances are a distinctive part of Indian culture. These classical dances have been associated with religion. We will learn about the major classical dances of India.

**Kathak :** The word 'Kathak' is derived from 'Katha'. The storytellers embellished the story with their facial expressions and music. The saying 'Kathan Kare So Kathak Kahave'. is very well known. Especially in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, Kathak flourished in North India due to spread of Bhakti movement. The subjects of Kathak included the stories of Radha and Lord Krishna called Ras Leela.

In the time of Mughal emperors, Kathak dance was performed in courts where it developed into a distinctive dance form. After fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, Kathak got divided into branches. These branches are called 'Gharanas'. These two branches include Jaipur and Lucknow. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century Nawab Wajid Ali Shah of Awadh revived the art by giving shelter to Kathak in his court. Kathak spread in Punjab, Haryana, Jammu-Kashmir, Bihar and Madhya-Pradesh.

After independence, Kathak got a place in six classical dances. Today, Kathak has become an integral part of Indian culture.

**Kathakali :** Kathakali is a dance form tradition of Kerala. Literally it means 'Theatrical Story'.

Acting is the soul of this dance. In addition to acting costumes and colours are also very important. Costumes of the characters are according to their characteristics i.e. ethical, majestic and vindictive. Characters don't speak but express themselves with the help of facial expressions.

### Know This

It is known that this form of drama originated from the Sanskrit drama tradition called 'Kutiyattam' of the ninth and tenth century.

**Manipuri :** Manipuri dance is the identity of eastern Indian state, 'Manipur'. The people of Manipur perform this dance on every festival and occasion. This dance form is considered to be different from other dance forms in India because of slow body movement. Manipuri dance is of two types : Lasya and Tandav.



**Kathakali**





### Manipuri Dance

**Bharatnatyam :** Natyashastra written by Bharatmuni is a great book written on classical dances of India. Apart from this Nandikeshwar, the author of the book called 'Abhinav Darpan' has also discussed 'Bharatnatyam' in detail as an important classical dance of India. Bharatnatyam dance developed in Tanjore (Tamil Nadu).

### Know This

King Bhagyachandra of the 18th century played an important role in the development of the Manipuri dance. He wrote a book 'Govind-Sangeet Lilavilas' as good as a dance style textbook.



### Bharatnatyam

**Kuchipudi :** India's leading classical dance Kuchipudi originated from Kuchipudi village in Andhra Pradesh. The dance called 'Yakshgana' of this village took the form of Kuchipudi dance in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The founder of this was Vaishnav poet Siddhendra Yogi. This dance is associated with drama also.



### Kuchipudi

**Bihu :** Bihu is a famous dance of Assam. This dance is performed by a group of men-women dressed in traditional costume to express happiness. Hand and foot movements, speed and group formation play an important role in this dance. Dhol, Pepa (an instrument made from buffalo horns) and instruments like flute are used in this dance.

### Know This

In the medieval era following dances were included :

- Bharatnatyam (Tamil Nadu)
- Kathakali (Kerala)
- Oddisi (Odisha)
- Kuchipudi (Andhra Pradesh)
- Manipuri (Manipur)
- Kathak (North India)





### Painting - The tradition of Miniatures

The tradition of painting is centuries old in India, a special part of which is the tradition of miniatures. Miniatures are small pictures. Miniatures were made with water colour on cloth and paper. The oldest miniatures have been found drawn on palm leaves and wood. Many such miniatures are found in Jain texts of Rajasthan and Gujarat. It developed a lot during the Mughal period because the Mughal emperors Akbar, Jahangir and



Miniature

Shah Jahan encouraged skilled painters and established art galleries. In the texts like the Mahabharata, the Panchtantra as well as 'Akbarnama' the painters have painted beautiful miniatures. Scenes of palace, war, hunting and social life remained the subjects of miniature paintings. Such paintings were given to one another as gifts and only the King and those who were close to him were allowed to see them.

Miniature paintings found in manuscripts have been preserved in Shantinath Library (Bhandara) in Khambhat and Hemchandracharya Jain Gyanbhandar in Patan. These paintings reflect the sects and social life of Gujarat.

### Painting Styles (Art form based on extension of 'gharana' and patrons)

After the decline of the Mughal empire, regional kings gave shelter to painting among which Rajasthan and Southern states were the main ones. These rulers got the scenes of their courts painted. The states like Mewad, Jodhpur, Bundi, Kota and Kishangarh got the paintings of Indian mythological stories, Epics and images of Gods and Goddesses painted.

After seventeenth century, Miniature art also developed in Himachal Pradesh which is called 'Basohali' style. Such special pictures are found in Bhanudatta's book 'Rasmanjari'. Due to the invasion of Nadir Shah and the conquest of Delhi, Mughal artists migrated to hilly areas. As a result, the 'Kangada' style of painting developed. This painting is also called 'Pahari' painting. By the middle of the eighteenth century, artists developed a new style inspired by the traditions of the Vaishnava sect. Using soft colours along with blue and green and poetic depiction of subjects, was the speciality of 'Kangda' style painting.

### The Heroic Saga of the Rajputs

The British rulers acknowledged today's Rajasthan as Rajputana. The Rajputs created a distinctive culture in Rajasthan. The cultural traditions of the Rajputs were associated to their ideals and heroism. The heroic tales of the Rajputs were narrated by Charans and Barots through poetry and songs. In these stories, in addition to the heroism of the Rajputs, loyalty, friendship, love, wrath, etc. were depicted.

Rajputs sacrificed their lives for women, cows and religion. Rajput women were equally heroic. They followed the footsteps of their valiant husband in both life and death. The mention of 'satipratha' is also seen.



**Pir :** According to Sufism, religion means 'love for god' and 'service to humanity'. From time to time the Sufis were divided into different orders. There were Pirs (guides) for each order. The disciples of Pir were known as 'Khwaja' or 'Sheikh'. The disciples of pir were known as 'Murids'

Leading Sufi saints associated with the Indian Pir tradition include the famous Sufi saint Moinuddin Chisti of Ajmer. He started the Chisti Sect in India. He became famous as 'Khwaja' and 'Olia'. In Gujarat, Ahmed Khattu Ganjbaksh was a great Pir.

### Activity

Collect information about the Sufi saints of Gujarat.

**Paliya :** A monument of pillar erected in memory of the heroic martyrs who stood firm against the enemies and died in battle is called 'Paliya'. Paliya was also made for the women who performed Jauhar or Sati. Such a Paliya is called 'Sati's Paliya'.

## Temples

Temple architecture dates back to the Gupta age. The Gupta period is also called the period of Structural temples. There are three main types of temple architecture. This includes Nagar, Dravid and Vesara style.



**Jagannath temple (Puri) (Odisha)**

**Dravid Style :** The style of architecture which developed in South India is known as Dravidian Style. These include regions like Tamil Nadu, Southern Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Southern Karnataka. These temples are found from Krishna basin to Kanyakumari. These temples include Brihadeshwar (Rajrajeshwar) temple (Tanjore). Meenakshi temple (Madurai) Chariot temple of Mahaballipuram (Tamil Nadu).

**Nagar Style :** The temple architectural style that developed from the Northern part of India (Himalayas) to the Vindhya after 5<sup>th</sup> century is known as Nagar style. These temples are usually built in the Panchayatana style with oval pinnacle. Temples of this style include Jagannath temple (Puri), Konark (Odisha) and Sun temple (Modhera, Gujarat) as well as Mahadev temple of Khajuraho (Madhya Pradesh).



**Brihadeshwar (Rajrajeshwar) temple**







**Hoysaleswara temple (Karnataka)**

**Vesara Style :** Vesara style of temple architecture developed from Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka and Vindhya mountain range to Krishna river. The Vesara style is a mixture of Nagar and Dravid style. This style is also known as Karnataka style. Temples of this style include Hoysaleswara temple (Halebidu, Karnataka and Chenna Keshava temple Belur, Karnataka).

### Exercise

#### 1. Match the following correctly :

##### (A) Fair

- (1) Tarnetar Fair
- (2) Chitra-Vichitra Fair
- (3) Miradatar-Urs-Fair
- (4) Palli Fair
- (5) Bhavnath Fair
- (6) Vautha Fair

##### (B) District

- (A) Sabarkantha
- (B) Ahmedabad
- (C) Junagadh
- (D) Mehsana
- (E) Gandhinagar
- (F) Surendranagar

#### 2. Answer the following questions in one sentence :

- (1) Explain the characteristics of Kangra style.
- (2) Name the boat race held in Kerala.
- (3) What is the name of the text written in Manipravalam style on grammar and poetry ?
- (4) Name the great writers of Gujarati literature.
- (5) In which two 'Gharanas' was Kathak divided ?

#### 3. Fill in the blanks :

- (1) The sagas of knights were sung by ..... and ..... .
- (2) ..... was built by King Anant Varman.
- (3) Kuchipudi originated in Kuchipudi village of ..... .

### Activity

- Describe the salient features of culture in your area in terms of buildings and art.
- Do you use different languages in conversation, reading and writing ? Get information about one of the most important works in one of these languages and discuss why you liked it.
- Choose one state from the North, South, East, West and Central part of India. Make a list of the meals consumed by the people of these states in their daily lives. If you find any similarities or differences in this list, discuss it.
- Make a list of five states from the above mentioned parts of India. Make a list of the clothes worn by men and women in the selected states, discuss the finding you have discussed.

