

Contents

Acknowledgements..... 13a
Foreword..... 17a
Hindu festivals, rituals and cultural identity..... 21a
Introduction..... 28a



1 Nutan Varsh (Kārtik *sud* 1)

(New Year's Day) 1

2 Deva Diwāli Parva

(Kārtik *sud* 11-15) 11



3 Makar Sankrānti

Uttarāyan (January 14) 21

4 Vasant Panchmi

(Mahā *sud* 5) 27



5 Attukal Pongal

(Makar-Kumbhakam) 31

6 Mahā Shivarātri

(Mahā *vad* 14) 35



7 Holi

(Fāgan *sud* 15) 43

8 Dhuleti/Fuldol

(Fāgan *vad* 1) 49





- 9 Vishu (Medam 1)**
(New Year's Day, Kerala) 53



- 10 Rāmanavmi**
(Chaitra *sud* 9) 57



- 11 Swāminārāyan Jayanti**
(Chaitra *sud* 9) 63



- 12 Hanumān Jayanti**
(Chaitra *sud* 15) 69



- 13 Chandan Adornments**
(Akhā Trij – Vaishākh *sud* 3) 81



- 14 Nrusinh Jayanti**
(Vaishākh *sud* 14) 85



- 15 Hindolā Parva / Jhulan Yātrā**
(Ashādh *sud* 15-Shrāvan *vad* 15) 93



- 16 Rath Yātrā**
(Shrāvan *vad* 2) 99



17 Ekādashi

(Āshādh *sud* 15)

109

18 Guru Purnimā

(Āshādh *sud* 15)

115



19 Rakshā Bandhan

(Shrāvan *sud* 15)

123

20 Krishna Janmāshtami

(Shrāvan *vad* 8)

129



Bhakti rituals during Shrāvan

140

21 Onam

(Chingam)

143



22 Ganesh Chaturthi

(Bhādarvā *sud* 4)

147

23 Jal Zilani Ekādashi

(Bhādarvā *sud* 11)

155





24 Vāman Jayanti

(Bhādarva *sud* 12)

159

25 Navrātri

(Āso *sud* 1-9)

163



26 Dasherā

(Āso *sud* 10)

169

27 Sharad Purnimā

(Āso *sud* 15)

173



28 Diwāli Parva

(Āso *vad* 11-15)

179

29 Adhik Mās

(Inter-calary month)

187



30 Dhanurmās

(Māgshar *vad* 3 - Posh *vad* 4)

195

31 Pātotsav

(Mandir consecration anniversary)

203





32 Pramukh Swami Mahārāj Janmostav

(Māgshar *sud* 8) 209

33 Akshar Dikshā Mahotsav

(Posh *sud* 15) 219

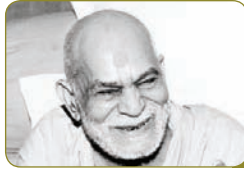


34 Vasant Panchmi

(Mahā *sud* 5) 221

35 Bhagatji Mahārāj Jayanti

(Fāgan *sud* 15) 229

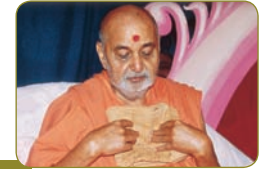


36 Yogi Jayanti

(Vaishākh *vad* 12) 231

37 Pramukh Varni Din

(Jeth *sud* 4) 237



38 Bhagwān Swāminārāyan's Kalyān Yātrā

(Āshādh *sud* 10) 245

39 Loj Āgaman (Arrival in Loj)

(Shrāvan *vad* 6) 247





40 Ārti Utsav

(Kārtik *sud* 10)

249

41 Mandir Mahotsav

(Prāna Pratishtā in a
new mandir)

251



Hindu Festivals in a Philosophical Perspective	254
Afterword	256
Appendix 1 – Practical ideas for children to celebrate festivals	259
Appendix 2 – Farāri offerings during Shrāvan mās	265
Appendix 3 – Rath Yātrā (Amdavad 2005) – Offerings to Shri Jagannāthji	266
Appendix 4 – List of vegetables offered in Patrāli	267
Appendix 5 – Chopdā Pujan	268
Appendix 6 – Grand Festivals	270
Appendix 7 – FAQs	271
<i>Bibliography</i>	279
<i>Glossary</i>	283
<i>Index</i>	292