CHAPTER-SIXTH

Special Features of Indian culture:-

Indian culture has a long and traditional history. Notwithstanding differences in languages, dresses, food-habits, cultures of the people of various regions in India, the character and nature of cultures across different states remain same. Special features of Indian culture can be broadly classified as under:-

I) **Festivals** :- Festivals like Diwali, Basant Panchami, Holi, Dusserah, Janmashtami, Raksha Bandan in India are observed in all the regions of India with equal jest, gaiety and mood. Main Hindu festivals are linked to the movement of moon. As such the timings of above common festivals in all parts of India are same. Indian festivals are observed with the objective of sharing happiness and pleasures among the people of a particular society. This bond of unity among different families and groups is expressed through observance of festivals.

II) **Universal Outlook** :- The important aspect of Indian culture is its universal outlook. Although different regions in India follow different social customs and practices, there is no cultural barrier among different regions. Exchanges of ideas, thoughts, beliefs and philosophy among different groups and regions are the hallmark of Indian culture. Universal approach is the key to Indian culture. Indian culture has adapted even foreign culture in the field of education, dresses and etiquettes with a view to fostering development of its own culture.

III) **Relationship with Nature** :- Indian societies and their people find a unique bond of relationship with the nature. Natural elements have a great impact on Indian culture. In fact, Indian nature and its flora and fauna have a big role in shaping the Indian culture.

Indian’s spiritual pursuit has a long tradition of unifying oneself with that of universe. The universe cannot be imagined without existence of nature. Nature provides inspiration and influence on human being to achieve accomplishment in life. Indian people have love for nature so much so that they offer prayers to nature-God for arrival of rains
during harvesting. As nature’s bounties have shaped the economic life of the people of India, they have a concern for the preservation and protection of nature.

IV) **Tolerance:** - India is a secular state. People of different religions like the Hindus, the Muslims, the Christians, the Sikhs etc. have found their homes in India. Indian culture has taught people of different religious beliefs to pursue religious tolerance. Each of the religious society has been pursuing and professing its own religion without being interfered by other religions. Religious tolerance is the basic fabric of Indian culture that keeps people of different faiths together in harmony.²

V) **Spiritual Activity:** - Indian culture is not without its people’s penchant for spiritual activity. Spiritual activity had it root in ancient period. The sages of India taught the people over a long period of time the importance of pursuing spiritual activity. The great Indian sages demonstrated and inculcated sense of spiritual activity in the minds of its people for achieving enlightenment of the soul.³
Reference