ON THE WALL

Let's celebrate our festivals

Festivals have two dimensions, one religious and the other celebratory. Festivals origianally gave thanks to natural forces. But with time, an evil eye was, as it were, cast on our natural resources. People burst firecrackers, made idols with non-biodegradable materials and toxic paints and played with colours that pollute the air, land and water. But some tribes whose livelihoods depend directly on natural resources celebrate their tribal festivals while maintaining an ecological balance.

Effect on water **Effect on land** **Effect on air**

Onam
Kerala

Elaborate feasts, folk songs, elegant dances, energetic games, elephants, boats and flowers are all part of the dynamic festival of Onam.

No immersion, so no water pollution

Elephants are moved from their habitat and used for religious purposes.

No crackers, so no air pollution

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Eid ul-Fitr
Muslims offers prayers at mosques and partake in charitable giving and visiting family and friends. They also exchange gifts.

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Grade the festivals and find out the most green festival.
The greenest festival is

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Concept: Sorit, Text: Diksha, Design: Ritika

Dree festival
Arunachal Pradesh

An agricultural festival of the Apatani tribe of the Ziro Valley in Arunachal Pradesh, Dree is celebrated with prayers and sacrificial offerings.

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Hareli
Chhattisgarh

A traditional farm festival in which farmers worship their cows and equipment.

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Sarhul festival
Jharkhand

An important festival of the Oraon tribals, whose lives are closely intertwined with Mother Nature. Sarhul is celebrated when saal trees get new leaves and flowers.

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Durga puja
West Bengal

Massive idols of Goddess Durga are installed and huge pandals are set up in various places. After images of the goddess are worshipped for five days, they are immersed in water.

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Karam festival
Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha

A monsoon festival celebrated with ritualistic practices, such as worshipping branches of a karma tree.

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Diwali
To celebrate Lord Rama's return from exile, houses are lit with beautiful candles and colourful lights. Children burst firecrackers.

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Christmas
People erect Christmas trees, decorate their homes and exchange gifts.

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Dusshera
Effigies of King Ravana and his sons are burned.

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Hornbill festival
Nagaland

A tribute to the hornbill, a bird admired by the Naga people. The week-long festival comprises cultural performances, music events, film festivals and craft bazaars.

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Gurupurab
Guru Nanak's birthday, celebrated by Sikhs, who visit gurdwaras, hold processions and burst crackers.

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