

12th February 2023

The Indian government made an unusual and rare request to celebrate Valentine's Day differently this year. They asked that the occasion be named "Cow Hug Day". Although the decision was in celebration of India's traditional and religious values, it was quickly cancelled due to **negative** public reaction. The **nation** of India is represented by almost 80% Hindus, despite having no official and state religion. Hinduism respects cows and many parts of India have banned killing cows. The government made a statement saying that cows are the "backbone" of India's cultural and farming economy, and "fill our lives with **positive energy**". The idea of February 14th being Cow Hug Day came from the government authority that advises on animal safety and anti-cruelty laws. Hugging cows on this special day they said would increase **individual** and national happiness. The political statement also noted that Western and non-Hindu values and culture should not be promoted in India. Valentine's Day typically celebrates couples, not **cattle**. By trying to exchange one for the other, the government received bad political and social media reactions. Shortly after, they issued a message to confirm the plan had been cancelled. For now, Indians young and old are not prevented from sharing romantic and heartfelt gifts, and Valentine's Day will remain a holiday of romance.

Q1. \_\_\_\_\_

Finish the sentence – "My favourite occasion for giving gifts is..."

Think of three adjectives that describe gifts. Share as a group and list the best.

Q2. \_\_\_\_\_

Which bolded words in the text mean: *personal - good - cows - country - not good*

Q3. \_\_\_\_\_

Which word below doesn't belong?

culture - traditional - message - values

Q4. \_\_\_\_\_

Comprehension questions:

1. What would the new day celebrate?
2. Who represent the largest population of India?
3. Why are cows respected in India?
4. The government said cows can increase what?
5. Valentine's Day is a day of what?

Q5. \_\_\_\_\_

Link the five synonym pairs:

- |               |            |
|---------------|------------|
| 1. nation     | A. single  |
| 2. confirm    | B. country |
| 3. occasion   | C. event   |
| 4. individual | D. explain |
| 5. authority  | E. power   |

Q6. \_\_\_\_\_

Spell the words correctly:

- |                          |      |
|--------------------------|------|
| 1. e a b c e r l e t     | c... |
| 2. e i c d n o i s       | d... |
| 3. n r a i d t i o l a t | t... |
| 4. i e l g r i n o       | r... |
| 5. d s e a i s v         | a... |

Q7. \_\_\_\_\_

Discussion / Writing questions:

What animals are associated with your religion?

When you think of the word *holiday*, what words do you think of?

What are the good and bad things about zoos?

What values of your country are good for the world?

Q8. \_\_\_\_\_

10 B1 revision keywords: underlined in text.