

Cow Hug Day for individual and Indian happiness

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.

Warm-up

Activities:

Finish the sentence – “*My favourite occasion for giving gifts is...*”

As a group, draw a line with *traditional* written on the left end and *modern* written on the right end. Write above the line the title *holidays*. Think of some examples of traditional and modern holidays and mark yourself somewhere on the line based on what you prefer. Share your examples and reasons.

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

Vocabulary:

1. Scan the text and find a word or phrase that means:

not good (paragraph 1) n...

country (paragraph 2) n...

good (paragraph 2) p...

personal (paragraph 3) i...

cows (paragraph 4) c...

2. What does the italicised word below mean – *stay*, *send*, or *leave*?

Valentine’s Day will *remain* a holiday

3. Which word below doesn’t belong?

culture – traditional – message – values

Comprehension questions

1. What do the Indian government want to replace Valentine's Day with?
2. What would the new day celebrate?
3. Who represent the largest population of India?
4. What has parts of India done to protect cows?
5. Why are cows respected in India?
6. Who specifically suggested Cow Hug Day?
7. The government said cows can increase what?
8. Valentine's Day typically celebrates who?
9. When did the government cancel Cow Hug Day?
10. Valentine's Day is a day of what?

- A. After they received bad public reactions.
- B. Cow Hug Day.
- C. Hindus.
- D. The animal safety authority.
- E. Couples.
- F. Banned the killing of cows.
- G. Individual and national happiness.
- H. Romance.
- I. India's traditional and religious values.
- J. They have been the support of the Indian economy.

Match-up phrases, synonyms, antonyms

Match the words on the left to their endings to make phrases from the text:

- | | |
|---------------|--------------------|
| 1. celebrate | A. safety |
| 2. positive | B. religion |
| 3. animal | C. now |
| 4. for | D. killing |
| 5. state | E. Valentine's Day |
| 6. fill our | F. values |
| 7. religious | G. after |
| 8. banned | H. energy |
| 9. government | I. authority |
| 10. shortly | J. lives |

Match the words on the left from the text to their synonyms:

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

Match the words on the left from the text to their antonyms:

- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. hug | A. sadness |
| 2. celebrate | B. push |
| 3. happiness | C. forget |

Grammar pairs: combining adjectives

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. A. rare / B. old | 6. A. religious / B. national |
| 2. A. happiness / B. religious | 7. A. Western / B. Indian |
| 3. A. political / B. state | 8. A. political / B. traditional |
| 4. A. romantic / B. cultural | 9. A. rare / B. young |
| 5. A. safety / B. individual | 10. A. romantic / B. national |

The Indian government made an unusual and 1._____ 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 2._____ 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 3._____ 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 4._____ 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 5._____ and anti-cruelty laws. Hugging cows on this special day they said would increase individual and 6._____ happiness. The political statement also noted that 7._____ 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 8._____ and social media reactions. Shortly after, they issued a message to confirm the plan had been cancelled. For now, Indians 9._____ and old are not prevented from sharing 10._____ and heartfelt gifts, and Valentine's Day will remain a holiday of romance.

Missing vocabulary

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| A. occasion | F. celebrate |
| B. respects | G. romance |
| C. exchange | H. energy |
| D. religious | I. promoted |
| E. authority | J. happiness |

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The idea of February 14th being Cow Hug Day came from the government 6._____ that advises on animal safety and anti-cruelty laws. Hugging cows on this special day they said would increase individual and national 7._____. The political statement also noted that Western and non-Hindu values and culture should not be 8._____ in India.

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Spelling

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. e a b c e r l e t | 6. v n i d i l d i a u |
| 2. e i c d n o i s | 7. o r o m d p t e |
| 3. n r a i d t i o l a t | 8. y p y i c t l a l |
| 4. i e l g r i n o | 9. a l i o l t i c p |
| 5. d s e a i s v | 10. o r c a m n i t |

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Fill-in vowels

Th_ _nd_ _ng_v_rnm_nt m_d_ _n_ _s_ _l_ _nd r_r_ r_q_ _st t_ c_l_br_t_ V_l_nt_n_'s
D_y d_ff_r_ntly th_s y_ _r.

Th_y _sk_d th_t th_ _cc_s_ _n b_ _n_m_d "C_w H_g D_y".

_lth_gh th_ d_c_s_ _n w_s_ _n c_l_br_t_ _n_f_ _nd_ _'s tr_d_t_ _n_l_ _nd r_l_g_ _s
v_l_ _s, _t w_s q_ _ckly c_nc_ll_d d_ _t_ _n_g_t_v_ p_bl_c_r_ _ct_ _n.

Th_ n_t_ _n_f_ _nd_ _s r_pr_s_nt_d by _lm_st 80% H_nd_s, d_sp_t_ h_v_ng n_
_ff_c_ _l_ _nd st_t_ r_l_g_ _n.

H_nd_ _sm r_sp_ _cts c_ws_ _nd m_ny p_rts _f_ _nd_ _h_v_ b_nn_d k_ll_ng c_ws.

Th_ g_v_rnm_nt m_d_ _st_t_m_nt s_y_ng th_t c_ws_ _r_ th_ "b_ckb_n_" _f_ _nd_ _'s
c_lt_r_l_ _nd f_rm_ng_ c_n_my, _nd "f_ll_ _r_l_v_s w_th p_s_t_v_ _n_rgy".

Th_ _d_ _f F_br_ _ry 14th b_ _ng C_w H_g D_y c_m_ fr_m th_ g_v_rnm_nt
_th_r_ty th_t _dv_s_s_ _n _n_m_l s_f_ty _nd _nt_-cr_ _lty l_ws.

H_gg_ng c_ws_ _n th_s sp_c_ _l d_y th_y s_ _d w_ _ld _ncr_ _s_ _nd v_d_ _l_ _nd
n_t_ _n_l h_pp_n_ss.

Th_ p_l_t_c_l st_t_m_nt _ls_ n_t_d th_t W_st_rn _nd n_n-H_nd_ v_l_ _s_ _nd c_lt_r_
sh_ _ld n_t b_ pr_m_t_d _n_ _nd_.

V_l_nt_n_'s D_y typ_c_lly c_l_br_t_s c_ _pl_s, n_t c_ttl_.

By try_ng t_ _xch_ng_ _n_ f_r th_ _th_r, th_ g_v_rnm_nt r_c_ _v_d b_d p_l_t_c_l
_nd s_c_ _l m_d_ _r_ _ct_ _ns.

Sh_rtly _ft_r, th_y _ss_ _d_ _m_ss_g_ t_ c_nf_rm th_ pl_n h_d b_ _n c_nc_ll_d.

F_r n_w, _nd_ ns y_ _ng_ _nd _ld_r_ n_t pr_v_nt_d fr_m sh_r_ng r_m_nt_c_ _nd
h_ _rtf_l_t g_fts, _nd V_l_nt_n_'s D_y w_ll r_m_ _n_ h_l_d_y _f_r_m_nc_.

Cool-down

Discussion / Writing questions:

- If you could choose a national or international “something day”, what would it be?
- 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?

CEFR B1 10 keywords revision list:

authority celebrate energy exchange happiness

occasion promote religious respect romance

Activity:

How many words can you make from the letters in *romance*? Write them below.

Answers

Page 2 Warm-up

1. negative, nation, positive, individual, cattle
2. stay
3. message

Page 3 Comprehension questions

1B, 2I, 3C, 4F, 5J, 6D, 7G, 8E, 9A, 10H

Page 4 Match-up: phrases, synonyms, antonyms

Phrases 1E, 2H, 3A, 4C, 5B, 6J, 7F, 8D, 9I, 10G

Synonyms 1B, 2D, 3C, 4A, 5E

Antonyms 1B, 2C, 3A

Page 5 Grammar pairs: combining adjectives

1A, 2B, 3B, 4B, 5A, 6B, 7A, 8A, 9B, 10A

Page 6 Missing vocabulary

1F, 2A, 3D, 4B, 5H, 6E, 7J, 8I, 9C, 10G

Page 7 Spelling

1. CELEBRATE, 2. DECISION, 3. TRADITIONAL, 4. RELIGION
5. ADVISED, 6. INDIVIDUAL, 7. PROMOTED, 8. TYPICALLY
9. POLITICAL, 10. ROMANTIC

For this lesson's interactive exercises, visit:

<https://www.everybitenglish.com/online-exercises-20230212-valentine-cow>

Thanks for using this lesson!