



- **Lokayat** is a group of social activists in Pune. We organise seminars, talks, film screenings, music concerts, street campaigns, street plays, rallies-protests, etc. on relevant social and economic issues.
- We work on voluntary basis. We believe that in order to be a better human being, it is our responsibility to give some time from our routine to think and act for the betterment of the society.
- **Abhivyakti** is women's wing of Lokayat, which organises campaigns and programs on various aspects of gender inequality and social roots of violence against women.
- **Kafila** is Lokayat's cultural wing, which makes use of a wide variety of cultural forms—including songs, rock concerts, street plays, dramas, dance and traditional folk art—to reach out to people and raise their cultural consciousness.

Dear friends, if you would like to know more about us, or participate in our activities, you may contact us at any of the following addresses.

Contact Address: Lokayat, 129 B/2, Opp. Syndicate Bank, Law College Road, Near Nal Stop, Erandwane, Pune – 411004.

(We meet every Sunday 5-7:30 pm at this address. You are welcome.)

☎ Alka – 9067003838 ☎ Rishikesh – 9423507864 🐦 lokayat

📧 lokayat.india 📧 abhivyakti.pune 📧 kafilaofficial

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Dear Friends,

Christmas—a beautiful festival in Indian culture—marks the birth of Jesus Christ. Jesus dedicated his whole life to instil the values of love, kindness, compassion, peace, brotherhood, forgiveness, sacrifice, gratitude and service in the minds of the people. On this day, people go singing carols from home to home, greet each other, distribute sweets and make merry.

Indian culture is in fact a *mili-juli tehzeeb*—a syncretic culture—shaped from the fusion of many different cultures. Therefore, we see shades of various cultures in our cuisine, clothing, languages, arts, architecture, etc. A symbol of this is the practice of celebrating all festivals by people of various faiths, which demonstrates our unity in diversity!

In recent times, deliberate attempts are being made to spread communal animosity in our country for political benefits, which is threatening our shared cultural heritage. It is the need of the hour that people of all faiths come together and overcome the differences of religion, caste, language and gender.

We are celebrating Christmas to spread the message of love and peace. You are cordially invited to join us in this celebration!

प्रिय मित्र-मैत्रिणींनो,

नाताळ किंवा ख्रिसमस हा भारतीय संस्कृतीतला एक सुंदर सण, जो येशू ख्रिस्ताचा जन्मदिवस आहे. येशूने आपले संपूर्ण जीवन प्रेम, दया, करुणा, शांती, बंधुभाव, क्षमा, त्याग, कृतज्ञता, सेवाभाव ही मूल्ये जनमानसात रुजवण्यासाठी अर्पण केले. म्हणूनच त्याच्या जन्मदिनी लोक कॅरोल्स गात घरोघरी जातात, एकमेकांना भेटतात, मिठाई वाटतात व आनंद साजरा करतात.

भारतीय संस्कृती ही खरंतर एक 'मिली-जुली' संस्कृती आहे, जी विविध संस्कृतींच्या मिश्रणातून बनलेली आहे. म्हणूनच आपल्याला खाणे-पिणे, पोषाख, भाषा, कला यांमध्ये अनेक संस्कृतींच्या छटा दिसतात. याचं एक प्रतीक म्हणजे आपल्याकडे विविध धर्मांचे लोक एकत्र येऊन सर्व सण साजरे करतात. हीच आहे विविधतेतील एकता!

पण आज आपल्या देशात जातींमध्ये, धर्मा-धर्मांमध्ये जाणीवपूर्वक तेढ पसरवून त्यावर राजकारण केलं जात आहे. त्यामुळे आपल्या मिश्र संस्कृतीला धोका निर्माण झाला आहे. सर्व धर्मांतील लोकांनी सोबत येऊन या संस्कृतीचे रक्षण करण्याची आज गरज आहे. त्यासाठी धर्म, जात, भाषा, प्रांत, लिंग या सर्व भेदांच्या पलीकडे जाऊन जनतेमध्ये एकता, बंधुभाव, प्रेम आणि शांती पसरवण्याची गरज आहे.

आम्ही सर्व लोक प्रेमाचा आणि शांतीचा संदेश देण्यासाठी ख्रिसमस साजरा करत आहोत. आपणही यात सहभागी व्हावं असं प्रेमपूर्वक आवाहन!