

## Festivals of India

Match the names in the wordsearch with the description of the various festivals.

Festival	Description	When
	People decorate their houses with clay lamps and candles, wear new clothes, and share small gifts with friends and families. It marks the return of Lord Rama (together with his wife Sita and brother Lakshmana) after a 14-year exile.	mid-October – mid-November
	It symbolizes the victory of good over evil and the arrival of spring. People celebrate by making bonfires and singing and dancing at night and covering each other in colored powder.	March
	Celebrating the death of Ravana, the demon king killed by Lord Krishna, this festival is celebrated through enactments, processions, music, and singing. It is especially beautiful in Mysore.	September / October
	On the birthday of Lord Krishna people fast until after sunset, when they have a feast. To celebrate, they also visit temples, pray, dance, and sing hymns while pictures of Krishna are displayed in temples.	August / September
	10-day long, this festival includes huge Ganesh idols to celebrate the god's birthday, displayed either in homes or outdoors, and one is immersed in holy waters on the last day.	August / September
	Very important for Sikhs, on this day people hold special conferences on the lives and teachings of the gurus and organize community meals. There is also a procession around the city and devotees are invited to help the needy and donate to charity.	November
	A festival to celebrate the bond between brothers and sisters: the sister says a prayer and ties a sacred thread on the brother's wrist to ensure his well being; the brother vows to protect the sister.	August
	Very important for Muslims, it celebrates the end of Ramadan. People dress up in their best clothes, attend a special community prayer, visit friends and relatives, and exchange sweets while children are given money or gifts.	July
	Lasting two days, this festival includes dancing by priests and traditional music made with cymbals, drums, and trumpets. It celebrates the anniversary of the birth of spiritual leader Padmasambhava, founder of Tibet Tantric Buddhism.	June / July
	During this festival people wear traditional clothes, decorate their houses with flowers, and prepare an elaborate meal. Celebrations include also snake boat racing, dancing, and processions. It celebrates the homecoming of the legendary king Mahabali.	August / September
	Dedicated to Lord Shiva, this festival has a huge significance in Hindu mythology as it is believed that whoever worships Lord Shiva on this day attains salvation and redemption from their sins.	March
	Dedicated to the Goddess of Knowledge, it is very important to students and scholars. People wear yellow clothes and make yellow dishes like sweet saffron rice and kadhi.	January / February
	This day celebrates the Constitution of India, when the country stopped being a British Dominion and became a republic (1950).	26th January
	On this day the flag is hoisted by the Prime Minister of India at the Red Fort, followed by 21 gunshots. It is celebrated to commemorate the freedom reached on 15th August, 1947.	15th August

