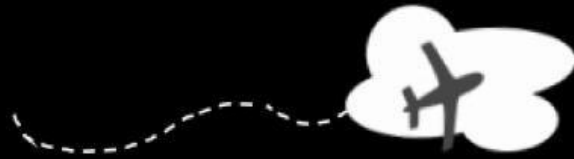




Holidays in INDIA



Diwali is the most important holiday in India. It is a time to celebrate the victory of good over evil. There are many special traditions during the five days of Diwali. People deep clean their homes and sweep the streets to prepare. They decorate their houses and towns with strings of lights and brightly colored flowers.



Flower garland Diwali decorations

Decorating the doorway is a big part of Diwali. This is believed to welcome happiness into the homes. People create beautiful patterns on the floor with colored rice powder or sand. Flowers are strung and hung around the door. Inside, families light candles and burn incense.

Diwali is a time of songs, dance, and fireworks. It is also a time for families to spend together.

Many people visit relatives and friends during Diwali. Most prepare a special Diwali meal. A rice dish called *poha* is usually eaten. Delicious sweets and snacks are made with spices and nuts. Baking sweets for Diwali starts weeks before the holiday. It is traditional to visit friends and neighbors to give them Diwali treats.

How do people in India prepare for Diwali? _____

What are Diwali snacks made with? _____

How long is Diwali celebrated? _____

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