

## An Indian festival or the Diwali

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India is a land of festivals. These are the days of great rejoicings. Sometimes they have religious importance. Some are seasonal festivals. They are all infect, the life and spirit of the nation. They are occasions of great enjoyment and merry making. Most communities in India have a festival every month.

The Diwali is the most Important Indian festival. It is celebrated in honor of Lord Rama's return to Ayodhya after his fourteen years exile. Besides, the sixth Guru of the Sikhs, Shri Guru Hargobind Ji was also released from the Gwalior fort on this day.

This festival comes off every year n the twentieth day after Dussehra. It is generally celebrate the month of October. The festival marks the beginning of the winter season.

This is the most important Hindu festival. Preparations for this festival are made about a month in advance. Houses and shops are swept, cleaned and white washed. Doors and windows are painted. The bazaars and streets wear a happy look.

On this day, men, women and children put on their best clothes. People exchange Diwali greetings and share sweets with each other. Sweets, toys and crackers sell like hot cakes. At night goddess Lakshmi is worshipped in every Hindu home.

At night shops and houses are brightly illuminated with electric bulbs, earthen lamps or candles. Fireworks are let off. The sound given by mini atom bombs, crackers and pocket pistols deafening.

This festival keeps the memory of Lord Rama fresh in the minds of the Hindus. This festival also marks the beginning of the business year for some businessmen.