

DIWALI 'FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS'



Diwali is a Hindu festival which lasts for 5 days.





**Diwali is the Hindu festival
welcoming Rama and Sita
out of the forest and
celebrating the Hindu new
year.**

Deepvali is the sanskrit word meaning rows of lights.



Some people light decorated candles, some decorated clay diva lamps, and other decorative lights and put them in their windows for the festival. Deepvali is now shortened to the better known Diwali.



Many festivals are celebrated in India, and some of them are celebrated in some parts of the country only. But Diwali is one of the greatest Indian festivals that is celebrated all over India.

Diwali is a huge family festival starting with worship followed by a celebration breakfast. Families dress in new clothes and jewels and go visiting others. They exchange gifts and sweets. It is a time to forget quarrels and make up with people that are no longer friends. At night every building is lit with little lamps in hopes that Lakshmi, the Goddess of wealth will bless them.



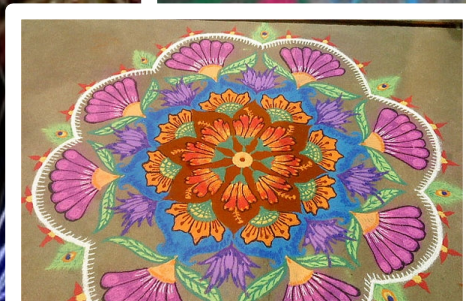


This year (2011),
this is how they
have celebrated....

Thousands of people descend on a market in the western city of Ahmedabad in India to commemorate to historic victory of good over evil.



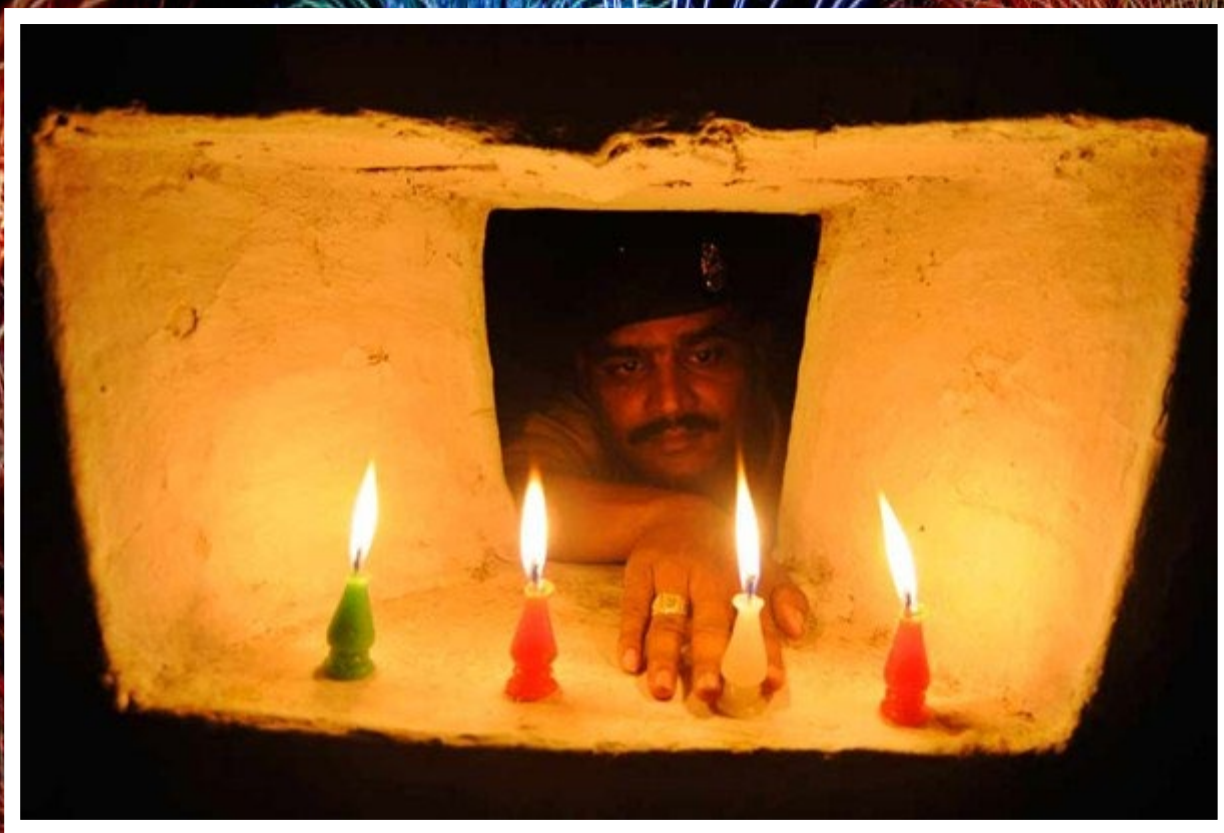
Here, one student completes final preparations to a mural created at a school in Jammu. The Hindu New Year arrives during the festival of Diwali, meaning celebrations are colourful, vibrant and diverse.



People at the Shiva Kovi temple in Colombo pray to the Goddess Laxmi for prosperity and wealth on the first day of Diwali. Offerings are given to show appreciation for victory over darkness.



A soldier in the Indian Border Security Force lights a candle inside a bunker at Agartala on the India-Bangladesh border.



Lights displayed during the festival come in many forms. Here, lamps are set up on a tiered stand and lit by a man at Gandhinagar in north India.



Young and old participate in the festival. Here, a group of women in Hyderabad, India burn fire crackers to destroy the darkness and reveal beauty.



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