

KNOW YOUR FESTIVAL

Deepavali

Deepavali (Diwali) is one important festival celebrated mainly by Hindus all over the world. It is known as the Festival of Lights. It celebrates the triumph of good over evil. In Singapore, the streets in Little India are lit up with beautiful decorations, accompanied with activities, about one month before the festival.

TRADITIONS

Preparation for the festival includes the cleaning of homes, shopping for new clothes and preparing traditional goodies.

During Deepavali, the entrances of Hindu homes are decorated with kolam (also known as rangoli) and lighted clay lamps.

The kolam is drawn on the floor with coloured rice flour. It is considered an act of charity, as it provides food for birds and insects.

On the morning of Deepavali, the Hindus will take their traditional oil bath. Elders will apply oil on the heads of the children. Family members wear new clothes and conduct prayers.

TRADITIONAL ATTIRE

It is a common practice to wear new and brightly coloured clothes during Deepavali.

For men:

Dhoti: A piece of cloth knotted around the waist and extends to cover the legs

For women:

Sari: A long piece of fabric draped around the body

TRADITIONAL GOODIES

Sweet and savoury snacks are prepared and served. These snacks include Adhirasam, Muruku and Laddu.



Adhirasam:

A sweet puff made of sugar and ground fermented rice flour

Muruku:

A savoury, crunchy snack

Laddu:

A sphere-shaped traditional Indian sweet

References

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