

Christmas in India

Written by Shaheen Wahab

Christmas is a festival that everyone celebrates in India irrespective of their beliefs. Despite the small proportion of population, the celebration is grand. Most of the offices and educational institutes have Pre-Christmas celebrations a week before the holidays. The malls in India would be beautifully decorated and often fun games would be conducted there. The celebrations begin on Christmas eve and last until New Year's day. There is late night Christmas Mass on the 24th and 25th morning. People would put on their best clothes, mostly new clothes on those days. Restaurants, clubs and pubs generally follow the Christmas theme menu for their food and drinks. Oh yes and there's cake everywhere and we get to witness the baking skills through posts on Instagram and Facebook! Christmas themed sweaters and onesies with reindeers and Santas are not that common here though. But of course we get to see Santas around and people with Santa caps! The tradition of exchanging gifts is prevalent here too. During Pre-Christmas celebrations, all the guests would bring a gift and would be given a number. Numbers would be called out randomly, two at a time, and those persons whose numbers have been called out would be exchanging the gifts and I find it very exciting to receive gifts from strangers. On Christmas Eve, there would be a bunch of people singing Christmas carols and visiting different households irrespective of the beliefs. In my region, the concept of Christmas cookies isn't that common. People generally have grand lunch and dinner get-togethers which usually consist of Pulaw (Rice cooked with clarified butter and nuts), biriyani (a kind of rice cooked with chicken or mutton and yoghurt), and meat of course, although there's no specific recipe that is being prepared in my region. Donuts are also prepared at home using flour, eggs, sugar, deep fried and dipped in chocolate. People living in different places would rush back home during this time of the year after all Christmas is for everyone, it's the celebration of love, oneness and bonding.



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