

Christmas in India



Compared to other religious festivals, Christmas is quite a small festival in India. Midnight mass is a very important service for Christians in India, especially Catholics. The whole family will walk to the mass and this will be followed by a massive feast of different delicacies, (mostly curries) and the giving and receiving of presents. Churches in India are decorated with Poinsettia flowers and candles for the Christmas Eve Midnight Mass service.

Instead of having traditional Christmas Trees, a banana or mango tree is decorated. Sometimes people use mango leaves to decorate their homes.

Christians in Mumbai often display a manger in a front window. Also families go to great lengths to hang giant paper lanterns, in the shape of stars, between the houses so that the stars float above you as you walk down the road. Every household also makes sure that they have a stock of home made sweets ready for visitors.

In India, Father Christmas or Santa Claus delivers presents to children from a horse and cart. He's known as 'Christmas Baba' in Hindi.

Read the information above and answer the questions.

1. What is Santa Claus known as in Hindi?

2. Name two trees that are decorated at Christmas in India.

3. What do Christians in Mumbai often display in their front window?

4. What do people in India give to visitors at Christmastime?

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| a Sweets | b Rice |
| c Fruit | d Chocolate |