



*Hi Friends,*

*It's a pleasure to launch this e-newsletter. We will attempt to keep you posted on our working & developments through this mailer. We request you to pass the information on to members in your countries.*

*This newsletter has a message from:  
Rachna, our Conference Convenor*

*It also contains some interesting information on Diwali, the most celebrated Hindu festival in India. Hope you will enjoy reading it.*

*Our Committee Members are putting in their heart and soul to prepare for the Conference.*

*We hope that our hard work will pay off and the entire world will be proud and happy that they attended the FIESTA@50 conference in Bangalore and remember it forever...*

*In each Newsletter, we will also be showcasing some of the beautiful cities of India...*

*In friendship,  
Meghana Raikar  
Website Convenor*

*Dear Circlers,*

*Greetings to you all from the Fiesta @ 50 Committee. The Committee members have been hard at work the last 2 months. As we promised to you all in Aberdeen, we have managed to revise our prices to your advantage and have started registrations.*

*The hotels finalized are all highly rated, close to town centre with modern, airy rooms. The biggest advantage is that they are all within 10-15 minutes of our Convention Hotel. Efforts are on to finalize all our venues for various events within a short circumference to avoid long travel.*

*There are fantastic tours up for grabs... I suggest that you all reserve your tours well in time to avoid disappointment later.*

*As we progress, we will keep you updated. In the meanwhile, do register early for Fiesta @ 50 to encourage us to work better.*

*In Friendship,  
Rachna Gupta,  
Conference Convenor  
Fiesta @ 50*



## Diwali or Deepavali

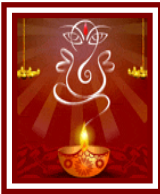
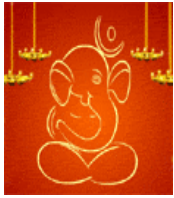
## DELHI - OUR CAPITAL OUR PRIDE

is the Indian festival of lights. It is celebrated to commemorate the return of Lord Ram and his wife Sita to Ayodhya after 14 years in exile. It is celebrated in the lunar month of Kartik, which comes in the month of October or November.



Deepavali: The name itself means "rows of lighted lamps". This Festival of Lights is celebrated with

fervor and gaiety. People light earthen diyas (lamps) to dispel darkness and light up their lives. Prayers are offered to Lakshmi (Goddess of wealth) & Ganesha (The problem solver :))



Children burst Crackers, new clothes are worn and traditional sweets made. Gifts are exchanged. This festival

is also celebrated as the start of the New Year in certain regions of India.

The lighting of lamps is a way of paying obeisance to God for attainment of Health, Wealth, Knowledge, Peace, Valor and Fame.



People decorate their houses with lamps, flowers and Rangoli (coloured powders). They invite near and dear ones to their homes for partaking a

sumptuous feast.

The festival symbolizes unity in diversity.

Though every corner of India celebrates it, every state has its own

special & distinct way of doing it.

Delhi is the second largest metropolis of India, and the fifth largest city in the world by population, with a population greater than 18 million, and a federally-administered union territory officially known as the National Capital Territory of Delhi (NCT).

Located on the banks of river Yamuna in northern India, archaeological evidence suggest that Delhi has been continuously inhabited since at least 6th century BC. After the rise of the Delhi Sultanate, Delhi emerged as a major political, cultural and commercial city along the trade routes between northwest India and the Indo-Gangetic plains. It is the site of many ancient and medieval monuments, archaeological sites and remains. In 1639, Mughal emperor Shahjahan built a new walled city in Delhi which served as the capital of the Mughal Empire from 1649 to 1857.

After the British East India Company gained control of much of India during the 18th and 19th centuries, Calcutta became the capital both under Company rule and under the British Raj, until George V announced in 1911 that it was to move back to Delhi. A new capital city, New Delhi, was built during the 1920s. When India gained independence from British rule in 1947, New Delhi was declared its capital and seat of government. As such, New Delhi houses important offices of the federal government, including the Parliament of India. Owing to the immigration of people from across the country; Delhi has grown to be a cosmopolitan city. Its rapid development and urbanisation, coupled with the relatively high average income of its population, has transformed the city. Today, Delhi is a major cultural, political, and commercial center of India. Few of the very famous monuments below are (From Top left):- Lotus Temple, India Gate, Rashtrapati Bhavan, Humayum's Tomb and Akshardham Temple.



*At 72.5 m (238 ft), the Qutub Minar is the world's tallest free standing minaret*



*Built in 1560, the Humayun's Tomb is the first example of Mughal's tomb complexes.*



*Lightning strikes near India Gate, New Delhi. Delhi receives much of its rainfall during the monsoon season which lasts from July to August.*



*The Rajpath in Raisina Hill, New Delhi. Private vehicles account for 30% of the vehicles. An average of 963 new private vehicles are registered for use on Delhi's roads every day*