

Students off campus, head for home to celebrate Diwali

Outstation students have gone home to spend time with their families during vacation.

While school students always look forward to Diwali vacations to gorge on homemade delicacies and spend time bursting fire-crackers, the break that the festival of light offers to students studying in institutes (colleges and universities) has a different context.

The Diwali break normally coincides with their term break or just arrives soon after their project presentations. It gives most of the outstation students studying at various institutes in the city a chance to spend some time back home with their family. However, the festive mood though quiet, does not dampen totally as cultural committees make sure that the institute is decked up and sports a different look.

Leading the way this time will be students from IIT-Gandhinagar, who in their personal capacity, have decided not to burst crackers and observe 'black Diwali.' The students have put forward a set of demands opposing the poverty line cut-off by the Planning Commission and common education system for all. "We demand that there must be equal education for all in the country. Even poor kids must get quality education. We even have an online campaign underway and have decided not to burst crackers," said Tarkeshwar Singh, IIT-Gn cultural secretary.

With most of the students back home, MICA will celebrate the festival in a traditional manner. "Every corner of the institute will be decked up with diyas (traditional lamps), candles and students will wear traditional clothes. However, we won't be bursting crackers as we want to set an example," said Shradha Mishra, cultural secretary, MICA.

The students at IIMA will have a dormitory decoration, a joint dinner on the lawns on Wednesday, followed up by a fire-cracker show.

The preparations at CEPT and NID will be toned down as CEPT has already declared one week's holiday while NID has two-day off on Wednesday which will be followed by a weekend off.

With most of the students away from the campus, Nirma University too will not have elaborate festivities. "We have Diwali break from October 23-31 and most of our outstation students will be celebrating the festival at home with their family members," said Ghazal Goyal, member of the cultural committee.

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