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INDIA'S "GUY FAWKES"

Ravana, the Demon King of Ceylon, and his family meet their annual death in front of Premier Nehru and half a million Indians at New Delhi. Their burning, complete with fireworks, is the climax of the ten-day Ramilila festival - and for villainy, Ravana, has Guy Fawkes beaten hollow! Hindu deities, take part in the celebrations which mark his downfall. The story is that Ravana stole the beautiful wife of the Hindu King Rama; and although Rama was in exile at the time, he managed to kill the Demon King and get his wife back. A victory which obviously calls for a yearly party.

Opposing armies re-enact the ancient battle, giving foreign visitors a chance to compare the festival with November the Fifth, July the Fourth, or whatever it may be. But why bother? When it comes to burning, any bad guy makes a good guy!