

Happy Diwali



HINDU EDUCATION BOARD UK

AWAKEN, ASPIRE & REACH THE TRUTH

What is Diwali?

- Annual Hindu festival celebrated during October or November depending on lunar calendar.
- Popularly known as “**Festival of Lights**”.
- Celebrates the victory of good over evil, knowledge over ignorance
- Celebrated at homes, temples, community centres, all around the world.
- Be thankful for all we have. Pray for success and prosperity
- Friends and family get together to worship God.
- Light **Diyas** (lamps) and fireworks, share food and exchange messages of love and caring.



What is a Diya?

Small oil filled lamp

Deepavali = Deep + Aavali
(Row of Lights)

Diwali is shortened form of the
word Deepavali

Diya is symbolic as light removes
darkness. In the same way
knowledge removes ignorance.



When is Diwali?

Hindus follow the **lunar and solar calendar**, where months are based on **Moon** cycles

Between mid October & mid November on the Gregorian calendar.

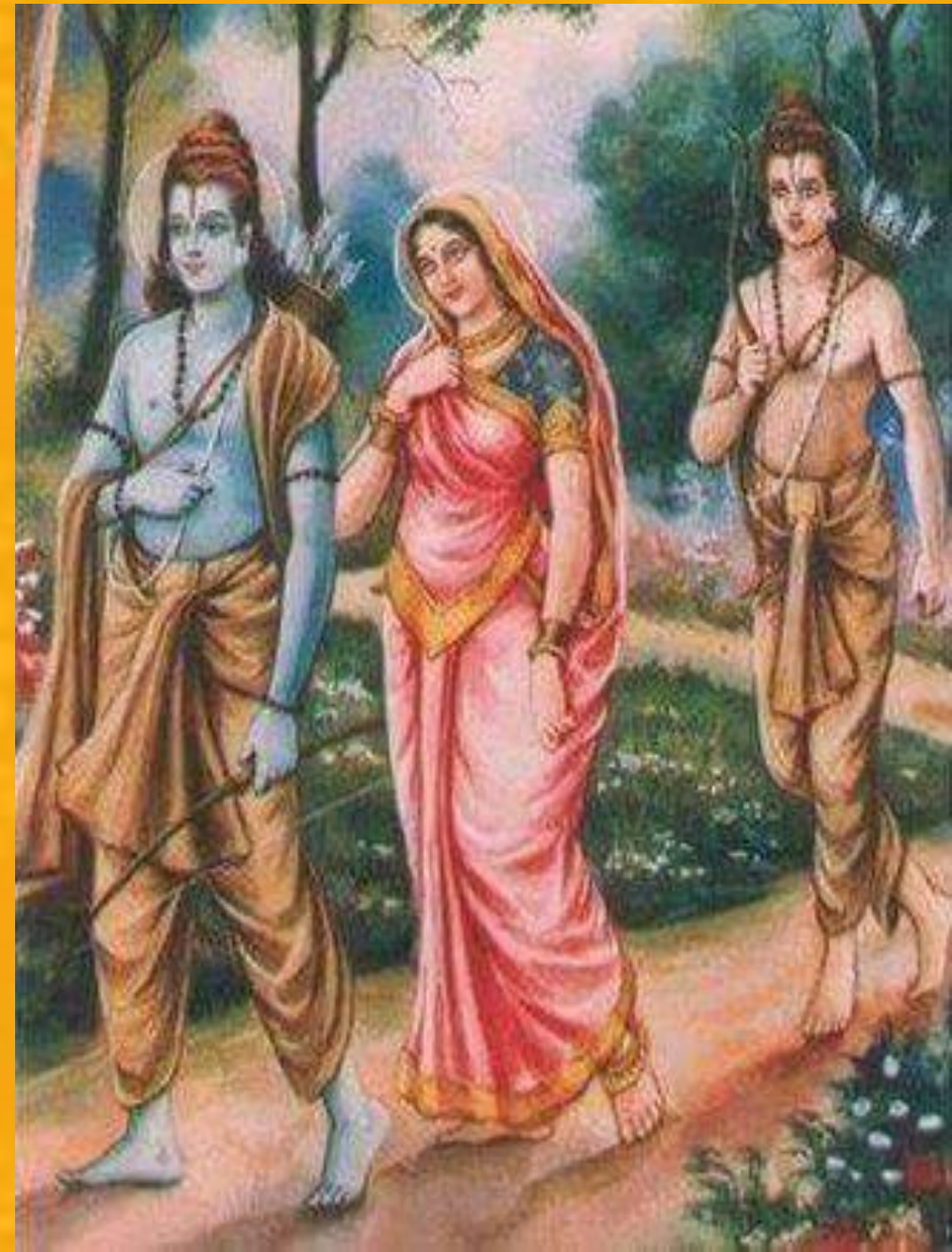
#	Vikrami (lunar)	Gregorian
1	Chaitra	March–April
2	Vaisākha	April–May
3	Jyeshtha	May–June
4	Āshāda	June–July
5	Shraavana	July–August
6	Bhādra	August–September
7	Ashwina	September–October
8	Kartik	October–November
9	Mārgasirsa	November–December
10	Pausha	December–January
11	Māgha	January–February
12	Phālguna	February–March

Origins of Diwali

After being victorious over the demon King Ravana, Lord Rama returns to Ayodhya after 14 years.

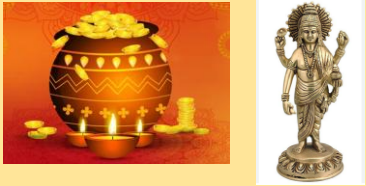
It took 21 days for his journey to complete from Sri Lanka to Ayodhya

Whole Bharat (India) celebrated his return with festivities and lighting diya lamps.



Diwali is celebrated over 6 days

Day 1 Dhanteras / Dhanvantari Jayanti (18th October)



Light lamps, decorate homes, prayers to
Lakshmi and Ganesh
Worshipping Dhanvantari- God of Medicine

Day 2 Kalichaudas (19th October)



Make food, decorate with rangolis &
dijas. Prayers are recited for departed
family and community members.

Day 3 Diwali & Lakshmi Puja (20th October)



Prayers to Lakshmi and Ganesh
Fireworks are often lit.

Day 4 Diwali (21st October)



Celebrate with friends, families and
neighbours. Fireworks are often lit.

Day 5 Annakut / Padva (22nd October)



Puja to Krishna, give gifts. Annakut – food display
which symbolises gratitude for the harvest.

Day 6 Bhai Dooj (23rd October)



Meeting with family and siblings.
Enjoy food prepared with family.

Which deities are commonly worshipped?



Lord Ganesha represents the remover of obstacles, bestower of success.



Goddess Lakshmi represents the goddess of prosperity, health and wealth.

Who celebrates Diwali?

Hindus



Jains



Sikhs



Buddhists



Sikhism

The 6th Guru of the Sikhs (Guru Hargobind) was released from prison on the day of Diwali.

Also called Bandi Chhor Divas.

The Golden Temple is lit up for Diwali.

Sikhs mark this celebration by offering prayer in Gurudwaras, lighting diyas, decorating homes and with fun fireworks.



Buddhism

Emperor Ashoka brought back Buddha's relics back to his capital (Pataliputra, which is in Patna today).

Ashoka celebrated the completion of this task on Diwali.

The Buddhists call it the Deep Daan Utsav.

It is marked by lighting lamps and making donations to charity.



Jainism

Celebration of Lord Mahavir's teachings about compassion, justice, non-violence and importance of all living things.

Jains pray to Lord Mahavir on Diwali to mark the last great teachers of Jainism to achieve enlightenment (moksha).

Jain temples, homes, offices, and shops are decorated with lights and diyas





Let us take a look at how Diwali is celebrated.



Beautiful decorations
Fancy clothing
Delicious food
Fun fireworks





R a n g o l i

Rangoli is an art form in which patterns are created on the floor or a tabletop using red ochre, dry rice flour, coloured sand etc....

The purpose of Rangoli is to welcome Goddess Lakshmi in homes



Traditional clothes



Sweets - Gulab Jamun



Sweets - Jalebi





Image credit: istockphoto.com/highviews



www.rumkisgoldenspoon.com



Sweets - Barfi

Savouries – Samosa & Bombay mix



Fireworks and dancing



Visiting temples and offering prayers





*May the divine light of Diwali
dijas spread Peace,
Prosperity, Happiness and
Good Health in
your life...*

Happy Diwali!



HINDU EDUCATION BOARD UK

AWAKEN, ASPIRE & REACH THE TRUTH