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Diwali

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What is Diwali?

- Diwali is a special **Hindu festival** celebrated every year in October or November, depending on the solar/lunar calendar.

- It is known as the **Festival of Lights**.

- Diwali celebrates the victory of **good over evil** and **knowledge over ignorance**.

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What is Diwali?

- Diwali is a time to be thankful, to pray for peace, harmony and success.
- Friends and family come together to worship and share happiness.
- People light **diyas** (small lamps), enjoy fireworks, share delicious food and send messages of love and care.
- Families **celebrate at home, in temples and in community centres all around the world.**

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What is a Diya?

A *Diya* is a 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**.

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When is Diwali?

Diwali takes place in the Hindu month of Kartik, which falls between **mid-October and mid-November.**

Hindus follow a solar and lunar calendar, so the exact date changes each year.

Diwali happens when the **nights grow darker**.

Diwali celebrates **light, hope and togetherness.**

#	Vikrami (lunar)	Gregorian
1	Chaitra	March–April
2	Vaisākha	April–May
3	Jyeshta	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

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Origins of Diwali

After being victorious over the demon King Ravana, Lord Rama **returns to his kingdom** (Ayodhya) after 14 years.

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

When he arrived, everyone was filled with joy. They celebrated with music, festivities and by **lighting bright, beautiful diya lamps to welcome them back home**.

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Diwali is celebrated over five days

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Day 1
Dhanteras / Dhanvantari Jayanti

Light lamps, decorate homes, prayers to Lakshmi and Ganesh
Worshiping Dhanvantari (God of medicine)

Day 2
Kalichaudas

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

Day 3
Diwali & Lakshmi Puja

Prayers to Lakshmi and Ganesh.
Celebrate with friends, families and neighbours. Fireworks are often lit.

Day 4
Annakut / Govardhan Puja

Puja to Krishna, provide gifts to friends and family.
Annakut – food display which symbolises gratitude for the harvest.

Day 5
Bhai Dooj

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.

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How is Diwali Celebrated?

- Homes are **cleaned** and **decorated** with rangoli patterns, flowers and rows of glowing **diyas**.
- Families visit the mandir or worship at home.
- People share delicious food and sweets with friends and family.
- Fireworks and lights are used to celebrate the **victory of light over darkness.**

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Homes Are Decorated for Diwali

- Families clean and tidy their homes to get ready for the festival.
- Doorways and rooms are decorated with colourful **rangoli**, flowers and bright lights.
- **Diyas** (small oil lamps) are placed around the home to **bring light** and **positivity**.

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Visiting the Mandir for Diwali

- Families visit the **mandir (temple)** to pray and offer thanks during Diwali.
- People take part in **aarti**, sing bhajans and offer prayers for peace and happiness.
- It is a time for the community to come together, share blessings and celebrate the victory of light over darkness.

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Rangoli – Beautiful Diwali Art

- Rangoli is a colourful art pattern made on the floor or on a tray during Diwali.
- It is created using coloured powders, rice flour, sand, petals or chalk.
- Hindus make Rangoli to welcome Goddess Lakshmi and **bring good luck and happiness** into their homes and lives.

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Wearing Traditional Clothes for Diwali

- Families wear bright, **colourful traditional clothes** to celebrate the festival.
- Children often wear kurta pyjamas, lehenga cholis or sarees.
- Dressing up helps everyone feel festive and ready for the celebrations.

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Sharing and Preparing Traditional Food

- Families make special **traditional dishes and sweets** together for the celebrations.
- Popular treats include ladoos, chakri, samosas and kheer.
- Food is **shared** with friends, neighbours and the community to **spread joy and kindness.**

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Fireworks and Dancing

- Families and communities enjoy colourful fireworks and sparklers to celebrate the festival.
- People take part in traditional music and dancing, sharing joy and positivity together.
- These celebrations help everyone **feel happy, festive and connected during Diwali.**

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Who Celebrates Diwali?

Hindus

Jains

Buddhists

Sikhs

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Sikhism

Guru Hargobind, the 6th Sikh Guru, was freed from a Mughal prison on Diwali.

This day is called Bandi Chhor Divas, meaning *The Day of Liberation*.

The Golden Temple is lit with thousands of lamps to celebrate his return.
Sikhs mark this day by praying in Gurudwaras, lighting diyas, decorating homes and enjoying fireworks.

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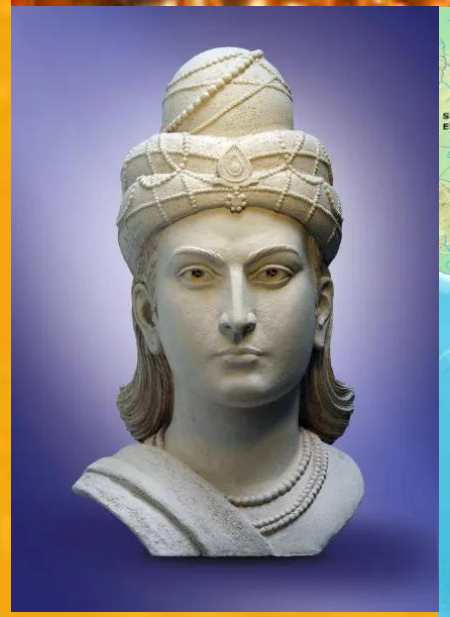
Buddhism

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.



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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.

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Happy Diwali To All!

We hope you enjoyed learning about how Diwali is celebrated.

Diwali is a time for light, joy, kindness and togetherness.

We wish everyone happiness and peace during this special festival.

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