

Diwali



What Is Diwali?

Deepawali (Diwali) is the Festival of Lights.

Sanskrit: Deep – Light / Lamp ; Ali – Row

It signifies the triumph of good over evil.

Diwali is also the Hindu New Year!

Diwali lasts for 5 days:

First Day is Dhanteras

Second Day is Narak Chaturdasi

Third Day is Diwali - Day of New Moon

Fourth Day is Govardhan Puja, and

Fifth day is Bhai Dhooj

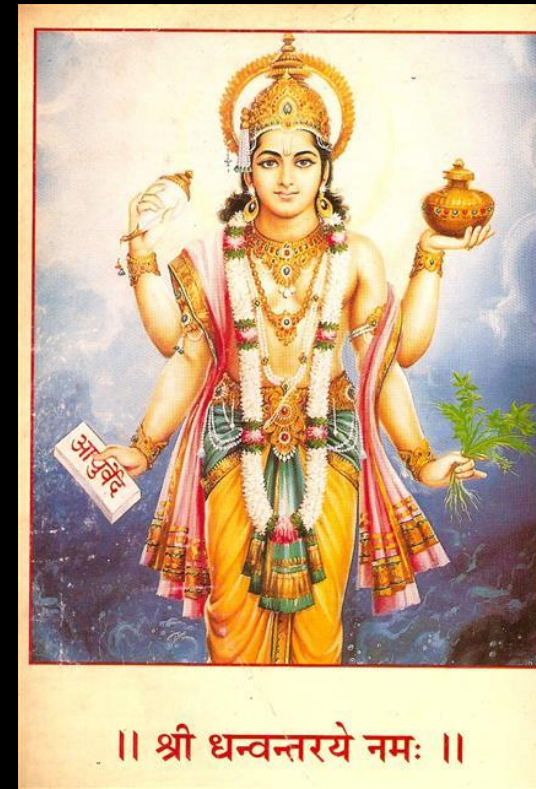


Dhanteras

This day celebrates Lord Dhanvantari:

emerged from churning of Kshira Sagar with Pot of Nectar on one hand and other hand with Ayurveda text (Book of Science of Life / Medicine)

On Dhanteras people light diyas around Tulsi plants (Plant known to have lots of medicinal properties)



Lord Dhanvantari



Godess Laxmi

Goddess Laxmi

Emerged from churning of milk churning of Kshira Sagar

People celebrate Goddess Lakshmi with Lakshmi puja.

Churning of Kshira Sagar (Ocean of Milk)



Narak Chaturdasi

This day celebrates Lord Krishna's triumph over the demon Narakasur / Bhasmasura

Also:

Pray to Lord Yama for their welfare.

- Havan and chant mantras.

On Narak Chaturdashi, people keep their houses clean and use fragrant oils and flowers to make the atmosphere lively.

Rangolis are created and put at the door of every house.

Diyas are put in every room and the backyard, which are kept there through the night.



Lord Krishna and Satyabhama Devi

Diwali

This day celebrates when Lord Rama returned home from exile. When he returned, every house had a row of lights(diyas) for him.

It also is the day when the Pandavas(5 brothers in the Mahabharata) return from the forest.

Fireworks are done on this day.

People also celebrate the Goddess Lakshmi (Goddess of wealth).

In West Bengal, people worship Goddess Kali.



Govardhan Puja (Lord Krishna)

Govardhan Puja is done.

Lord Indra was provoked and tried to drown the town of Gokul. Lord Krishna saved the people of Gokul from the Lord Indra by lifting the Govardhan Mountain.

A blessing was put on the mountain that it will be forever honored. People gather in temples, where they see deities are bathed ritualistically and dressed in ornaments.

It is also known as Padwa as it's Vikram-Samvat(Hindu calendar) New Year. People wear new clothes and jewellery, greet family members and distribute sweets and gifts with friends and neighbors.



Bhai Dhooj

Dedicated to the strong bond between a brother and a sister.

Known for the tale of love between Lord Yama and his sister Yami. After years of separation, Lord Yama decided to visit his sister. When he went, he was touched by the love she showed. Yami welcomed her brother with a lot of love. She put a tilak on his forehead to celebrate. Yamraj blessed her. She put a tilak on his forehead to celebrate. Yamraj blessed her.

A brother who meets his sister on Bhai Dhooj will live a long life.

The brother promises to protect his sister and the sister prays for his long life.



FACTS (THAT ARE COOL!!!)

- Diwali/Deepawali translates to English in “row of lights.” That’s because “Deep” means light in Sanskrit and “avali” means “a row.”
- Diwali is not just celebrated by Hindus! It is also celebrated by Sikhs, Jains, and Buddhists. However, other religious celebrate Diwali with a different significance and meaning
- On Diwali, Vishnu(reincarnated as Narasimha, the half lion half man) killed the evil king Hiranyakashipu.