



LIGHT, LOVE & ELEPHANTS  
this Diwali

Did you know?  
Interesting facts about

# Diwali



The word  
Diwali means  
row of lights.



Diwali is a festival  
celebrated by  
Hindus, Sikhs and  
Jains - often called  
the 'festival of lights'.



Rangoli is a form of art  
and a popular Diwali  
tradition. Rangoli is made  
from coloured powders  
and rice to make  
beautiful, swirling and  
symmetrical patterns.



During Diwali people  
create rangoli art on the  
floors at the entrance of  
their homes to welcome  
Goddess Lakshmi into  
their homes and bring  
good luck. Diwali also  
celebrates the birth of  
Lakshmi, known as the  
Goddess of Prosperity.



People  
clean and  
decorate  
their houses  
before the  
festival.



Diwali is an annual, five  
day festival which marks  
the start of the Hindu  
New Year, which falls  
on the new-moon day of  
Kartik (the eighth month  
of the Hindu calendar).



It is a special time to  
worship Lord Ganesha  
(the Elephant God) for  
education and wisdom  
and Goddess Lakshmi for  
wealth and prosperity.



The night is beautifully lit with  
diyas, candles and lanterns.  
The familiar sights and  
sounds, like fireworks and  
rangoli designs, make the  
night memorable.

Celebrated across  
India, and the world,  
food is at the heart of  
every Diwali celebration  
with feasts and treats  
from mithai (candies  
and desserts) to  
indulgent royal recipes.



Hindus consider Diwali a  
celebration of life and use  
the occasion to strengthen  
relationships. Diwali  
brings family and friends  
together, so it is also a  
celebration of the blessing  
of loved ones.





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# The five days of Diwali



**Day 1 of Diwali celebration is called Dhanteras.** Goddess Lakshmi (Goddess of Prosperity) and Ganesha (the Elephant God) are worshipped and prayed to visit the devotees' homes. Buying gold, silver or a new household item is considered auspicious.

**Day 2 is known as Choti (small) Diwali.** Homes are cleaned and all set for the grand celebrations. Diyas are lit, sweets are prepared, new clothes and gifts are bought. All family members usually create rangoli patterns at the entrance of their homes to welcome Goddess Lakshmi.

**Day 3 is Diwali - the main celebration day** where the streets all across India light up with millions of sparklers, fireworks and fairy lights. Families gather together for a prayer to Goddess Lakshmi, called Lakshmi Puja.

**Day 4 is celebrated as Annakoot** (meaning a mountain of food) in which devotees worship Govardhan Hill and offer delicious vegetarian food to Krishna as a mark of gratitude. In some regions of India it is also celebrated as the first day of the Hindu New Year.

**Day 5 is called Bhai Duj** Brothers visit their sisters, to check on their wellbeing, and are welcomed with a meal and delicious sweets.

