

Did you know?
Interesting facts about

Diwali



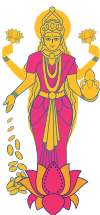
The word
Diwali means
row of lights.



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

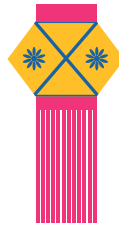


Rangoli is a form of art
and a popular Diwali
tradition. Rangoli is made
from coloured powders
and rice to make beautiful,
swirling and symmetrical
patterns.

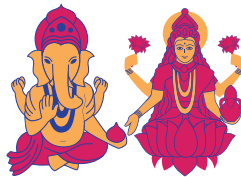


During Diwali people create
rangoli art on the floors of the
entrance of thier homes to
welcome Goddess Lakshmi
into thier homes and bring
good luck. Diwali also
celebrates the birth of
Lakshmi, known as the
Goddess of Prosperity.

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 calender).



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.



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 celebration. Diyas are lit, sweets are prepared, new clothes and gifts are bought. All family members create rangoli patterns at the entrance of the house 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 & 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 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.

