



Diwali (or Deepavali) is one of the biggest festivals celebrated by Hindus, Jains, Sikhs and some Buddhists all around the world. It is a festival of lights that marks the start of the New Year and usually falls between October and November. It is observed on the 15th day of the 8th month (the month of Kartik). It is held on the darkest night of the Hindu lunar calendar and people illuminate their homes and streets to celebrate the victory of good over evil. This year the 5 day festival is from November 2nd through November 6th, with today being the most important.

The festival of lights signifies peace and joy, victory of good over evil, light over darkness and the eradication of dark shadows, negativity and doubts. It is a celebration of prosperity where people give gifts to their loved ones. Illuminating ones inner self with clarity and positivity is an important message during the celebration. It is one of the most symbolic of Hindu festivals and is often compared to Christmas in the Western World.

During this festival, people clean their homes, decorate every corner with lights, lamps, diyas, flowers, rangoli, and candles. Families also perform Lakshmi Puja and pray to the Goddess of wealth to bless them with health, wealth, and prosperity.

The celebrations of Diwali 2021:

- **Diwali Day 1:** November 2, 2021 Dwadashi - Dhanteras
 - Cleaning and preparing for the events ahead.
 - Purchasing of gold or metals
- **Diwali Day 2:** November 3, 2021 Trayodashi - Choti Diwali
 - Decorating of homes (Putting up strings of lights)
 - Creating Rangolls (intricate designs placed on the floors of the homes)
- **Diwali Day 3:** November 4, 2021 Amavasya - Diwali
 - Most important day. Worshipping the Goddess Lakshmi are performed. Puja (worship) is from 6:09 pm to 8:04 pm this year.
- **Diwali Day 4:** November 5, 2021 Pratipada – Padwa
 - Celebrations of the love between husband and wife. Men often buy gifts for their wives on this day.

- **Diwali Day 5:** November 6, 2021 Dwitiya - Bhai Duj
 - Celebrations of brothers and sisters. Brothers usually give presents to their sisters and sisters perform a special ceremony for their brothers protection.

There are multiple communities that celebrate Diwali and it can be different in many regions, but the universal theme is the triumph of good over evil and darkness paving the way for light.

Celebration	Region	2021 Dates	Description
Deepavali	South India	November 4	Deepavali in Tamil Nadu includes Ayurvedic medicine and rituals to appease the ancestors.
Naraka Chaturdashi	Goa and West India	November 4 (usually the day before Diwali, but in 2021 it will take place on the same day)	In Goa, people believe that Diwali celebrates the defeat of the evil demon Narakasura by Durga and Krishna. To celebrate they burn large effigies of the demon and parade through the streets.
Dev Diwali	Varanasi	November 18	Dev Diwali a celebration unique to Varanasi's that takes place 15 days after Diwali. At this time, the gods are believed to gather at the Ganges in Varanasi and to celebrate the city lights clay lanterns, decorates, and sets of fireworks.
Kali Puja	West Bengal, Orissa, and Assam	November 4	While most of the country celebrates Lakshmi, West Bengal and other east Indian states worship Kali, the goddess of destruction. During Kali Puja, large statues of the fearsome goddess are erected around the city and she is given offerings and worshipped.
Jain Diwali	All over India, but some of the best places include Maharashtra, Rajasthan, and Gujarat	November 4	While Diwali is mainly a Hindu holiday, it is also celebrated by Jains. Jains believe that Diwali is the day that Lord Mahavir achieved Nirvana and freedom from the cycle of death and rebirth.
Bandi Chor Divas	Punjab	November 4	Diwali is also celebrated by Sikhs in India. For Sikhs, this holiday commemorates the day when the 6th guru, Guru Hargobind was released from unjust imprisonment. To take in the beauty of the Sikh celebrations, head to the Golden Temple in Amritsar.

We wish you and your entire family a very Happy Diwali!

In Hindi: आपको और आपके पूरे परिवार को हमारी तरफ से दीपावली के पावन पर्व की शुभकामनाएँ।
In Marathi: आम्ही तुम्हाला आणि तुमच्या संपूर्ण कुटुंबाला दिवाळीच्या खूप खूप शुभेच्छा देतो.