



Diwali 2016



This year, the Hindu festival, Diwali, is on the 30th October. It is calculated by the lunar Hindu calendar, it falls on different days each year. This takes place on the fifteenth day of the Hindu month of Kartika it is usually during October or November. Diwali is a special five days which honours Maa Lakshmi, our goddess of wealth and good fortune.

The story of Diwali

Diwali is celebrated to represent Ram and Sita's return after fourteen years of exile. Ramayan is the story of Lord Ram and his wife, Sita, when they were banished from their home in Ayodhya by his father the King Dasharath. Lord Ram's brother, Lakshman went with them to live in the forest. Later on, Sita Maa was kidnapped by a ten-headed demon, Ravan. He took her to his island known as Lanka. Lord Ram rescued his wife, with help from the monkey god, Hanuman and Lakshman. When they all returned to the city, they saw a trail of lanterns to guide them out of the dark forest. Everyone came out to celebrate their return.

The meaning of Diwali

The word Diwali means 'a row of lighted lamps ', they are called diyas (divo). The Festival of Lights, helps us to know the truth of victory of good over evil.

The five days of Diwali

Day 1: Dhanteras

It is auspicious to purchase gold or silver articles or at least one or two new utensils. It is believed that new "Dhan" or some form of precious

metal is a sign of good luck. "Lakshmi Puja" is performed in the evenings and Diyas are lit to drive away the shadows of evil spirits.

Day 2: Kali Chaudas

On this day Lord Krishna destroyed the demon, Narakasur, and made the world free from fear.

Day 3: Diwali

Today is a special day to worship Lakshmi Maa and Lord Ganesh.

Day 4: New Year- Sal-mubaruk

Goverdhan pooja is performed on this day.

Day 5: Bhai Beej

Brothers visit their sisters on this day, and the sisters celebrate and prepare sweets specially for their brothers, wishing a long, happy, healthy life and great success for them. This is also the first day of our new year.

What do I do for Diwali?

At this time of the year, we often give our homes a good clean, make scrumptious food which is both savoury and sweet dishes. we decorate our homes with colourful rangoli and light candles. On Diwali day we wake up early and wear nice clothes. My family and I will say prayers then we visit our relatives and exchange gifts, which are normally sweets and dried fruit. We have a lovely family dinner and watch fireworks. We have so much fun!



