

Diwali 2025: The Festival of Lights

# Happy Diwali

Celebrating hope,  
goodness and new  
beginnings



# What is Diwali?

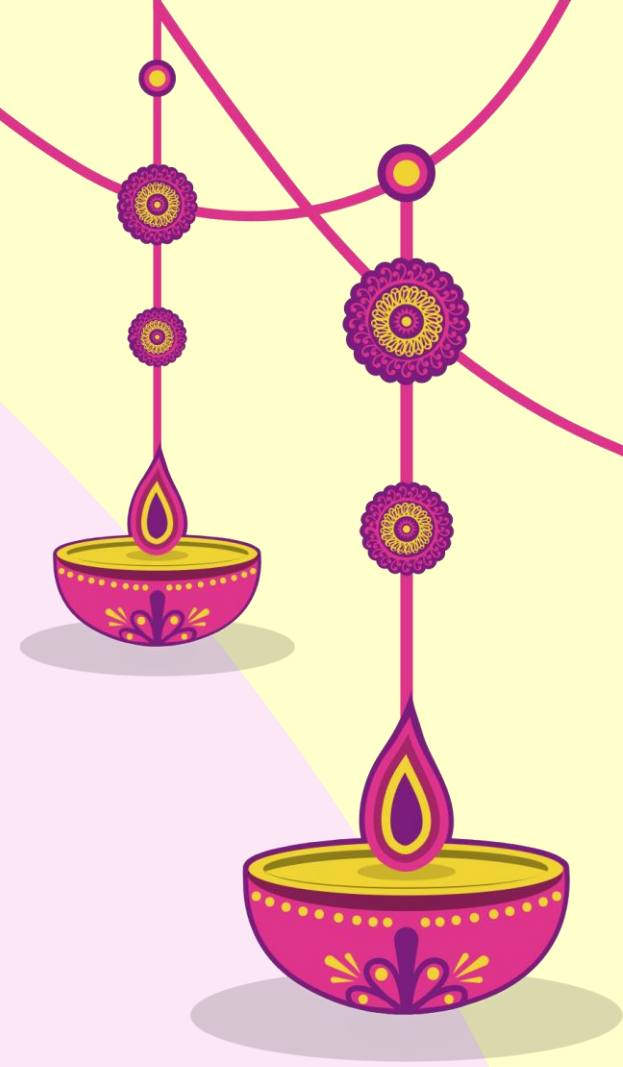
**Diwali (or Deepavali) is one of the most important festivals in Hinduism.**

**The word Deepavali means “row of lights”.**

**It’s celebrated over five days, usually in October or November – in 2025, it begins on 20th October.**



**Homes, temples, and streets are decorated with lamps called diyas, symbolising the victory of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance.**





# The Story of Diwali

- The festival links to the ancient Hindu epic The Ramayana.
- It tells the story of Prince Rama, his wife Sita, and his loyal brother Lakshman.
- After a long exile and a fierce battle with the demon king Ravana, Rama and Sita returned home to Ayodhya.
- The people lit rows of lamps to guide them home – and that's why Diwali is known as the Festival of Lights.





# The Goddess Lakshmi

Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth, fortune, and prosperity, is worshipped during Diwali.

Many families clean and decorate their homes to welcome Lakshmi, believing she visits the cleanest and brightest houses first.

Doors and windows are left open, symbolising an invitation for good fortune and positive energy.



# How Hindus Celebrate Diwali

- **Cleaning and decorating homes with diyas, candles and colourful lights.**
- **Creating rangoli designs — beautiful patterns made on the floor using coloured powder, rice, or flowers to welcome guests and the goddess Lakshmi.**
- **Sharing sweets and gifts with family, friends, and neighbours.**
- **Wearing new clothes and visiting temples for prayer.**
- **Watching fireworks displays that light up the night sky.**



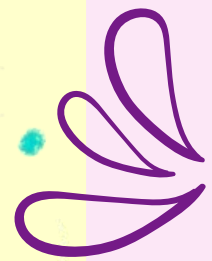


# Diwali in Sikhism

Bandi Chhor Divas



- **Sikhs also celebrate Diwali — but for a different reason.**
- **For Sikhs, it marks Bandi Chhor Divas, meaning “Day of Liberation”.**
- **It commemorates Guru Hargobind Ji, the sixth Sikh Guru, who was released from prison in India — and importantly, he refused to leave without also freeing 52 other innocent kings.**
- **When he returned to Amritsar, the Golden Temple was lit up in celebration — and Sikhs continue that tradition today with lights, prayers and fireworks.**
- **It’s a time to remember the importance of freedom, justice, and standing up for others.**



# Diwali in Sikhism

Bandi Chhor Divas





# The Message of Diwali

Across faiths, Diwali teaches us:

- **Light can overcome darkness.**
- **Goodness, truth and kindness always matter.**
- **We should make space for positivity and compassion in our lives.**
- **It's a time for reflection, forgiveness, and fresh starts.**



# Reflection

The light of a lamp does not diminish by lighting another — instead, it spreads more light

