



# Diwali



Diwali is one of the biggest festivals in India. It is a celebration of the good winning over the bad. Diwali is not always celebrated on the same day. This year (2024), Diwali begins on October 31.

The celebrations last for 5 days. Although it is originally a Hindu celebration, people of all different faiths celebrate Diwali in India and beyond. Hindus believe that on Diwali, Goddess Lakshmi, who brings happiness and wealth, visits the Earth. There are different stories about Diwali in different parts of India:

## **Northern India**

People remember the day when Lord Ram came back to his city, Ayodhya. They lit up the path with lamps. So today, everyone lights up their homes with lamps and candles.

## **Eastern India**

They worship Goddess Kali. Long ago, she fought and defeated two bad demons. After winning, she got very angry and started to hurt people. But when she accidentally stepped on her husband, Lord Shiva, she felt sorry.

## **Southern India**

Diwali is the day when Lord Krishna defeated a demon named Narakasura. When the demon was dying, he wanted people to celebrate his defeat as a happy day. Everywhere in India, people clean their homes, draw colorful patterns called rangolis, and enjoy fireworks.

Diwali is not only celebrated in India, but around the world!

1. What is Diwali?

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2. Does Diwali happen on the same day every year?

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3. When does Diwali start in 2024?

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4. How many days is Diwali celebrated for?

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5. Who visits the Earth on Diwali?

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6. Why do people in Northern India light lamps and candles?

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7. Who is worshipped in Eastern India during Diwali?

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8. What did Goddess Kali do to the two bad demons?

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9. Who did Lord Krishna defeat in Southern India?

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10. What special drawings do people make in their homes for Diwali?

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11. Do people enjoy fireworks during Diwali?

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12. Is Diwali only celebrated in India or in other countries too?

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13. In Northern India, which city did Lord Ram come back to?

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14. In Eastern India, who did Goddess Kali step on by accident?

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15. What did the demon Narakasura want people to do after he was defeated?

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