

DIWALI

Namaste And Happy Diwali

Diwali- Dipavali (A series of Lights) is the festival of lights. Like Christmas, Diwali has become an international festival celebrated throughout the world wherever the Hindus live. It is the symbol of Religious and National Integrity.

Diwali is a mythological-ancient festival, celebrated since the time of Ramayan. It was first celebrated to welcome the Homecoming of Ram after killing Ravan on Dussehra and His Coronation in Ajodhya. The whole of Ajodhya was decorated with lit candles.

Navratri symbolizes the religious war between Ram and Ravan, Sita's Shrishakti and Ravan's Aasuri Shakti ending in Ravan's death and victory of Ram. Thus, Diwali's celebration shows the victory of Truth, Dharma, Enlighteness, Knowledge and Goodness over Evil, Adharma, Darkness and Ignorance. It also shows the joy of new agriculture-grain products as India is an agricultural country.

Diwali falls on the Amavasya of the month of Aashwin. It is the last day of the Hindu Vikram Samvatsar Year. Diwali is observed for five days.

On Dhanteras, people worship the Goddess Laxmi and Dhanvantari-Gods of prosperity and good health.

On Kali Chaudash people worship Goddess Kalika and Hanuman for divine energy.

People, especially housewives make great preparations months ago to welcome Diwali, the third day. They do a lot of shopping, prepare special sweets and clean their houses. They put on new clothes to welcome a New Year. They illuminate colorful lights and decorate houses with colorful Rangolis. On Diwali people worship Goddess Saraswati and do Chopda Pujan, and adjust the business accounts of the year. People forget and forgive the blunders of the ending year. They go to temples and pray to God in the early morning. Grownups and children enjoy this festival by firing crackers and fireworks.

The next day to Diwali is the New Year's day. It is the first day of the Vikram Savant - Hindu year. It falls on the first day of the month of Kartik. In the early

morning, people go to temples and pray to God. On the New Year's day people forget and forgive the blunders of the past and begin the New Year with new oaths. People meet and go to one another's house and give good wishes for the New Year. Annakut and Govardhan Punja are held in temples. Business men do Muhurtas for business on New Year.

After New Year's Day people observe BhaiBij. On that day the brother goes to sister's house. The sister serves him a nice sweet dinner-dish and prays for brother's long life and prosperity. The brother gives some gifts to sister.

Let's hope if people may live the harmonious and peaceful life of the New Year's Day throughout the year.

HAPPY DIWALI AND HAPPY NEW YEAR