

Diwali:

- Also known as Deepavali, is the Festival of Lights.
- One of the most important and widely celebrated festivals in India and by Hindus, Jains, Sikhs, and some Buddhists around the world..
- Symbolizes the victory of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance.



Why we celebrate Diwali



1. Hinduism: Victory of Good over Evil

- Celebrates the return of **Lord Rama** to **Ayodhya** after 14 years of exile and defeating the demon king **Ravana**.
- People lit oil lamps (**diyas**) to welcome him, which is why homes are still decorated with lights.

2. Jainism: Nirvana of Mahavira



- Diwali marks the day when **Lord Mahavira**, the 24th Tirthankara, attained **moksha** (liberation) in 527 BCE.
- Jains celebrate this as a solemn and sacred occasion.

3. Sikhism: Bandi Chhor Divas

- Commemorates the release of **Guru Hargobind Ji** and 52 princes from prison by the Mughal emperor Jahangir.
- It is celebrated with lights and joy, coinciding with Diwali.



Diwali Celebrations

Cleaning and Decorating the Home

- **Before Diwali**, people clean, declutter, and sometimes even renovate their homes.
- Homes are decorated with Diyas (Oil lamps), Candles, lights, Rangoli. (colorful patterns made on the floor with colored powders, rice, or flowers)

Fireworks

- **Firecrackers and fireworks** are a major part of the celebrations in many places, symbolizing joy and celebration.

Prayers and Pujas (Ritual Worship)

- **Lakshmi Puja** (worship of Goddess Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth and prosperity) is the main religious event on Diwali night.
- Some also worship **Lord Ganesha** (remover of obstacles) and **Lord Rama**, especially in North India.





Happy Diwali

FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS



Best Wishes From The LWHA Team

