



Diwali

The Five Days of Diwali



You can celebrate Diwali at home, too! Honor the celebration by engaging in any of the activities mentioned below.

Day 1: Dhanteras

The first day of Diwali is to worship wealth and Goddess Lakshmi. People believe purchasing new things for their homes is a sign of attracting and welcoming Goddess Lakshmi inside their homes. Individuals may purchase something precious for themselves, repair their homes, or clean and decorate their homes.

Day 2: Choti Diwali or Naraka Chaturdashi

The second day of Diwali worships the defeat of the demon, Narakasura, and celebrates good over evil and light over darkness. Individuals may light candles or clay oil lamps (diyas) around their homes, apply aromatic oils on and take a bath to remove their sins and impurities, or wear new clothes.

Day 3: Lakshmi Puja

The third day of Diwali is the main Diwali festival. Lakshmi Puja (a ritual) is performed on this day. Goddess Lakshmi is believed to enter homes and bless families with good fortune. Individuals may light candles or clay oil lamps (diyas) and other forms of light all around their homes, exchange gifts with families, or visit a neighbor.

Day 4: Annukut or Govardhan Puja

The fourth day of Diwali worships God Krishna and a day to renew one's faith in taking refuge in deities. Vegetarian food, desserts, and flowers are given and displayed at temples as a sign of gratitude. Individuals may indulge in Indian food and sweets.

Day 5: Bhai Duj

The fifth and last day of Diwali worships God Krishna's visit to his sister's home after defeating the demon, Narakasura. His sister, Subhadra, greeted him with a warm welcome. Sisters are traditionally expected to invite their brothers over for a lavish meal and offer a tilak ceremony. Sisters pray for their brother's long and happy lives while brothers give gifts to their sisters to show love and affection. Individuals may pray for a sibling or loved one or give them gifts.