

MEANING

- “Row of lights.” Composite of “the row” (avail) and “clay lamps” (deepsa), coming from the act of placing lit, clay lamps outside homes to symbolize the inner light that protects from darkness.
- The five-day Festival of Lights, which is a New Year Festival, is a popular holiday celebrated by Hindus, Jains, Sikhs and some Buddhists.
- The festival is associated with Lakshmi, the goddess of prosperity, and marks the beginning of the fiscal year in India.

GREETINGS

- “Happy Diwali.”

WHEN

- Takes place during Kartika, a Hindu lunisolar month.

COMMON PRACTICES

- Lighting a row of clay lamps, decorating homes, giving gifts and several street activities.
- Dressing in traditional clothing: men wear kurtas and women wear saris.
- The third day of the festival, which takes place on the darkest day of the month, is the main day of celebration and involves fireworks and feasts.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS?

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Diwali

Sanskrit

[Duh·vaa·lee](#)



- Diwali is an important celebration for millions of people globally, some take time off work and school to celebrate. Other celebrations take place as the sun sets, so others will not take time off.

FOR MORE INFO VISIT:

provost.msu.edu

Type of Calendar:

Hindu/Sikh (lunisolar)

