



विश्व हिन्दु परिषद (UK) World Council of Hindus



Charity No: 262684

ON THIS SACRED MAHOTSAVA WE WISH YOU इहोत्सवे दीपावली & नूतन विक्रम नववर्ष (HAPPY DEEPAWALI & PROSPEROUS VIKRAM NEW YEAR)

This heralds the Hindu New Year. Through several millennia of civilisation, Hindu Dharma has enhanced World Thought, Culture, Science & Peace

(According to Sacred Hindu Scriptures)

Bhagwan Shree Rama - Treta Yug - 1,296,000 human or 3,600 divine years –
Bhagwan Shree Krishna – Dvapara Yug | 3228 BC - 3102 BC |
Bhagwan Shree Buddha | 623 BC - 543 BC |
Bhagwan Shree Mahavir | 599 BC – 527 BC |
Vikram Samvat | 57-56 BC |
Lord Christ | 0 BC/AD |
Guru Nanak Dev Maharaj Ji (Nanak Shahi) | 1469 AD -1539 AD |



*Let us all remain guided eternally by SANATAN DHARMIC values,
which are inclusive & plural, commonly known as Hindutva*

ॐ Ekam Sat Vipraha, Bahudha Vadanti ॐ

(Truth is One, Wisemen (Seers, Rishis) have called it by different Names in different Eras)

**ॐ Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinaha, Sarve Santu Niramayaha,
Sarve Bhadrani Pashyant, Maakashchit Dukhabhag Bhavet ॐ**

(Let All be Happy, Let All be without Any illness, Let there be Universal Brotherhood,

ॐ Vishwa Dharma Prakashena Vishwa Shanti Pravartake ॐ
(Dharma - the Eternal Guiding Light for Universal Welfare and Peace)

ॐ Asato ma Sad Gamaya - Lead me from Untruth to Truth ॐ
Tamaso ma Jyotir Gamaya - Lead me from Darkness to Light
Mrutyor ma Amritam Gamaya - Lead me from Death to Immortality

ॐ Shanti Shanti Shantihi : ॐ

**Vishwa Hindu Parishad (UK) - World Council of Hindus
& National Hindu Students Forum (NHSF) UK**

SPECIAL MESSAGE:

On this auspicious occasion, come, let us rededicate ourselves towards, Spreading Universal Dharma of Righteousness, Peace & Conservation, keeping in mind the pollution generated as a result of the smoke from fireworks..... .. reading online & saving trees

Significance of Deepawali



Deepawali, the Festival of Lights, is a 5 day Hindu festival which occurs on the fifteenth day of Hindu Calendar month of Kartika. Deepawali when translated means “rows of lighted lamps” and the occasion is also referred to as the Festival of Lights.

During Deepawali, homes are cleaned and windows are opened to welcome Shree Lakshmi, the Divine Deity of Wealth & Prosperity. Lamps, lights and candles are lit as a greeting to Mata Lakshmi. Gifts & Sweet Prasad are exchanged, and festive meals are prepared during Deepawali. Because there are many beliefs and regions in India ie Bharat, there are myriad manifestations of the Deepawali festival.

In some places, the festival begins with Dhanteras, a day set aside to worship Shree Lakshmi. In Hindu Dharma, wealth is not viewed as a corruptive power. Instead, a wealthy person is considered to have been rewarded for good deeds of a past life, i.e. karma. On the second day of the festival, Shree Kali, the Goddess of Strength, is worshipped. On the third day (the last day of the year in the lunar calendar), lamps are lit to brighten the homes.

This is the most celebrated day of the festival and the lit lamps and firing of crackers makes it most clearly visible to our neighbours and community. The lamp symbolises knowledge. The fourth day of Deepawali falls on the first day of the lunar New Year. At this time, old business accounts are settled and new books are opened. The books are worshiped in a special ceremony (Laxmi Pooja) by Hindu Purohit and participants are encouraged to remove anger, hate, and jealousy from their lives.

On the last day (Balipratipada) of the festival, Bali, an ancient Hindu king, is recalled and remembered. He is remembered for being a generous and kind person. Hence, the significance of this day is to see the good in others, including enemies. In addition, this last day of the festival is also called Bhai Dooj. The sisters adorn the forehead of their brothers with a ‘tilak’ and pray for their well-being and long life.



MATA LAXMI:

The Supreme Deity of Wealth & Prosperity, Mata Laxmi, Incarnated on this sacred day of new moon (Amaavasyaa) of the Kartik month during the churning of the ocean (Samudra-Manthan), hence the worship of Mata Laxmi on this day of Deepawali.

THE VICTORY OF BHAGWAN SHREE RAMA:

The Victory of Bhagwan Shree Rama: According to the sacred scripture ‘Ramayana’, it was on the new moon day of Kartik (Amaavasyaa) Bhagwan Rama, Mata Sita and Laxmanji returned to Ayodhya, victorious after vanquishing Ravana and conquering Lanka. The devotees welcomed Bhagwan Rama by illuminating the whole city with rows and rows (Awali) of earthen lamps (Deep) like never before, hence the Festival of Lights is celebrated as Deepawali.



SHREE KRISHNA KILLS NARAKAASUR:

Bhagwan Shree Krishna killed the demon king Narakaasur on this day of Deepawali and rescued 16,000 women from his captivity. The celebration of this freedom went on for two days including Deepawali as a day of festival of worship of victory over evil.



RETURN OF THE PANDAVAS:

According to the great sacred Scripture 'Mahabharata', it was 'Kartik Amaavasyaa' when the Pandavaas appeared from their 12 years of banishment as a result of their defeat at the hands of 'Kauravas' in an unethical game of dice (gambling). The subjects who loved the Pandavaas celebrated the day by lighting earthen lamps – diyaas.



BUDDHISM

For Buddhists, Deepawali is an auspicious day, as on this sacred day Bhagwan Gautama Buddha returned to Kapilavastu with devotees after 18 years of pilgrimage on barefoot. He gave a new dimension to Deepawali – *"Atha Deepa Bhava"*. This day is also important, as around 265 BC, Emperor Ashoka decided to follow the path of Bauddha Dharma. Newar Buddhists in Nepali valleys also celebrate the Deepawali festival over five days, in much the same way, and on the same days, as the Hindus - Tihar festival.

THE JAINS

The Jains celebrate Deepawali as a New Year's Day. Bhagwan Mahavir, the Twenty Fourth Thirthankaar and founder of modern Jain Dharma, attained his Nirvana, Moksha, on the day of Deepawali.



CORONATION OF EMPEROR VIKRAMAADITYA:

One of the greatest Hindu Emperor Vikramaaditya was coroneted on the sacred day of Deepawali, hence the day became a historical event as well.



THE SIKHS

Sikhs celebrate Deepawali as on this sacred day in 1577 the Foundation Stone of the Harmandir Saheb, the Golden Temple, was laid in Amritsar. And on this day also devotees express joy at the return of the sixth Guru Hargobind Dev Maharaj Ji to Amritsar in 1620. Emperor Jahangir had imprisoned him along with 52 Hindu Kings. The Guru was granted freedom but refused to leave until the Kings were also released along with him. Guru Teg Bahadur Maharaj Ji said *"Nanak leen bhayo*

Govinda som ju paani sanga paani"

ARYA SAMAJ

Special Day for the Arya Samaj: It was the New Moon day of Kartik, Deepawali, when Maharshi Dayananda Saraswati (1824-1883 AD), one of the greatest luminaries of Sanatan (Ved) Dharma and the founder of Arya Samaj, attained his Moksha or Nirvana.

Deepawali is the most dynamically celebrated festival by Hindus, Sikhs, Jains and Buddhists in India and the world over. People of different nationalities, races, faiths and backgrounds come together to share their joys generating a feeling of universal brotherhood and inter-religious harmony.