

Diwali



Diwali is the five-day festival of lights, celebrated by millions of Hindus, Sikhs and Jains across the world.

- ▶ **Diwali**, which for some also coincides with harvest and new year **celebrations**, is a festival of new beginnings and the triumph of good over evil, and light over darkness.
- ▶ Diwali falls in either **October** or November each year, depending on the cycle of the moon. It's observed on the 15th day of **Kartik**, the holiest month in the Hindu lunar calendar. In 2020, Diwali is on November 14.



Varanasi, the eternal city on the banks of the Ganga, has its very own unique style of celebrating the Diwali festival.

While the sky grows dark, thousands of colored diyas are put afloat into the river by throngs of devotees staying true to a tradition that is timeless.



Goddess Lakshmi is the most significant deity during Diwali Puja



- ▶ During five days of festivity, various rituals are followed and with **Goddess Lakshmi** several other Gods and Goddesses are worshipped. However . The new moon day, which is known as Amavasya, is the most significant day of five days Diwali festivities and known as **Lakshmi Puja, Lakshmi-Ganesh Puja and Diwali Puja.**

- ▶ Diwali Puja is done not only in families but also in offices. Diwali Puja is the significant day for the most traditional Hindu businessmen. On this day, ink bottle, pens and new account books are worshipped.



- ▶ Ink bottle and pen, which are called Davat (दावात) and Lekhani (लेखनी) respectively, are sanctified by worshipping **Goddess Maha Kali** on them. New account books, which are called Bahi-Khate (बही-खाते), are sanctified by worshipping **Goddess Saraswati** on them.

▶ The most auspicious time to do Diwali Puja is after sunset. The time period after sunset is known as Pradosh. The day of Diwali Puja is decided when Amavasya Tithi prevails during Pradosh.

▶ Hence no other [Diwali Puja Muhurat](#) is as good as Puja Muhurat during Pradosh even if it is available for one Ghati (approximately 24 minutes).

