



# DIWALI

DIWALI IS A MAJOR HINDU FESTIVAL CELEBRATING THE TRIUMPH OF GOOD OVER EVIL.

IT HONOURS LORD RAMA'S RETURN TO AYODHYA AFTER 14 YEARS OF EXILE, AS TOLD IN THE RAMAYANA. PEOPLE LIGHT LAMPS, BURST CRACKERS, WEAR NEW CLOTHES, EXCHANGE GIFTS, AND PERFORM SPECIAL WORSHIP RITUALS.

DIWALI ALSO HOLDS SIGNIFICANCE FOR JAINS AND SIKHS, MARKING SPIRITUAL AWAKENINGS AND HISTORICAL EVENTS.



The Diwali story, based on the Ramayana, celebrates the return of Prince Rama to his kingdom of Ayodhya after 14 years of exile, during which his wife Sita was kidnapped by the demon king Ravana. After defeating Ravana with the help of his brother Lakshman and the monkey god Hanuman, Rama, Sita, and Lakshman were welcomed home, and the people lit lamps to guide their path and celebrate the triumph of good over evil.

## The Story of Rama and Sita

**Exile and Kidnapping:** Prince Rama is sent into exile for 14 years. During this time, his wife, Sita, is abducted by the demon king Ravana.



**The Quest:** Rama, along with his brother Lakshman, embarks on a quest to rescue Sita. They enlist the help of the monkey king Hanuman.

**The Battle:** Rama, Hanuman, and their army battle Ravana and his forces on the island of Lanka.

**Victory and Return:** Rama ultimately defeats and kills Ravana. He and Sita are reunited and begin their journey home to Ayodhya.



**The Celebration:** To celebrate their homecoming and honour Rama's victory over evil, the people of Ayodhya light lamps and oil lamps (diyas) to illuminate their path.

**The Significance of the Story Triumph of Good over Evil:** The core message of the Ramayana is the victory of goodness and light over darkness and evil.

**The Festival of Lights:** Diwali, the Festival of Lights, commemorates this event by symbolizing the lighting of the path for Rama and Sita and celebrating the return of light into people's lives.