



News of the week

Diwali: Hindu Festival of Light

10/31/2024

In recognition of the cultural diversity at the ACMA and eSafety, we're highlighting Diwali, a festival that represents light, knowledge and renewal. Read on to learn more about Diwali – the Hindu Festival of Light.

Main image: Traditional diya lamps are lit during Diwali celebrations.

What is Diwali?

Diwali is one of the most significant and widely celebrated religious festivals in India and around the world. The word Diwali (or Deepavali as it's sometimes called) means Row of Lights. The Festival of Light holds great cultural and religious significance for Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, and some Buddhists symbolising the victory of light over darkness, knowledge over ignorance, and good over evil.

When is Diwali?

Diwali is a five-day celebration determined by the Hindu Lunar calendar marking the start of the Hindu New Year. This year the festivities will begin on October 28, concluding on November 2 with Diwali celebrated on Thursday, 1 November.

How is Diwali celebrated?

Households and communities engage in many activities in the lead up to Diwali to prepare for the festival. Cleaning and decorating homes creates a welcoming environment inviting

good fortune and prosperity. Traditional oil lamps called '[diyas](#)' are lit to illuminate the surrounding and fireworks light up the night sky, adding light to the festive spirit.

Decorations play a big part in Diwali as colourful patterns called '[rangoli](#)' are created using coloured powders, rice, or flower petals. These intricate designs are placed at the entrance of homes to welcome divine energy and bring good luck.

Dressing in traditional clothing such as sarees for women and kurta-pyjamas or dhoti-kurtas for men, signifies a fresh start and a celebration of abundance.

During Diwali friends and family exchange gifts of sweets, and dry fruits as a gesture of love and appreciation, this is seen to promote bonding and strengthen relationships.

Learn more about Diwali

To learn more about the festival, you can visit the [Diwali page on the SBS website](#) where they have created a place for all things Diwali and other festivals of light celebrations around Australia. This includes videos, articles, podcasts and event details.

You can also watch these YouTube videos:

- [National Geographic | Diwali - Festival of Lights](#) (3 mins)
- [Storylinks | Why do we celebrate Diwali?](#) (6 mins)
- [Diwali Rangoli design](#) (2.5 mins)



This is one of many significant cultural events that we are promoting to continually grow

staff cultural awareness. You can also see [Our Diversity and Inclusion Strategy](#) to learn about other ways we promote diversity and inclusion at the ACMA and eSafety.