

Deepavali

A Starter Guide for Primary School Students



Content

1. [What is Deepavali?](#)
2. [Why do Hindu, Sikhs and Jains celebrate Deepavali?](#)
3. [When is Deepavali?](#)
4. [How is Deepavali celebrated?](#)
5. [Little India Deepavali street light up](#)
6. [Crossword Puzzle](#)



What is Deepavali?



The 'Festival of Lights' is celebrated by Hindus to commemorate the triumph of good over evil; light over darkness; knowledge over ignorance.

Hence, Deepavali festivities feature oil lamps, colourful light displays, sparklers and joyous gatherings as the community shares warmth and brightness.



Why is Deepavali celebrated?



INDIAN
HERITAGE
CENTRE

இந்திய
மரபுடைமை
நிலையம்

The defeat of Narakasura



Getty Images

Deepavali commemorates the day Lord Krishna slayed the tyrannical demon, Narakasura.

The people welcomed the victorious Lord Krishna with lighted lamps illuminating the entire city. Since then, Deepavali has been celebrated with lights and oil lamps.

The defeat of Ravana

According to the Ramayana epic, Deepavali also marks the return of Lord Rama, Sita and Lakshmana after their 14-year exile and their defeat of the demon king, Ravana.

People celebrated this occasion by lighting up oil lamps to illuminate the way and welcome their king, hence inspiring the tradition of lighting lamps on Deepavali.



Getty Images



Sikhism and Jainism

According to Sikhism, Deepavali is known as Bandi Chhor Divas. Sikhs observe this 'Day of Liberation' to celebrate the release of Guru Hargobind, on a 17th century Deepavali day.

Jains refer to Deepavali as Mahavira Nirvana Divas, which is celebrated as the day the last Jain Tirthankara (Spiritual Teacher) known as Mahavira attained Moksha (Liberation)



When is Deepavali?

Deepavali falls on the new moon day in the solar month known as Aippassi or Ashvin in the Hindu calendar. This is typically between 15 October to 15 November in the Gregorian calendar.



How is Deepavali celebrated?

Deepavali usually begins with an oil bath, dressing up in new clothes, prayers at home or temple, visiting with family, seeking blessing from elders and finally, enjoying sweets and shared feasts!



Getty Images



A favourite Deepavali tradition



Getty Images



Getty Images

Deepavali breakfast is a fond tradition of many Singaporean Tamil Hindu families. This typically includes homemade thosai or appam jala and could also feature chicken or mutton curry.



Little India

Deepavali Street Light Up

Did you know?

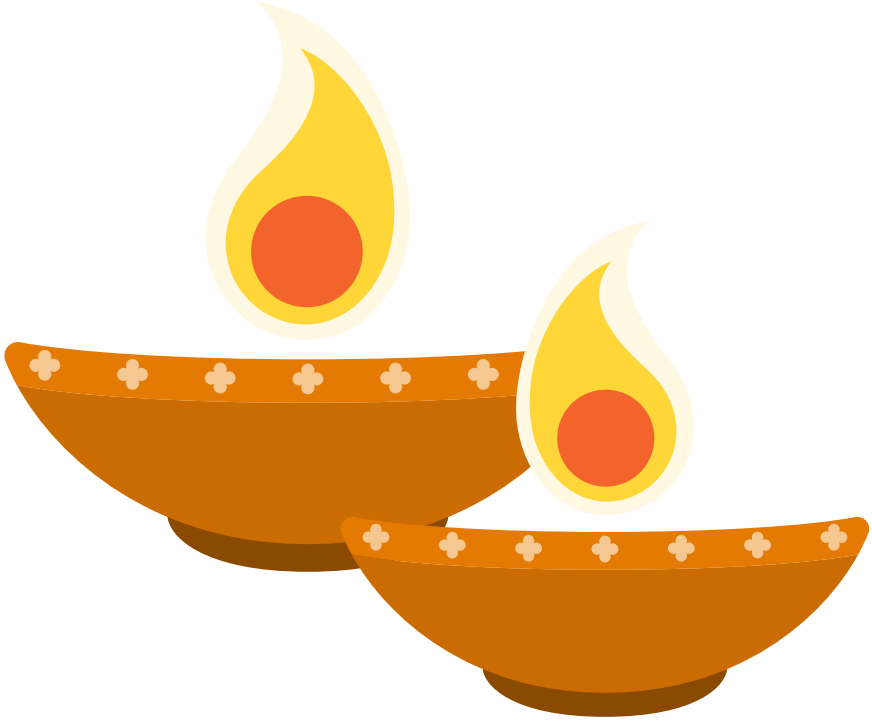
The Deepavali street lights first went up in 1985 in Singapore. Over the years, the lights stretched from Serangoon road and extended over Race Course Road!



Let's Discuss!

Have you noticed the following motifs
(designs/shapes) in the street light up?

Lamps



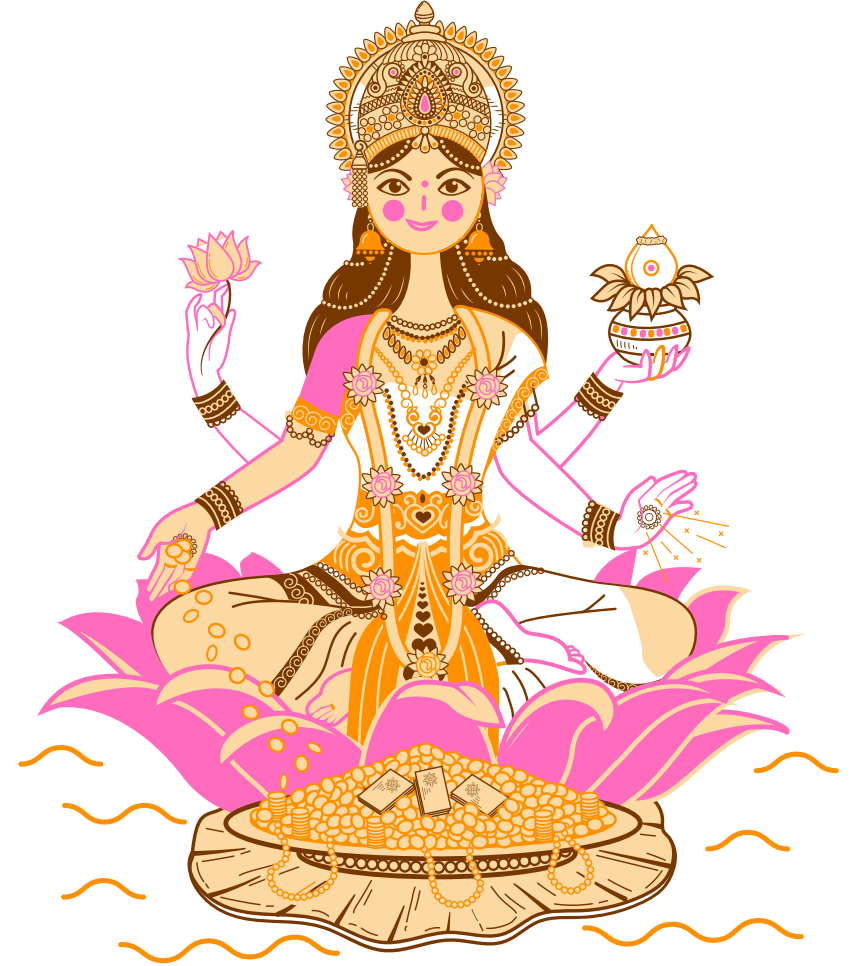
Lamps are the central motifs of Deepavali. The oil lamps represent the triumph of light over darkness and mark the continuation of a treasured tradition. They are a constant feature in the street light up!



Lotus

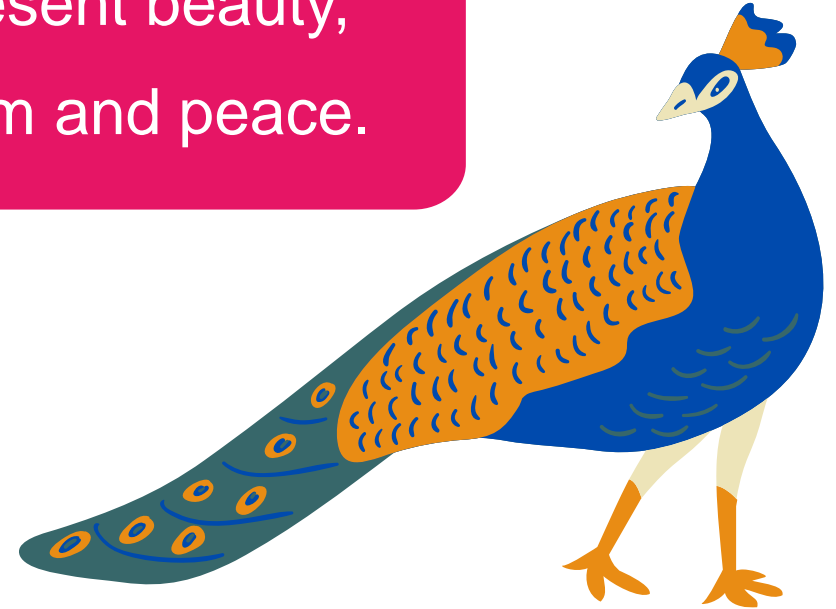
In Hinduism, the lotus is a symbol for purity and divinity.

The lotus is also closely associated with Hindu Goddesses, especially Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth and prosperity.



Birds

Peacocks and swans have added colour and grandeur to the street light up design over the decades. These birds represent beauty, rejuvenation, divinity, wisdom and peace.



Let's reflect!



Deepavali festivities bring together
family and friends!

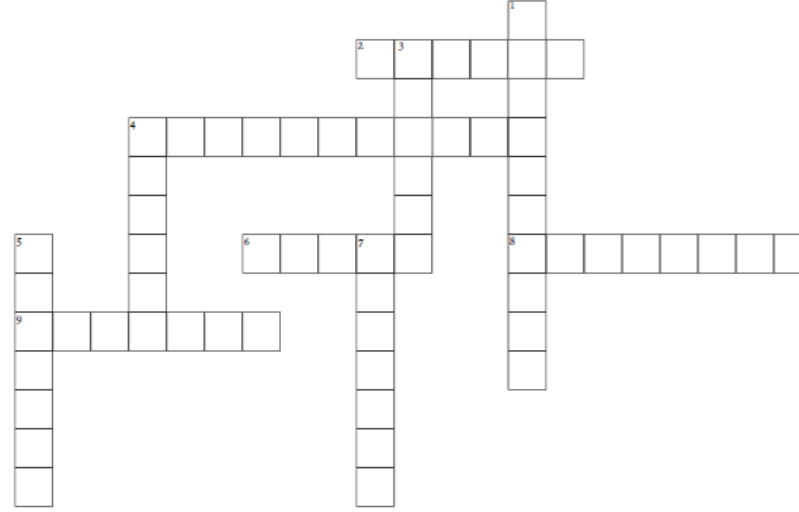
Do you celebrate Deepavali with your
family/friends?

Share something you know about
Deepavali!



Happy Deepavali!

Have fun completing this crossword puzzle!



Across

2. Deepavali breakfast includes homemade _____ and appam jala.
4. Where can you find the Deepavali Street Light Up?
6. The central motif of the Deepavali Street Light Up.
8. Deepavali is celebrated with lamps, colourful light displays and _____.
9. The goddess of wealth and prosperity.

Down

1. The demon that Lord Krishna slayed.
3. Deepavali is mainly celebrated by _____.
4. Deepavali is known as the "Festival of _____."
5. Deepavali usually begins with _____.
7. Swans and _____ can be found on the Street Light Up.



Follow us to stay updated:



indianheritage.gov.sg



[@indianheritagecentre](https://www.facebook.com/indianheritagecentre)



[@indianheritage_sg](https://www.instagram.com/indianheritage_sg)



INDIAN
HERITAGE
CENTRE

இந்திய
மரபுடைமை
நிலையம்

Thank You!

