Celebrating Diwali (Deepavali)



Source: PR Newswire

Diwali (Deepavali) is a Festival of Lights observed in Hindu, Jain, and Sikh traditions. Its meanings, stories, and practices vary across traditions, regions, and communities. Usually observed in late October or November, its name comes from the Sanskrit dipavali, meaning “row of lights.” The festival is commonly associated with the victory of light over darkness, knowledge over ignorance, and hope over despair.

When is Diwali (Deepavali) in 2026?

- In 2026, Diwali will be observed from **6 to 10 November**, with the main Diwali day on 8 November.

Community Events

- Swasthyam Diwali & Wellness Show | November 1, 2026 | 12 p.m.–9 p.m. | St. Volodymyr Cultural Centre, Oakville
- Brampton Diwali Mela 2026: Diwali Night in the Park | November 8, 2026 | Sesquicentennial Park, Brampton
- Diwali Celebration at Markham South Welcome Centre | November 21, 2026 | Markham South Welcome Centre

Event details are subject to change. Check the organizer’s website before attending.

What are the 5 days of Diwali?

- **Day 1 — November 6: Dhanteras**
  Dhanteras is associated with wealth, health, and prosperity. Dhanvantari, associated with Ayurveda and healing, is honoured in many communities, reflecting the view that good health is a form of wealth. **Traditions may include:** cleaning the home, lighting diyas, praying for well-being, and purchasing a precious item as a symbol of prosperity. Read about the five days of Diwali
- **Day 2 — November 7: Naraka Chaturdashi (Choti Diwali)**
  In many Hindu communities, this day is associated with Krishna's victory over Narakasura and symbolizes the triumph of good over evil and light over darkness. **Traditions may include:** ritual oil baths, lighting diyas, applying kumkum or oil, and sharing sweets and savoury foods. Read about the five days of Diwali
- **Day 3 — November 8: Lakshmi Puja (Diwali Day)**
  For many Hindu communities, the central day of Diwali is associated with the worship of Lakshmi and, in some traditions, Rama's return to Ayodhya. It symbolizes prosperity, inner awakening, and the triumph of light and knowledge over darkness. **Traditions may include:** lighting diyas, sharing meals and sweets, exchanging gifts, visiting temples, and community fireworks where permitted. Read about the five days of Diwali
- **Day 4 — November 9: Govardhan Puja, Annakut, or Padva**
  Communities observe the day after Diwali differently. Depending on the tradition, it may mark the New Year or include Govardhan Puja, Annakut, Padva, or Vishwakarma Puja. **Traditions may include:** preparing food offerings, honouring cows, exchanging gifts, and gathering with loved ones. Read about the five-day celebration
- **Day 5 —** November 10**: Bhai Dooj (Yama Dwitiya)**
  In many Hindu communities, the fifth and final day celebrates sibling bonds and is associated with the story of Yama and Yami. **Traditions** may include**:** a tilak ceremony, sharing a meal, offering wishes for health and longevity, and exchanging gifts. Read about the five-day celebration

Learn more about the five days of Diwali

- Diwali Festival of Lights | 5 Days of Deepavali | Story of Dipavali | YouTube
- Five Days Of Diwali | DiwaliFestival.org
- 10 fabulous facts about Diwali! | National Geographic Kids
- Diwali | A Guide to Religious Observances | Brandeis University
- Diwali: The Festival of Lights | Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

Employee Resource Groups (ERGs)

Employee Resource Groups can support culturally responsive learning, dialogue, and celebrations related to Diwali and other observances. The IDEAA office offers an Employee Resource Group toolkit for staff who want to form a group. The office can also assist ERG leads with internal communications, meeting setup, and information for managers to encourage participation with sufficient notice.

Discretionary funds may be available for ERGs that would like to organize an official learning event for their members and the organization.

Wishing you and your family a happy Diwali!



Source: CityNews

This resource was developed by Sophia Okyere-Oduro, Anti-Racism Implementation Specialist. If you have any comments or would like to suggest additional resources, please email **ideaa@hollandbloorview.ca**