

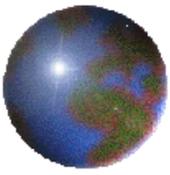
Educators Society for Heritage of India (ESHA)



*HAPPY*  
*DIWALI*



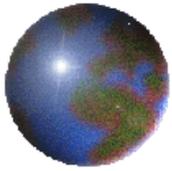
Ved P. Chaudhary  
President - ESHA  
Ved.Chaudhary@gmail.com



# *HAPPY DIWALI*

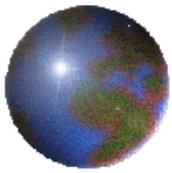
*Diwali = A row of lights; or a panoramic view of lights*





# *HAPPY DIWALI*

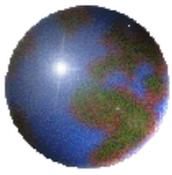
- ✦ Diwali is like:
  - ✦ Christmas (with lights and gifts)
  - ✦ the fourth of July (with fireworks)
  - ✦ the Thanksgiving (family get togethers)
  - ✦ And the New Year
  - ✦ rolled all in one.
  
- ✦ Its an incredible week - always a lot of fun with family, friends and fellowship!



# *HAPPY DIWALI*

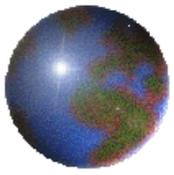
## ✦ Significance of Light

- ✦ Light dispels darkness
- ✦ Symbolic: Knowledge dispels Ignorance
- ✦ Once a lamp is lit, it can light many other lamps – without diminishing its own light!
- ✦ That's how knowledge dispels ignorance – without diminishing itself !



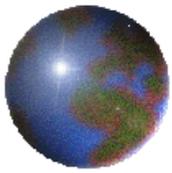
# *HAPPY DIWALI*

- ✿ Diwali celebrated by all Dharmic traditions
- ✿ Dharmic = Hindu, Jain, Sikh, Buddhist
- ✿ Reasons for celebration differ, but it is a joyous celebration for all !!
- ✿ Janis celebrate Nirvana of Mahavira
- ✿ Sikh celebrate release of Guru Hargovind
- ✿ Buddhist celebrate Ashok taking Ahimsa vow



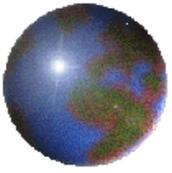
# *HAPPY DIWALI*

- ❖ Diwali is celebrated not only in Indian sub-continent, but all of South-east Asia (Thailand, Cambodia, Indonesia, Bali).
- ❖ Caribbean Islands, west indies
- ❖ Now in UK and Europe, and
- ❖ North America (700 Dharmic temples)



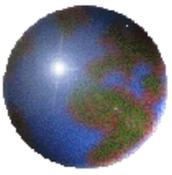
# *HAPPY DIWALI*

- ⊕ Festival is a joyful synthesis and expression of spirituality, religion, philosophy, culture, service and social values.
- ⊕ The spiritual aspect is founded on the human instincts of joy and happiness.
- ⊕ The philosophical aspect is grounded in the struggle between the forces of good and evil with the ultimate triumph of the good.
- ⊕ This struggle and ensuing victory of good is to be celebrated and used as a reminder to us to do good
- ⊕ Selfless service and giving are an interwoven part of the tradition.



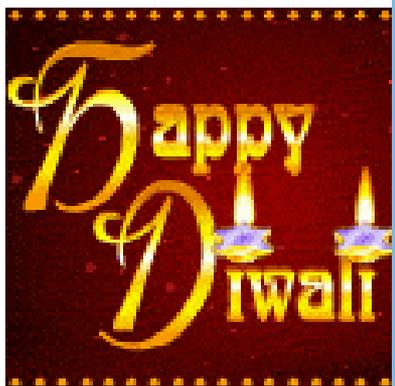
# *Hindu Story of Diwali*

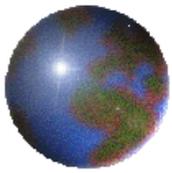
- ✿ When Raam, prince of Ayodhya (place of no war), was about to be coronated the new king by his father, king Dushruth, his step-mother objected.
- ✿ King had previously promised to her that she could ask - any two gifts - any time. She chose this occasion to demand her two gifts, as:
  - ❏ 1. Her son Bharat be coronated the new King
  - ❏ 2. Raam be sent into exile for 14 years.



Ayodhya

Sri Lanka

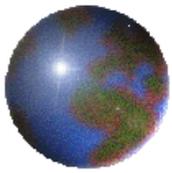




# *Story of Diwali*

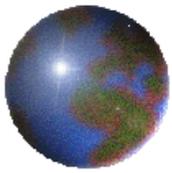


- ❖ King Dushruth couldn't refuse her the two boons she had asked.  
**He kept his word** (even if it meant his death).
- ❖ Raam went into exile. His wife Sita and step brother Luxman followed him.
- ❖ King Dushruth died of shock and grief.



# *Story of Diwali*

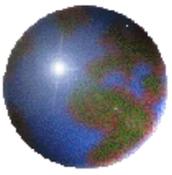
- ✿ Bharat refused to be the king, he said that the throne belonged to Raam.
- ✿ He searched for Raam, found him, asked him to return, but Raam refused, saying he must obey his father & Mother's wish.
- ✿ Bharat served as a care taker (not king)
- ✿ History is full of stories of brothers killing brothers to occupy the throne – but Bharat & Raam's is the Unique Story Unmatched anywhere in the World.



# *Story of Diwali*

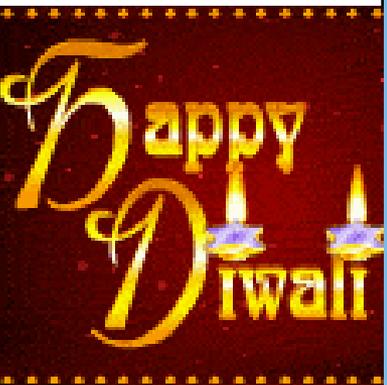
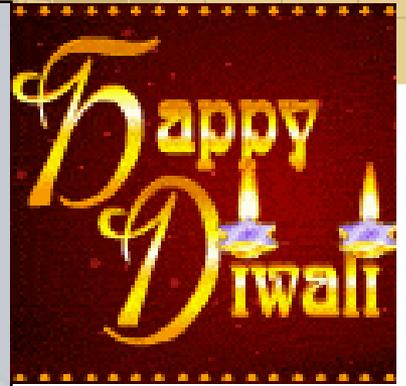


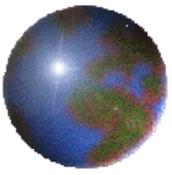
- ⊕ While Raam and Luxman were out hunting, a powerful but wicked king of Sri Lanka, Raavan, kidnapped Sita.
- ⊕ Raam **sent an emissary** to convince Raavan to return Sita to avoid war, but he refused.
- ⊕ Raam built a bridge across ocean to enable his army to cross into Sri Lanka, fought a war and **defeated the Evil** king Raavan.
- ⊕ **He made a brother of Raavan the king of Sri Lanka.**



Ayodhya

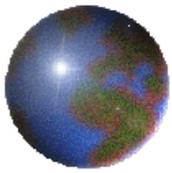
Sri lanka



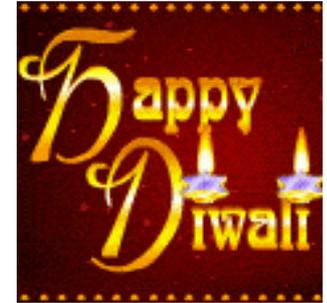


# *NASA Satellite Photo of Bridge Raam built between India & Sri Lanka*

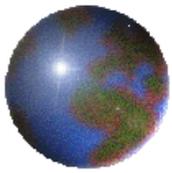




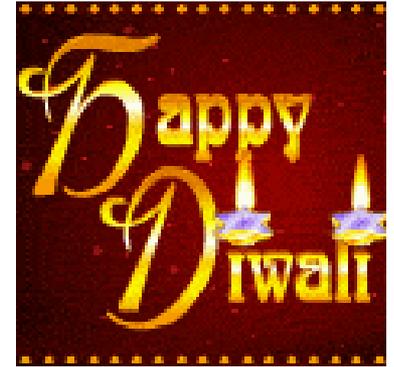
# Diwali Celebration



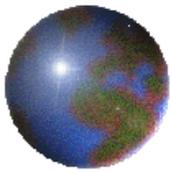
- ❖ Diwali culminates a Month of celebrations:
  - ❖ Nine days (of war on evil) celebrated with nine nights of dances and prayers (Nav Raatri)  
Also **Ram Leela** (Drama of Raam's Life) enacted every where.
  - ❖ **10th day**: victory of Good over Evil; celebrated as **Dussehra**.
  - ❖ Next twenty days: Reading of Ramayana (story of Raam's Life)  
Also cleaning/painting/decorating houses.
  - ❖ Twenty days later, Raam reached Ayodhya (A place of No War).
  - ❖ **Citizens decorated Ayodhya with oil lamps to WELCOME Raam**; Raam coronated king. That day is celebrated as Diwali.
  - ❖ Two days after Diwali – the day of brothers and sisters
- ❖ Raam lived an exemplary life, **Maryada Purushottam** as a Great man, and the Greatest of all kings.
- ❖ Raam Raajya = the best governance



## *Message of Diwali*

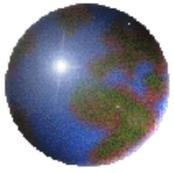


- ✦ Victory of good over evil.
  - ✦ An evil doer, no matter how powerful, will be defeated and ruined in the end.
- ✦ Keep your word, no matter what.
- ✦ Love and respect your family members. Do not covet their property.
- ✦ Integrity: Be totally honest in your dealings.

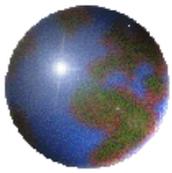


# *Relevance of Diwali to Every day Life*

- ✿ Victory of good over evil.
  - ✿ Evil = hate, envy, bullying, harassment.
- ✿ Love and respect not only your family members, but **expand 'family'** to include neighbors, co-workers **Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam**.
- ✿ Show courtsey, respect, and honesty in your dealings with them.
- ✿ There is strength in Unity.



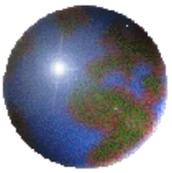
# How We Celebrate Diwali



# *Make Colorful Rangoli Designs*

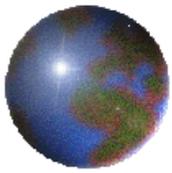
*at the entrance door - to Welcome Goddess Laxmi in your home*





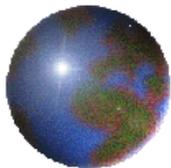
# *Making Rangoli*



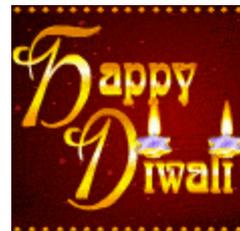


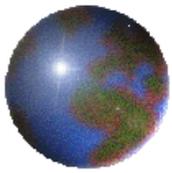
# *Making rangoli*





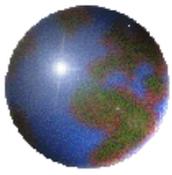
*Make artful lamps and  
Light many many Lamps  
in Every Room in the House*



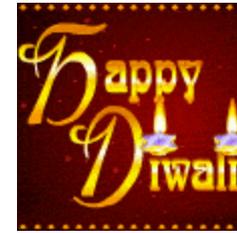
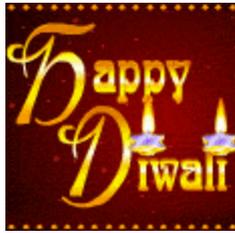


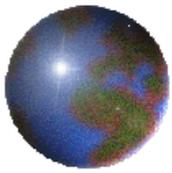
# *Make Decorations for Pooja (worship) of Laxmi in your home*





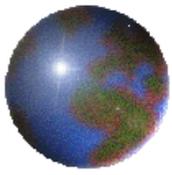
*Praying to Luxmi Devi (Deity)  
The divine power of abundance*



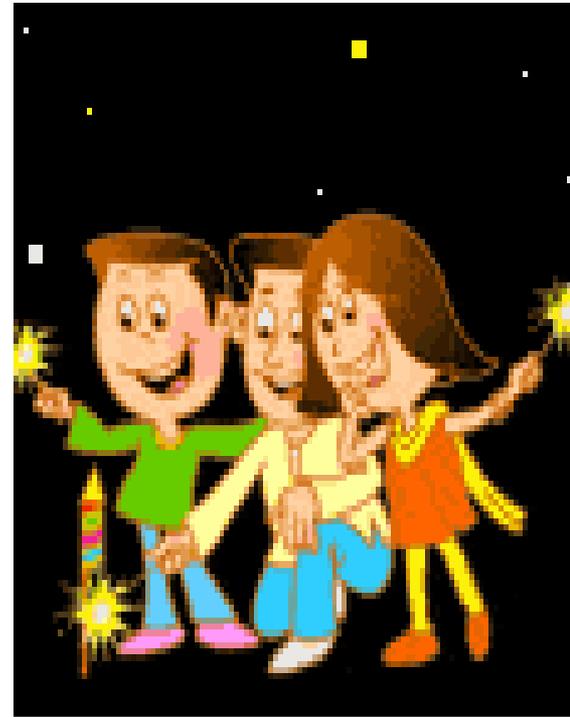


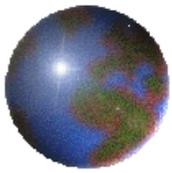
# *Cook, Eat & Share Delicious Foods & Sweets*





*Enjoy Company of Extended Family  
& Friends - Happy Diwali*





**Enjoy Fire Works Galore**

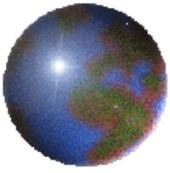
**Happy Diwali**

Best wishes from

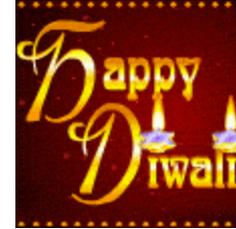


**com**

*Hindi School Teachers*



*The End*



*Namaste'*

*The Divine spirit in me sees and  
respects the divine spirit in you !*