# Hinduism

Diwali…

The festive time of**“*Deepavali”, The Festival of Lights***marks new beginnings and the triumph of good over evil, and light over darkness. Also popular as **Deepawali or Diwali** the ‘**Festival of Lights**’ coincides with harvest and New Year celebrations. The festival falls on the darkest, new moon night of the Hindu lunar month Kartika that happens between mid-Octobers to mid-November. According to the ancient calendar, Diwali is observed on Amavasya (or new moon) — the 15th day — of the month of Kartik, every year. In 2023, Diwali will be celebrated on 12th November (Sunday). He first day, known as Dhanteras, is dedicated to cleaning homes and purchasing small items of gold. Lakshmi is the focus of worship on that day. The second day, called Naraka Chaturdashi or Choti Diwali, commemorates Krishna's destruction of Narakasura; prayers are also offered for the souls of ancestors. Diwali! It's a vibrant and joyous festival celebrated by Hindus all over the world. It's also known as the Festival of Lights. People light up their homes with beautiful oil lamps called Diya’s, decorate with colorful Rangoli designs, and burst fireworks to celebrate the victory of light over darkness. It's a time for family gatherings, exchanging gifts, and enjoying delicious sweets like gulab jamun and jalebi. It's such a magical and festive time!

# HOLI:

Holi is a popular and significant Hindu festival celebrated as the Festival of Colors, Love, and spring. It celebrates the eternal and divine love of the deities Radha and Krishna25 March 2024 is the real date of Holi as per the Hindu Lunar calendar. The date of Holi changes every year. Additionally, the day signifies the triumph of good over evil, as it commemorates the victory of Vishnu as Narasimha over Hiranyakashipu. Holi is an exuberant and colorful festival celebrated in India and other parts of the world. 🌈🎉 It usually takes place in March, on the full moon day of the Hindu month of Phalgun. During Holi, people come together to celebrate the arrival of spring by throwing colored powders and water at each other, singing and dancing, and indulging in festive treats. It's a time to let go of inhibitions, embrace joy, and strengthen bonds with friends and family. Holi is truly a fun-filled and vibrant celebration that brings people closer.

## Raksha Bhandan:

The tradition of Rakshabandhan has roots in Hindu mythology and history where a queen named tied a piece of her saree around Lord Krishna's wrist to stop his bleeding from a battle wound. Touched by her gesture, Krishna promised to protect her whenever she needed

Raksha Bhandan is a popular and traditionally Hindu annual rite or ceremony that is central to a festival of the same name celebrated in South Asia. It is also celebrated in other parts of the world significantly influenced by Hindu culture. Raksha Bandhan is usually celebrated on the full moon day in the Hindu Draupadi month of Shravana. This year, Raksha Bandhan falls on August 22nd, 2024. It's a special day when sisters tie a protective thread called a "rakhi" around their brothers' wrists, symbolizing their love and bond. Brothers, in turn, give gifts and promise to protect their sisters. It's a beautiful celebration of sibling love and is eagerly awaited by many. Do you have any special plans for Raksha Bandhan this year?

# Navaratri:

Navaratri is an annual Hindu festival observed in honor of the goddess Durga, an aspect of Adi Parashakti, the supreme goddess. It spans over nine nights, first in the month of Chaitra, and again in the month of Ashvin.  Navaratri is a time when Hindus celebrate the goddess Durga for killing the demon, Mahishasura. A more powerful God, Lord Brahma, had blessed Mahishasura with the gift of immortality because of his dedication to him, which meant he could never die. Each day of Navaratri is dedicated to a specific form of Goddess Durga, the divine feminine energy. The nine avatars worshipped during Navratri are Shailaputri, Brahmacharini, Chandraghanta, Kushmanda, Skandamata, Katyayani, Kalaratri, Mahagauri, and Siddhidatri. Pratipada, also known as the first day, is associated with the form Shailaputri ("Daughter of Mountain"), an incarnation of Parvati. It is in this form that Durga is worshipped as the daughter of Himavan (the Guardian God of Himalaya).