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Dilwali Celebrated on Nov. 12

Diwali 2023, *the Festival of Lights*, will be celebrated on Sunday, November 12 (coinciding with the new moon). Hindus across the country celebrate this festival with joy and enthusiasm. It holds great significance as it symbolizes the triumph of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance.

People decorate their homes, light diyas, exchange gifts, and worship deities such as Goddess Laxmi and Lord Ganesha. The festival is celebrated for five days, with each day having its own rituals and traditions:

- On the **first day**, individuals clean their homes and create intricate *rangoli*—designs made of colored rice, sand, or flowers created on the floor of the home.



- The **second day** is spent preparing or buying special food (especially sweets, called *mithai*), as well as praying for the spirits of ancestors in the afterlife.
- On the **third day**—the main day of Diwali—families gather and celebrate by lighting lanterns and candles in their homes and in the streets and by shooting off fireworks! (In southern India, the second day is the main day of celebration, rather the third.)
- Traditions of the **fourth day** vary, but a common theme is the bond between husband and wife, so husbands will often buy their spouses gifts to celebrate.
- The **fifth day** focuses on the bond between siblings, specifically between brother and sister.

This annual homecoming and bonding period is not only for families, but also for communities and associations, particularly those in urban areas, which will organize activities, events and gatherings. Many towns organize community parades and fairs with parades or music and dance performances in parks.

To learn more about Diwali and how it is celebrated, click [What Is Diwali and How Is It Celebrated? - YouTube](#). There are also multiple celebrations/festivals scheduled throughout Ohio. If you participate in an activity or attend an event in honor of this grand celebration, please share with the DEI Council at comdei@com.ohio.gov.





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