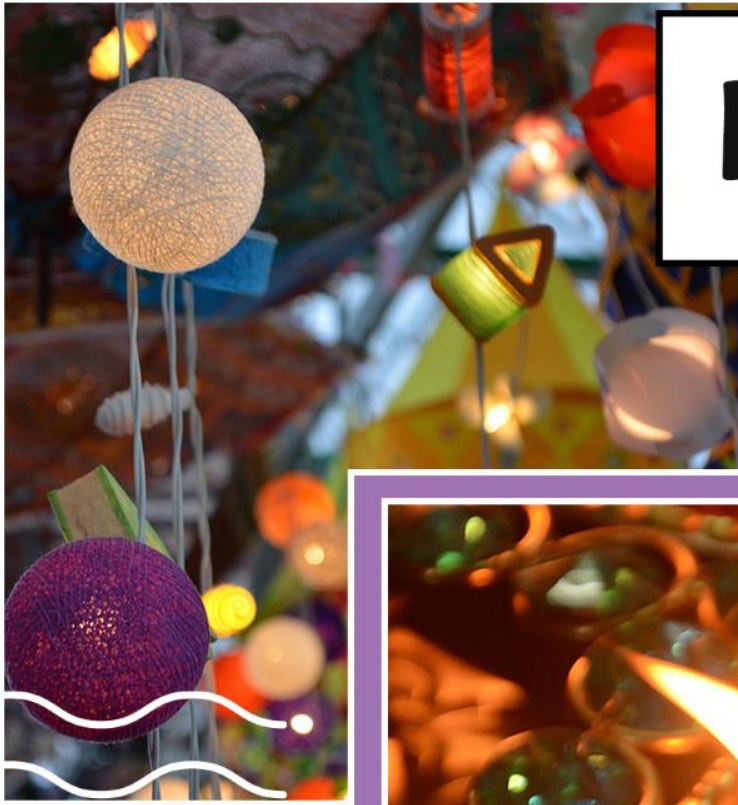


# Hindu Diwali



# What is Diwali?



Diwali is a very important holiday in India.

The festival of Diwali is celebrated by both Sikhs and Hindus.

It is a Hindu 'festival of lights' which celebrates the New Year.

The word Diwali means 'row of lighted lamps'.





# Celebrating Hindu Diwali

The festival usually honours **Lakshmi**, the goddess of wealth.

Lamps are lit to help Lakshmi find her way into people's homes.

They also celebrate a Diwali legend: the story of the return of **Rama** and **Sita** to Rama's kingdom after fourteen years of exile.



Lakshmi

Diya





# Celebrating Hindu Diwali



spring cleaning;

decorating the home with lots of lights;

wearing new clothes;

exchanging gifts;

preparing festival meals;

putting on huge fireworks displays.







# Celebrating Hindu Diwali

In India, Hindus leave the windows and doors of their houses open to welcome Lakshmi into their homes.

Rangoli is created on the floors of the house. These are bright, colourful patterns and the most popular subject is the lotus flower.

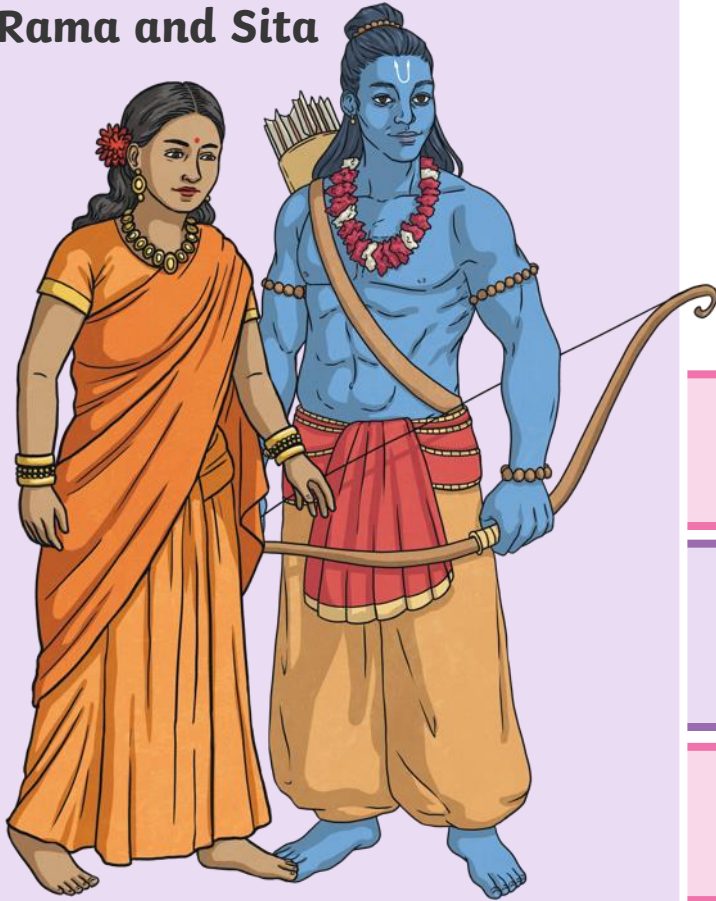






# The Meaning of Hindu Diwali

Rama and Sita



The festival celebrates the victory of good over evil, light over darkness and knowledge over ignorance.

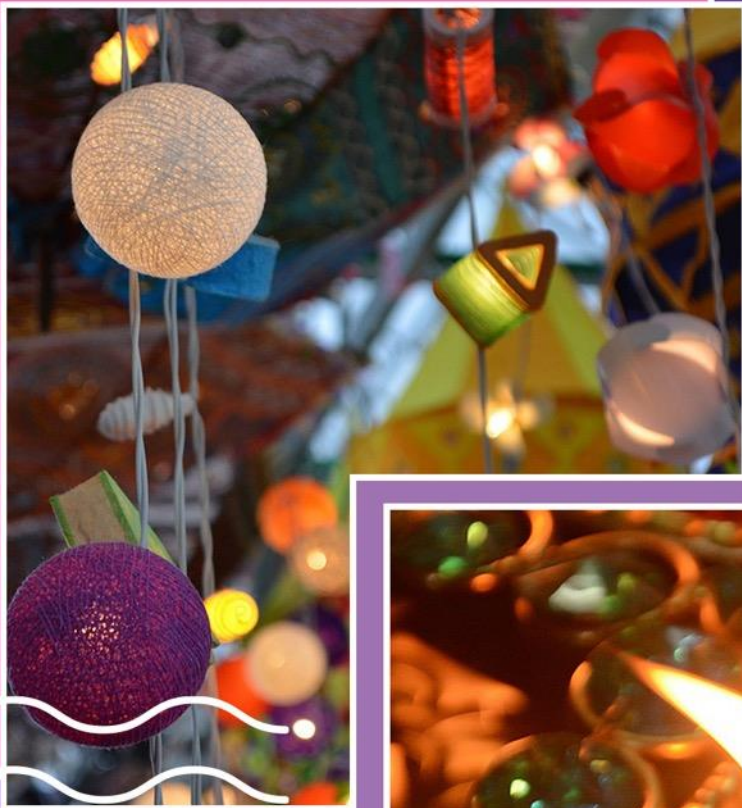
**The legends that go with the festival differ depending on where you are.**

In northern India, Diwali celebrates Rama and Sita's return from exile.

In Nepal, Diwali commemorates the victory of Lord Krishna over the demon king Narakaasura.

In Bengal, it is associated with the goddess Kali.





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