



Sri Siva Vishnu Temple



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Deepavali



Deepaavali (Diwali) meaning a 'festival of lights' is celebrated in different ways in Hindu households. The word "Diwali" is the colloquial version of the Sanskrit word "Deepavali" - Deepa meaning light and Avali, meaning a row. It means a row of lights and indeed illumination forms its main attraction. Every home - lowly or mighty - the hut of the poor or the mansion of the rich - is alighted with the orange glow of twinkling 'diyas' (small earthen lamps) - to welcome Lakshmi, Goddess of wealth and prosperity.



Multi-coloured Rangoli designs, floral decorations and fireworks lends color and grandeur to this festival which heralds joy, mirth and happiness in the ensuing year. This festival is celebrated on a grand scale in almost all the regions of India and is looked upon mainly as the beginning of New Year. As such the blessings of Lakshmi, the celestial consort of Lord Vishnu are invoked with prayers.

In Bengal it is celebrated as Kaali Puja. In most other parts it is associated with Lakshmi Puja.

There is an interesting legend behind this festival. The story goes that Narakasura, a demon, ruled the kingdom of Pradyoshapuram. Under his rule, the villagers suffered a lot of hardship as the demon tortured the people and kidnapped the women to be imprisoned in his palace. Seeing his wickedness, Lord Khrishna set out to destroy the demon and the day Narakasura died was celebrated as Deepavali, the triumph of good over evil!!

