

CINEMA on TOUR 2018

BATTICALOA
31st October / Swamy Vipulananda Institute

MANNAR
3rd November / DS Office Auditorium

VAVUNIYA
4th November / Hotel Princess Rose

MULLAITIVU
5th November / Vallipuram, Devipuram, Suthanthirapuram

AMPARA
10th November / Coop Inn

MONARAGALA
12th November / Buddhama, Ethimale, Thissapura

FREE ENTRY
Screenings from 9:30 am

Agenda 14

ChildFund

GOETHE
INSTITUT



#BapuAt150 #150yearsofCelebratingtheMahatma

Oscar winning film "Gandhi" by Richard Attenborough will be screened island wide in Sri Lanka as a part of CINEMA ON TOUR.

31 October 2018	3.30 p.m.	Swamy Vipulananda Institute, Batticaloa
04 November 2018	3.30 p.m.	Hotel Princess Rose, Vavuniya
10 November 2018	3.30 p.m.	Coop Inn, Ampara

Gandhi is a 1982 epic historical drama film based on the life of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, the leader of India's non-violent, non-cooperative independence movement against British rule on India during the 20th century.

Cultural Calendar - November 2018

9
Friday
3.00 pm

Friday Matinee
1942 A Love Story (Hindi with English subtitles)
(Duration -2hrs 37mins)
Director: Vidhu Vinod Chopra
Cast: Anil Kapoor, Manisha Koirala
Venue: SVCC Auditorium

An Evening of Prose and Poetry
organised by the English Writers Collective
with presence of prize winning author Jean Arasanayagam
with interludes of music by Sureka Amerasinghe.
Venue: SVCC Auditorium

14
Wednesday
6.30 pm

17
Saturday
9.30am - 1.00pm

Shankar's International Children's Competition-2019
Topic: "Cleanliness is Godliness"
(essay writing / drawing / painting competitions)
For registration contact :SVCC, Colombo:
phone no 2684698 or
by email:iccrcolombo2@gmail.com
Venue: SVCC Auditorium

Guru Nanak Jayanti
550th Birth Anniversary celebrations
of Shri Guru Nanak Dev ji
Venue: SVCC Auditorium

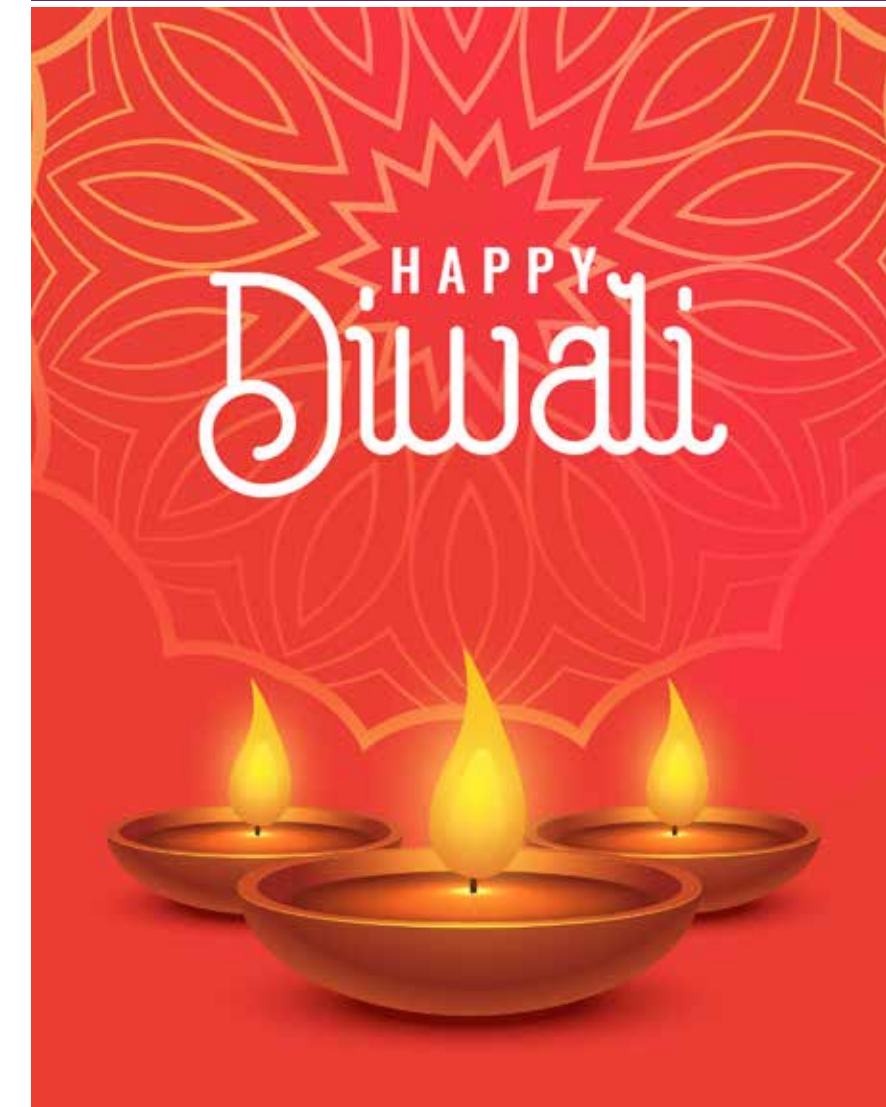
22
Thursday
4.00 pm



Indian Council for Cultural Relations
संस्कृति संबंधितालय, नवी दिल्ली

Sanskarika

Newsletter of the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre Nov 2018



DEEPAVALI

The celebration of Good over Evil



A photograph of India from space, which often makes the round across social media platforms, shows India and South Asia at night time taken by NASA on the night of *Deepavali* (commonly referred to as *Diwali*). This picture was taken on November 12, 2012, by the Visible Infrared Imaging Radiometer Suite (VIIRS) on the Suomi NPP satellite. This image was created with the help of data collected by this VIIRS day-night band. For proper visibility, this image has been brightened to a good extent to make the city lights easier to be seen and distinguished. Along with India, the same picture also shows the lights of the neighbouring countries. Just as the NASA picture reflects the wide arrangement of visible lights across the entire Indian sub-continent on the night

of *Deepavali*, it also helps to reveal the real essence of the festival- unity amidst diversity, the spread of joy and the celebration of the victory of all positive over negative forces. Thus, the essence of brightness triumphs over the gloom of darkness.

Deepavali is an important festival across India and most regions of India has their own wonderful interpretation and stories associated with the festival. Traditionally speaking, the festival got its name from the row (*avali*) of clay lamps (*deepa*) which are lit outside houses. These lights symbolises the inner light that protects from spiritual darkness. Though traditionally, clay lamps were used to light in and around each home, in present times, people often use electronic lamps

of various shapes and colours. As the festival is also associated with the celebration of the concept of good over evil- this is also marked through the brilliant displays of fireworks. The festival is celebrated regardless of faith, creed and gender. It is a celebration of all and each region of India has their special story reflecting the significance of this festival of lights and all interpretations has the common thread- denoting the victory of good over evil.

Deepavali is celebrated across five days, with the main day of Laxmi puja falling on the third day. The first day is referred to as *Dhanteras*. On this first day of Diwali, people consider it auspicious to spring clean the home and shop for gold or kitchen utensils. The second day is referred to as *Narak Chaturdashi* or *Kali Chaudas* or simply *Chhoti Diwali*. On this day people decorate their homes with clay lamps and create design patterns called *rangoli* on



the floor using coloured powders or sand. The third day is called as *Deepavali*- when all members of a family gets together for the worship or puja of goddess Lakshmi. The fourth day is variously called as *Vishwakarma Day* or *Govardhan Puja* and is celebrated in several parts of India as the first day of the new year. Friends and relatives visit with gifts and best wishes for the season. The final and fifth day is celebrated as *Bhai Dooj* and is considered to celebrate the love, trust, honour and close bond between a brother and sister as the former blesses the latter after a short puja of the brother is performed by the sister. Each day of Diwali is also associated with a special reference and is also associated with mythology. While *Dhanteras* is considered as the day of *Dhanwantari*- the physician of *devas* or the Gods, who emerged with an *amrit kalash* (pot of nectar or immortality) along with Goddess Lakshmi, the next day-

Narak Chaturdashi is the day when Goddess Lakshmi and Lord Vishnu, in their incarnations as Satyabhama and Krishna, killed the demon Narakasura.

There is an auspicious representation and many beliefs, rites and rituals concerning each day of *Deepavali*. Several of these rites also reflect stories from Indian mythology. Following the rites and rituals of *Deepavali*, the first day of *Dhanteras* is celebrated as a symbol of charity- which is performed under *Guru sanidhya* by those seeking good health and wealth. On this day a clay lamp or a *diya* is lighted for Lord *Yama*, the lord of death, to balance the three forces. The next day of *Narak Chaturdashi* is considered that of Lakshmi *Sadhana*. This is revered as the day on which, Goddess Lakshmi and Lord Vishnu, in their incarnations as Satyabhama and Krishna, killed the demon Narakasura. The day of *Deepavali* is celebrated on *Kartik Amavasya*. It is the day to celebrate the *siddhis* so gained, which is signified through the lighting of *diyas*. A wonderful story narrates this illumination through *diyas* and connects to the story of the great Indian epic- *The Ramayana*. *Deepavali* is celebrated as the day on which Lord Rama (incarnation of Lord Vishnu) returned home, after slaying King Ravana- the *Rakshasha* king of Lanka. Ravana had abducted Queen Sita, the wife of Lord Rama and had kept her in his palace at Lanka. Rama killed Ravana and rescued Sita and set off for his kingdom in Ayodhya in northern India. In this journey,



Rama was also accompanied by his brother Lakshmana, who also fought against Ravana. As the three were nearing the kingdom of Ayodhya and the news of their arrival spread across the region, the people of Ayodhya lit lamps across their kingdom in celebration of their homecoming. They also lit lamps on the road, forests and the path which led to Ayodhya- to guide Rama, Sita and Lakshmana till Ayodhya. Thus, it is the homecoming of a powerful positive force.

The festival of *Deepavali* embraces all positive forces of nature and life and is also connected to the agricultural calendar of the region. The lights of the celebration mark the victory of the supreme powers of light over darkness and seek blessings for an upcoming, bountiful harvest from the gods and goddesses and forefathers. Thus, the celebration of *Deepavali* also is an important agricultural festival of the region- which denotes the end of the summer harvest and the beginning of the next crop cycle- the winter harvest.

by Dr. Lopamudra Maitra Bajpai
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