

# HOT TOPICS – NOVEMBER 2021

## DIWALI

This month's Hot Topic looks at Diwali, a five day 'Festival of Lights' that is celebrated by millions of Hindus, Sikhs and Jains around the world



**What do you already know about Diwali? Do you celebrate Diwali? Take a look at the Q&A's below to find out about this important celebration**

*Q. When does Diwali 2021 take place?*

A. It takes place over five days with the main festival day falling on Thursday, November 4<sup>th</sup>. The date changes each year.

*Q. Where does the name Diwali come from?*

A. The word Diwali (also spelt 'Divali') comes from the Sanskrit (a classical language of South Asia) word *deepavali*, meaning "rows of lighted lamps"

*Q. What is the festival about?*

A. Each religion marks different historical events and stories:

Hindus celebrate the return of deities Rama and Sita to Ayodhya after their 14-year exile. They also celebrate the day Mother Goddess Durga destroyed a demon called Mahisha.

Sikhs particularly celebrate the release from prison of the sixth guru Hargobind Singh in 1619. But Sikhs celebrated the festival before this date. In fact, the foundation stone of the Golden Temple at Amritsar, the most holy place in the Sikh world, was laid on Diwali in 1577.

The founder of Jainism is Lord Mahavira. During Diwali, Jains celebrate the moment he reached a state called Moksha (nirvana, or eternal bliss). [Source: [Diwali: What is it? - CBBC Newsround](#)]

*Q. What do people eat during Diwali?*

A. Diwali is a time for feasting with family and enjoying plenty of sweet treats. One popular delicacy is kaju katli, a fudge-like sweet made with ground cashews and sugar, and sometimes flavoured with rose water. Sweet fried bread is another popular Diwali dish.

*Q. What should you say to someone that is celebrating Diwali?*

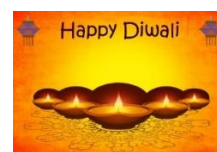
A. If you're wondering what to say on Diwali, a simple 'Happy Diwali' will do the trick, but there are other Diwali wishes you can say.

A traditional Diwali greeting is to say 'wishing you a Diwali that brings happiness, prosperity and joy to you and all your family.' You can also wish: 'May your life be as colourful, shimmering and magical as the lights of Diwali.' Another can be: 'May every aspect of your life be as luminous and wonderful as the lights on the lamps of Diwali'.

[Source: [Diwali 2021: When is the Festival of Lights and how is it celebrated? | Metro News](#)]



Based on what you now know about Diwali, discuss with your PDC how aspects of this celebration may be relevant to your role as a police officer. Also, think about how Diwali may be covered by the protected characteristics in the Equality Act 2010 and how this may impact upon your policing role. Finally, reflect on your understanding of the fundamental British Values and be prepared to explain to your PDC how they sit with the celebration of Diwali



You should now have a greater understanding of Diwali, so why not click on the link below and test or extend your knowledge of this celebration by completing the very short quiz:

[Quiz: How much do you know about Diwali? - CBBC - BBC](#)

The following sources have been used and may provide you with further information about Diwali

[Diwali: What is it? - CBBC Newsround](#)

[Diwali 2021: When is the Festival of Lights and how is it celebrated? | Metro News](#)