



NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2014 CELEBRATING DIWALI FESTIVAL

Diwali also known as **Deepavali** and the "festival of lights", is an ancient Hindu festival celebrated in autumn every year, the festival spiritually signifies the victory of light over darkness, knowledge over ignorance, good over evil, and hope over despair.

Diwali is one of the happiest holidays in India, with significant preparations. People clean their homes and decorate them for the festivities.

Girls and women create rangoli and other creative patterns on floors, near doors and walkways & also do lighting and preparing for fireworks.

Diwali is one of the biggest shopping seasons in India; people buy new clothes for themselves and their families, as well as gifts, appliances, Girls at Rescue foundation are gifted with New Dresses, sweets, dry fruits, and seasonal specialties depending on regional harvest and customs.

On Diwali night, Every Indian dress up in new clothes or their best outfit, light up diyas (lamps and candles), participate in puja (prayers) typically to Goddess Lakshmi After puja, fireworks follow, then a family feast including mithai (sweets), and an exchange of gifts between family members and close friends.

Diwali is an important festival for Hindus. The name of festive days as well as the rituals of Diwali varies significantly among Hindus, based on the region of India.

At Rescue Foundation the festivities start with Dhanteras, followed by Naraka Chaturdasi on second day, Diwali on the third day, Diwali Padva (Hindu New Year) dedicated to Family relationship on the fourth day, and festivities end with Bhau-beej dedicated to sister-brother bond on the fifth day.

Diwali Celebrated with great enthusiasm. A prayer was organized by Ramakrishna madh on the occasion of Diwali. Fire crackers, Rangoli, Decorated Diyas were the main attraction. Sweets and New cloths were distributed to girls. Girls made wonderful greeting cards.



Every girl wants to look attractive and beautiful. The hair on our head is a god given gift as it can be dressed up and designed to form different styles. Naturally all girls are very much interested in practicing new and different designs for their hair-do. **Sapna Bhavnani** is a Mumbai, India based celebrity, One of the Hairstylist expert visited our Boisar Complex and taught various hairstyles to many of our girls. India is a land of varied culture and festivals. For every occasion, girls dress up in different attire accompanied by different hair-do. Every girl likes to learn attractive hairstyles. Hence the training from the hair stylist was a boon for the Survivors. Girls will have opportunity to practice the new hairstyles in their villages. On one hand they will generate good income and on the other hand they will become popular in their communities. An opportunity which does not require any investment or tools can be practiced anywhere even in villages and most interior areas. We have always been searching such crafts which can be easily practiced by the girls we repatriate.

Since all our girls are rescued from inhuman atrocities in life, they suffer from one disease or the other. Our primary aim is to provide them complete health care. Lions Club of Tarapur in collaboration with Medical Practitioners Association organized a one day camp at Boisar Complex to provide medical care to these underprivileged girls. Besides delivering general treatment to the patients, they also delivered free consultation and treatment to the girls in our home. Many specialists and physicians attended the camp. Girls were very happy as they did not have to travel to a hospital for the treatment. Such medical camp has proved to be a big success. Our world is one of terrible contradictions. Plenty of food, but one billion people go hungry. Lavish lifestyles for a few, but poverty for too many others. Huge advances in medicine while mothers die every day in childbirth, and children die every day from drinking dirty water. Billions spent on weapons to kill people instead of keeping them safe. We must change all these by living a healthy life. And by indulging in selfless service to the needy by such medical camps.

Madam Triveni Acharya was invited to attend South Asia Regional Workshop on "Changing Dimension of Human Trafficking: Regional Efforts" Dated 16 & 17 October 2014, at Katmandu Nepal, it was a consultative committee of seven nations, supported by UNICEF. The discussion held was about anti trafficking measures. Our suggestions for anti-trafficking measures & cross border repatriation will be further examined for implementation.

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