



Government of Puducherry

Department of Science, Technology & Environment
Puducherry Pollution Control Committee
Puducherry EIACP Hub



LiFE
Lifestyle for
Environment

Mission LiFE

"Make your Diwali celebration eco-friendly, and
let there be light without pollution."

Happy *Diwali*

November 12, 2023

<https://dste.py.gov.in/Envispdy/index1.html>



eiacphubpd



EIACP Puducherry



Deepawali is known as the 'Festival of Lights' and is one of the most important Hindu festivals in India. Deepawali essentially means the Awareness of the Inner Light. In a way, it is the celebration of the awakening and awareness of the Inner Light which has the power to outshine the darkness.

On this day, people decorate their home with diyas, rangolis and decorative lights, wear new clothes, exchange sweets and gifts with each other, burn crackers and in the evening perform, Lakshmi Pujan.

Why Should You Celebrate Eco Friendly Diwali

Celebrating an Eco friendly Diwali signifies our commitment to environmental protection. It is also the promotion of a sustainable way of life. While Hindus passionately celebrate Diwali, the Festival of Lights, by lighting oil lamps and burning fireworks, opting for eco-friendly candles over crackers can have a positive impact on the environment. By making this



responsible choice, we can mitigate the adverse effects on the environment associated with traditional Diwali practices. Here's why this is important:

Poor Air Quality

The burning of firecrackers and fireworks releases harmful chemicals and pollutants into the atmosphere. This, in turn, significantly degrades air quality, posing a health risk, particularly to individuals with respiratory conditions or those at risk of developing respiratory issues. Opting for eco-friendly firecrackers or refraining from their use entirely can contribute to better air quality, promoting a healthier and more eco friendly Diwali.



Noise Pollution

Fireworks and firecrackers can generate extremely loud noise levels, leading to distress among animals, including stray dogs and pets. Moreover, this noise not only affects animals but also disrupts people who may be facing important events, such as exams or those who are trying to rest or sleep. Opting for quieter and eco-friendly alternatives for various types of celebrations can be a solution to mitigate noise pollution.



Waste Management

The residue from fireworks, including burnt paper and gift wrappers from sweet boxes, forms a part of the waste generated during Diwali. Managing this waste effectively, particularly by using sustainable products for an eco friendly diwali celebration, can simplify the post-celebration cleanup and contribute to a cleaner and more sustainable environment.



Cultural Preservation

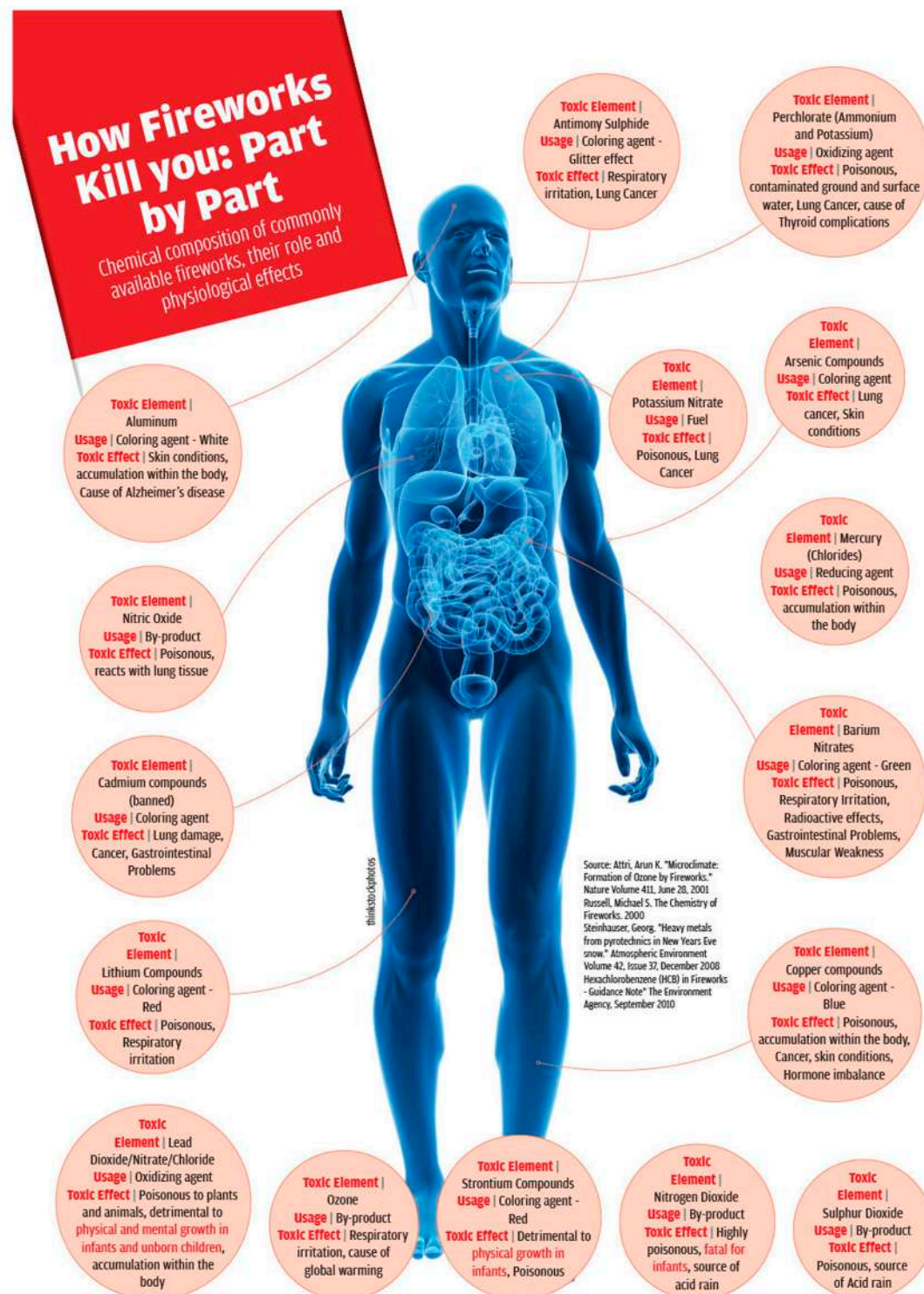
Diwali's essence is rooted in the celebration of light triumphing over darkness and good prevailing over evil. An eco friendly Diwali is in harmony with the traditional values of purity and unity, ensuring that these cultural elements are not eclipsed by environmental harm.



Health Issues caused by Firecrackers

In these five days Fireworks are handled by kids and due to their poisonous nature many children fall ill. Poisonous gases may cause fever, Skin irritation, vomiting, Effects of Fireworks on lungs, insomnia, heart, asthma and bronchitis. Also many children face accidents due to mishandling of fireworks and it causes burning, cutting. Also it has been observed that mortality and morbidity rate increased in Diwali period because of SPM, RSPM and other harmful gases released in environment.

Loud noise of fireworks causes Temporary deafness, permanent Eardrum rupture, trauma and hypertension.



How to Celebrate Eco Friendly Diwali

Future Generation

Celebrating an eco friendly Diwali serves as a positive role model for the younger generation. It teaches a valuable lesson about the preservation of the environment. The importance of the environment and taking responsibility for the well-being of our planet. These small actions are important for teaching the future generation. As people care about the planet, it becomes better in the long run.



“By planting a tree on Diwali, you're not just celebrating the festival; you're also giving life back to our Earth.”

Select Eco-Friendly Candles and Diyas

When selecting lighting options, selecting earthen diyas or candles that are crafted from sustainable materials. Avoid plastic or not renewable alternatives in order to minimise negative environmental impact. The eco-friendly celebrations have the benefit of reducing waste. However, they also bring a touch of traditional charm to the celebrations.



Use LEDs and Energy-Efficient Bulbs

Energy-efficient LED lighting should take the place of traditional fluorescent lighting. LED lights have an extended lifespan and use a lot less electricity. To save energy, think about utilising ornamental lights sparingly and minimising their quantity.



Make Natural Rangoli

Colourful rangoli patterns are an essential part of any Diwali celebration. While traditionally rangoli was constructed using food ingredients, current rangoli hues have changed the game by using synthetic sand dyes. Roses, daisies, golden or yellow marigolds, etc., would all work wonderfully. This Diwali, instead of using oil paint and toxic-artificial hues to decorate your rangoli, try using organic colours, flowers, candles and clay diyas.



Reduce Waste, Home Upgrades

During Diwali, we all do a lot of cleaning at our homes and offices. We often end up throwing away many things, like old clothes, broken items, newspapers, and bulbs. But instead of just throwing them out, use your creativity to turn these things into decorations for your home. When you're cleaning, remember to check your closet. Donate the clothes you don't wear anymore to those who are in need. It's a kind way to make others happy and help them. And remember, it's not just your closet; you can declutter your whole house, not just one part!



Heartfelt Gifts, Not Store Gifts

While exchanging gifts was once a joyous part of the Diwali celebration, the holiday's commercialization has reduced it to a mindless exchange of sugary treats. Do not follow the crowd on Diwali 2023—try something different, like giving the gift of a plant, organic foods, a subscription to online yoga lessons, etc.



Avoid Plastic Wraps

Make sure you are not using plastic or non-biodegradable materials while wrapping presents for Diwali. Use biodegradable paper or newspapers as an alternative. As a substitute, the Japanese practice of "Furoshiki" can be employed; this involves wrapping presents in a square-shaped cloth that is both environmentally friendly and traditionally made.



Conclusion

In the year 2023, let's wholeheartedly welcome eco friendly diwali celebrations and make a positive impact on our planet. Through the adoption of sustainable practices, we have the power to safeguard our environment, preserve valuable resources, and pave the way for a healthier future for the generations ahead. Our Diwali festivities should revolve around nurturing the environment with love and responsibility. This can be achieved by using earthen diyas, soy wax candles, or energy-efficient lighting options instead of traditional firecrackers, which contribute to noise and air pollution. For high-quality and biodegradable candles, you can turn to Aromahpure to celebrate an eco friendly Diwali.



#Donate old clothes and books

