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USE VASTU THIS **DIWALI**

Vastu practitioners believe that following a few principles enjoined by this ancient practice can make Diwali auspicious and lead to greater health, wealth and happiness, says **ALKESH GUPTA**

Diwali, the festival of lights, is perhaps the most popular Hindu festival.

This is the day when people decorate their houses and worship Goddess Lakshmi and Lord Ganesha.

This day is also important as the market is on a full bloom in anticipation of brisk trading by customers who believe that buying gold

cloths and household items are in great demand. Almost every community enjoys and celebrates this period. Vastu practitioners believe that following a few principles enjoined by this ancient practice can make this festival auspicious and lead to greater health, wealth and happiness.

According to "Valmiki Ramayana", this is the day when Lord Ram returns

es and roads with flowers and diyas (oil lamps). Ever since, Diwali is celebrated every year to commemorate that occasion.

According to the "Shrimad Bhagwata" this is also the day when Shri Krishna killed Narkasur at Vrindavan. Vatasayayan called it Yaksha Ratri in his book "Kama Sutra" while Abul Fazl considered this day as a festival of the business community of India in his book

Earth on this day at midnight and chooses a home to live here for the whole year. She searches, among for houses which are neat and clean, painted and illuminated by diyas.

It is this belief which drives most Indians into an elaborate exercise of cleaning up their houses and giving it a makeover, in a bid to attract Goddess Lakshmi into their homes.

If house are dirty, untidy

these houses. And, Goddess Lakshmi won't enter houses which are occupied by Daridra Lakshmi.

In this way Diwali advocates one not to keep waste material in the house. Vastu principles also suggest that the wasteful products that we keep in our houses produce negative energy and are harmful to the inmate of that house.

The mahurat (auspicious moment) of Diwali pooja

tional Indian business community. This decides how the next one year would shape up for them.

The pooja or worship should be done with proper mantras (incantations) and material in the prescribed manner. Worshiping our ancestor is also one of most important part of it.

During Diwali pooja they should be remembered and honored according to the family traditions. There is a custom to light a separate diya for them.

Vastu recommends that the pooja be done in north-east corner or the central portion of the house. At the time of pooja, the idol of Goddess Lakshmi should face towards south and the idol of Lord Ganesha should be placed to the left of God-