



Nations are racing to forge new trade deals

BUSINESS, 6A

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Ranger Morgan Hawkins, left, and coworkers look at a 3-D map in 2023 after a ribbon cutting event in Sequoia National Park for the redesigned Lodgepole Visitor Center. RON HOLMAN/VISALIA TIMES-DELTA

Sequoia, Kings Canyon national parks stay open

Sheyanne N Romero
Visalia Times-Delta
USA TODAY NETWORK

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks will remain open during the partial government shutdown, according to park service officials.

The federal government has partially shut down after Congress failed to reach a deal to extend funding past Sept. 30, and that's impacting some national park operations.

In general, national parks are expected to remain open, including Sequoia and Kings Canyon, but visitors services will vary widely.

"The National Park Service will continue to keep parks as accessible as possible during the lapse in appropriations," park service officials stated in an email to Times-Delta.

What can the public expect?

Critical functions that protect "life,

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At Sequoia and Kings Canyon, visitor spending in 2024 resulted in a \$230 million benefit to the local economy. PROVIDED BY NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Diwali shines bright in CA

Festival of Lights to be celebrated Oct. 20-24; state holiday bill awaits governor's signature

Roseann Cattani
Palm Springs Desert Sun
USA TODAY NETWORK

Known as the "Festival of Lights," Diwali is a holiday of great significance to Indian Americans and South Asian Americans and traditionally celebrated by Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, and Jains.

The word "Diwali" is a shortened version of the Sanskrit term "Deepavali," which means "a row of lamps."

During Diwali, people light small oil lamps, place them around the home, and pray for health, knowledge, and peace.

According to the Farmer's Almanac, Diwali celebrates the marriage of Lakshmi to Vishnu, the god of protection, and honors both deities, or may mark the return of Lord Rama after 14 years of exile.

In essence, the holiday celebrates light over darkness and good over evil.

Diwali is based on the Hindu lunar calendar and not the Gregorian calendar, as used by the United States

When is Diwali in 2025?

The main day of Diwali falls on Monday, October 20, according to The Almanac. Celebrations start in the evening and flow into Tuesday, October 21.

What are the five days of Diwali?

Diwali is celebrated over five days, according to the Farmer's Almanac. Each day has a different meaning.

1. Dhanteras (Oct. 18): Day of cleaning, decluttering. Making room for light and prosperity.
2. Kali Chaudas (Oct. 19): Day of creating elaborate decorations and lighting clay diyas or other lights.
3. Diwali (main day of Diwali) (Oct.

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