



Indian Diaspora Council

Indian Diaspora Council International

Shared heritage, aspirations and interests

www.IndianDiasporaCouncil.org

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PRESS RELEASE

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INDIAN DIASPORA COUNCIL COMMEMORATES DEEPAVALI (DIWALI) 2021



The Indian Diaspora Council International (IDC) and its global affiliates join with other organizations, governments, agencies, groups, individuals and institutions worldwide in joyous commemoration of Deepavali (Diwali) 2021, a celebration of the victory of good over evil and observance of Lord Rama's return after years of exile. Often referred to as the “Festival of Lights” in honor of Lakshmi, the goddess of light, Diwali is observed by Hindus, Sikhs and Jains worldwide. Lighting of *diyas* and candles at temples and in homes is a customary part of Diwali.

Diwali is fast becoming an annual global celebration, widely recognized and observed in many other countries around the world, and among non-Hindus. A rich and enduring celebration, Diwali is transcending borders and religions as a global phenomenon being embraced by many.

Outside of India, Diwali is prominent with several high profile observances in many countries:

- USA – The White House, US Congress, US State Capitols, Times Square in New York
- UK – Parliament, Trafalgar Square in London
- European Union – EU Parliament in Brussels
- France – City of Lights, Paris
- Canada – Parliament Hill, Ottawa
- Other countries: Germany, Israel, Malaysia, Singapore, South Africa, the Caribbean, Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Reunion Island, Thailand, and many others.

IDC has testified at public hearings in endorsing and supporting New York City Resolution 0146-2018 “calling upon New York City Department of Education to establish Diwali as an official holiday for New York City public school students”. It is another historic opportunity for New York City to officially educate all of its students in public schools to learn about Diwali and join in celebrating a universal declaration of “light over darkness, good over evil, and to dispel ignorance and darkness”.

For more information, please contact Ashook Ramsaran @ ashookramsaran@gmail.com

The Indian Diaspora Council International (IDC), established in 1997 and headquartered in New York, USA, is an international non-profit, non-political and secular organization with global affiliates, chapters and membership in 21 countries, with the objective to embrace, engage, and enhance the shared heritage, aspirations, and interests of persons of Indian origin with optimum inclusivity.