



Indian Diaspora Council®

Indian Diaspora Council International

Shared heritage, aspirations and interests

www.indiandiasporacouncil.org

Post Office Box 650523 New York 11365 USA

PRESS STATEMENT

For Immediate Release

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CELEBRATION OF UNITED STATES OF AMERICA INDEPENDENCE 2018

The Indian Diaspora Council International (IDC) congratulates the people of United States of America (USA) on the 242nd anniversary of the Declaration of Independence by the United States of America, and conveys its best wishes for continuing progress in championing the cause of freedom, justice, human rights and liberty throughout the world.



We are grateful for the enormous sacrifices made for the hard fought independence of USA and the continuing diligence and determination to maintain and advance freedom and liberty which universally endear the USA as a beacon of hope, freedom and refuge for the persecuted and downtrodden. USA's struggle for independence and promoting freedom exemplify the indomitable human spirit to choose and make decisions for "the pursuit of life, liberty and happiness", and has inspired nations, racially diverse and ethnic groups and individuals to advance their own struggles for freedom. The USA strives to be introspective and adapt to changing times and recognition of past injustices to better serve the needs of its citizens with established institutions and processes for social justice.

"We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." --*Thomas Jefferson*

"If the freedom of speech is taken away then dumb and silent we may be led, like sheep to the slaughter." --*George Washington*

"Freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed." --*Martin Luther King Jr.*

The celebration of USA independence is also of historic significance to the rapidly growing Indian American community who have benefited enormously from the Luce-Celler Immigration Act of 1946 signed into law on 3rd July 1946 by President Harry Truman granting naturalization rights to Filipinos and Asian Indians. The Immigration Act of 1946 also "allowed Filipino Americans and Indian Americans to naturalize and become United States citizens". Upon becoming US citizens, the new Americans could own homes and farmland, and petition for family unification. This reversed the Naturalization Act of 1870 which had denied Asians the right to gain US citizenship.

For more information contact: Ashook Ramsaran at AshookRamsaran@gmail.com

Mobile (USA) [+1 917 519 5783](tel:+19175195783)

Indian Diaspora Council International (IDC), established in 1997, is an international non-profit organization with global affiliates 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.