

Indian Diaspora Council

Shared heritage, aspirations and interests

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PRESS STATEMENT

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CELEBRATION OF USA INDEPENDENCE 2016

The Indian Diaspora Council (IDC) congratulates the people of United States of America (USA) on the 240th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence and conveys its best wishes for continuing progress in championing the cause of freedom 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 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 best serve the needs of its citizens.

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.

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IDC is an international non-profit organization of shared heritage, aspirations and interests.