



## **Indian Diaspora Council International**

Shared heritage, aspirations and interests

[www.indiandiasporacouncil.org](http://www.indiandiasporacouncil.org)

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### **PRESS STATEMENT**

*For Immediate Release*

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### **Celebration of National "Bastille" Day 2023 in France**

The Indian Diaspora Council International (IDC) congratulates the people of France on the 234<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Bastille Day, the La Fête Nationale, commemorating the day in 1789 when crowds stormed the Bastille, a fortress used as a prison in Paris. The event marks the beginning of the French Revolution and honours democracy and equality in France.

The strengthening of France-India partnership is highlighted by India's Prime Minister HE Narendra Modi's attendance as the guest of honour at the invitation of France's President Emmanuel Macron, and a 269-member tri-service contingent of the Indian Armed Forces to march alongside their French counterparts in the Bastille Day parade on July 14, 2023.



The storming of Bastille on 14<sup>th</sup> July 1798 sent a signal to the French monarchy that the French people were embracing the revolution's motto, liberté, égalité, fraternité, or liberty, equality and brotherhood. The riot was a call for the establishment of a republic in France in the face of an oppressive regime and food shortages that spurred on the revolution.

*"Justice and power must be brought together, so that whatever is just may be powerful, and whatever is powerful may be just." ~ Blaise Pascal*

*Prejudices are what fools use for reason" – Voltaire*

IDC also recognizes the sizeable population of persons of Indian origin (PIOs) and non-resident Indians (NRIs) in France, with roots in Mauritius, Reunion Island and territories of the French Caribbean as well as India. PIOs in France and Francophone Territories contribute significantly to France and Francophone Territories, achieving prominent positions in all segments of French society including businesses, academia, politics, media and sciences.

**IDC** conveys its best wishes to the people of France for continuing progress in championing the cause of freedom, justice, human rights and liberty throughout the world.

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*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.*