Indian Diaspora Council International
Shared heritage, aspirations, and interests
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PRESS STATEMENT

For Immediate Release

July 14, 2024 (EST-USA)

Celebration of 2024's "Bastille" Day in France
la fête nationale

The Indian Diaspora Council International (IDC) congratulates the people of France on the 235th anniversary of Bastille Day, La Fête Nationale. This significant day commemorates July 14, 1789, when crowds stormed the Bastille, a fortress and prison in Paris, marking the beginning of the French Revolution and celebrating the values of democracy and equality in France. In addition to this milestone, 2024 also marks the 200th anniversary of the *Marquis de Lafayette's* return visit to the United States in August 1824.

> *The Consulate General of France in New York has once again organized a French musical festival celebrating Bastille Day, which will be held in New York's Central Park. The festival will take place from 5 PM to 10 PM on Sunday, July 14, 2024, at the Rumsey Playfield in Central Park (The entrance is at 72nd Street on Fifth Avenue.)*

Although the outcome of the recent national elections has left France with the unprecedented prospect of a hung parliament and potential political paralysis, IDC is hopeful that these initial difficulties would be overcome in the best interests of the people of France.

IDC recognizes that this year, Bastille Day celebrations will occur amidst July 7 elections that resulted in a coalition government, highlighting the need to heed the diverse voices of the people. A coalition of the French left won the most seats in these high-stakes legislative elections, overcoming a far-right surge but failing to secure a majority. This outcome has led to a *hung parliament*, an unprecedented situation for modern France, and poses risks to the nation's economic stability, especially as it prepares to host the Olympics. President *Emmanuel Macron's* call for elections, aimed at providing political clarity, has resulted in increased uncertainty, with significant implications for both domestic and global affairs. Prime Minister *Gabriel Attal* has announced plans to resign, acknowledging the unprecedented political landscape as France navigates this challenging period.

The Indian Diaspora Council International (IDC) acknowledges the significant contributions of persons of Indian origin (PIOs) and non-resident Indians (NRIs) in France. These individuals, with roots in *Mauritius*, *Reunion Island*, and territories of the *French Caribbean*, as well as *India*, have made remarkable strides in various sectors of French society, including business, academia, politics, media, and sciences.

IDC extends its best wishes to the people of France, celebrating their ongoing efforts to promote freedom, justice, human rights, and liberty worldwide.

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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.