



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

October 31, 2023 (EST-USA)

ओम् पृथिवी द्यौ प्रदिशो दिशो - यस्मै द्युभिर् आवृताः ।
तम् इहन्द्रम् उपह्वये - शिवा नः सन्तु हेतयः स्वाहा ॥
Om Prithivee dyauh pradisho disho
Yasmai dyubhir aa-vritaah
Tam ihe'ndram upa-hwaye
Shivaa nah santu hetayah swaahaa

For Immediate Release

IDC Commemorates Deepavali 2024 & Supports NYC Resolution 0146-2018

The Indian Diaspora Council International (IDC) and its global affiliates are delighted to join organizations, governments, and individuals worldwide in the joyous commemoration of Deepavali (Diwali) 2024. This festival celebrates the spiritual victory of *light over darkness, knowledge over ignorance, and good over evil.*

Diwali, known as the "**Festival of Lights**," is a major celebration in Indian culture that symbolizes light, knowledge, and goodness. While the **Nava Shasye'shti Yajna** focuses on the harvest, Diwali encompasses a broader significance. A key tradition is the lighting of diyas and candles in homes and temples, representing the triumph of light over darkness.

Diwali has evolved into an annual global celebration, transcending borders and religions. Outside India, it is prominently observed in many countries:

- USA 🇺🇸: The White House, US Congress, State Capitols & **Times Square in New York** 🇺🇸
- UK 🇬🇧: Parliament and Trafalgar Square in London
- European Union 🇪🇺: EU Parliament in Brussels
- France 🇫🇷: City of Lights, Paris
- Canada 🇨🇦: Parliament Hill, Ottawa



Other countries that are celebrating include *Germany, Israel, Mauritius, Malaysia, Singapore, South Africa, the Caribbean, Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Reunion Island, and Thailand.*

IDC strongly endorses New York City Resolution 0146-2018, which calls for establishing Diwali as an official holiday for New York City public school students. This resolution represents a historic opportunity to educate students about Diwali and celebrate the universal declaration of "light over darkness, good over evil, and to dispel ignorance and darkness."

With the South Asian population in the USA exceeding 4 million, including a significant percentage in the New York tri-state region, Diwali's prominence is growing. Approving this resolution would enhance the learning experiences of New York City children and celebrate the city's diversity.

As we commemorate Diwali 2024, let us embrace its message of hope, unity, and triumph of good. May this festival bring peace, prosperity, and happiness to all. MANTRA above (shortened) Translation: "*I invoke Indra, the powerful God, to help us realize divinity, as the Earth and Heavens are filled with light. May these lights of the Universe help us to realize God.*"

Happy Diwali 🪔 - Dr. Nicole Bissessar, Director of Community Cultural Affairs, Indian Diaspora Council

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

Mobile (USA) +1 917 519 5783

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.