



Indian Diaspora Council

Shared heritage, aspirations and interests

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PRESS STATEMENT

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INDIAN DIASPORA COUNCIL COMMEMORATES USA 250th INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY

The Indian Diaspora Council International (IDC) and its global affiliates congratulate the people of the United States of America (USA) on the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, celebrating a historic milestone in the nation's commitment to freedom, justice, and liberty.



The United States marks the Semi-quincentennial (250th anniversary) of the Declaration of Independence on **July 4, 1776**, when 13 American colonies declared independence from British rule and established the nation.

We are gratified that America and its institutions remain strong and resilient as a progressive nation, despite recent setbacks in achieving racial, gender and economic inequities, roll-back of long-established women's reproductive rights, reversal of affirmative action for college admissions, worldwide effects of rising costs of food and fuel, and perpetuating misinformation leading to ideological disputes in many segments of American society. The "Audacity of Hope" is the thriving motivation for America to continue its path towards "a more perfect union" as envisioned by its founders.

We are grateful for the enormous sacrifices made for the hard-fought independence of the USA and the continuing diligence, resilience, and determination to maintain and advance freedom and liberty, which universally endear the USA as a global beacon of hope, freedom, and refuge for the persecuted and downtrodden. USA's struggle for independence and promoting freedom worldwide 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.

President Abraham Lincoln reflected deeply on the enduring significance of the Declaration of Independence. In 1858, he described the Declaration as a unifying thread, an "*electric cord*" that bound all Americans, regardless of origin, to the shared ideals of liberty and equality. Later, in his 1861 address at Independence Hall, he described the Declaration as a unifying force, a source of hope for oppressed people worldwide.

Civil Rights Leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. powerfully invoked the Declaration's promise in his iconic 1963 "*I Have a Dream*" speech, urging the nation to live up to its founding creed that "all men are created equal." On July 4, 1965, in his sermon titled "*The American Dream*," King reinforced the universal relevance of the Declaration's message, urging the nation to live up to its promise of equality, emphasizing justice, freedom, and dignity for all.

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.

The prominent positions of increasing numbers of persons of Indian origin in the Trump administration, US Congress, state and local elected and appointed positions, academia, business media, medical/legal/science professions, reflect the changing demographics and the diversity of America as well as the rapid strides that Indian Americans are making in every segment of American society, and contributing to America's progress.

– *Dr. Nicole Bissessar, Director of Community Cultural Affairs, IDC & Queens General Assembly, 2025 Delegate.*

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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.