

# Diwali in Yokohama 2017

Publicity

## Renew bonds with friends

By Sujan R. Chinoy  
 Ambassador of India

I am happy that the Indian community in Yokohama is celebrating Diwali for the 15th consecutive year at Yamashita Park.

Diwali, the Indian Festival of Lights, conveys the universal message of the victory of good over evil.



Sujan R. Chinoy

During this festive season, lights illuminate each home, the scent of incense mixes with the sound of fireworks and it is an occasion for renewing close bonds with family and friends.

I convey best wishes for a very happy and prosperous Diwali to all my fellow Indians and Japanese friends.

I also extend my warmest congratulations to all members of the Organizing Committee of Diwali in Yokohama.

May the Festival of Lights be a harbinger of joy for everyone!



The 2016 Diwali festival at Yamashita Park, Yokohama  
 Courtesy of Diwali in Yokohama Managing Committee

## Enjoy Diwali festival in India's 1st economic base in Japan

By Fumiko Hayashi  
 Mayor of Yokohama

Congratulations on holding Diwali in Yokohama 2017!

I express my sincere gratitude to Mr. Jagmohan Chandrani, chairman of the festival's executive committee, and all involved for their contributions.

Ever since Yokohama's port opened in 1859, setting off the growth that made it the city it is today, many people from India have made Yokohama their home, establishing businesses and trading companies.



Fumiko Hayashi

Yokohama could be called India's first economic base in Japan.

This year is the 52nd anniversary of Yokohama and Mumbai entering into a sister-city relationship in 1965, the first of such partnerships between Japan and India. In addition, 2017 is the Year of Japan-India Friendly Exchange as agreed by the Japanese and Indian governments, while also being a memorable year in marking the 60th anniversary since the Cultural Agreement came into force.

I hope that by participating in Diwali through this event, you will experience the charm of India and gain an interest in the friendly exchanges between Yokohama and Mumbai as well as India. We look forward to welcoming you to the celebration.

## Happy Diwali, festival of lights, celebrating the power of wisdom

By Ryuko Hira  
 ICIJ-Chairman of the Indian Commerce and Industry Association Japan

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the Treaty for India-Japan Cultural Exchanges. Prior to this treaty, for 14 centuries, Indian thought and Indian philosophy through Buddhism had been one

of the main influences, shaping the intellectual and spiritual life of Japan and determining art forms, architectural styles, literary tastes and



Ryuko Hira

norms of individual conduct and social behavior. The influence of the wider Hindu philosophy is pervasive, so much so that the late scholar-thinker Hajime Nakamura (1912-1999) wrote that "without Indian influence, Japanese culture would not have been what it is today."

Prince Shotoku consecrated the first constitution of Japan with the Sanskrit hymn "Usnisa Vijaya Dhara," written in the Gupta script on palm leaf manuscripts and not with a sutra in Chinese. In Article 2 of "The Seventeen Article Constitution" are enshrined the three principles of Buddha (wisdom), Dharma (righteousness) and Sangha (society) based on venera-

tion of the scriptures.

Diwali is a festival of lights. Wisdom is symbolized as illumination. The Festival of Diwali represents one's very own celebration of overcoming the darkness of ignorance. Diwali originates from two of India's greatest epics in the world, the Mahabharata and the Ramayana. In the Mahabharata, the victory of Lord Krishna over the demon Narakasura, and in the Ramayana, the coronation of exiled King Lord Ramachandra, are celebrated on Diwali.

The Power that fosters harmony in the universe and provides for all needs essential to the continued well-being of all beings is named

Goddess Mahalaxmi — the goddess of wealth. She is popularly known in Japan as the Goddess Kannon, who came to Japan with Buddhism in the seventh century. In India, as in Japan, the principle of Mahalaxmi is also known as "Ashtalaxmi" or "Hachi Kannon," which confers eight types of wealth: "Dhaanya," of grains; "Dhana," of money; "Dhairiya," of courage; "Gaja," of majesty; "Vidya," of knowledge; "Veerya," of vitality; "Jaya," of victory; and "Saubhagya," of worldly success. On Diwali Day, Mahalaxmi Kannon is widely worshipped.

Diwali is a holy and auspicious festival of lights that also marks the beginning of a new lunar cal-

endar year. People make new resolutions and discard old vices. Traditional corporations start their fiscal year. Marriages, promises and new ventures are begun with prayers and hopes of success. Temples and churches are beautifully decorated with illuminations of landmark buildings. Entrances of homes and offices are decorated to welcome good fortune. A festive mood prevails for greeting customers, relatives, friends and loved ones. New homes are acquired, old ones are repainted. New clothes and jewelry are worn. People perform extensive prayers for prosperity, peace and purity. Reflections and regrets are re-

solved by forgetting and forgiving each other. Everyone wishes to experience the power of the light of wisdom within one's own self. Indeed, Diwali, also known as Deepavali, marks one's very own elevation from the darkness of illusion and ignorance to the light of wisdom and reality that is essentially divine and noble. This divine power from the holy lamps of Deepavali enables fruition of one's aspirations.

We are grateful to the Hon. Mayor of Yokohama Ms. Fumiko Hayashi and the city office for their continued support to deepen the Yokohama-India friendship.

**BEST WISHES FOR A HAPPY DIWALI!**

**HMI HOTEL GROUP**  
**TSUMAGOI RESORT SAI NO SATO**  
 Extensive integrated resort surrounded by 140 hectares of lush greenery.

With 53 hotels and 6 sports and education centers in 26 prefectures in Japan, HMI Hotel Group has provided guests with dedicated hospitality for 51 years.

[www.hmi.co.jp](http://www.hmi.co.jp) **HMI HOTEL GROUP**

**HMI BRANDS**

- HOTEL CROWN PALACE
- HOTEL PEARL CITY
- CRESTON HOTEL
- Sea-Park Hotel Green-Park Hotel
- RYOKAN
- HOTEL WELLNESS
- TOP WELLNESS

**Ambika builds bridges between Japan and India**

Diwali in Yokohama's Yamashita Park

**We welcome you to the celebration!!**

**Grover wines win once again in Japan**

**"Sakura" Japan Women's Wine Award 2017**

**Come and enjoy FREE wine tasting at our booth on 14 and 15 October**

**Ambika TRADING COMPANY**  
 3-19-2 Kuramae, Taito-ku, Tokyo, 111-0051 Japan  
 TEL: 03-5822-6655 <http://www.ambikajapan.com>

**WISHING A VERY HAPPY DIWALI**

**KAYOKO & RYUKO HIRA**  
**RENU & GUL SADHWANI**  
**SUNDRI & NARI MAHTANI**  
**DEEPA & S. K. RANGWANI**  
**PADMA & HARIRAM NANWANI**  
**URMILA & DANIEL MANSUKHANI**  
**MARKUS (ASAHI TRAVEL)**  
**LALITHA & UGANANDAN (SUNWELL)**

DIY - President: J.S. Chandrani - Chairman: Ryuko Hira  
 Advisor: V.B. Rupani - Vice Presidents: J. D. Khemani, N. Kaneko, T. Ohba

**15th Diwali in Yokohama - Annual Event Since 2002**  
**For 2 Days, Yamashita Park in Yokohama will become INDIA**  
**October 14th (Sat.) & 15th (Sun.) 10:00a.m. to 7:00p.m.**

**Admission Free**

A totally fully satisfying experience of pure happiness with Indian food, Indian apparel, Indian accessories, Indian classical and Bollywood dance by Indian, Japanese artists and children and parade from 18:00 both days

**Restaurants—Curry, Nan, Beer, Wine, Tea, Juice, etc.**

- ★Sri Balaji 03-6807-0866 ★Govindas 080-1082-3507 ★Indo Restaurant Mumbai 03-3261-3151
- ★Spice Magic Calcutta 03-3688-4888

**Vendors—Spices, Apparel, Accessories, etc.**

Ayurveda Beauty College 03-5701-1217	JIP Yokohama/JIWF 080-3979-6081	Shanti Ban 042-814-1182	World Bazaar 048-554-4425
G.P. Group 090-4734-2267	Kusum-Sashi Trading 080-1059-8656	T.I.A Japan Co., Ltd. 043-485-0852	World Rimit Ltd. 090-9683-6249
India Import 080-6671-7460	Om Jewels and Craft 090-9493-6682	Third World Shop 03-3791-2147	

**Sponsors**

- ★Air India 03-5157-5593 ★Ambika Trading Company 03-5822-6655 ★Indiatourism, Tokyo 03-3561-0851/52
- ★Japan Housing Co., Ltd. 045-444-1557 ★NBC Meshtec Ltd. 042-582-2414 ★Samrat Restaurant 080-3466-9882
- ★Suzuki Ltd. ★Zoho Japan K.K. 045-319-4612

**Come and Enjoy the Brightest Indian Festival in Japan**  
**Diwali in Yokohama Managing Committee 2017 / K.S.H. ICIJ**  
 Tel: 045-662-1905, 045-263-8109 Fax: 045-263-8109  
 E-mail: yokohamadwali@gmail.com, info@icij.jp Website: www.diwaliyokohama.org, www.icij.jp/

**ICIJ THE INDIAN COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION JAPAN**  
**公益社団法人在日インド商工協会**  
 (Former name - INDIAN MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION OF YOKOHAMA)