

Diwali in Yokohama 2016

Publicity

Festive day of aspiration

By Sujan R. Chinoy
Ambassador of India

I am very happy to learn that Diwali, the Indian Festival of Lights, will be celebrated by the Indian community in the historical Yamashita Park in Yokohama for the 14th consecutive year.



Sujan R. Chinoy

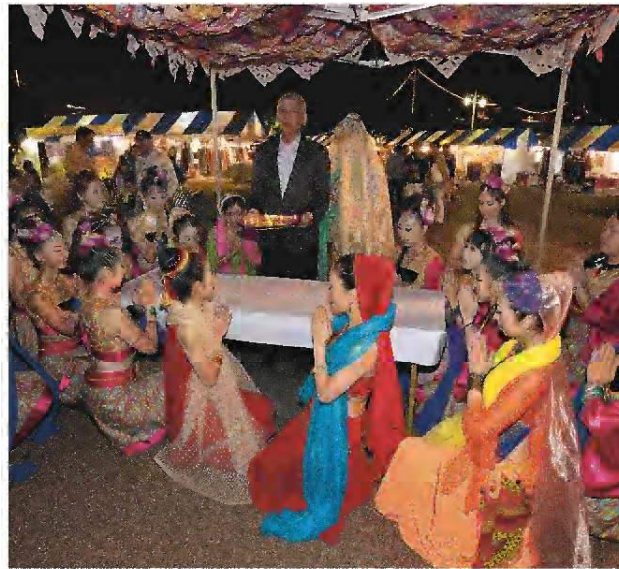
Diwali provides an occasion for families and friends to come together to mark the vic-

tory of good over evil. This traditional luminous festival, which has its origins in ancient times, also symbolizes the hopes and aspirations of India's 1.2 billion people in their march toward a prosperous future.

On this auspicious occasion, I convey my best wishes to my fellow Indians and Japanese friends for their continued good health, prosperity and happiness.

I also take this opportunity to congratulate all members of the Organizing Committee of Diwali in Yokohama (DIY).

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



The 2015 Diwali festival at Yamashita Park, Yokohama
Courtesy of Diwali in Yokohama Managing Committee

Yokohama enhancing relationship with India

By Fumiko Hayashi
Mayor of Yokohama

Happy "Diwali in Yokohama 2016"! I would like to thank Mr. Ryuko Hira, chairman of the festival's executive committee, and all involved for their efforts to make this event possible.

Ever since Yokohama's port opened in 1859, setting off the growth of the city into a major metropolis, many Indian people have made Yokohama their home, establishing businesses and trading companies. Yokohama could be called India's first econom-



Fumiko Hayashi

ic base in Japan.

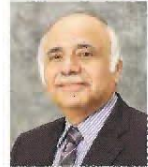
Last year we celebrated the 50th anniversary of the sister-city relationship between Yokohama and Mumbai, which was the first of its kind between Japan and India. To mark this auspicious year, the City of Yokohama opened its representative office in Mumbai, and the office has begun activities aimed at attracting Indian businesses and supporting Yokohama's companies in India, steadily strengthening our relationship further.

I hope that through this event, you will experience the charm of India and gain an interest in the friendly exchange between Yokohama and Mumbai and other parts of India. We look forward to welcoming you to the celebration.

Diwali Festival of lamps, lights fosters India-Japan friendship

By Ryuko Hira
President of the Indian Commerce and Industry Association Japan

The Diwali Festival, also known as the festival of lamps and lights, is celebrated all over the world with joy and enthusiasm. Although Diwali originated in India with Hindu mythology, the globalization of Indian cultures and the emergence of India as a new world power has



Ryuko Hira

made the Diwali Festival a gala day celebrated universally. The universality of Diwali emanates from the affluence of over 30 million overseas Indians in all five continents across the seven seas. U.S. President Barack Obama and other leading statesmen of the world have recognized the immense spiritual and economic significance of Diwali Festival by celebrating Diwali in the White House and state houses of other leading nations of the world.

In Japan, Diwali began with Indian homes in the Meiji era and has continued to be celebrated in Japan for over 140 years. Prior to the Meiji era, for more than 14

centuries, Indian thought and Indian philosophy through Buddhism, as an important part of Hinduism, has been one of the main influences, shaping the intellectual and spiritual life of Japan and determining art forms, architectural styles, literary tastes and norms of individual conduct and social behavior. The influence of the wider Hindu philosophy is all-pervasive, so much so that the late scholar-thinker Hajime Nakamura (1912-1999) wrote that "without Indian influence, Japanese culture would not be what it is today." In 1881, a course in Indian philosophy was

established at the then Imperial University of Tokyo. Since then, the study of Indian philosophy and Sanskrit tradition has gained recognition at all important universities in Tokyo, Kyoto and Nagoya. Sanskrit is "Bongo" in Japanese. "Bon" means "Brahman the infinite" and "go" means "language." Sanskrit has been venerated as the tongue transcendental. Prince Shotoku consecrated the first Constitution of Japan with the Sanskrit hymn "Usnisavijaya-Dharani," written in the Gupta script on palm leaf and not with a Sutra in Chinese. Japanese scholars studied San-

skrit in England and Germany as a part of modernization after the Meiji Restoration of 1868.

Diwali is a festival of lights. Light is a symbol of illumination. Wisdom is symbolized as illumination. No other element in the universe is as significant as light. Since time immemorial, India has been imparting spiritual education to all nations of the world and thus bestowing peace and happiness on all. Diwali is celebrated in commemoration of the victory of divinity over satiety, the victory of heavenly over hellish influences, of virtue over vice. The festival of Diwali is for expressing gratitude at the defeat of Naraka (de-

monic) tendencies in man, which drag him down from divinity. When virtues grow and vice is given up, man has to make it a festival.

The year 2016 marks the 14th anniversary of the Diwali Festival jointly celebrated with the Yokohama city government. There will be colorful stage performances from classic to modern Indian Bollywood dances, live stage performances of traditional Indian music, fresh and delicious festive Indian foods, Indian wines, spirits, sweets and handicrafts. A variety of Indian clothing, fascinating travel tourism and cultural displays await the annual 200,000 visitors. Admission is free.

Best Wishes for a Very Happy Diwali!

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URMILA & DANIEL MANSUKHANI

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

14th Diwali in Yokohama - Annual Event Since 2002
For 2 Days, Yamashita Park in Yokohama will become INDIA
October 15th (Sat.) & 16th (Sun.) 10:00a.m. to 7:00p.m.

Admission Free

A mouth-watering Indian experience of pure joy, Indian/Japanese food, Indian beer, Indian wine, Indian tea, Indian mango juice, Indian apparel, Indian accessories, etc.

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Diwali in Yokohama's Yamashita Park

We welcome you to the celebration!!

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