



CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE
COOPERATIVE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA - NEW YORK, USA

A DIWALI MESSAGE

The Consul General and staff of the Guyana Consulate in New York join with our Hindu brothers and sisters in celebrating the Festival of **Diwali** on Saturday, October 29th, 2016.

Literally meaning 'a row of lights', it is the Hindu Festival of Lights which falls on the last two days of the Krishna Paksha (Dark Half) of the Hindu month of Kartick that occurs in October/November in the Western Calendar.

The several legends that are associated with this beautiful festival include the following:

- 1) **On this day**, Shri Ram returned from exile (after destroying the evil King Ravan) to Ayodhya to the great joy of the people. They welcomed him with great festivity and lit little earthen diyas (lights) to guide his path home.
- 2) **On this day** Lord Krishna defeated and killed the evil and powerful demon Narakasur and so freed the many princesses who were the captives of the demon.
- 3) **On this day** the Goddess Latchmi emerged from the Ocean of Milk and, so on Diwali, Latchmi puja is done to worship her.
- 4) **On this day** also, Lord Vishnu humbled the egotistic King Bali.

It is fitting therefore that as we celebrate **Diwali**, we take the time to reflect on its underlying principle that '**Light will always triumph over Darkness**' in the face of challenges that we may encounter in our daily lives.

Happy Diwali to All!