

**Address by the Mayor of Limassol, Mr Nicos Nicolaides**  
**at the celebration of DIWALI (Festival of lights and Joy), organised by the**  
**Embassy of India, on Sunday, 11 November 2018**

Your excellency, High Commissioner of India,  
Esteemed Mrs Raghavan,  
Ladies and gentlemen,  
Dear Friends,

The Municipality of Limassol, warmly welcomes you at the celebration of DIWALI 2018 (the Festival of lights and Joy). Our city is honoured to host, for the first time, such an important event, and we thank India's High Commissioner for his initiative towards this end, an initiative which was warmly and without any hesitation accepted by us.

The DIWALI 2018 festival, organized in the beautiful premises of Limassol's Polythematic park, will give the opportunity to our friends of Indian origin to celebrate one of their most popular festivals, and at the same time give to the people of Limassol the opportunity to get to know and appreciate even more the Indian culture, through a variety of cultural events, performances, artifact exhibitions and traditional cuisine presentations.

I have no doubt that the high quality of the events which will take place during the course of the festival, will be a major step towards making the Diwali Festival a yearly event, an event which will be more than welcomed to be hosted in our city for the years to come.

But above all, this Festival is a tribute to the friendship between India and Cyprus. The friendship between the people of Cyprus and the people of India. India and Cyprus are two countries, each with a great history and a great civilization. Our two peoples share common principals and values and a long standing history of cooperation and mutual respect.

I would like to take this opportunity, to express on behalf of the Limassol Municipality, our deep appreciation to the hundreds of our Indian friends, who live in Limassol. We are more than glad to be fellow citizens with them, together in our beautiful, hospitable city. A city that has been shaped with the contribution of many people, of many origins and of many cultures.

Once again I would like to congratulate the organizers and all the supporters of the Diwali 2018 Festival.

Let me finish with a wish which is the essence of the message of this festival: May light prevails over darkness, good over evil and knowledge over ignorance.