

# Press Releases: On the Occasion of Diwali

Press Statement  
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Secretary of State

Washington, DC  
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On behalf of the Department of State, I would like to wish all those celebrating Diwali a joyous and prosperous holiday.

Also known as the “Festival of Lights,” this special occasion celebrates the triumph of light over darkness. Nearly a billion celebrants from around the world will light the *diya*, or lamp, as a reminder that good ultimately overcomes evil, understanding over ignorance, and kindness over animosity. Diwali is also a time of reflection and prayer when observers perform *seva*, or selfless service, without any expectation of reward or payment.

As those celebrating decorate their homes with vibrant lights, I would also like to recognize the achievements of our friends in the United States observing Diwali who make important contributions to our country on a daily basis.

Again, to those celebrating this joyous time I wish you a happy Diwali.

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