



Deepak Obhrai, MP
Calgary East
Parliamentary Secretary to the
Minister of Foreign Affairs

Media Release

For Immediate Release

October 09, 2009

9th National Diwali celebration held on Parliament Hill

(Ottawa) The 9th National Diwali celebration on Parliament Hill was held on Thursday, October 8th under the patronage of Deepak Obhrai, M.P. and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper was chief guest at the event, which was attended by an overflowing crowd of more than 425 people, which included Members of Parliament, members of the diplomatic corps and Indo-Canadians from Ottawa, Toronto and Montreal.

Welcoming the audience, Obhrai noted that he began the Diwali celebration on Parliament Hill in 1998 with the support of the Indo-Canadian community.

“Since then, Diwali on Parliament Hill has grown in significance and stature, and today can truly be considered as Canada’s National Diwali Festival,” Obhrai said.

He thanked this year’s organizers of the event, the India Canada Association of the National Capital Region and the India-Canada Ottawa Business Chamber, and also the corporate and private sponsors of the event.

Prime Minister Harper noted that the “growing Indo-Canadian community is at the forefront of Canada’s quest to build an even better country for generations to come. From coast to coast to coast our country has been and continues to be immeasurably enriched by your contributions.”

“Just as the Indo-Canadian community is growing ever larger, Canada’s relationship with India is growing ever stronger,” said the Prime Minister. “Since our Government came to office nearly four years ago, we’ve been working tirelessly to build stronger, better relations with India.”

(More.....)

Ottawa Office:
Room 426N Centre Block
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6
Tel: (613) 947-4566
Fax: (613) 947-4569



Constituency Office:
Radisson Centre
Suite 225, 525-28 Street East
Calgary, AB
T2A 6W9
Tel: (403) 207-3030
Fax: (403) 207-3035



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Jason Kenney, Minister for Multiculturalism, Citizenship & Immigration; Finance Minister Jim Flaherty; Minister of Public Safety Peter Van Loan; Ministers of State Steven Fletcher and Lynne Yelich; Parliamentary Secretaries Ted Menzies and Jim Abbott; and Indian High Commissioner Shashishekar Gavai were among the guests of honour at the 9th National Diwali Celebration on Parliament Hill.

The Prime Minister, Deepak Obhrai and other guests lit the traditional Diwali lamp and participated in a traditional blessings ceremony conducted by Hindu priests from temples of Toronto and Ottawa.

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For more information, contact Mohan Samarasinghe at (613) 947-4567

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Room 426N Centre Block
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
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