



State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

DIWALI AWARENESS DAY

2021

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Diwali, a festival of historic, religious, and cultural significance is celebrated annually by millions of Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, and Buddhists throughout the United States, and across the globe; and

WHEREAS, the diversity of the community, Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, and Buddhists, comprise a vital part of North Carolina's rich ethnic and social fabric, and whose languages, cultures, and religious beliefs have enriched our communities; and

WHEREAS, Diwali, an abbreviation of the Sanskrit "Deepavali," is a festival of lights during which celebrants light small oil lamps, place them around their home, and pray for knowledge, peace, compassion, and universal well-being; and

WHEREAS, the rows of lamps symbolize the light of knowledge and truth triumphing over negative qualities such as ignorance and greed; in other words, Diwali celebrates the victory of good over evil; and

WHEREAS, Diwali is celebrated by Hindus as a day of thanksgiving for the homecoming of Lord Rama and the beginning of the new year; and

WHEREAS, for Sikhs, Diwali is celebrated as the day that revered teacher Guru Hargobind was released from captivity by the Mughal Emperor Jahangir; and

WHEREAS, for Jains, Diwali marks the anniversary of the attainment of moksha, or liberation, by Mahavira at the end of his life in 527 B.C.; and

WHEREAS, for Buddhists, Diwali is commemorated as the day the great Emperor Ashoka embraced Buddhism as his faith; and

WHEREAS, on behalf of the state of North Carolina, it is with immense pride and honor that I recognize the contributions of all Indian Americans who are active in all aspects of our economy, history, and culture;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim November 4, 2021, as "**DIWALI AWARENESS DAY**" in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.





Roy Cooper
Governor

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this second day of November in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-one and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-sixth.