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11th *Diwali* **FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS**

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18th, 2023



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New Year**



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Dr. Megha Gupta, MD, MBA
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Co-Chair
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954-648-1510



Co-Chair Message

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Indian Religious and Cultural Center (IRCC), it is with great joy and warmth that I extend my heartfelt greetings to you and your families on this auspicious occasion of Diwali.

Our 11th annual Festival of Light event in Fort Lauderdale on November 18th, 2023, marks yet another significant milestone in our continued journey to celebrate and preserve the essence of our rich Indian and Hindu heritage.

I would like to express my deepest appreciation to all the talented performers who have dedicated their time and efforts to grace our stage with their vibrant performances, adding a touch of splendor to our festivities. Your dedication truly embodies the spirit of cultural unity that we aim to foster through this event.

Furthermore, I am immensely grateful to our esteemed vendors and sponsors whose unwavering support and contributions have been instrumental in making this event a resounding success. Your commitment to our cause is deeply valued and cherished, and we remain indebted to your continued partnership.

A special note of appreciation is extended to the dignitaries joining us at the event. Your support of our organization and this event has been pivotal in preserving our cherished Indian and Hindu culture here in South Florida. Your presence is a testament to the significance of our collective mission.

I would also like to extend my sincere gratitude to the IRCC Board members, committee members, and dedicated volunteers, along with their families, whose unwavering dedication and tireless efforts have brought this celebration to life. Your selfless contributions serve as a beacon of inspiration for us all, underscoring the importance of preserving and sharing our cultural traditions with the wider community.

As we gather to celebrate the Festival of Light, let us reflect on the significance of this joyous occasion, and reiterate our collective commitment to upholding and nurturing our cherished Indian and Hindu heritage. May the radiance of Diwali illuminate our paths with peace, prosperity, and togetherness.

Happy Diwali!

Dr. Durgesh Thaker, DDS

Co-Chair, Indian Regional and Cultural Center (IRCC)



Co-Chair Message

On behalf of IRCC, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to each one of you for joining us in celebrating the 11th anniversary of IRCC Diwali Festival of Lights. Wishing you all a Happy Diwali!!

The Festival of Lights brings joy as we celebrate an event filled with cultural richness, thanks to the incredible array of performances by over 800 children, high schoolers, college students, and adult participants. Together, we explore the breadth and diversity of Indian heritage through various dance styles. I would like to give my thanks to all our dedicated participants, choreographers, and parents for their tireless effort and for being the driving force behind the ongoing success of this event!

Behind the scenes, our preparations kick off a year in advance—from the cultural program entry process and vendor registrations to fundraising and collaboration with many Broward County Asian non-profit organizations. The tireless efforts of the IRCC board, their spouses, committee members, and volunteers culminates in the seamless execution of this event. Words cannot express how grateful I am for the exemplary service of the entire IRCC Board & committee.

A special acknowledgement goes out to all of our Platinum, Diamond, Gold and Silver sponsors, whose generosity and support is indispensable in hosting the Diwali Festival. Another special thanks goes to all our non-food vendors for bringing Indian fashion, jewelry, and arts to enhance the Diwali shopping experience, as well as our food vendors for bringing their delicious food for all to enjoy. I would also like to thank the Honorable Mayors and Commissioners of Broward County and the City of Fort Lauderdale for taking time to attend the event and celebrate with us today.

A sincere shout-out to the Broward County School Board for their unwavering support of the Diwali Festival and for inviting all Broward County Schools to partake in the festivities.

Last but certainly not least, I would like to give a profound thanks to my family; none of this would be possible without their unconditional love and support. A lot of commitment goes into preparing for this event, and my wife, Nidhi and two sons, Dr Harshit and Prateek, have been there to support, participate and believe in the passion I have for the IRCC

I wish you all a very Happy Diwali and a prosperous New Year!

Sanjay Gupta, CPA

Event Co-Chair

Happy Diwali

Congratulations to
PREM MIRPURI
&
IRCC BOARD
on successful Diwali Event



From
The Reddy Family



President

Dear Friends,

As the President of the Indian Regional Cultural Center, I am deeply humbled and honored to address you on this auspicious occasion of Diwali. This Festival of Lights serves as a beacon of hope, unity, and renewal, and it is a time for us to come together as a community to reflect on the year that has passed and the journey ahead.

I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to our wonderful community. IRCC owes its existence and growth to the unwavering support of the community – a community that rallies behind us, participates in our events, and contributes to the continuous improvement and expansion of our organization.

Also, my deepest appreciation to our esteemed board members. Your tireless dedication, continued commitment, and visionary leadership have been instrumental in the growth and success of IRCC. Your support has allowed us to continue our mission of promoting cultural awareness and preserving our rich heritage.

Thank you to all our sponsors and vendors for your continued support. Your generous financial support is invaluable and keeps us moving forward and allowing us to create a positive impact in the community.

Throughout the year, the Indian Regional Cultural Center (IRCC) has organized numerous events that celebrate our cultural diversity and heritage and to create a sense of togetherness. These events have not only brought us closer as a community but have also fostered greater understanding and appreciation of Indian culture among our neighbors. We are immensely proud of the positive impact these events have had on our community and the larger society.

We encourage each of you to get involved in our programs and initiatives, and to engage with your local communities. Your active participation, whether through volunteering, contributions, or spreading awareness about our mission, makes a significant difference in our endeavors.

We are so proud that various local cities and communities have recognized Hindu Heritage Month and recognized Diwali as a holiday. This is a significant step towards the acknowledgement of the contributions that have been made by Indian Americans in our society. This is a true testament to the importance of unity and diversity in our great nation.

The world around us has seen its share of challenges, and our community has shown great resilience in the face of adversity. In these turbulent times, it is crucial that we stand together and support one another. The IRCC remains committed to fostering cultural understanding, building bridges of harmony, and providing resources for the Indian American community. As we celebrate, let us also reflect on how we can continue to contribute to the betterment of our society and the world at large.

Wishing you and your loved ones a Diwali filled with joy, prosperity, and the warmth of togetherness.

May the light of this festival shine brightly in your lives and bring peace to the world.

With heartfelt regards and deepest appreciation,

Prem Mirpuri

President, Indian Regional Cultural Center (IRCC)

**Wishing everyone a
Happy Diwali
and
Happy New Year from**



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Happy Diwali & Happy New year!

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Kids' and Adults' Performance IRCC DIWALI 2023

0 The Indian Tarka

Ashwarya Menghraj, Guru Menghraj, Ishmeeta Kaur, Aishleen Kaur, Shyla Natarajan, and Shriya Natarajan.
Choreographed by Sneha Meghraj.

1 The Fisher Folks

Ayansh Bhasal, Abhinav Miharia, Saachi Gupta, Hanvika Rayavarapu, Om Dandekar, Rohil Arya, Aanvi Patel, and Prisha Shah.
Choreographed by Nivedita Bhasal.

2 Shimmering Pearls

Aadya Pannala, Sanvi Palepu, Sudiksha Muli, Adya Katkuri, Jaswitha Manchineella, and Naimisha Kayala
Choreographed by Geetha Punugunta.

3 Bumble Bees

Anika Srivastava, Anay Srivastava, Ananya Shankar, Arishka Tambe, Namami Chouhan, Vedagna Gangaraboina, Avik Jain, Ronav Agrawal, Naysa Bhadane, Zohan Syed, Vatsla Mishra, Triman Kaur, Manal Raheem, and Riva Borkar.
Choreographed by Garima Srivastava.

4 Heart Throbbers

Kiran Wadhwa, Alyssa Garg, Aanya Shenoy, Veer Gawri, Zian Gawri, Aarav Sharma, Sahana Dalal, Kush Dalal, Yunay Doulani, Kaj Jagasia, Yuv Doulani, Ishaan Mirpuri, Samyra Agarwal, Vivaan Gogineni-Vatturi, and Ira Mittal.
Choreographed by Tanya Jain.

5 Twinkling Stars

Arya Guntupalli, Saanvika Turlapati, Saanvi Nomula, Aadhya Chikkula, Anaya Pareek, and Saanvi Manchala.
Choreographed by Sredevi Guntupalli.

6 Jwalamukhis

Subha Shree Anbarasan, Davana Rajeev, Sarah Nivas, Nayonika Dhilipkumar, Jaasritha Mothish, Saanika Gowda, Tanushka Santhosh Kumar, Aria Mahesh, and Ajani Evans.
Choreographed by Zehaan Anand.

7 Rock & Roll

Tanush Joshi, Aditya Sardesai, Shrihan Televane, Reyansh Srivastava, Vihaan Shah, Anvit Choudhari, and Bhavesh Kukkala.
Choreographed by Priti Joshi.

8 Happy Feet

Prisha Sood, Savi Gorule, Moukthika Channa, Aanya Amith Ambale, Radha Dandekar, Aadhira Aravind, Kavya Sushil Shah, Shanaya Agarwal, and Krisha Kumari.
Choreographed by Sonia Guha.

9 MJ Kids (Miami Jhankaar Kids)

Viaan Jain, Samarth Mittal, Maea Iyer-Grover, Veer Agarwal, Arnav Singh, Saanvi Kumar, and Sabraan Ghei.
Choreographed by Jeenu Mittal

10 Little Sparkles

Aria Kanuganti, Aryan Kanuganti, Aryadev Mucherla, Neil Gupta, Aanya Tarun, and Janvi Palepu.
Choreographed by Prasanna Kolli.

11 Devine Beatz

Dev Patel, Ved Patel, Aarush Patel, Ishaan Thakkar, Riyan Gupta, Eesha Patel, Aaliyah Patel, Saavi Saraswat, and Riyansh Pathak.
Choreographed by Jeni and Jagruti Patel.

12 The Dance Lab

Rheya Vijay, Pranav Prakash, Naysha Kanvinde, Nyra Karthikeyan, Viyan Bharathkumar, and Yashika Prakash.
Choreographed by Priya Prakash.

13 NBS Bollyboppers

Ayansh Shah, Leela Khosa, Ajai Prasath, Emma Shyju, Eva Shyju, Rohan Shah, Vivaan Modi, Aarushi Patel, Diya Tatineni, Sahasra Gosetty, Aarna Choksi, Moksh Pusuluri, Adhvika Pallikonda, Tanvi Kartik, and Akshara Peddireddy.
Choreographed by Shriya Telavane.

14 The Kathak Kumaris

Veera Patel, Meera Patel, Sanvi Phadataré, Saanvi Dholabhai, Vajra Patel, Alenka Gupta, Aditi Lothe, Myra Deshpande, Eva Joshi, and Aahna Patel.
Choreographed by Shivani Lakkad.

Kids' and Adults' Performance IRCC DIWALI 2023

15 NBS Goris

Anushka Miharia, Ishika Gadani, Ivanshi Gadani, Raavi Kadecha, Sanvi Pandya, Sayali Choudhari, Saisha Pandita, Shriya Sardesai, Anika Mishra, Kyra Agarwal, Arah Agarwal, Prisha Patel, Kashish Mirpuri, and Simone Kumar.
Choreographed by Neha Miharia.

16 The High Steppers

Aadi Harpalani, Tanmay Vazirani, Laksh Thakkar, Sia Gupta, Annika Gupta, Avlokitha Thummadi, Reyhaan Thummadi, Areesha Joshi, Ridhaan Joshi, Rhea Jayavarapu, Ayaan Thakkar, Aadhya Reddy Palla, Jia Balwani, and Neel Patel.
Choreographed by Sushma Amruthaluri.

16-A Masakali

Lavisha Harpalani, Jhanvi Khatri, Ritika Vazirani, Tarika Saagar, Shalini Singh, Sweta Thakkar, Jyoti Wadhwa, and Vicky Russell.
Choreographed by Lavisha Harpalani.

17 Nrithya Nakshathram Kids

Abinav Balamurugan, Asvika Prakash, Lakshanika Prakash, Dakshin Vinod, Shreya Suresh, Snigdha Suresh, and Pradhiksha Dhiwakar.
Choreographed by Pradeepa amachandran.

18 Punjabi Patakhe

Arnav Bhatia, Ashnia Bhatia, Irene Abhilash, Aksh Kaushal, Inica Kaushal, Roma Agarwal, Suhani Raval, Shubham Raval, Samay Arora, Sanya Arora, and Arush Chokshi.
Choreographed by Priyanka Grover.

19 Khiladis

Avi Patel, Aaryan Shah, Ved Kunal Patel, Reya Kunal Patel, Ved Ashish Patel, Dev Ashish Patel, Ayaan Desai, Tanishi Desai, Vivaan Khiani, and Dev Khiani.
Choreographed by Taarika Sagar.

19A Twirling Queens

Anamika Agarwal, Jyotishri Devi, Nivedita Bhasal, Sakshi Arya, Shilpa Rane, Ruchi Joshi, Priti Joshi, Reshma Mahendroo, and Gauri Bavdekar.
Choreographed by Anamika Agarwal.

19B Dazzling Divas

Priyanka Saxena, Claudia Ogando, Marilyn Hu, Sarojini Srivastava, Reena Tripathi, Jessy Miot, Poornima, and Garima Sharma.
Choreographed by Claudia Ogando.

20 Temple of Dance

Silvia John, Diya Deepak, Tianna John, Angeline Eluvathingal, Khushi Chandra, Maira Farhat, Sania John, Liana Samuel, Nishy Ninan, Anju, Sandra Baiju, Ameya Vijay, Aleena Aji, Aleena Abraham, and Alietta.
Choreographed by Reshmi Sunil.

21 Desi Patakha

Tanisi Modak, Ayati Anamsa, Pearl Bhatt, Mishaeta Pattani, Jara Dave, and Shreya Suresh.
Choreographed by Sheli Chakraborty.

22 Desi Girls

Protoma Dey, Moureen Datta, Adrika Hierholzer, Aisha Bhatt, Mayini Chikara, Anya Mody and Ishita Damani.
Choreographed by Nisha Bhatt.

22A Nara Bollywood

Narayani Maharaj, Anamaria Zambrano, Cristina Cabrera, Elsa Thomas, Emily Brost, Erica Morillo, Maria Eugenia Abrante, Martha Belbusti, Nina Tenedieva, Olga Giraldo, Roopa Desai, Saklena Hazuri, Shruthi Ahilandeswaran, Tiffany Toro, and Yazmin Bousa.
Choreographed by Narayani Maharaj.

22B Dance Rhythms

Bhairavi Pandya, Vaani Maharaj, Neeta Talati, Uma Eniasivam, Rohini Shah, Priya Sinha, Seema Anand, and Bhagi Sahasranaman.
Choreographed by Bhairavi Pandya.

23 Palm Beach Rockers

Rishi Iyer, Taroon Muthuswamy, Srinidhi Venkitasamy, Kirthana Mutukuru, Anvita Kumbham, Aditi Seetharaman, Harsita Sathiyam, Yuvan Shandalingam, Advaita Karlapudi, Mabruk Alam, Trisha Babji Rao, Aditya Babji Rao, Varshini Venkat, and Riya Karthik.
Choreographed by Deepa V Iyer.

24 Team Beats

Meghna Kumar, Srimayi Yeedara, Sahana Srinivasan, Vinisha Gurudu, Tanvi Sama, Kavya Thiyagarajan, Sheavitha Vijayakumar, Pragathi Natarajan, Shruti Narasimhan, Shreya Kempuraj, Shrithika Bandiathmakur, Anjana Andapalli, Vernica Narasi.
Choreographed by Ponnala Srivinasan.

Kids' and Adults' Performance IRCC DIWALI 2023

25 NBS Teens

Kabir Gandhi, Daksh Jain, Daya Ashok Nair, Bhav Jain, Pranav Venugopalan, Evin Shyju, Pavitra Soni, Sanya Arora, Krishna Mirpuri, Yash Bhatt, Samarth Chandra, Aarush Doshi, Dillon Hedge, Shivaan Patel, and Aayush Gujarathi. *Choreographed by Arya Doshi.*

25A Cool Dads

Abhishek Joshi, Satyam, Manoj Harpalani, Pravin Vazirani, Vishal Tiwari, Vikas Gupta, Vikalp Gupta, and Mukesh Jain. *Choreographed by Priyanka Saxena.*

25B Bellissima

Sheli Chakraborty, Jasbeer Chhabra, Nisha Bhatt, Meena Hierholzer, Anita Madan, and Ganga Patil. *Choreographed by Jasbeer Chhabra.*

26 Aashik Aawara

Chaitanya Singh Verma, Arav Shintre, Ishaan Garg, Neel Mirpuri, Maanya Singh, Chandni Narang, Sanya Gidwani, and Armaan Khiyani. *Choreographed by Niraj Mehta.*

27 The Rhythm Dance Group

Padmini Poduri, Anjani Poduri, Sarojini Deb, Srijani Deb, Saumya Sia Narang, Lavanya Singha, Khushi Shah, Rishita Ganguli, and Sreemanya Mamidi. *Choreographed by Sanchari Sarkar.*

28 The Beat Bunch

Bhakti Patel, Aishani Patel, Hasini Rayavarapu, Sanvi Bhatt, Sri Sanvitha Chinnam, Sayesha Lakkad, and Samana Rao. *Choreographed by Swetal Patel.*

28A Miami Jhankaars

Megha Gupta, Shruti Gupta, Rimpi Khurana, Sharan, Sheetal Joshi, Neelam Joshi, Meghhaa Kumar, and Rashi Karamchandani. *Choreographed by Megha Gupta.*

28B NBS Adakaaras

Amishi Patel, Apurva Pathak, Devipriya Ashok, Lovely Mary John, Richa Gambhir, Sathvika Reddy Palvai, Shabnum Boodan, Valsapriya Vasudevan, and Vanitha Vasudevan. *Choreographed by Valsapriya Vasudevan.*

29 BollyBoyz

Vidit Gandhi, Deva Dixit, Vishwa Dixit, Sanay Lunavat, Vihaan Jain, Aarav Ved, Parv Soni, and Rishabh Sanghi. *Choreographed by Aarushi Bavdekar.*

30 Agni Nakshatras

Zehaan Anand, Subhiksha Anbarasan, Thejavi Srinivasan, Anvita Narasimhan, Sakish Thayagabalu, Shankar Kannan, Shakti Kannan, Akshaya Ramesh, Surya Ramesh, Vachana Rajeev, Shreenidhi Vasudevan, Akshitha Thoppae, and Negaritha Dhilipkumar. *Choreographed by All Moms.*

31 Spicy Naachos

Chitra Rane, Tanisha Srivastava, Aarushi Bavdekar, Freya Thakar, Ashritaa Vijayakumar, Aanshi Jain, Siya Gupta, Riya Bora, and Anushka Bhasal. *Choreographed by All Moms.*

31A Vintage Violets

Snehal Kasodekar, Vedavati Joshi, Pranjali Choudhari, Rashmi Telavane, Vetravati Ranade, Shailaja Mali, Nandina Samanta, Priya Alavadi, and Shailaja Alluru. *Choreographed by Snehal Kasodekar.*

31B Nrithya Nakshathram

Rakesha Dhiwakar, Devika Vinod, Arunadevi Karthik, Sangeetha Prakash, Archana Selvam, and Hema Sharma. *Choreographed by Rakesha Dhiwakar.*

32 Nritya

Ava Stanley, Sarah Stanley, Emma Stanley, Aanya Manikundalam, Anaya Bhagchandani, Maya Gandhi, Aarna Kumar, Mannat Mittal, and Aratrika Sanyal. *Choreographed by Hema Sharma.*

33 NBS Garba Goris

Avanthika Harish Shenoy, Aanshi Shah, Vrithika Pallikonda, Reeve Patel, Maanasvi Shah, Ameya Jayaraj, Kavya Pandit, Diya Bhatt, Saanvi Shah, Hitakshi Maru, Lakshika Sakthivel, Saanvi Nainegali, Avanti Bhide, Sanvi Badanidiyoor, Heerva Shah, Saaya Shah, Krishha Kanvinde, and Niya Patel. *Choreographed by Amishi Patel.*

Adults' Competition

1 Shakti

Priya Muthuraja, Kavya Gangadhar, Sripriya Anand, Philo Navis, Meghana Padiginati, Haritha Jillellamudi, Trupti Dave, and Deepa Deepan. *Choreographed by Priya Muthuraja.*

2 Team Dancerholics

Meera Ramanathan, Meeta Govindarajan, Veena Subramanian, Akanksha Kumar, Bhavna Baranwal, Lavanya Narasimhan, Shamala Suppiah, Meena Mani, Laxmi, and Jaspreet Gill. *Choreographed by All.*

3 South Florida Dancing Divas

Lakshmi Kapadia, Nipa Doshi, Sonal Mehta, Priya Ahya, Anuja Vyas, Rupal Talati, Sita Singh, and Minal Saraswat. *Choreographed by Sonal Mehta.*

4 Virasat E Punjab Giddha

Gurpreet Kaur, Lakshmi Manju Natarajan, Ruchi Narsinghani, Sabrina Anand, Ramandeep Kaur, Gauri Sane, Amandeep Kaur, Gurleen, Neetu Chamak, Sneha Menghraj, and Gulshan Kaur. *Choreographed by Gurpreet Kaur.*

IRCC-DIWALI 2023

IRCC PATAKA-HIGH SCHOOL DANCE COMPETITION AND PERFORMANCES

1. Rhythms Warriors

High School Name : **Various**

Ann Abhilash, Anugraha Pereppadan, Arya Nair, Ashna Zacharias, Avnithaa Shree Thoppae, Devika Vikas, Eesha Mahabir, Gia Joseph, Harshita Karumuri, Hridya Govind, Kimaya Joshi, Liana Putheth, Mahatthi Premkumar, Rishita Vijay, Sahana Saravanan, Yashika Masuram, Disha Krishna, Sunayana Javvaji

2. Nach Bollywood Style High School queens

High School Name : **Broward county schools**

Shreya Anand, Shreya Joshi, Madhav Suresh, Arya Doshi, Bhumi Harpalani, Alina Paulose, Arjun Jayaraj, Shriya Telavane, Rosebell Thomas, Shania Srivastav, Medha Balaji, Anya Ahire, Tanvi Bhide, Ranveer Patel, Laya Nambiar, Avani Upadhyay, Eesha Shah, Sathvik Maddineni, Christine Mathew, Radhika Kotecha, Prajna Bhadauria, Vennela Chinta

3. Desi Dhamaka

High School Name : **Various high schools**

Aditi Nair, Ahana Ellasetty, Amishi Kalia, Anika Mehta, Anika Prasad, Bani Sethi, Chavi Lakhotia, Janvi Shah, Mrinalini Bose, Naina Sethi, Nishant Sevak, Rishita Rokariya, Rohan Vemuri, Saaya Attal, Saketh Tumuluri, Shree Vora, Siya Shah, Sonum Mittal

4. SoFL Hoppers (South Florida Hoppers)

Heer Bhavsar, Nila Krishnan, Yash Upadhyay, Suhani Patel, Aishwarya Chandra, Mithil Khosa, Ria Iyer, Deetya Pattani, Ananya Zaverchand, Abhishek Sunith, Ahana Tippanagoudar, Sneha Kivlekar, Tanish Thakar, Rudraksh Modak, Samyutha Selvam, Manpreet Chhabra, Rithiha Senthilkumar, Keerthana Lakshmanan, Varshaa Venkatesh, Akshay Kumar, Vidya Gupta.



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DIWALI

DHAMAKA

INTERCOLLEGIATE COMPETITIONS AND PERFORMANCES

Fusion



Bhangra



Team Name: **Mizrana**

University/College Name : **University of South Florida**

Keertana Gadamsetty, Melissa Kumar, Prerana Patibandla, Aaliyah Khan, Greta David, Kayla Varughese, Isha Jigajinni, Aleta Alvin, Shinika Nandakumar, Megha Mathai, Nikhita Athipathy, Ananya Gurajapu, Divyani Tangudu, Tanvee Kulkarni, Alisha Kulkarni, Yasaswi Nimmagadda, Tejaswini Gunukula, Sanskruti Patel

Team Name: **NSU Maasti**

University/College Name : **Nova Southeastern University**

Bhumika Balani, Keerthi Polam, Khushi Faldu, Rhea Hede, Shree Diora, Tara Taju, Karol Perez, Sophia Paz, Shreya Katapally, Riya Patel, Laasya Nedunoori, Bhakti Patel, Mahalaxmi Some, Emily Abraham, Esha Surana, Samantha Robinson, Varsha Chigurupati, Aashna Kalwani, Ananya Annamraju, Sanya Adlakha

Team Name: **Shehar Diyan Kudiyan (City Girls)**

University/College Name: **Nova Southeastern University**

Anjali Kamath, Samira Ashrafi, Kavya Krishna, Yashasvini Kattelu, Yamini Kattelu, Sathvi Gandra, Tasnia Arshee, Vanya Gupta

Team Name: **Shehar Diyan Kudiyan (City Girls)**

University/College Name: **Nova Southeastern University**

Anjali Kamath, Samira Ashrafi, Kavya Krishna, Yashasvini Kattelu, Yamini Kattelu, Sathvi Gandra, Tasnia Arshee, Vanya Gupta

Team Name: **Bull Bhangra**

University/College Name: **University of South Florida**

Suvan Sharma, Anay Bhaya, Vasant Patel, Jon Karthaka, Mihir Gulati, Anshul Raghuvanshi, Jasmin Kaur Pruthi, Priya Desai, Harshika Raghuvanshi, Esha Saini, Garima Anand, Riya Choksi

Team Name: **Hurricane Bhangra**

University/College Name: **University of Miami**

Rishi Desai, Josh Patel, Parth Agarwal, Bilal Raza, Aarav Patel, Aditto Showkatt, Manu Thota, Jiya Arora, Suhasini Simlote, Leher Harlalka, Ashwini Prasanna, Sonia Shah

Team Name: **Gator Bhangra**

University/College Name: **University of Florida**

Deven Mistry, Ziyen Mohammadali, Armeet Kaur, Harveer Singh, Krish Patel, Om Chovatiya, Anjali Emandi, Maya Sirivelu, Saloni Datta, Parsh Patel, Aryaan Verma

Team Name: **NSU Bhangra**

University/College Name: **Nova Southeastern University**

Malini Patel, Kabir Deol, Sanjith Kumaran, Hussan Khan, Jeev Sarkar, Laasya Vemparala, Nitya Punjal, Richa Rajesh, Sriya Nallala, Srujan Miryala, Surili Patani, Viswa Kurapati



IRCC Youth Club

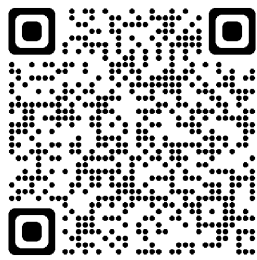


IRCC Youth Club provides opportunities to youth Ages 12-17 from our community to get together, interact, volunteer at IRCC events, and earn community service hours. Participation in the IRCC Youth Club helps members to learn organizational and leadership skills. They learn social/people skills, bond with each member to develop lifelong friendships, and become team players. IRCC Youth Club IRCC YOUTH CLUB helps members learn about the culture, traditions, and heritage of India. These opportunities allow them to give back to society.



JOIN IRCC YOUTH CLUB TO

- Serve the community
- Earn Service Hours
- Social Skills/Make Friends
- Leadership Skills
- Get Togethers/ Hangouts
- Emcee Opportunities
- Public Speaking Skills



<https://irccflorida.org/youth-club/>



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Life Membership
Fees \$ 500

Annual Membership
Fees \$ 50

IRCC Mission

IRCC's mission is to keep the rich culture and traditions of India alive and passing on the torch to the younger generation. We also bring our rich culture of acceptance and unity with us. It is our duty to showcase our rich culture and traditions which will further bring Americans and Indians together for the betterment of the society and lay a strong foundation of friendship.

IRCC - 2024 EVENTS



ANAND BAZAR
REPUBLIC DAY
• KITE FLYING • LOHRI
Sunday, January 28th, 2024
TIME: 11.00 am to 4.00 pm
At: Miramar Regional Park
16801 Miramar Pkwy
Miramar, 33027



HOLI CELEBRATION
Sunday, March 24th, 2024
TIME: 11.00 am to 4.00 pm
At: Miramar Regional Park
16801 Miramar Pkwy
Miramar, 33027



MEMBER'S APPRECIATION DAY
BOWLING PARTY & RAKSHABANDHAN CELEBRATION
Sunday, August 25th 2024
Time: 3.00 PM to 6.00 PM
At: SPAREZ BOWLING ARENA,
5325 S University Drive,
Davie, FL 33328



GRAND NAVRATRI CELEBRATION
Saturday, October 05th 2024 & Saturday, October 12th 2024
Time: 8.00 PM to 1.00 AM
At: Coral Glades High School,
2700 Sportsplex Dr.,
Coral Springs, FL 33065



DIWALI- FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS
Saturday, November 16th, 2024
Time: 12.00 Noon to 10.00 PM
At: Broward County Convention Center





Congratulations

to the **IRCC** Team

Happy diwali



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Anand Bazar

At: Miramar Regional Park 16801 Miramar Pkwy
Miramar, 33027

Sunday, January 28th, 2024
Time: 11.00 am to 4.00 pm

FREE
COMMUNITY
EVENT



REPUBLIC DAY

26th January 1950 is one of the most important days in Indian history as it was on this day the constitution of India came into force and India became a truly sovereign state. In this day India became a totally republican unit. The country finally realized the dream of Mahatma Gandhi and the numerous freedom fighters who, fought for and sacrificed their lives for the Independence of their country. So, the 26th of January was decreed a national holiday and has been recognized and celebrated as the Republic Day of India, ever since.

Today, the Republic Day is celebrated with much enthusiasm all over the country and especially in the capital, New Delhi where the celebrations start with the Presidential to the nation. The beginning of the occasion is always a solemn reminder of the sacrifice of the martyrs who died for the country in the freedom movement and the succeeding wars for the defense of sovereignty of their country. Then, the President comes forward to award the medals of bravery to the people from the armed forces for their exceptional courage in the field and also the civilians, who have distinguished themselves by their different acts of valour in different situations.

KITE FLYING

Kite flying is a festival of India that comes on January 14 every year festival or kite festival in many parts of India. Gujrat and Jaipur in Rajasthan is famous for their kite festivals. Jaipur organizes international kite festival every year. Makar Sankranti is a popular word in Rajasthan where as Utran (derived from Uttarayan in Sanskrit language) is in Gujrat. Basant Panchami is also popular for kite festival in some places of India. Kolkata celebrates kite festival on Vishwakarma Puja but not on Makar Sankranti.

Kite is called Patang in Hindi language. Hence the festival is also referred as Patang utsav in India. Patang is also called Guddi in many places in northern India. Special type of thread is used to fly kites and that is called Manjha.



LOHRI

India is the "Land of Celebration and Festivities". According to the Hindu mythology, there are 3.3 million gods and goddesses. Lohri is one of the most important Hindu festivals celebrated to honour Agni (the Vedic god of fire) at the beginning of the year. Every year, on 13th of January (as per the Gregorian calendar), Lohri is celebrated with great pomp and grandeur mainly in Punjab, Haryana, parts of Himachal Pradesh and Jammu. Amidst the freezing temperature accompanied by dense fog and icy winds, North Indians seem to be getting busy with preparations for enjoying the long awaited bonfire festival "Lohri" with traditional folk songs and dances.





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THE DAYS OF CELEBRATION AND THE RITUALS.

The festival of Holi begins on Duwadashi - on the twelfth day of the waxing moon of the month of Phalgun. Spirits run high as the preparations for the festivities begin, as a custom, mothers make new clothes for their married daughters. Coloured powder (Gulal) is bought and prepared, long syringes called 'pichkaris' are made ready and water balloons are bought and filled. Preparations are made to cook the special food items that exclusively meant for this festival.

Three days before the full moon, 'Rang Pashi' brings Holi into all households. The families get together in the evenings when people visit each other to perform the formal sprinkling of colour. In the past 'the household purohit' or priest was invited to begin the celebrations, but this task has been taken over by the eldest male member of the family. A 'thali' or plate is arranged with coloured powders and coloured water is placed in a small brass container called a 'lota'. The eldest male member of the family begins the festivities by sprinkling coloured water and powders on each member of the assembled family. It is then the turn of the younger ones to do the same. In this unique way, affection and blessings are shared by all in the family. The celebrations on this day end with the partaking of food specially cooked for this occasion - gujjia, papri and kanji ke vade. Sometimes, meat dish like kofta curry is also served. It is customary to serve drinks before the meal.

The next day is known as 'Puno'. On this day, Holika is burnt in keeping with the legend of Prahlad and his devotion to lord Vishnu. In the evening, huge bonfires are lit on street corners at the crossroads. Usually this is a community celebration and people gather near the fire to fill the air with folk strains and dances. Sheaves of green gram and wheat are roasted in the bonfire and eaten.

The actual festival of Holi takes place the day after this. This day is called 'Parva'. Children, friends and neighbours gather on the streets and a riot of colour takes over. Coloured powders called 'abeer' or 'gulal' are thrown into the air and smeared on faces and bodies. 'Pichkaris' are filled with coloured water and this is spurted onto people. Water balloons are thrown at friends and neighbours in the spirit of fun. Sometimes, mud baths are prepared and people are 'dunked' into this amidst much laughter and teasing. The visitors carry 'abeer' or 'gulal' to pay their respects to elders by sprinkling some on their feet. The younger crowd is drenched with buckets of coloured water and pummeled with water balloons. 'Dholaks' or Indian drums are heard everywhere and the songs of Holi are carried by the voices of these merry-makers.

HOLI CELEBRATION

Sunday, March 24th, 2024

Time: 11.00 AM to 4.00 PM

At: Miramar Regional Park
16801 Miramar Pkwy Miramar, 33027

Snacks, Lunch and Pizza will be served
along with Colors, Games, Music & Dance
and Many Prizes.



Garma-Garam Chai
with Ganthias
11.00 am to 12.00 pm



Happy
Holi

Best Wishes

To RAJMAAI For a Successful Convention!

With Appreciation to Dr. Uday Chadha and Dr. Vinod Sancheti



Dr. Bharat K. Gupta, President, RAJMAAI, *Nephrology*

Dr. Achala Gupta

Dr. Mohit Gupta, *Urologic Oncology*

Dr. Anmol Gupta, *Dermatology*



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Let's Bowl

RAKSHABANDHAN CELEBRATION



Raksha Bandhan is the festival of family bonding. Raksha Bandhan means “a bond of protection” symbolized by the tying of a “Rakhi”. The festival of Raksha Bandhan is entirely dedicated to the love and affection shared between a brother and a sister. On this day, sisters pray for the long life of their brothers and ask God for His blessings. Brothers, in turn, give them enticing rakhi gifts and promise to care for their sister throughout their lives. Come with family and friends and teach the next generation about this very important Indian festival.

Member Appreciation Day

Sunday, August 25th, 2024
Time: 3.00 PM to 6.00 PM

At: SPAREZ BOWLING ARENA
5325 S. University Dr.
Davie, FL-33328

THIS PROGRAM IS FREE FOR IRCC MEMBERS FAMILY YOU MUST BE A MEMBER FOR THE YEAR 2024 TO ATTEND
Become a member at the entrance.
The family membership is \$50.00 per year.
NON-MEMBERS - \$15 PER PERSON

Membership Sign-ups / Renewals - \$50



PROGRAM DETAILS

Unlimited bowling during the event time, shoes will provided, but please bring socks.
Pizza and Soda will be provided.

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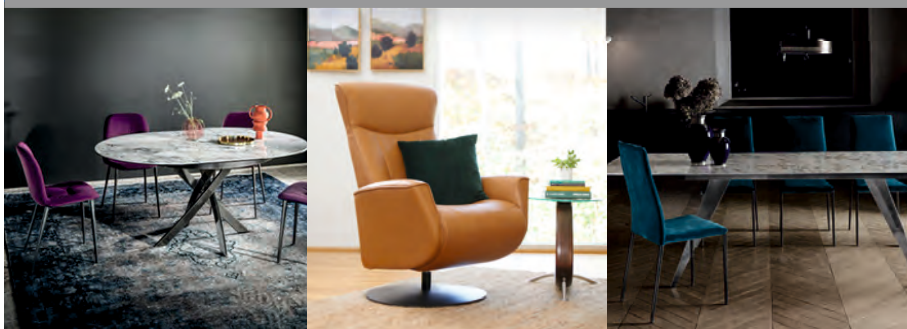
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Grand Navratri Celebration

'Nav' means 'nine' and 'ratri' means 'night'. Thus, 'Navratri' means 'nine nights'. There are many legends attached to the conception of Navratri like all Indian festivals. All of them are related to Goddess Shakti (Hindu Mother Goddess) and her various forms. It is one of the most celebrated festivals of Hindu calendar, it holds special significance for Gujaratis and Bengalis and one can see it in the zeal and fervor of the people with which they indulge in the festive activities of the season. Dandiya and Garba Rass are the highlights of the festival in Gujarat, while farmer sow seeds and thank the Goddess for her blessings and pray for better yield, In older times, Navratri was associated with the fertility of Mother Earth who feed us as her children.

**SATURDAY,
October 05th, 2024
and
SATURDAY,
October 12th, 2024
Time: 8.00 PM to 1.00 AM**

**At:
Coral Glades High School,
2700 Sportsplex Dr.,
Coral Springs, FL 33065**

*Wishing you a very
Happy Diwali
and a Prosperous New year!*



Dr. Mohan Gupta and Dr. Meenu Gupta
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Ph. 954-278-9259



Diwali is celebrated on a nation-wide scale on Amavasya - the 15th day of the dark fortnight of the Hindu month of Ashwin, (October/November) every year. It symbolizes that age-old culture of India which teaches to vanquish ignorance that subdues humanity and to drive away darkness that engulfs the light of knowledge. Diwali, the festival of lights even to-day in this modern world projects the rich and glorious past of India.

Every year on the dark nights of Diwali the sound of firecrackers announces the celebration of the **favorite festival of Indians**. Homes are decorated, sweets are distributed by everyone and thousands of lamps are lit to create a world of fantasy. Of all the festivals celebrated in India, Diwali is by far the most glamorous and important. Enthusiastically enjoyed by people of every religion, its magical and radiant touch creates an atmosphere of joy and festivity.

The ancient story of how Diwali evolved into such a widely celebrated festival is different in various regions and states of India. In the north, particularly in Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Bihar and the surrounding areas, Diwali is the day when **King Rama's** coronation was celebrated in Ayodhya after his epic war with Ravana, the demon king of Lanka. By order of the royal families of **Ayodhya** and **Mithila**, the kingdom of which Sita was princess, the cities and far-flung boundaries of these kingdoms were lit up with rows of lamps, glittering on dark nights to welcome home the divine king Rama and his queen Sita after 14 years of exile, ending with an across-the-seas war in which the whole of the kingdom of **Lanka** was destroyed.

On the day of Diwali festival, doorways are hung with torans of mango leaves and marigolds. **Rangolis** are drawn with different colored powders to welcome guests. The traditional motifs are often linked with auspicious symbols of good luck. Oil diyas are arranged in and around the house. Because of these flickering lamps, the festival has acquired its name: Dipawali or Diwali meaning '**a rows of lamps**'. On this day, people buy something for the house or some jewelry for the women of the house. It is auspicious to be buy something metallic, such as silver.

Whatever may be the fables and legends behind the celebrations of Diwali, all people exchange sweets, wear new clothes and buy jewelry at this festive time. Card parties are held in many homes. Diwali has become commercialized as the biggest annual consumer spree because every family shops for sweets, gifts and fireworks. However, in all this frenzy of shopping and eating, the steady, burning lamp is a constant symbol of an illuminated mind.



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Eric Yutzy

Local 10 Morning News Anchor

EMCEE FOR HIGH SCHOOL AND DIWALI DHAMAKA COMPETITIONS AT THE IRCC DIWALI EVENT



Eric Yutzy co-anchors the Local 10 Morning News and also reports during the week. Eric moved to covering news after spending 11 years as an award-winning sports anchor.

From 2010-14, Eric was the weekend sports anchor at WTHR-TV in Indianapolis. There he carved a niche as a storyteller, gaining behind the scenes access to athletes. Eric primarily covered the Indianapolis Colts and Indiana Pacers. His responsibilities also included Big Ten Conference basketball and football, and IndyCar and NASCAR racing. While in Indianapolis, Eric covered major sporting events, including Super Bowls, Final Fours, the NBA and NFL playoffs, the Indianapolis 500 and many more.

Eric has received numerous honors, including Emmy and Associated Press awards. He's passionate about finding feature stories in the community that showcase hardworking people doing incredible things.

Eric enjoys volunteering his time with many organizations across many different spectrums of service. He's a married father of four, so investing time in his family takes up most of his free time. He also enjoys reading, writing, working out and playing basketball.

KHAASBAAT

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ADVERTISING AND STORY DEADLINE: the 20th of every month for the following month's issue.

TAMPA/PINELLAS PARK/SEFFNER Gujarati Samaj of Tampa Bay is hosting a Diwali dinner from 5 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 18, at Florida State Fairgrounds, 4800 U.S. 301, Tampa. Bombay Ki Bahar Akshay Tamayche will perform from 8 p.m. onward. The event is free for GSTB members, \$50 non-members. For information, call Mukesh Patel at (727) 505-4636.

ORLANDO/CASSELBERRY Hindu Society of Central Florida (1994 Lake Drive) in Casselberry will celebrate Diwali and Annakut from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 18, with several competitions (some on Nov. 11) and cultural programs, fireworks; parking \$10. For information, call (407) 574-1814 or visit www.orlandohindutemple.org

SOUTH FLORIDA FORT LAUDERDALE: The Indian Regional and Cultural Center will hold its Diwali festivities from noon to 10 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 18, at Broward County Convention Center, 1950 Eisenhower Blvd., Fort Lauderdale. The program will include music and dance performances, including bhangra, Bollywood, folk dances. Other attractions are food, fashion, jewelry and henna. For tickets and other information, call Sanjay Gupta at (954) 461-4003 or visit www.irccflorida.org *Cont'd on page 12*

TAMPA INDIA FEST NOV. 4
Chair: Jyoti Gandhi
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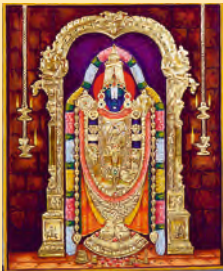
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and a
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**To the Entire Community.....
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Soneet & Prabodh Kapila

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