



# State of New York

## Executive Chamber

### Proclamation

Whereas, throughout its history, New York State's greatest strength has been its diverse population and, as home to people of all backgrounds and all countries of the world, we appreciate our various communities that are built upon their values and beliefs, and uphold the time-honored traditions of their ancestral cultures; and

Whereas, within the Indo-Caribbean and South Asian Hindu communities, Diwali is the most significant celebration of the year; known as "The Festival of Lights," it marks the traditional end of the harvest season, commemorating the victory of righteousness and lifting of spiritual darkness represented in a wonderful display of illuminated colors that conveys a message of unity throughout the world; and

Whereas, the Empire State recognizes the importance of preserving the rich traditions and culture of our many distinct communities and the annual observance of Diwali invites all to share in one of the most meaningful occasions celebrated by the vibrant and active Indian and South Asian communities across our state; and

Whereas, the State of New York is a respected example of multiculturalism as the "Melting Pot of the World" with millions of people who are distinctly unique, yet live and work together harmoniously, and Diwali is a time of year to set aside a moment in peaceful and thankful contemplation of all the good in our lives; and

Whereas, this occasion celebrates the eternal hope for humankind that guides all of our communities and, as Diwali inspires a spirit of festivity, New Yorkers extend appreciation to our Indian and South Asian communities for their noteworthy contributions and commitment to upholding and sharing a wonderfully rich history, heritage, and time-honored traditions with us, and we extend warmest wishes for joy, peace, and prosperity in the future;

Now, Therefore, I, Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim November 12, 2023 as

## "DIWALI" – THE "FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS"

in the Empire State.



Given under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State  
at the Capitol in the City of Albany this seventh day  
of November in the year two thousand twenty-three.

*Kathy Hochul*  
Governor

*[Signature]*  
Secretary to the Governor  
Karen Persichilli Keogh