

## **GREAT INDIA SHINES ON...**

### **OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSION OF INDIA IN LAGOS, NIGERIA CELEBRATES DIWALI FESTIVAL IN STYLE**

India is a resplendent and resilience nation; blessed with great minds, right leadership, strength and solidarity, natural endowments and a proven capacity in tackling and surmounting any obstacles confronting its sovereignty and sustenance. Since 75 years of its modernity and moving forward, 'Great India' continues to make profound statements in salutary strides and strives: setting unprecedented records, becoming a development surprise admired by many and always enjoying global applause in its advancement. Like many other countries around the world, the nation was attacked by a savage virus whose scourge and surge sorely distressed citizenry lives and livelihoods, but typical of its pre-emptive, protective and safety abilities, it swiftly rose to confront and tame this fiendish foe threatening its people and prosperity. Through series of interventions and integrated measures, India is not only rapidly reducing the virus spread and severity, it has also vaccinated more than a billion citizens, (and still counting); a remarkable feat never achieved by any nation since the Covid-19 vaccine campaign and administration. Profound thanks' to **PM Modi's** administration for its life-saving efforts as the land is gradually restored to normalcy and witnessing the returns of cherished celebrations, joyous occasions and other business and blissful engagements. In this exciting mood, Indians (at home and abroad) known for their deep traditional, cultural and proud heritage embrace are (once again) enjoying happy fellowships even as they celebrated this year DIWALI.

The Diwali, or Dipawali, festival gets its name from the row (*avali*) of clay lamps (*deepa*) that Indians light outside their homes to symbolize the inner light that protects from spiritual darkness. Celebrated by Hindus and non-Hindus around the world, the festival of lights symbolizes the spiritual "victory of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance and is widely associated with Lakshmi, goddess of prosperity, and commemorate with a lot of elation and fortune bringing activities.

In Nigeria, the (2021) DIWALI festival held in Lagos was marked in style and to the delight of the participants. The Indian High Commission in Nigeria through the Office of the High Commission of India in Lagos, in conjunction with the Indian Cultural Association, Lagos, hosted and treated Indians and friends of India in Nigeria to a memorable occasion. The event which was organized with every measure of the Covid-19 protocol put in place featured a DIWALI CULTURAL PERFORMANCE by ICCR's Baba Gorekhnath: (the Gotipua Dance Troupe from India). Various musical renditions, scintillating drumbeats, synchronizing and acrobatic dance steps of Indian Origin were presented by GOTIPUA comprising young, energetic, and skilled boys who dresses as women, other female performers and some young Nigerian talented dancers.

The Head, Office of the High Commission of India in Lagos, **Mr. Rachit Rawat** in his opening remarks highlighted among others, the nation's accomplishments since independence, the homeland government ongoing growth efforts, the development pursuits of the High Commission in Nigeria under the distinguished leadership of High Commissioner, **H.E Abhay Thakur**, the significance of Diwali Festival and a brief introduction of the performing troupe from India. He also acknowledged and appreciated the host government, Indians in Nigeria and the Nigerian guests for a collaborative, cordial and continued India-Nigeria Relations. Similarly, The ICA-Lagos President, **Chief Sanjay Jain**, during his speech also thanked everyone who graced the event and called for a continuing India-Nigeria partnership. It was an evening of fun as the well-lit Lagos Mission environment provided a cosy ambience for guests entertainment, enjoyment and refreshment. Gifts and souvenirs were also presented by ICA-Lagos.

**Acclaim Nigeria** covered the event. **LONG LIVE DIWALI...LONG LIVE INDIA!**

