

**Speech by Ambassador Nagma M. Mallick at Deepawali Event
Fukuoka; December 10, 2025**

Friends, today is also an important day as we celebrate our very own Deepawali getting global recognition. As you all know that the Government of India, under the leadership of Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi ji, has been actively promoting Indian culture and highlighting India's contribution to the global community through several measures and activities. Be it the promotion of Yoga through the United Nations, which paved the world celebrating Yoga every year on 21 June or commemorating the 150th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi by spreading his universal message of peace and non-violence or the recent initiative of celebrating 150 years of Vande Matram highlighting the spirit and unique freedom struggle of India.

On similar lines, India has also endeavoured to include Indian cultural elements in the UNESCO's Representative list of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. We have so far successfully inscribed India's rich and diverse living traditions ranging from performing arts such as Ramlila, Chhau Dance, festivals and rituals such as Kumbh Mela, Durga Pura, and knowledge systems such as Yoga and Vedic Chanting. Today inscription of Deepawali in the UNESCO's Representative list marks yet another milestone in promotion of Indian culture and introducing its values and messages to the global audience.

Deepawali is a cultural festival that is close to all Indians and celebrated with joy and happiness. It spreads the message of spiritual victory of light over darkness, truth over falsehood and good over evil. As the lamps shines in Deepawali, it makes one come out of ignorance, ego and negativity and leading to positivity, happiness and self-awareness. It fosters peace and harmony among society and humanity. It is this message that will get global recognition today.
