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NEW SOUTH WALES

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DIWALI FESTIVAL

The Hon. DAVID CLARKE (14:39): I move:

1. That this House notes that:

(a) on Saturday 5 November 2016, the India Club Inc. held its annual Diwali Festival Grand Celebration in The Hills at the Castle Grand Pioneer Hall, Castle Hill, attended by several hundred members and friends of the Indian Australian community,

(b) those who attended as guests included:

- (i) Mr Ray Williams, MP, member for Castle Hill, Parliamentary Secretary for Western Sydney representing the Hon. Mike Baird, MP, Premier, and representing the Hon. John Ajaka, MLC, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services and Minister for Multiculturalism;
- (ii) the Hon. David Elliott, MP, member for Baulkham Hills, Minister for Corrections, Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Veteran Affairs, and Mrs Nicole Elliott;
- (iii) the Hon. David Clarke, MLC, Parliamentary Secretary for Justice and Mrs Marisa Clarke;
- (iv) Mr Damien Tudehope, MP, member for Epping and Mrs Dianne Tudehope;
- (v) Mr Julian Leese, MP, Federal member Berowra;
- (vi) Councillor Yvonne Keane, Mayor, The Hills Shire Council;
- (vii) Councillor Robyn Preston, Deputy Mayor, The Hills Shire Council;
- (viii) Councillor Michelle Byrne, former Mayor, The Hills Shire Council and her husband Mr Matt Fuentes;
- (ix) Councillor Ryan Tracey, The Hills Shire Council;
- (x) Reena Jethi, Treasurer, Women's Council of the Liberal Party (New South Wales Division);
- (xi) Nalika Padmasena, solicitor for elderly rights and services;
- (xii) Uma Mennon and Aurelia Rehman from the Community Migrant Resource Centre;
- (xiii) Suhas Mahajan, Senior Investment Advisor, Macquarie Bank;
- (xiv) Sanchay Mohan, Head of Operations, Multiconnexions; and
- (xv) Satram Bajaji, former President, Australian Hindi Indian Association,

(c) the India Club's Star Award for someone serving the community and making a positive difference to society went to Ms Nalika Padmasena, by a decision of the Club's Judging Panel comprising:

- (i) Ms Aparajita Tayal;
- (ii) Mrs Marisa Clarke;
- (iii) Mrs Abha Gargya; and

(d) the India Club Inc. is a voluntary organisation of Australians of Indian origin which hosts a variety of entertainment activities and community projects and is supportive of a number of charities with the purpose of generating good will and harmony within the New South Wales community.

2. That this House:

(a) congratulates and commends the India Club Inc. for organising the annual Diwali Festival Grand Celebration in The Hills held on 5 November 2016, particularly Dr Akshaya Kumar, its chairman and chief-coordinator, and Mrs Shubha Kumar, its president, who were assisted by:

- (i) Abha Gargya, treasurer;
- (ii) Puneet Grover;
- (iii) Mona Grover;
- (iv) Ram Ramamurthy;
- (v) Anita Malhotra;
- (vi) Aparajita Tayal;
- (vii) Jaya Singhal;
- (viii) Jyoti Khanna;
- (ix) Shyam Malhotra;
- (x) Nav Gargya;
- (xi) Madhu Misra;
- (xii) Satya Khanna; and

(b) commends the ongoing contribution of the India Club Inc. to our State's cultural life and work in support of worthy charitable causes.

Motion agreed to.

Motion by David Clarke In Parliament House

GRAND DIWALI PARTY

The Hon. DAVID CLARKE (11:13): I move:

(1)That this House notes that:

(a)on Saturday 20 October 2018 the India Club Inc hosted a Grand Diwali Party at the Cherrybrook Community and Cultural Centre, attended by approximately 300 members and friends of the Indian-Australian community;

(b)those who attended as guests included:

(i)the Hon. Matt Kean, MP, Minister for Innovation and Better Regulation;

(ii)Mr Julian Leeser, MP, Federal member for Berowra and his wife, Mrs Joanna Davidson;

(iii)Councillor Michelle Byrne, Mayor of Hills Shire Council;

(iv)Mr Damien Tudehope, MP, member for Epping and Mrs Diane Tudehope;

(v)Mr Kevin Conolly, MP, member for Riverstone; and

(vi)representatives of numerous Indian-Australian community organisations.

(c)the India Club Inc, under the leadership of its President, Mrs Shubha Kumar, and Chairman, Dr Aksheya Kumar, has for some years been active on the issue of the rights of the elderly and is campaigning against domestic violence.

(2)That this House congratulates the India Club Inc on the holding of its Grand Diwali Party 2018 and commends the club for its ongoing campaign for the rights of the elderly and against domestic violence.

Motion agreed to.

FESTIVAL OF HOLI

The Hon. DAVID CLARKE (10:03): I move:

(1)That this House notes that:

(a)on Sunday 4 March 2018 the India Club Inc. held a community picnic at Fagan Park, Galston to celebrate the annual Festival of Holi, which was attended by members and friends of the Indian-Australian community;

(b)the Festival of Holi, also known as the Festival of Colours, widely celebrated throughout the Indian subcontinent and also worldwide where there are Indian communities, signifies the victory of good over evil and is an occasion for thanksgiving; and

(c)special guests at the event included:

(i)the Hon. David Clarke, MLC, Parliamentary Secretary for Justice;

(ii)Mr Damien Tudehope, MP, member for Epping, and Mrs Diane Tudehope;

(iii)Mr Julian Leeser, MP, Federal member for Berowra;

(iv)Mrs Rekha Rajvanshi, President of the Indian Literary Society of Australia; and

(v)representatives of numerous Indian-Australian community organisations.

(2)That this House commends the India Club Inc. and particularly President Mrs Shubha Kumar, Chairman Dr Aksheya Kuma, JP, and the committee for their initiative in organising the event.

(3)That this House extends greetings to the Indian-Australian community on the occasion of the 2018 Festival of Holi.

Motion agreed to.

DIWALI IN THE HILLS CELEBRATION

The Hon. DAVID CLARKE (11:13): I move:

(1)That this House notes that:

(a)on Saturday 7 October 2017, the India Club Inc. held its annual Diwali in The Hills Celebration at the Castle Grand Pioneer Hall Castle Hill, attended by several hundred members and friends of the Indian Australian community;

(b)those who attended as guests included:

(i)the Hon. Ray Williams, MP, Minister for Multiculturalism and Minister for Disability Services, representing the Hon. Gladys Berejiklian, MP, Premier, and Mrs Wendy Williams;

(ii)the Hon. David Elliott, MP, Minister for Counter Terrorism, Minister for Corrections and Minister for Veteran Affairs, and Mrs Nicole Elliott;

(iii)Mr B. Vanlalvawna, Consul-General of India in Sydney and Dr Rosy Khuma;

(iv)Dr Geoff Lee, MP, Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier, Western Sydney and Multiculturalism;

(v)the Hon. David Clarke, MLC, Parliamentary Secretary for Justice, and Mrs Marisa Clarke;

(vi)Mr Julian Leeser, MP, Federal member for Berowra, and Mrs Joanna Leeser;

(vii)Mr Damien Tudehope, MP, member for Epping, and Mrs Diane Tudehope;

(viii)Mr Mark Taylor, MP, member for Seven Hills;

(ix)Councillor Philip Ruddock, Mayor of Hornsby Shire Council, and Mrs Heather Ruddock;

(x)Councillor Dr Michelle Byrne, Mayor of the Hills Shire Council;

(xi)Councillor Robyn Preston, Deputy Mayor of the Hills Shire Council;

(xii)numerous councillors representing various local councils; and

(xiii)representatives of various Indian-Australian community organisations.

(c)the India Club's Star Award for a person making a positive difference to society went to Bindi Shah and Susan Day by a decision of the club's judging panel comprising Mrs Marisa Clarke, Mrs Abha Gargya, Mrs Mona Grover and Mr Ram Ramamurthy.

(2)That this House:

(a)congratulates the India Club Inc on organising the Annual Diwali in the Hills Celebration 2017, particularly its President Mrs Shubha Kumar and Chairman and Chief Coordinator Dr Aksheya Kumar; and

(b) commends the India Club Inc for its ongoing community work not only within the Indian-Australian community but in the wider community as well.

Motion agreed to.

INDIA CLUB INC WOMEN BREAKING BARRIERS SEMINAR

The Hon. DAVID CLARKE (11:10): I move:

(1) That this House notes that:

(a) on Wednesday 5 July 2017, the India Club Inc in partnership with the Community Migrant Resource Centre, held the inaugural seminar of what is to be a series of seminars on the subject "Women Breaking Barriers", dealing with the issue of women's empowerment and the importance of their role in society; and

(b) the seminar, which was attended by representatives of a diverse range of community and ethnic organisations, was addressed by a number of speakers, including:

(i) Mrs Shubha Kumar, President of the India Club Inc;

(ii) Superintendent Rob Critchlow, NSW Police;

(iii) the Hon. David Clarke, MLC, Parliamentary Secretary for Justice;

(iv) Councillor Dr Michelle Byrne, Mayor of The Hills Shire Council;

(v) Councillor Reena Jethi, The Hills Shire Council;

(vi) Councillor Ryan Tracey, The Hills Shire Council;

(vii) Nalika Padmasena, prominent community lawyer;

(viii) Sachin Sharma, prominent business entrepreneur;

(ix) Abhishek Guru, health consultant;

(x) Uma Menon, Coordinator of the Community Migrant Resource Centre; and

(xi) Mrs Anju Kalra, dementia consultant.

(2) That this House commends the India Club Inc, including its President Mrs Shubha Kumar and Chairman Dr Aksheya Kumar, on the initiative taken to highlight the empowerment of women and the importance of their role in society.

DIWALI FESTIVAL

The Hon. DAVID CLARKE (14:39): I move:

1. That this House notes that:

(a) on Saturday 5 November 2016, the India Club Inc. held its annual Diwali Festival Grand Celebration in The Hills at the Castle Grand Pioneer Hall, Castle Hill, attended by several hundred members and friends of the Indian Australian community,

(b) those who attended as guests included:

(i) Mr Ray Williams, MP, member for Castle Hill, Parliamentary Secretary for Western Sydney representing the Hon. Mike Baird, MP, Premier, and representing the Hon. John Ajaka, MLC, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services and Minister for Multiculturalism;

(ii) the Hon. David Elliott, MP, member for Baulkham Hills, Minister for Corrections, Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Veteran Affairs, and Mrs Nicole Elliott;

(iii) the Hon. David Clarke, MLC, Parliamentary Secretary for Justice and Mrs Marisa Clarke;

(iv) Mr Damien Tudehope, MP, member for Epping and Mrs Dianne Tudehope;

(v) Mr Julian Leeser MP, Federal member Berowra;

(vi) Councillor Yvonne Keane, Mayor, The Hills Shire Council;

(vii) Councillor Robyn Preston, Deputy Mayor, The Hills Shire Council;

(viii) Councillor Michelle Byrne, former Mayor, The Hills Shire Council and her husband Mr Matt Fuentes;

(ix) Councillor Ryan Tracey, The Hills Shire Council;

(x) Reena Jethi, Treasurer, Women's Council of the Liberal Party (New South Wales Division);

(xi) Nalika Padmasena, solicitor for elderly rights and services;

(xii) Uma Mennon and Aurelia Rehman from the Community Migrant Resource Centre;

(xiii) Suhas Mahajan, Senior Investment Advisor, Macquarie Bank;

(xiv) Sanchay Mohan, Head of Operations, Multiconnexions; and

(xv) Satram Bajaji, former President, Australian Hindi Indian Association,

(c) the India Club's Star Award for someone serving the community and making a positive difference to society went to Ms Nalika Padmascena, by a decision of the Club's Judging Panel comprising:

(i) Ms Aparajita Tayal;

(ii) Mrs Marisa Clarke;

(iii) Mrs Abha Gargya; and

(d) the India Club Inc. is a voluntary organisation of Australians of Indian origin which hosts a variety of entertainment activities and community projects and is supportive of a number of charities with the purpose of generating good will and harmony within the New South Wales community.

2. That this House:

(a) congratulates and commends the India Club Inc. for organising the annual Diwali Festival Grand Celebration in The Hills held on 5 November 2016, particularly Dr Aksheya Kumar, its chairman and chief-coordinator, and Mrs Shubha Kumar, its president, who were assisted by:

(i) Abha Gargya, treasurer;

(ii) Puneet Grover;

(iii) Mona Grover;

(iv) Ram Ramamurthy;

(v) Anita Malhotra;

(vi) Aparajita Tayal;

(vii) Jaya Singhal;

(viii) Jyoti Khanna;

(ix) Shyam Malhotra;

(x) Nav Gargya;

(xi) Madhu Misra;

(xii) Satya Khanna; and

(b)commends the ongoing contribution of the India Club Inc. to our State's cultural life and work in support of worthy charitable causes.

Motion agreed to.

MUSIC MEHFIL BOLLYWOOD BLAST

The Hon. DAVID CLARKE (14:36 : 5): I move:

(1)That this House notes that:

(a)on Saturday 20 August 2016, a "Music Mehfil Bollywood Blast" concert and dinner organised by the President, Mrs Shubha Kumar, and the Chairman, Dr Aksheya Kumar, of the India Club Inc. was held at the Beecroft Community Centre, Beecroft, to showcase Indian culture, musical entertainment and cuisine, attended by members and friends of the Indian Australian community;

(b)those who gave their musical talents for the event were:

(i)Dr Reena Mehta, Mr Vinod Rajput;

(ii)Mr Dilip Bhave;

(iii)Mrs Manjari Kulkarni;

(iv)Dr Gamini Gunetilaka; and

(v)Mrs Jaya Singhal.

(c)those who attended as invited guests included:

(i)Mr Damien Tudehope, MP, member for Epping, and Mrs Diane Tudehope;

(ii)the Hon. David Clarke, MLC, Parliamentary Secretary for Justice, and Mrs Marisa Clarke; and

(iii)representatives and leaders of a number of Indian Australian community and professional organisations.

(2)That this House:

(a)congratulates the President Mrs Shubha Kumar and Chairman Dr Aksheya Kumar of the India Club Inc., together with the club's executive committee, and Mr Puneet Grover, for the presentation of the "Music Mehfil Bollywood Blast" concert and dinner held at the Beecroft Community Centre on 20 August 2016 and for their ongoing contribution to the cultural, social and civic life of the State of New South Wales; and

(b)commends the members of the Indian Australian community who gave of their musical talents for the event including:

(i)Dr Reena Mehta, Vinod Rajput;

(ii)Mr Dilip Bhawe;

(iii)Mrs Manjari Kulkarni;

(iv)Dr Gamini Gunetilaka; and

(v)Mrs Jaya Singhal.

Motion agreed to.

MRS SHUBHA KUMAR

The Hon. DAVID CLARKE (10:12): I move:

(1)That this House notes that:

(a)on Tuesday 12 April 2016, at the Parramatta Campus of Western Sydney University, Mrs Shubha Kumar of West Pennant Hills was awarded the Western Sydney University Community Award 2016 by Pro Chancellor Ms Elizabeth Dibbs on behalf of the Chancellor of the University, Professor Peter Shergold, AC, in recognition of outstanding community service and leadership;

(b)the Western Sydney University Community Award recognises outstanding contributions to the community in the Greater Western Sydney Region; and

(c)Mrs Kumar is a leading member of the Indian-Australian community in New South Wales and is President of the India Club Incorporated, which she founded in 2007 and which, amongst its many community activities, provides a program of seminars and workshops on issues such as domestic violence, the rights of the elderly and cyber-safety and social media.

(2)That this House congratulates Mrs Kumar on the occasion of her receiving the Western Sydney University's Community Award 2016 and commends her for past and ongoing contributions to the people of New South Wales.

Motion agreed to.

COMMUNITY FORUM ON SOCIAL MEDIA, CYBER SAFETY AND BULLYING

The Hon. DAVID CLARKE (10:03): I move:

(1) That this House notes that:

(a) on Sunday 6 March 2016, the India Club Incorporated together with The Hills Local Area Command of the NSW Police Force held a well-attended community forum at the Wesley Uniting Church Hall, Castle Hill , on the issue of " Social Media, Cyber Safety and Bullying " ; and

(b) those who addressed the community forum comprised:

(i) Mrs Shubha Kumar, President of the India Club Incorporated;

(ii) Superintendent Rob Critchlow, Commander of The Hills Local Area Command, NSW Police Force;

(iii) Senior Constable Rob Paterson, Youth Liaison Officer, NSW Police Force; and

(iv) the Hon. David Clarke , MLC, Parliamentary Secretary for Justice.

(2) That this House commends the India Club Incorporated and The Hills Local Area Command of the NSW Police Force on their initiative in organising the community forum.

Motion agreed to.

INDIA CLUB INC. DIWALI FESTIVAL FUNCTION

Motion by the Hon. DAVID CLARKE agreed to:

(1) That this House notes that:

(a) on Saturday 31 October 2015, the India Club Inc. held a dinner and cultural evening at the Roselea Community Centre, Carlingford, attended by approximately 250 members and friends of the Indian-Australian community, to celebrate the Festival of Diwali, also known as the Festival of Lights; and

(b) those who attended as guests included:

(i) Dr Geoff Lee, MP, member for Parramatta, and Parliamentary Secretary for Multiculturalism;

(ii) the Hon. David Clarke, MLC, Parliamentary Secretary for Justice, and Mrs Clarke;

- (iii) Mr Damien Tudehope, MP, member for Epping, and Mrs Tudehope;
 - (iv) Mr Craig Kelly, MP, Federal member for Hughes;
 - (v) Councillor Dr Michelle Byrne, Mayor of The Hills Shire Council, and Mr Matthew Fuentes;
 - (vi) representatives of numerous Indian-Australian community organisations.
- (2) That this House:
- (a) congratulates the India Club Inc., its president, Mrs Shubha Kumar; chairman, Dr Aksheya Kumar; and the committee on the holding of a successful 2015 Festival of Diwali celebratory function; and
 - (b) extends its best wishes to the members and friends of the India Club Inc. on the occasion of the 2015 Festival of Diwali.
-

INDIA CLUB INC. DINNER AND VARIETY SHOW

Motion by the Hon. DAVID CLARKE agreed to:

- (1) That this House notes that:
- (a) on Saturday 15 August 2015 the India Club Inc. held a successful dinner and variety show evening at the Wesley Uniting Church Hall at Castle Hill to celebrate:
 - (i) the Hindu Festival of Teej;
 - (ii) the Independence Day of the Republic of India;
 - (iii) the surrender of Japan on 15 August 1945, which brought the ending of World War II; and
 - (b) those who attended as special guests were Mr Damien Tudehope, MP, member for Epping; and representatives of various Indian-Australian and Hindu community organisations.
- (2) That this House:
- (a) congratulates the India Club Inc., its President Mrs Shubha Kumar and chairman Dr Aksheya Kumar on the holding of a successful function to celebrate the Festival of Teej, the Independence Day of the Republic of India and the ending of World War II; and
 - (b) extends its greetings to the Indian-Australian community and the wider Hindu community on the occasion of the Festival of Teej and the Independence of India.
-

Motion by David Clarke

INDIA CLUB AND ELDERLY RIGHTS AND SUPPORT FORUM

Motion by the Hon. DAVID CLARKE agreed to:

- (1) That this House notes that:
- (a) on Sunday 14 June 2015 the India Club Inc. organised an Elderly Rights and Support Forum at the Epping Leisure and Learning Centre

in co-operation with the NSW Police Force and with the support of the Hills Domestic Violence Prevention Committee to coincide with World Elder Abuse Awareness Day on 15 June 2015;

- (b) the forum highlighted and examined the issue of abuse of the elderly and heard presentations from a number of experts, including:
 - (i) Police Superintendent Robert Critchlow, commander of the Hills Local Area Command;
 - (ii) Police Superintendent Frank Gilroy, commander of the Hornsby Local Area Command;
 - (iii) Senior Police Constable Michael McDonnell, vulnerable community support officer of the Hills Local Area Command;
 - (iv) Ms Kerry Marshall, senior consultant, NSW Elderly Abuse Helpline Resource Unit;
 - (v) Ms Nalika Padmasena, solicitor, Aged Care Rights Services, Inc.;
 - (vi) Mrs Omila Bir, occupational therapist;
 - (vii) Mr Jay Raman, Om Care, which manages several day care centres for the elderly; and
 - (viii) Mrs Shubha Kumar, founder of the India Club Inc.
 - (c) attendees at the forum included:
 - (i) the Hon. David Elliott, MP, Minister for Corrections, Emergency Services and Veterans Affairs;
 - (ii) the Hon. Philip Ruddock, MP, Federal member for Berowra;
 - (iii) Mr Damien Tudehope, MP, member for Epping;
 - (iv) the Hon. David Clarke, MLC, Parliamentary Secretary for Justice and Mrs Marisa Clarke;
 - (v) members of Soroptimist International of the Hills District Inc.;
 - (vi) members of the Zonta Club of Sydney Hills Inc.; and
 - (vii) representatives of a number of ethnic community organisations.
- (2) That this House commends the India Club Inc., its founder president Mrs Shubha Kumar, Mr Aksheya Kumar, chairman and committee members for their initiative in organising a community forum on the issue of elderly rights and support their work and active ongoing interest in this important issue.

FESTIVAL OF DIWALI

Motion by the Hon. DAVID CLARKE agreed to:

- (1) That this House notes that:
 - (a) on Friday 25 October 2013 the India Club Inc. held a successful function at Castle Hill to celebrate the Festival of Diwali; and
 - (b) those who attended as guests included:
 - (i) the Consul General of India, Mr Arun Goel, and Mrs Goel;
 - (ii) the Mayor of The Hills Shire Council, Councillor Dr Michelle Byrne, and Mr Matthew Fuentes;
 - (iii) the Hon. Philip Ruddock, MP, Federal member for Berowra;

- (iv) the Hon. David Clarke, MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Justice, and Mrs Clarke;
 - (v) Mr Dominic Perrottet, MP, member for Castle Hill;
 - (vi) Mr David Elliott, MP, member for Baulkham Hills;
 - (vii) Ms Julie Owens, MP, Federal member for Parramatta; and
 - (viii) Dr Geoff Lee, MP, member for Parramatta.
- (2) That this House:
- (a) commends the India Club Inc. for its organising of this function to celebrate the Festival of Diwali; and
 - (b) extends its greetings to the Indian-Australian community on the occasion of the 2013 Festival of Diwali.
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INDIA CLUB INC. FESTIVAL OF DIWALI

Motion by the Hon. DAVID CLARKE agreed to:

1. That this House notes that, on Friday 9 November 2012, members of the Indian-Australian community, together with parliamentary, local government and diplomatic dignitaries and community representatives, gathered in Castle Hill for a most successful function organised by the India Club Inc. in celebration of the Festival of Diwali, the largest festival in the Hindu calendar.
2. That this House commends the India Club Inc., a voluntary non-profit community organisation, together with its President, Mrs Shubha Kumar, its Chairman, Dr Aksheya Kumar, and other committee members for their voluntary work within the Indian-Australian community and the wider New South Wales community.