

Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, hosted by Gujarati Samaj of Tampa Bay, Inc., the **India Festival Tampa Bay** (IFTB USA) is an annual event that celebrates the rich heritage of two of the greatest nations, India and the United States of America, and its mission is to create awareness of the Indian culture and to give the children and families of Indian origin the opportunity to feel a piece of their homeland right here in Tampa Bay; and

WHEREAS, one of the largest Indian cultural events in the United States, the first India Festival Tampa Bay was held at the University of South Florida's Yuengling Center (formerly the Sun Dome), attracting over 3,000 people, and in recent years the event has surpassed 12,000 in attendance from the Tampa Bay region, throughout the United States, and internationally; and

WHEREAS, the American citizens of the Indian community have greatly influenced the development and success of the Tampa Bay area by their generous philanthropy, cultural promotions, and active participation in educational, scientific and health fields, and the India Festival Tampa Bay has provided the opportunity to showcase these contributions and further demonstrate the diversity and richness of our great community's culture for over three decades; and

WHEREAS, the **35th Annual India Festival Tampa Bay** is an all-day *Festival of Arts & Dance* held on Saturday, November 23, 2024, at the Florida State Fairgrounds and the event will provide an opportunity for residents and visitors to explore, learn, and experience Indian culture through art, music, jewelry, clothing, artifacts, authentic Indian food, and it includes a health fair, fashion show, dancing and singing competitions, and vendors highlighting Indian businesses; and

WHEREAS, proceeds from the India Festival Tampa Bay will benefit the maintenance of the Indian heritage, and the youth of the community through education and providing local college and university teams the opportunity to participate in Art and Dance competitions.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jane Castor, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim Saturday, November 23, 2024, as

"INDIA FESTIVAL TAMPA BAY DAY"

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to join me in thanking the Gujarati Samaj of Tampa Bay for organizing the India Festival Tampa Bay that provides the opportunity to celebrate the rich Indian culture.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 8th day of November 2024.



Jane Castor
Mayor