

Proclamation



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

WHEREAS, hosted by Gujarati Samaj of Tampa Bay, 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 chaired by Dr. Kiran Patel in 1988 and held at the University of South Florida's 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 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 the past three decades; and

WHEREAS, the **30th Annual India Festival Tampa Bay** includes the theme "*30 Years of India Festival*" and the all-day Festival of Arts & Dance held on Saturday, November 4, 2017 at the Florida State Fairgrounds will provide an opportunity for local residents to explore, learn and experience Indian culture through art, music, jewelry, clothing, artifacts, authentic Indian food, and includes a health fair, fashion show, dancing and singing competitions, and vendors highlighting Indian businesses; and

WHEREAS, proceeds from the Festival 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; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim Saturday, November 4, 2017 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 4th day of November, 2017.



Bob Buckhorn

Mayor

