



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

RUBY SAHOTA

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT - BRAMPTON NORTH
DÉPUTÉE - BRAMPTON NORD

News Release

For Immediate Release

MP Ruby Sahota Marks Diwali with Canada Post and India Post *Joint stamp issue is a historic first for these two postal services*

21/09/2017 – Toronto, Ontario – Ms. Ruby Sahota, Member of Parliament for Brampton North, on was hand as the federal representative as Canada Post and India Post join together to issue stamps that celebrate Diwali, the Festival of Lights, an important annual observance for many Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists and Jains in Canada and around the world. The joint stamp issue is a historic first between these postal services and reflects our country's diversity in the year of Canada 150.

The stamps were unveiled today at Toronto City Hall by Canadian Member of Parliament for Brampton North, Ruby Sahota, Canada Post President and CEO Deepak Chopra; His Excellency, Mr. Vikas Swarup, the High Commissioner of India to Canada; and His Worship John Tory, Mayor of Toronto.

“In Canada, we are afforded the right to take pride in our faiths, customs, and celebrations; as a Canadian of Indian origin, I am proud to be present as Canada Post and India Post unveil their joint Diwali stamps,” says MP Ruby Sahota. “Canada and India share a very strong relationship and it is only fitting to celebrate that relationship with a historic first like this.”

About a month ahead of Diwali celebrations, which will be held from October 19 to 23, two domestic-rate stamps are available in Canada. A stamp with a red background is the Canadian design, while one with a gold background was designed by India Post. The souvenir sheet has a Canadian international rate stamp and an Indian stamp.

Diwali, a five-day celebration, begins on the 15th day of Kartika in the Hindu calendar. Its main theme is the triumph of light over darkness. The celebration traditionally includes fireworks. In Canada, people often light candles in their homes, while in India, they light small clay lamps filled with oil; illumination is believed to ward off evil and attract happiness and good fortune. Believers also display colourful geometric rangoli patterns to decorate entrances. Families and friends also share sweets and gifts with one another and with those in need.

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About the Stamp:

Designed by Doreen Colonello of Entro Communications and India Post, and printed by Lowe-Martin, the Permanent domestic-rate stamps measure 30 mm by 35 mm. They are printed in five colours plus a varnish, and are available in booklets of 10..

Background: *Stamps for other major religious celebrations*

The Diwali stamps are among several that reflect Canada's religious diversity 150 years after Confederation. They include our annual Christmas stamps with a Christian image and another with a secular holiday theme. In May, our Eid stamp recognized Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha, two important festivals for Canada's more than one million Muslims and those worldwide. A Hanukkah stamp will recognize the Jewish faith's eight-day celebration in December.

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