Excerpts from speeches by Governor's and Congressional delegation during Diwali celebrations in Washington, North Dakota, Montana, Nebraska & Idaho

1. Hon'ble Bob Ferguson, Governor of Washington (4 November 2026, State Capitol Rotunda, Olympia, Washington)

"It's an honor to have all of you here in this really beautiful part of our state capitol. And it's wonderful to be able to celebrate Diwali with all of you. It is, as has been mentioned a number of times already, a celebration, a triumph of light over darkness."

"That triumph of light over darkness happens when we, speaking as a state, when we lean into the rich diversity of our state. I think that diversity, and you spoke to it as well, that is a great strength. And we see that here today with this wonderful celebration and the strong Indian American community that we have."

"We are proud to be home to one of the largest shares of Indian Americans in the country. And during the previous decade, we had the fastest growing Indian American population in the entire country. And we have seen this community contribute so much to our state."

2. Hon'ble Kelly Armstrong, Governor of North Dakota (29 October 2026, Governor's Residence, Bismarck, North Dakota)

"We should celebrate these relationships. We should celebrate these friendships. Diversity is our strength. So all of you being here, all of you taking the time to spend your evening with us, and all of you taking the time to celebrate light over ignorance, what a novel concept. What a fantastic concept. What a great way."

"We're going to eat some great food. We're going to hang out with old friends and new friends, and we're going to continue this relationship because it's a fantastic one, at an international level, at a trade level, at a state-to-state level, at a diplomatic level, but most importantly, a human level. We have people that have done great things from India in North Dakota, and they don't always have to be big to be great."

3. Hon'ble Greg Gianforte, Governor of Montana (26 October 2026, Governor's Mansion, Helena, Montana)

"We love bringing people together from many different cultures and backgrounds um even some Montanans don't always know who the other person is and we find that when we get together with no agenda except to get to know each other break bread together build relationships"

4. Hon'ble Brad Little, Governor of Idaho (16 October 2026, State Capitol Rotunda, Boise, Idaho)

"Diwali reminds us of the importance of choosing kindness, pursuing knowledge, serving others and finding hope even when there's challenges"

"Here in Idaho, we're proud to have a vibrant Indian community that contributes very much to our state through their businesses professions service and civic involvement. Indian Americans help strengthen Idaho's economy and help our communities be better places to live work and raise a family"

"Idaho is stronger because the people who call our state home and the traditions experience and perspectives they bring with them recognizing Diwali is an opportunity to celebrate those contributions, reaffirm our commitment to the freedoms that allow people to preserve and share their cultural and religious traditions"

5. Hon'ble Jim Pillen, Governor of Nebraska (20 October 2026, Governor's Residence, Lincoln, Nebraska)

"The Indian community is an incredibly vital vital piece of who we are as the people of Nebraska it's really important and this is such a special occasion because light triumphs over evil"

"I think when we talk about our faith and family Diwali centers on family unity, reflection and gratitude of our blessings, taking time to have the gratitude. Happy Diwali and it's really important that you keep these traditions alive in your families. Never ever ever let the light go out!"

6. Hon'ble Don Bacon, US Congressman from Nebraska 20 October 2026, Governor's Residence, Lincoln, Nebraska)

"I really appreciate our Indian American community, really think about the strength of our country we're called the melting pot. Over 200 ethnicities make up our country and it is very clear to me that the Indian community in America makes us stronger and better."

"I'll just take one data point. The average income of our Indian American community is $151,000. It's the highest of any ethnic group in America and I think smart people have to ask why is that. It's strong families, you can see it, strong

families make a big difference. A loving mom and dad, a loving husband and wife, who mentors and nurtures their kids, makes a difference"

7. Hon'ble Jim Risch, US Senator from Idaho & Chair of Senate Foreign Relations Committee (16 October 2026, State Capitol Rotunda, Boise, Idaho)

"When you come and celebrate Diwali and talk to everyone and listen to the celebrations you can't help but think you know this is this is the right thing and that hope does overcome despair and light does overcome darkness and it is a reality!"