



S JAYAKUMAR

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER,
COORDINATING MINISTER
FOR NATIONAL SECURITY
AND MINISTER FOR LAW

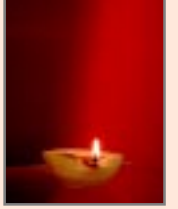
Deepavali celebrates the triumph of good over evil, of light and enlightenment over darkness and ignorance, of love over hate. It is a time to rejoice and strengthen ties with our loved ones: it is also a time to enjoy the company of our friends and neighbours.

It is also a time for reflection. As we celebrate religious and cultural events, we need to understand the true meaning of such festivals and their role

in maintaining important values: values like filial piety, respect, compassion, honour, co-operation, humility, charity and tolerance. All these values are inherent in the celebration of Deepavali.

With the fast pace of life in Singapore as well as demands of the work place, all Singaporeans, including Hindus, need to ensure that we retain these values.

I wish all Hindus a Happy Deepavali.



S RAJENDRAN,
CHAIRMAN,
HINDU ENDOWMENTS BOARD

This year, Muslims in Singapore usher in Hari Raya two days after the Deepavali Celebrations. It will be a week of festivity amidst continued prosperity and racial harmony. It is a time of great joy for Hindus and our Muslim friends as we share our happiness and rich cultural values with our family, friends and neighbours.

In May this year, the Hindu Endowments Board (HEB) commemorated Sri Srinivasa Perumal Temple's Maha Kumbabishegam. In August this year, HEB opened its second Tamil Kindergarten at Yishun and now it is launching its flagship magazine - Singapore Hindu - with a new look. Whilst the Board has focused on the improved administration and management of the temples and facilities under its purview, it faces the challenge of looking into the wider needs of Hindus in Singapore: be it religious, social, educational, or charitable. Its greatest challenge lies in the preservation of Hindu practices and customs which are the cornerstone of both the religion and its temples.

The Board has an important role to play in ensuring that each Hindu pursues the faith in the context and within the realities of our social and physical environment. The hallowed walls of our Hindu temples can be preserved, restored and refurbished but without laying a strong foundation for the people through a scheme of social, educational and charitable programmes, it will be difficult to nurture a dynamic Hindu community. Fostering such a Hindu community will be the direction of the Board for the new millennium. To achieve this we need our people, especially the young and the professionals, to be actively involved in community, grassroots and religious activities.

To all Hindus in Singapore, the HEB wishes you a Happy Deepavali!