


# Aus to celebrate Diwali to placate angry Indians

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 **Melbourne** In an unprecedented move, Australia's Victorian state will this year light up major installations including its parliament, airport and Indian consulate during Diwali, apparently to placate the feelings of Indians angry over a spate of attacks against them.

Under a seven-day long lighting competition being organised by Celebrate India Inc and beginning from October 10, prime buildings in Melbourne will be lit up, event coordinator of the organisation Arun Sharma said.

“For the first time Melbourne departure lounge and Indian Consulate will be decorated apart from the state parliament building, Horsham council, museums and other parts of the city, and cultural programmes like dhol programme and rangoli events will be held there,” he added.

The organisation will also hold a mega Diwali event in Federation Square building , a prime spot of the city, and will be attended by Victorian premier John Brumby, High commissioner Sujatha Singh and other leaders of both sides.

Appreciating efforts of the state government to help in celebrating the festival and making it an annual event, Sharma said “the government is very serious about this event to celebrate it just like they celebrate Christmas.” The step is being viewed as a welcoming initiative by many community leaders here who believe that such cultural programmes would be a step forward to integrate the two sides.

Last week, western suburb of Footscray organised a huge Diwali mela that attracted nearly 10,000 people and this event is expected to woo more than 50,000 visitors.

