

# Press Release

Embassy of India, Rabat

11 December 2025 | Rabat, Morocco

The Embassy of India in Rabat, in cooperation with the Ministry of Youth, Culture and Communication of the Kingdom of Morocco and the Rabat Region Historical Heritage Company (RRPH), hosted a special cultural evening at the historic Chellah Archaeological Site to celebrate the recent inscription of “Deepavali – Festival of Lights” on UNESCO’s Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

This year’s celebration carried even greater significance as UNESCO also inscribed the iconic Moroccan Caftan on the same Representative List. As Chair of the UNESCO Intergovernmental Committee, India strongly supported Morocco’s nomination, marking an important moment of cultural solidarity and deepening friendship between the two nations.

Senior officials from the Moroccan Ministry of Foreign Affairs, including Director Omar Kadiri, attended the event. In his remarks, Director Kadiri emphasized that the simultaneous recognition of Deepavali and the Moroccan Caftan highlights how cultural traditions can build bridges of mutual respect, understanding, and shared global heritage. Ambassador Sanjay Rana described the day as “a landmark moment for India and Morocco,” noting that the inscription of two culturally profound traditions on the same day reflects the spirit of cooperation between the two countries and the global significance of their heritage.

The evening featured vibrant Indian music and dance performances, along with enthusiastic participation by Moroccan artists who performed to popular Indian songs, symbolizing the cultural harmony between the two nations. Friends of India in Morocco, members of the Indian community, Moroccan social media influencers, senior government officials, and invited guests took part in the celebration. The lighting of diyas by Ambassador Rana, Moroccan dignitaries, and attendees embodied Deepavali’s universal message of the triumph of light over darkness.

The dual celebration of Deepavali and the Moroccan Caftan’s UNESCO recognition marks a significant step in strengthening people-to-people ties and enhancing cultural exchange between India and Morocco. The event reaffirmed both countries’ commitment to safeguarding intangible heritage and celebrating cultural diversity on the world stage.

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