

**Sister Jayanti's message for
Opening Ceremony, Remembering Diwali on The Square**

Online

LONDON, 1.11.2020, 3-7.30pm

Global Namaste and Om Shanti to all those who are with us this afternoon.

I am wishing everyone a very peaceful and safe Diwali. Although this is a very different Diwali that we are used to on Trafalgar Square, and also throughout the whole of our lives, but this time the spirit of Diwali is as powerful as ever. As we light that inner lamp that lies within us, with enlightenment and love, and most of all at this moment with compassion, care and gratitude that light will surely spread everywhere....not only in our homes and the city of London, but my hope is that this light will spread globally into human hearts, so that together we can bring about a different world in the future.

Many have said that we won't go back to the same norm, and I hope we won't. My vision is that this Diwali will help us understand what it is we truly need to do in our lives. We have been cleaning our homes to invoke Sri Lakshmi but this year we will clean out our hearts, so they are filled with compassion, not just for our nearest and dearest, but for everyone.

This year we will make sure we light the lamp of care for every human being. Also for all the living creatures of the earth and nature itself. Our hearts are filled with gratitude, a feeling of deep appreciation and thanks for what The Creator has blessed us with and what we can share with each other.

So Diwali will be different but very special. My vision is there is a future world of light that we are moving towards and the collective energy of all of us igniting this lamp inside ourselves will make sure this light will reach out everywhere.

As we walk in the light and we experience this light we are sharing light with everyone we come across. This is why Diwali is truly a universal festival. We have been celebrating it for thousands of years in India, but the moment has come when the whole world will recognise what is Diwali, and how to be able to truly bring light into ourselves and our world.

I wish to give a note of appreciation to the Mayor of London, as it has been wonderful to have this partnership and opportunity to celebrate Diwali in such a huge way for so many years (18 years). Today, of course, we are united not in The Square, but in our hearts and minds and through cyber space. Technology has helped us enormously especially now. Yet I know our hearts are together. With much love and appreciation to each one of the DIL committee and all those hundreds of volunteers who have supported this event for so many years. And to everyone ...

Happy Diwali

Om Shanti.