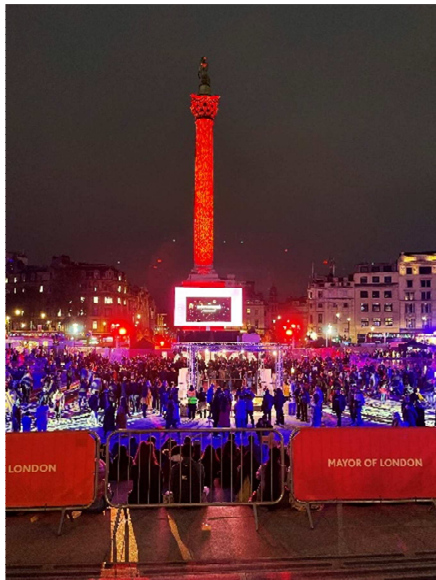


**DIWALI ON TRAFALGAR SQUARE**  
**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2021**  
**LONDON**  
**3.30pm to 10pm**  
**BK SERVICE REPORT**



*'love Diwali in London and missed it very much last year on the Square! It was superb again this year!'* Tweet



**Streamed live on the day on:**

[www.london.gov.uk/Diwali](http://www.london.gov.uk/Diwali)

[www.diwaliinlondon.com](http://www.diwaliinlondon.com)

[www.healingourearth.com](http://www.healingourearth.com)

**Watch the replay of the live stream on:**

[www.diwaliinlondon.com](http://www.diwaliinlondon.com)

Diwali on Trafalgar Square (DOTS) 2021 returned to the Square in a reinvented 'covid times' way for 2021. This was the 20<sup>th</sup> DOTS organised by the **Mayor of London's office** with organising partners, **Diwali in London Team**. **Lyca Radio** and **Colors Gujarati TV** were this year's media partners and the event was sponsored by **Western Union, ICICI Bank and Dabur Ghee**. The BK representation was led by **Sister Jaymini Patel**. It was a magical afternoon and evening with much joy shared amongst so many, and there was an air of gratitude that such a harmonious, relaxed gathering could take place outside, in these times.

DOTS 2020 had to go completely online and was a reflective journey of the 18 years of DOTS and a walk down memory lane, showcasing from past footage some of the brilliant dances and activities that continued to be offered. 2021 again saw another major change. Everyone felt it was great to be back on Trafalgar Square, however the main stage and schedule of live dance was replaced with a huge centrally placed screen. All the dances, freshly created by many different dance and community organisations had been filmed and streamed out in the schedule throughout the afternoon and evening to those in Trafalgar Square and those enjoying from their homes online.

The Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, shared a powerful message at the beginning of the online/onscreen show, reminding everyone that *'lightness will overcome darkness, as humanity continues to face huge challenges'*. There were many spiritual messages shared by leaders from the different Hindu organisations based in London. **Sister Jayanti** and **Sister Shivani** both shared messages of hope and love and Divine protection through these times. There was a lovely video from London youth also.



All the many different 'in person' activities offered at the festival were gone and the emphasis was on the message of 'Diwali' – as the festival of lights. With two arches of brilliant bead lighting and Nelson's Column lit up in the pinks, and the pools of water all in luminous lighting, Trafalgar Square looked enchanting. The 'grey' of London gone! A large lotus flower was placed as a feature at the top of the North Terrace, and below the steps in front of the National Gallery, a stunning, huge, eco-friendly RANGOLI, designed and created by **Sai School of Harrow**, who were holding the Chair of the Diwali in London Committee this year. The Rangoli will then go to Glasgow as part of the COP cultural activities.

The Brahma Kumaris were able to serve again with the Glimpse of the Goddesses, this time on a Bus!. The Mayor Of London's team requested this specific activity, aligned with the cultural festival of Diwali and also offering a spiritual take on it. The team led by **Sister Jasu** and **Sister Manju** at Global Cooperation House and **Sister Sukanti** of Leicester, completely transformed a London Tea Party Bus into a journey to catch a Glimpse of Goddesses experience, as well as what heaven looks like. It attracted so many and it represented the virtue and divinity of this Festival of Lights.



This was possible with the cooperation of **Nitinbhai Palan**, Co-Founder of Diwali in London Committee, and Golden Tours, who offered the bus. There was an Entrance marquee with an image of The Supreme Soul and the 8 Spiritual Powers with BKs explaining to those entering on how to 'get a glimpse'. The message that we can all reclaim Shakti power and become divine, like the remembered goddesses in Hindu bhakti, was strong and appreciated by over 2,600 who passed through the exhibition. There was a constant queue of people from 3.30pm until 9pm. Many were struck that these were 'living' idols and not made of ceramic! Inside the bus the theme of a world in harmony was also explored with a beautiful garden recreated lovingly. On exiting the bus people were then invited to spin the 'Shakti' wheel and given a blessing associated with whichever goddess the dial landed on. Souls were visibly moved by this experience and went away back into the crowd content and with a big smile!







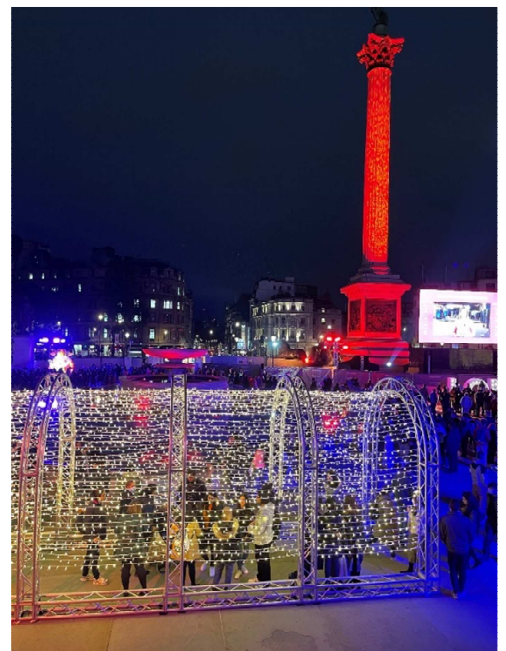
*'The images of the goddesses were incredible – well done!'*

Project leader from Mayor of London's office



On the opposite side of Trafalgar Square various food stalls selling vegetarian food and were inundated with people lining up in the autumn chill as the sun set.

There was a wonderful feeling on the Square with many families and over the course of the 6 hours at least 20,000 came to experience the atmosphere of celebration for this festival of light.



As the evening set in many impromptu 'garbas' formed by young people in the Square adding to the feeling of love and warmth as we approach another winter.





ENDS