

# DIWALIfest & AWARDS 2020

## 6 November 2020 - AGENDA

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### 18.30 ● Diwali Address from Downing Street

*The Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP commences our three-day extravaganza with warm words for the British Indian diaspora and all the Hindus, Sikhs and Jains across the country celebrating Diwali from the safety of their own homes.*

**Boris Johnson**  
UK Prime Minister

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### 18.36 How and Why Do We Celebrate Diwali?

*We delve deeper into the significance of Diwali – reaching back into the festival's origins to get to the heart of why it means so much, to millions of people around the world.*

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### 19.00 Pandava Sena - Bhagavad Gita Shadow Play

*An epic re-enactment of one of the world's great stories - the Bhavagad Gita. Don't miss this visually striking performance from ISKCON Pandava Sena as we travel back to the dawn of creation!*

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### 19.25 ● iGlobal Health & Wellbeing Champion of the Year

*So many areas of life have been hit by the coronavirus lockdown – but thanks to these fitness stars, your health and wellness routines hasn't been one of them. Here we shout out some of the standout champions that have kept us active through lockdown.*

**Shortlist:** **Bimla Devi**      **Rajinder Singh**      **Rajeev Gupta**      **Lavina Mehta**

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### 19.35 Neasden Temple: 25 Years, 25 Diwalis

*Celebrating 25 years of Diwali celebrations at the iconic BAPS Neasden Temple, this segment delves into some amazing archives – bringing you highlights of a quarter century of charity, community and devotion that the temple has fostered since its inauguration by His Holiness Pramukh Swami Maharaj in 1995.*

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### 20.00 Soul to Soul – A Devotional Journey through India

*Join us on a musical journey through India as we explore the rich diversity of its devotional songs, north to south, east to west. Over 20 talented singers and musicians will bring you the very best of Bhajans and Indian folksongs – assembled by the masterful Bhavik Haria.*

<b>Bhavik Haria</b>	<b>Vibhati Bhatia</b>	<b>Madhvi Mulji</b>	<b>Himali Vyas</b>
<b>Siyani Bhavya Raval</b>	<b>Drupti Vaja</b>	<b>Kevin Vara</b>	<b>Janhavi Harrison</b>
<b>Dr Vijay Rajput</b>	<b>Alpesh Sevani</b>	<b>Hiten Parmar</b>	<b>Jai Raja</b>
<b>Krishma Nagar</b>	<b>Robin Christian</b>	<b>Shri Gadhvi</b>	<b>Jyotsna Srikanth</b>

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# DIWALIfest & AWARDS 2020

## 7 November 2020 - AGENDA

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09.30 **Welcome to Day 2 of iGLOBAL DiwaliFest 2020**

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09.35 **In Conversation with Sister Jayanti, European Director of Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University: Part 1**  
*Join us as renowned spiritual leader Sister Jayanti shares her insights on Diwali and spirituality, and how we can use it as a guide in these dark times. Also featuring a short guided meditation.*

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09.50 **Guided Yin Yoga with Sarva Yoga**  
*Join us for an innovative yoga session from Sarva Yoga, incorporating modern techniques into ancient practices designed to be accessible to all. Something for all the family to get involved with for a fit and healthy festive season.*

**Sneha Meghe**  
Yoga Trainer, Sarva Yoga

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10.35 ● **iGlobal Social Impact Champion of the Year**  
*Times like these have exposed, more than ever, the need for social impact champions – often in the grassroots and acting as the front line of support for society's most vulnerable in our communities. We salute and celebrate the organisations that have shone a light where there has been darkness.*

**Shortlist:** **Sewa Day**   **Go Dharmic**   **Indian National Students Association**   **NishkamSWAT**

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10.45 ● **Anything But Politics - with Priti Patel, UK Home Secretary**  
*Keerti Mathur takes Home Secretary Priti Patel away from the day job for a personal interview on all things Diwali. We'll get to know her favourite Diwali mithai and how she relaxes in one of the world's most stressful jobs!*

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11.00 **Diwali Around the UK: Leicester**  
*Leicester is always at the heart of the UK's Diwali celebrations – and this year is no different. We partner with Leicester City Council for this brilliant sequence of community showcases, dance performances, theatre and a history of Diwali in the city. Not to be missed!*

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11.30 ● **Special Children's Q+A with Sir Keir Starmer**  
*Labour Party Leader Sir Keir Starmer faces a very different kind of test – answering a perceptive set of questions from schoolchildren from the British Indian community! Why is he vegetarian? What was his dream career when he was growing up? Tune in for this exclusive interaction with the man hoping to be the UK's next Prime Minister.*

**Sir Keir Starmer**  
Labour Party, Leader

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11:35 **Samjha Vara Bharaynatyam by IndianRaga London**

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11:45 **Diwali Di Raat by Manika Kaur**

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### 12.00 **The Great Mithai Cook-off**

*Three well-known personalities go head to head to try and create the perfect Diwali mithai! It will be a little messy, a little crazy, but all in the spirit of Diwali fun. Will you end up saying "I could do better?!"*

**Reena Ranger**

Chairman and Co-Founder,  
Women Empowered (WE)

**Tony Patti**

Radio Presenter

**Arbinder Singh Dugal**

Progressive Indian Cuisine  
Masterchef Contestant

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### 12.30 **Jai Jais Book**

*We get to know Sunita Mistry Shah, creator of the Jai Jais series, to explore the inspiration behind her growing collection of books, mindfulness and educational resources for children centered around Hindu gods and goddesses. Cultural and spiritually minded education for our kids is always on the minds of anxious parents keen to preserve a strong sense of identity.*

**Sunita Mistry Shah**

Founder, Jai Jais Series

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### 12.50 ● **In Conversation with H.E. Gaitri Kumar, High Commissioner of India to the UK**

*Anila Dhama has a virtual sit down with India's highest representative in the UK, discussing her plans for Diwali, favourite traditions and views on how the community has pulled together in these challenging times.*

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### 13.10 ● **The Future of Education**

*With home schooling becoming a norm during lockdown, and thousands of university students now stuck in halls – the battle for teachers to retain heart and minds just got harder than ever. Specially curated by Indian Young Professional's Network London (IYPN) – this panel asks whether the pandemic has accelerated a tech-led revolution in education? And is it here to stay?*

**Rajay Naik**

CEO,  
Skilled Education

**Andrew Powell**

Founder & CEO,  
Infinity Global

**Joysy John**

EdTech Advisor  
& Innovator

**Abhi Arya**

Co-Founder & Partner,  
Sandbox

**Sonali Shah**

Broadcaster &  
Journalist

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### 13.55 ● **Is there Dharma in Business?**

*How do we balance cherished values with a sometimes cut-throat business environment?! Our esteemed panelists are here to help you navigate these choppy waters. This will be a real masterclass in negotiating our own inner conflicts.*

**Alpesh Patel OBE**

Chairman,  
City Hindus Network

**Jasvir Singh OBE**

Chairman,  
City Sikhs

**Baroness**

**Usha Prashar**  
Chair, FICCI UK

**Dr Atul Shah**

Professor,  
City University

**Sonali Shah**

Broadcaster &  
Journalist

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### 14.40 **Celebrating Bandhi Chorr**

*How is the community preparing for Bandhi Chorr? We take a closer look at what's going on at Havelock Gurdwara, and even take part in a quick exercise with the now legendary 'Skipping Sikh'.*

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### 15.00 ● Live Q+A with Andy Burnham, Greater Manchester Mayor

*The Mayor of Greater Manchester joins DiwaliFest for an exclusive live interview on the strength of Manchester-India ties, the launch of Manchester Museum's new South Asia Gallery – and where to find Manchester's best curry!*

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### 15.15 Manchester Museum: Launch of the South Asia Gallery

*DiwaliFest gets a preview into the many treasures of the Museum's upcoming South Asia Gallery. Each with a unique story to tell about our lives, heritage and culture.*

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### 15.45 ● US Presidential Election - Reactions and Implications for the Diaspora

*Expert panelists from 'across the pond' help you make sense of arguably the most significant US election result in decades. Specially curated by Indiaspora – this session will highlight what the elections mean for our community in the US, Indian American political activism, relations with India, and the world.*

**Shortlist:**

**MR Rangaswami**

Founder & Chairman  
of the Board, Indiaspora

**Shekar Narasimhan**

Chairman & Founder,  
AAPI Victory Fund

**Niraj Antani**

State Representative,  
Ohio House

**Sonal Shah**

Founding Executive Director,  
Beeck Center for Social Impact  
+ Innovation

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### 16.30 ● iGlobal Community Champion of the Year

*We celebrate those who have taken the initiative to go the extra mile for their local communities during this time of need. Whether through distributing food, mobilising faith communities, or simply sharing a little joy in the lives of others, here are some of our shining lights.*

**Shortlist:**

**Nehal and  
Sanjayita Mehta**

**Daksha Varsani  
and Paresh Jethwa**

**Dhillon Manku**

**Chinten and  
Mona Pandya**

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### 16.45 ● Social Impact at a Time of Crisis

*In the wake of the pandemic, charitable organisations have scrambled to ensure that the crisis does not become a catastrophe for society's most vulnerable. Organisations at the forefront of this battle discuss the challenges they face and lessons to learn from the greatest test of our times. They will help us understand how individuals can get involved and make a difference in our communities.*

**Hitan Mehta**

Executive Director,  
British Asian Trust

**Deepak Parekh**

Founder,  
Diwali Foundation

**Bhawani Singh Shekhawat**

CEO-UK/Europe  
Akshaya Patra Foundation

**Reena Ranger**

Chairman and Co-Founder,  
Women Empowered (WE)

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### 17.30 ● Special Address: Sir Ed Davey

*Exclusive Diwali message from the Leader of the Liberal Democrats - Sir Ed Davey on the environment, UK-India ties and the immense contribution of the British Indian community at this difficult time.*

**Sir Ed Davey**

Leader, Liberal Democrats

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### 17.45 ● “Lessons in Leadership” with Bhaishri Rameshbhai Oza - Part 1 (in Hindi)

*Celebrated Author and Director of the Nehru Centre, Amish Tripathi asks world-renowned spiritual leader Bhaishri Rameshbhai Oza for his insights on Leadership. What do our ancient Hindu scriptures and historic experience tell us about it? Are leaders born or created? How can we find the ability to lead inside ourselves?*

**Bhaishri Rameshbhai Oza**

Hindu Spiritual Leader

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### 18.30 ● iGlobal Mental Health Awareness Champion of the Year

*No one should feel alone with whatever issues they may be experiencing under the surface. These individuals have all worked hard to highlight a big issue facing the global community today – mental health. At ‘iGlobal’, we are committed to the campaign for better awareness and understanding of mental health issues, and so here we give a big cheer to some of our community veterans.*

**Shortlist:**

**Dipal Patel**

**Priyanka Chauhan**

Founder,  
Mahananda Dance Initiative

**Rekesh Chauhan**

British Indian pianist  
& Composer

**Dr Reena Kotecha**

Founder,  
Mindful Medics

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### 18.40 **The Ravan Within**

*We spend much of our time fighting off unwelcome external problems, but have we thought about those which may exist within us? Diwali is a time where we can shine a light internally and ask how well we are managing those inner demons! Join Swamis from the BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir in Neasden on this special occasion.*

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### 19.10 ● **In Conversation with Visakha Devi Dasi**

*The new President of the Bhaktivedanta Manor had just two months of engaging with public before lockdown in March. Now she’s here to give you her insights on Krishna consciousness, the Bhagavad Gita and how we can help ourselves to get through this challenging time.*

**Visakha Devi Dasi**

Temple President  
Bhaktivedanta Manor

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### 19.40 **Diwali Deceits with Magic Romil**

*Is seeing really believing? This incredibly talented close-up magician is bound to leave you pinching yourself! Fun and amazement for the entire family.*

**Romil Depala**

Magician

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### 19.50 **Comedy Capers with Parle Patel (In Gujarati)**

*For some hearty laughs with Patel's alter-ego "Kokilaben Patel" on Diwali in lockdown! No Diwali could be complete without a "Kokilaben" special in our living rooms.*

**Parle Patel**  
Comedian

### 20.00 ● **iGlobal Arts and Culture Champion of the Year**

*Giving us a lift through these challenging times – nothing can dampen the creative spark inside these leading lights promoting arts and culture, and a glimmer of hope in the darkness. We celebrate their creativity and compassion with this very special award.*

**Shortlist:** **Dr Kishan Bodalia**      **Bhavik Haria**      **Tattva Press**      **Red Lotus Events**

### 20.10 **iGlobal Bollywood Concert**

*Singer-songwriter Navin Kundra leads a star-studded line up for this musical extravaganza. Featuring a wealth of musical styles and talent in the form of Chirag Rao, Rekha Sawnhey, H Mad, Shin Parwana, Tasha Tah, and Rita Morar. You will be tempted to dance along!*

**Navin Kundra**      **Chirag Rao**      **Rekha Sawnhey**      **Parry Mad**  
**Shin Parwana**      **Rita Morar**      **Anush & Anya Hydros**  
**RiRi Dance Academy**      **Bollywood Dance School**

## 8 November 2020 - AGENDA

### 09.00 **Welcome to Day 3 of iGLOBAL Diwalifest**

### 09.05 **In Conversation with Sister Jayanti, European Director of Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University: Part 2**

*Join us as renowned spiritual leader Sister Jayanti shares her insights on personal accountability and how that can help us address climate change - the world's greatest challenge. Also featuring a short guided meditation.*

### 09.20 **Guided Yoga with Amy Brooks**

*For Wellbeing consultant Amy Brooks 'yoga is like magic, as it gently opens your body and your mind, it generates positive changes in your life'. Join us to have some of that magic rub off on you. No previous experience needed – only a positive mind!*

**Amy Brooks**  
Holistic Therapist

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### 10.00 **Health & Fitness with Lavina Mehta**

*Personal Trainer and Wellness Coach Lavina (and her mother-in-law!) take you for an accessible workout. Take in their tips and cross generational banter whilst you loosen yourself up and get relaxed for the Diwali festivities*

#### **Lavina Mehta MBE**

Founder, Feel Good with Lavina

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### 10.30 **15 Min Mom**

*15min Mom is a prime resource for quick & healthy recipes to fit around your busy lifestyle. Vegan, Vegetarian, low-carb & easy, Kripa, mum of 3, creates recipes that are family friendly and nutritious, getting all those veggies into your diet in a interesting and fun way. The best thing about all this, her meals are made in 15 minutes. Quick and easy, fuss-free meals.*

#### **Kripa Dewani**

Founder, 15 Min Mom

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### 10.45 ● **iGlobal Science & Tech Champion of the Year Award**

*These great innovative minds continue to push the boundaries in their respective fields for the benefit of all of us. Be it biotech, engineering, IT, or medical discovery, British Indians are leading the way and making groundbreaking strides for a better tomorrow for us all. We celebrate the spirit of British Indian innovation with this award.*

#### **Shortlist:**

**Sumit Jamuar**  
Chairman & CEO,  
Global Gene Corp

**Chitra Srinivasan**  
CCFE

**Dr Chandrabali Datta**  
University of Oxford

**Dr Ravi Solanki/  
Raymond Siems**  
NHS HEROES

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### 10.55 **Diwali Around the UK: West Midlands - Diwali in the Square**

*The West Midlands Combined Authority and India's Consulate General in Birmingham have teamed up here to bring you the very best of their annual 'Diwali in the Square' festivities, from the comfort of your own home. Enjoy music, dance and a special address from Mayor Andy Street.*

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### 12.00 ● **"Our Identity" in conversation with Sri Sri Ravi Shankar**

*India Inc. Founder & CEO Manoj Ladwa in a fascinating conversation with the global spiritual leader, affectionately known as "Gurudev", Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, on the thorny subject of identity. What do we really identify with in 2020? Can we just be global citizens or do we need to define ourselves within a clan, a nation or an ideology?*

#### **Sri Sri Ravi Shankar**

Art of Living

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12.45

### Healthy Bitesize

*How we nourish ourselves has never been more important! But don't worry, healthy food doesn't mean boring food. So join experts Sonali Dattani and Shaf Hasnani as they demystify the science of good nutrition!*

**Sonali Dattani**

Co-Founder BodyPlot Ltd.

**Shafraz Hasnani**

Co-Founder BodyPlot Ltd.

13.15

### ● iGlobal Legal Eagle Award of the Year

*These legal minds are some of the finest lawyers that the Global Indian community have to offer. From using their legal skills to take on social issues, to conquering the world of commercial law, these individuals lead the way in their field. Let's celebrate the contributions they've made to their profession.*

**Shortlist:**

**Mona Arshi**

**Jayesh Jotangia**

**Pranav Bhanot**

**Shashank Krishna**

13.30

### ● In It Together - doing our part to help the environment

*Global governance and corporate giants are being asked to revolutionise our energy production and environmental standards to save the planet. But while we wait... we've convened an expert panel to show what you can do to help make a difference!*

**Hersh Thaker**

Product Manager,  
Shell

**Raghav Chandegra**

Co-Founder,  
The Good Plate Company

**Toni Patti**

Radio Presenter

**Malini Mehra**

CEO,  
GLOBE Legislators

14.15

### ● Boys Do Cry: Opening Dialogues in Male Mental Health

*Some men may have a knack of holding it in and wanting to play the tough guy when it comes to mental health. Our panel discusses the battle to help those who may be struggling to reach out, and asks how we can create a more empathetic society in which that's easier.*

**Rekesh Chauhan**

British Indian Pianist  
& Composer

**Dilan Patel**

Founder & Mental Health  
Specialist, DNA Fitness

**Tina Mistry**

Psychologist,  
HCPC

**Anila Dhani**

Presenter & Journalist,  
Telegraph & BBC World Service

15.00

### ● Special Award: iGlobal Significant Contribution to the Community Award

*Here we acknowledge and celebrate the incredible and significant contribution made by Professor N. Prinja to the Hindu community over the years.*



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### 15.15 **Arunima Kumar - Kuchipudi Masterclass**

*Join Arunima Kumar for a lesson in Kuchipudi, an ancient Indian classical dance form, that will have you moving like a master in no time!*

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### 15.30 ● **'Women's Empowerment and Covid-19 – Help or Hindrance?'**

*Although Covid-19 has obviously upended so much of our lives, this session delves into how it has affected the issue of women's empowerment. We ask whether more time at home has helped women to balance professional work with domestic and parenting duties? Or simply added extra burdens? And how men are, or should be responding.*

#### **Munni Trivedi**

Co-Founder,  
Magenta

#### **Oliver Ballhatchet MBE**

Deputy High Commissioner,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

#### **Rima Sengupta**

Senior Associate  
Axiom Stone

#### **Sonali Shah**

Broadcaster &  
Journalist

#### **Priya Guha**

Venture Partner  
Merian Ventures

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### 16.15 ● **“Lessons in Leadership” with Bhaishri Rameshbhai Oza - Part 2 (in Hindi)**

*Celebrated Author and director of the Nehru Centre, Amish Tripathi asks world-renowned spiritual leader Bhaishri Rameshbhai Oza for his insights on leadership. What do our ancient Hindu scriptures and historic experience tell us about it? Are leaders born or created? How can we find the ability to lead inside ourselves?*

#### **Bhaishri Rameshbhai Oza**

Hindu Spiritual Leader

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### 17.00 ● **Special Award: iGlobal Lifetime Achievement Award**

*Celebrating the life and legacy of His Grace Sruti Dharma Das, a great spiritual leader and a friend to many.*

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