Indian Association Manchester

PRESENTS



17th Manchester Dussehra Diwali Mela

Exchange Square & St Anns Square

Join us for a vibrant culture experience

10 – 11 October 2026 | 11am – 7pm Diwali market

10 October: Cultural Acts **2.30 – 7pm** | **7pm** Festival of Lights Parade

MUSIC, DANCE, ILLUMINATED LANTERN PARADE, ARTS AND CRAFTS, FOOD AND CRAFT STALLS







Indian Association Manchester

MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL

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happy diwali happy diwali happy diwali happy diwali



Dear Friends,

As we come together for the Dashera Diwali Mela on 10th October organised by Indian Association of Manchester, I would like to extend my warmest and heartfelt wishes to everyone across our Hindu, Jain and Sikh communities.

Happy Diwali in advance !

Diwali is a beautiful reminder of the importance of light over darkness, hope over uncertainty, and togetherness over division. It is a time when we come together with our families, friends and wider community, celebrate our traditions, and look forward to a brighter year ahead.

We are incredibly fortunate to live in Greater Manchester, a place where communities from different backgrounds come together. The contribution of our Indian community to the cultural, social and economic life of Greater Manchester is something to be truly proud of.

There is also a great sense of excitement about the opportunities ahead for Greater Manchester. The work being done by our Prime Minister and our national and local leadership is helping to put Manchester firmly on the world stage. With Manchester preparing to welcome the G20 Summit in 2027, there is the wonderful prospect of welcoming the Indian Prime Minister to our city. That would be a particularly proud and memorable moment for our community, and a reflection of the strong and growing relationship between India, the UK and Greater Manchester.

The Dashera Diwali Mela is a wonderful example of that spirit of community and cohesion. It gives us an opportunity not only to celebrate our heritage and traditions, but also to share them with the wider Greater Manchester family.

As an Elected representative, I am proud to stand alongside you and support such a grand celebration of this special occasion.

Wishing every member of our Hindu, Jain and Sikh communities a very happy, peaceful and prosperous Diwali. May the light of Diwali continue to shine brightly in all our lives and bring greater hope, harmony and happiness to our wonderful community.

With warmest wishes,

Councillor Vimal Choksi MBE
Assistant Executive Member for
Environmental Services and Neighbourhood
Labour Cllr for Ashton Waterloo Ward



It is a great pleasure to extend my warmest greetings to everyone celebrating Dussehra Mela and Diwali.

This is a time of reflection and renewal, celebrating the triumph of good over evil and reminding us of the importance of truth, courage, compassion and righteousness in our lives.

Festivals such as Dussehra and Diwali bring our communities together, providing an opportunity to celebrate rich cultural heritage while sharing our traditions with future generations.

DDM Mela is also a wonderful opportunity to come together, enjoy music, dance and entertainment, and share the spirit of Diwali with the wider community.

As a local Councillor I am proud to support events that celebrate our diversity and bring people together. I hope everyone enjoys a memorable day filled with happiness, togetherness and the spirit of Diwali. My thanks goes to President Namratta Bedi Indian Association Manchester and the entire DDM team for their dedication in putting this event together. Wishing you all a very Happy Diwali and a joyful Dussehra Mela.

Councillor Sangita Patel
Assistant Executive Member
First Deputy/Finance and Resources
Tameside Council



Dear Indian Association Manchester,

It is wonderful to celebrate this festival of light together. Wishing everyone celebrating a very happy Diwali.

Cllr Sarah Wakefield
Green Party member for Deansgate Ward
Manchester City Council.



Dear Friends,

As we celebrate Diwali, I send my warmest wishes to you and your loved ones. May every diya bring light to your homes, joy to your hearts, and peace and prosperity to your lives. This festival reminds us that hope shines brightest when we stand together with kindness, compassion and understanding.

Thank you for the dedication, friendship and community spirit you bring to IAM events throughout the year. Together, we will continue building stronger connections, supporting one another and creating opportunities for everyone to thrive. May this Diwali bring renewed energy, cherished moments and a bright year ahead for you and your families. Wishing you a safe, joyful and truly memorable celebration.

Bringing communities together.

With gratitude and best wishes,
Namratta Bedi
President, IAM



Warmest greetings to everyone celebrating Diwali, the Festival of Lights. Diwali celebrates light over darkness, knowledge over ignorance and hope over despair. It is also a time to reconnect with our heritage, families and communities.

As a Hindu councillor, I am proud to see our Indian heritage celebrated across Greater Manchester and commend the Indian Association of Manchester for bringing people together and promoting culture, tradition and community spirit every year for people of Greater Manchester.

May Diwali bring peace, happiness and hope to all.

Wishing everyone a very Happy Diwali and a prosperous New Year.

Cllr Dr Prakash Nathani
Trafford Conservative Councillor

The Programme

October 10th on the Day

Stalls
Arts & Craft
Cultural Program

October 11th on the Day

Stalls
Arts & Craft

October 10th on the Day

Time	St. Anns Square Stage	Exchange Square Stage
14:00	Procession from St. Anns Square to Exchange Square	
14:30		Event Inauguration
14:30 – 15:30	Bollywood Dance Workshop at the stage	
15:00		Cultural Acts on the Stage
15:30 – 16:30	Classical Dance Workshop at the stage	Cultural Acts on the Stage
16:30	**BREAK**	**BREAK**
17:00 – 18:45	Cultural Acts on the Stage	
17:00 – 18:00		Bhangra Dance Workshop at the stage
19:00	Parade from St. Anns Square to Exchange Square	**Festival of Lights Parade**
19:40		Final Dance & Effigy burn

The Programme

Other Activities

Time	Activity
14:00 - 17:00	Art & Craft Stalls
15:00 - 15:30	Drums and Hanuman at Cathedral Street
15:30 - 16:00	Stilts Walkers
16:00 - 16:30	Deer Puppet walking
16:30 - 17:00	Dhol and Hanuman across the whole site
17:00 - 17:30	Deer Puppet walking
17:30 - 18:00	Stilts Walkers
18:00	Effigy to Exchange
19:30	Effigy Burn @ Exchange Square

The Programme

Cultural Act Details

No.	Time	Mentor	Stage	Act
1	14:30	Thelaxshana Bala	Exchange Square	Mayilattam
2	15:03	Mrudula	Exchange Square	Vaishnavi Bharatanatyam Dance
3	15:11	Adwitee Ray	Exchange Square	Ankhi's Ghungroo will present dances from 4 parts of India.
4	15:25	Manpreet Kaur	Exchange Square	Bhangra & Fusion Dance academy Warrington UK performing Bhangra Dance.
5	15:30	Sharmista	Exchange Square	Bollywood Culture Sharmista Professional Troupe
6	15:40	Prachi Sashankar	Exchange Square	Nritya with Richa UK Dance School. Performing Kathak dance
7	15:50	Rajesh Gupta	Exchange Square	Rajesh Gupta - Manchester-based Bollywood singer
8	16:05	Shaifali Rai	Exchange Square	Gondhal traditional folk dance
9	16:10	Lovey Kang	Exchange Square	Bhangra by Gurekam Singh Kang
10	16:15	Nikita Chandini / Zaid	Exchange Square	Performing the power of women in harmony with the divine.
11	16:22	Syed	Exchange Square	Fiera Dance is a Manchester-based dance school
12	17:03	Diwakar	St Ann's Square	Hanvika Diwakar & Samiksha Diwakar Bharatnatyam Dance performace
13	17:12	Tanushri	St Ann's Square	Bollywood folk
14	17:20	Tanvika	St Ann's Square	Telengana Folk Dance
15	17:30	Sathish Nair	St Ann's Square	Ritvik Nair singing
16	17:38	Krishna	St Ann's Square	Traditional Gujarati Folk Dance
17	17:45	Sabita	St Ann's Square	Navarasa Dance Academy Mix of Bollywood and Tollywood
18	17:53	Anushree	St Ann's Square	special Diwali duo performance.
19	18:00	Padmavathi	St Ann's Square	Mrs. Padmavathi Pulamarasetti presenting a Kuchipudi performance based on Navdurga
20	18:13	Aviva	St Ann's Square	Indian Dance Society Performance
21	18:20	Anu Patil	St Ann's Square	NrithyaKala UK, presenting Lavani
22	18:28	Nrithya	St Ann's Square	Bollywood dance performance on Diwali
23	18:38	Aaron Singh	St Ann's Square	Manchester Bhangra Society boys.
24	19:30	Poorni	Exchange Square	Grand Final Diwali dance

Vendors





















Thank You...

Artist





















Thank You...

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Thank You...

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Thank You...

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HAPPY

Diwali

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Wishing all our friends and family
Nutan Varshabhivandan.

Pravin, Vipasha, Kaushik, Ayush and Ariya Joshi

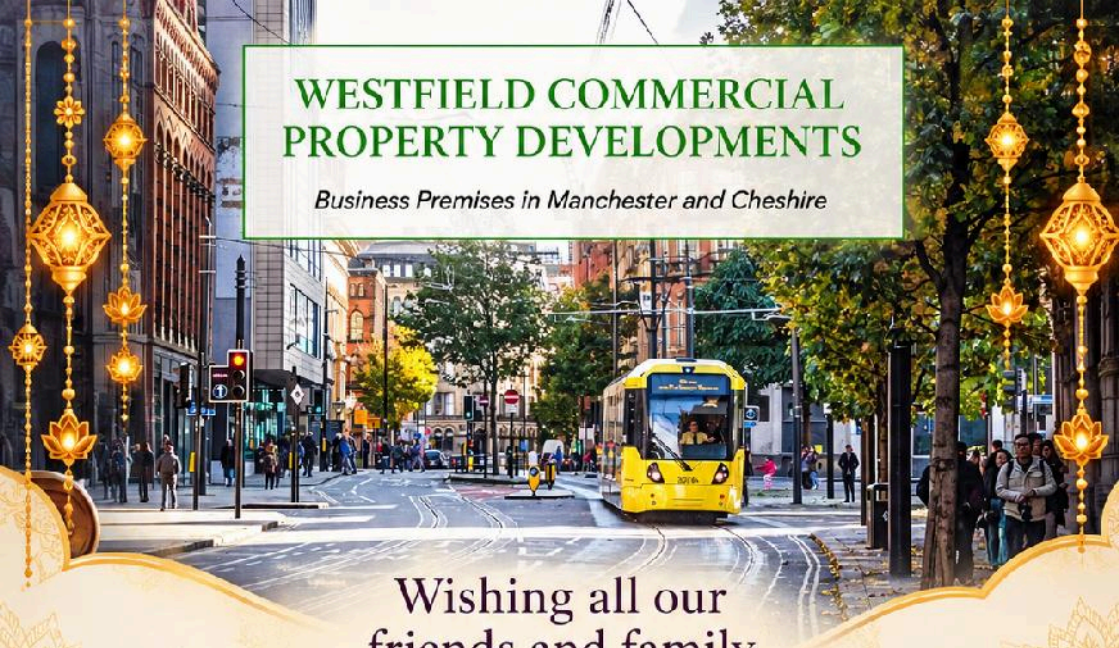
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I am wish all celebrating

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Diwali

Happy Bandhi Choor Diwas



CURRENT EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

Mr Gopa Kumar

Mr Jagtar Ajimal

Mr Jay Acharya

Dr K Gandhi

Mrs Lakshmi Rajagopala

Mr Manik Ghoshal

Ms Namratta Bedi

Mrs Nutan Mahindrakar

Mr T Saini



Indian Association
MANCHESTER

Happy Diwali

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