

**Victorian Festival of Diwali**  
**A message from the City of Melbourne**



Every year, thousands of Melburnians join together to celebrate Diwali – the ‘festival of lights’.

While we are unable to all gather together to celebrate this year, we can still be transported to magical India to explore a virtual program of the intricacies of Indian culture – the colour, passion, spirituality, and of course, the food.

The City of Melbourne is proud to support the 15<sup>th</sup> Victorian Festival of Diwali, one of Australia’s largest celebrations of Indian culture.

Melbourne’s love for Diwali has grown dramatically in recent years as our own Indian community has increased in size. In fact, Victoria is home to the largest Indian diaspora in Australia – almost 210,000 Victorians have Indian heritage.

Our appreciation of India and its sub-continental neighbours has brought our countries, and indeed our major cities, closer together on a number of levels.

We’re proud of our city’s welcoming, multicultural character. Melbourne is enriched by the diverse traditions of many different communities that call our city home.

My special thanks must go to Arun Sharma and the entire Celebrate India team for their tireless efforts in putting together this event under extraordinary circumstances.

And to all the members of our Indian community have a wonderful Diwali.

**Sally Capp**  
**Lord Mayor**