

धर्मेन्द्र प्रधान  
ଧର୍ମେନ୍ଦ୍ର ପ୍ରଧାନ  
Dharmendra Pradhan



मंत्री  
पेट्रोलियम एवं प्राकृतिक गैस ;  
इस्पात मंत्रालय  
भारत सरकार, नई दिल्ली  
**Minister**  
Petroleum & Natural Gas ;  
Steel  
Government of India  
New Delhi

## MESSAGE

Dear friends,

We have entered a festival season in the country.

This is the time when faiths and traditions come together, relationships and vows are renewed and social and personal memories are created—exemplifying the healthy, synergistic culture that our country represents.

Friends, however, as we all know, this year is different.

The Covid-19 pandemic has changed the way we live, work, think and what we imagine our future to be. This year, too, we shall create memories and celebrate our traditions albeit in new ways.

I must add here that our citizens have shown tremendous strength, discipline and resilience over these trying times.

While we are getting our lives back to assume a semblance of normalcy, we are aware of the dangers of the Covid-19 pandemic that still looms large over us. Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has rightly called for a “**Jan Andolan**” to raise awareness on Covid-19-appropriate behaviour to arrest the spread of infection as effectively as possible.

We must do our part in keeping our families and the society safe from the threat of this pandemic.

Friends, we worship 'Shakti' in Dussehra, pray for 'samridhi' (prosper) on Deepavali and pay obeisance to “surya” bhagwan on Chhath Puja. I am sure all of this will give us strength and wisdom to face the challenges that the Covid-19 pandemic has writ on humanity, at large.

This year, along with wishing you and your family the very best for the festival season, I have an appeal to make.

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This appeal is about exercising "sanyam" (discipline) when we celebrate 'Shakti', 'Samridhi' and 'Surya.' In the festival fervour, we must not forget to avoid large gatherings, maintain social distancing, wear masks and ensure hand hygiene. We must particularly take care of our elders and our children. Our "sanyam" will go a long way in ensuring the well-being of our families and our society. True devotion lies in saving another life and having concern for all living beings.

The spirit of humanity is hope and courage. I am sure with the continued co-operation of our citizens, we will be able to tide through these difficult times.

Once again, I wish you and your families a very happy festive season.

कोरोना से बचें

दो गज दूरी और मास्क है जरूरी  
जब तक दवाई नहीं, तब तक ढिलाई नहीं

**Be safe, be healthy.**



(Dharmendra Pradhan)

October, 2020  
New Delhi.