TAMARIND GLOBAL

TOURS | EVENTS | MICE | WEDDINGS | ONLINE

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TAMARIND EVENTS & NEWS

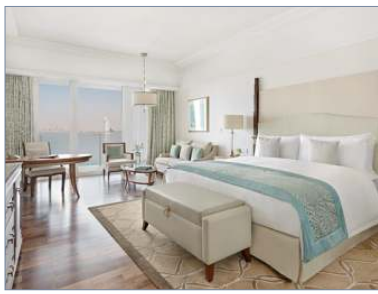
WEDDING AT ANANTARA RIVERSIDE, BANGKOK

Tamarind Weddings were in Bangkok in January to execute a destination wedding at the Anatara Riverside. 500 guests from Dubai and India enjoyed three days of festivities and a wedding to remember!

ENGAGEMENT PARTY AT JW MARRIOTT SAHAR, MUMBAI

Tamarind weddings organised a rocking engagement party for 2000 guests at the JW Marriott Sahar.

FEATURED EVENT DESTINATION - WALDORF ASTORIA DUBAI PALM JUMEIRAH



A haven within the vibrant city of Dubai, the Waldorf Astoria Dubai Palm Jumeirah boasts a private soft-sanded beach, six distinct restaurants and lounges and elegant sea-facing guest rooms and suites. Situated on the iconic Palm Jumeirah island, this Waldorf Astoria resort promises all the amenities for a relaxing getaway, including:

- 200 meters of private beach
- Two temperature-controlled pools and kids' pool
- Guest rooms and suites with sea and Palm Jumeirah views
- Waldorf Astoria Spa with nearly 50 luxurious treatments

Waldorf Astoria Dubai Palm Jumeirah offers a supervised Kids Club and numerous leisure activities for the whole family to enjoy. From snorkeling and paddle-boarding to wind-sailing and deep-sea fishing, your assigned Personal Concierge will arrange excursions to suit your preferences for an unforgettable experience. From luxurious sea view rooms to palatial suites, accommodations are designed in a subtle beach palette of ivory, sand and soft turquoise. Contemporary European style furnishings and bespoke lighting reflect the resort's understated elegance.

Dubai's premier dining destination offers the finest cuisine with unparalleled service, from the unique, contemporary Italian dining experience at Social by Michelin-starred chef Heinz Beck and the Southeast Asian culinary journey at LAO to international fare at Mezzerie. Enjoy al fresco Mediterranean dining and sunset cocktails at Palm Avenue. Experience a classic Waldorf Astoria afternoon tea at the iconic Peacock Alley followed by vibrant entertainment and classic aperitifs at the Venetian-inspired Serafina Bar.

DESTINATION NEWS

Madhya Pradesh government develops Hanuwantiya Island to promote water tourism

The Madhya Pradesh government has developed Hanuwantiya Island, located in the reservoir of Indira Sagar Dam on river Narmada, as a tourism destination to promote water tourism in the state. "State Tourism Development Corporation has developed the island as an attractive tourist destination. It has 10 cottages for tourists. One cruise and two motorboats have also been arranged," an official of the public relations department said. The tourism corporation has constructed a boat club and restaurant at Hanuwantiya with an investment of Rs 8 crore. Plantation has been done to ensure greenery at the island besides water sports complex is also being set up, he said.

Amitabh Bachchan - The new brand ambassador of Incredible India!

Bollywood veteran Amitabh Bachchan is the new spokesperson of the government's famous Incredible India campaign to market the country to tourists abroad. Mr Bachchan, 73, is to receive a letter on 8th January, confirming him of his selection for a reported three-year arrangement.

South African Tourism flags off its annual roadshow

South African Tourism kick-started the 2016 edition of their biggest travel trade engagement initiative – 13th Annual Roadshow. The roadshow will be held in four cities. This interactive program is planned to increase destination awareness among travel planners in India. The roadshow sees an annual participation by over 50 exhibitors with first timers Southern Africa 360 Luxury Holidays, Go Garden Route & Klein Karoo, Earth Explorer Tours & Travel, Ascot Golf Tours, Amrho Tourism PTY Ltd, African Eagle.

Strengthening ICPB, enhancing MICE

India Convention Promotion Bureau (ICPB) is widely promoting and establishing India as a preferred MICE destination. It draws its membership from the hospitality industry, private and government organisations that are directly and indirectly involved in MICE tourism. MICE is especially valued by the national government for its high growth potential, highly beneficial innovations, large opportunities for employment, large industry associations and the efficient utilization of assets - said Amaresh Tiwari, Hony. Secretary, ICPB. The MICE Market is a fast growing one and has exhibited huge potential worldwide. It is recognized that international and regional conferences and exhibitions contribute greatly towards building up of mutual goodwill and understanding, encourage interaction between nations, and bring tremendous amounts of knowledge and frontier technologies particularly for the developing countries.

Kashmir tops domestic destinations list; luxury travel rising among Indians

Luxury travel is on the rise among Indians, one of the leading online tour-operator said. According to their winter survey, the propensity of Indians to spend on travel has increased and more than 30 percent respondents were ready to spend above INR 50,000. We have seen a number of takers opting for not only domestic but also international destinations for their winter vacations. Indians are holidaying more frequently and that's a trend that has been on an increase over the past few years. Nearly 30 percent respondents were willing to go on an international holiday, for which South East Asian nations emerged as the favorite. Kashmir topped the list among domestic destinations, followed by Goa, Kerala and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Dawn boat ride on the Ganges at Varanasi

From 30 Jan, 2016, a boat (Bajara) ride "Celestial Experience" has started in Varanasi to manifest the mystery of unseen Banaras, daily at 6.00am (winter). The ride will take visitors from Assi Ghat to Manikarnika Ghat. Varanasi is known as cultural capital of India has the distinction of coming up with great traditions and practices to promote universal peace and brotherhood. 'Subah-e-Banaras', a program which portrays the beauty and elegance of the dawn on the banks of the holy river Ganga, was started on 24 Nov, 2014. The program commences every day before sunrise and is a mystic blend of early morning Vedic chanting, aarti, music, and yoga. During the early hours of the morning, creative energy is deemed at its most potent, and this programme, and is an opportunity to purify the mind and soul.

HOTEL NEWS

A new wellness resort is scheduled to open its doors in the region of Mulshi, near Pune, in March 2016.

Located three hours' drive from Mumbai, the Atmantan Wellness Resort will feature a total of 106 rooms once it fully opens, offering guests a selection of all-inclusive packages. The first phase one of the resort will feature 73 rooms and villas. The vision of former Ironman triathlete, Nikhil Kapur, and his wife, Sharmilee Kapur, Atmantan promises a holistic approach to wellness, comprising “physical, emotional, spiritual and social” elements.

Starwood surpasses 50th hotel in South Asia, signs 16 more

The company recently surpassed its 50th hotel in the region, with 54 hotels operating and another 34 hotels under development. Dilip Puri, managing director India & regional vice president South Asia for Starwood Hotels & Resorts, said: “Our growth continues to be fuelled by strong domestic demand for branded accommodations in Tier 1 & Tier 2 markets. “India is already Starwood's fourth largest market in terms of number of hotels and will soon be its third after the U.S. and China. The momentum of 2015 will continue in 2016 with another eight to 10 hotel openings in the region.”

AccorHotels opens second ibis in Chennai

Located on Mount Road in the centre of the city, ibis Chennai City Centre offers 155 rooms, a restaurant, a lounge and bar area, two meeting rooms and free Wi-Fi. “The opening of the ibis Chennai City Centre is a strategic milestone for the ibis brand in India,” said Jean-Michel Cassé, senior vice president of operations for AccorHotels India. “The brand combines the ultimate comfort of modern and well-equipped rooms with the highest level of service for business and leisure travelers. The opening of ibis Chennai City strengthens our brand presence in Chennai and adds to the growing ibis network of 12 hotels in the region.”

'Make in India' event this month means surge in business for Mumbai hotels

As per a report, premium hotels in Mumbai are expecting full booking during the 'Make in India' event being hosted in the Bandra- Kurla Complex later this month. Delegates from over 1,000 companies across 60 countries are expected to check-in at top hotel chains, including the Taj, Oberoi,

ITC, The Leela and Marriott, during the event. “A campaign as significant as this is a great boost, not just for the hospitality sector, but also for the overall business environment in the city,” said a spokesperson for the Taj Group. The 'Make in India' event, being organised by the department of industrial policy and promotion (DIPP) and the ministry of commerce and industry between February 13 and 18, is expected to generate a requirement for about 10,000 rooms for the sector.

The Leela Palaces, Hotels & Resorts honoured in Tripadvisor 2016 Travellers' Choice Awards

The Leela Palaces, Hotels and Resorts is delighted to announce its top rankings in TripAdvisor 2016 Travellers' Choice awards for Hotels. The Leela Palace New Delhi marks the beginning of the year with 3 prestigious awards and is named amongst 'Top 25 Hotels in India', 'Top 25 Luxury Hotels in India' and 'Top 25 Hotels for Service in India'. The Leela Palace Udaipur is named amongst the 'Top 25 Luxury Hotels in India'

AIRLINE NEWS

SpiceJet introduces new flights to Dubai from Jaipur and Hyderabad

SpiceJet has announced the launch of two new flights from Jaipur and Hyderabad. With the introduction of these two new flights, SpiceJet now connects 10 Indian cities with Dubai every day. The airline is offering an introductory one way offer of INR 6499 (all-inclusive) between Jaipur and Dubai. The Hyderabad-Dubai fares start at INR 7,999 (all-inclusive) while the Dubai-Hyderabad fares are available at INR 7,199 (all-inclusive) on a first-come-first-served basis. Bookings are now open. Flights commence on February 16, 2016. SpiceJet will also be the only airline to fly five times per week on this route.

GoAir announces new flights to Leh, Port Blair

GoAir is strengthening its domestic network with direct flights between Mumbai-Leh and Bengaluru-Port Blair from March 27. The routes are unserved at present and GoAir is the first airline to launch flights on these sectors. GoAir has also announced daily direct connectivity between Bengaluru, Patna and Ranchi. The airline is adding frequencies, has improved timings on other routes and has improved fleet utilisation to operate extra schedules with existing 19 aircraft fleet. Wolfgang Prock-Schauer, CEO, GoAir said, “The new summer schedule follows the principle of connecting the triangle of Mumbai-Delhi-Bengaluru with better timings and connectivity from these main hubs to tier-II and tier-III cities

Emirates has announced plans to launch an additional daily service between Dubai and Colombo

Effective 1 August 2016, the airline will operate five daily flights to the Sri Lankan capital, every day except Wednesdays when it will operate four flights. The means the airline will offer a total of 34 weekly services on the route. “Colombo is a very popular destination for both business and leisure travellers,” said Ahmed Khoory, Emirates' senior vice president of commercial operations for West Asia & Indian Ocean.

Air India launches Mumbai-Gwalior, Mumbai-Surat flight

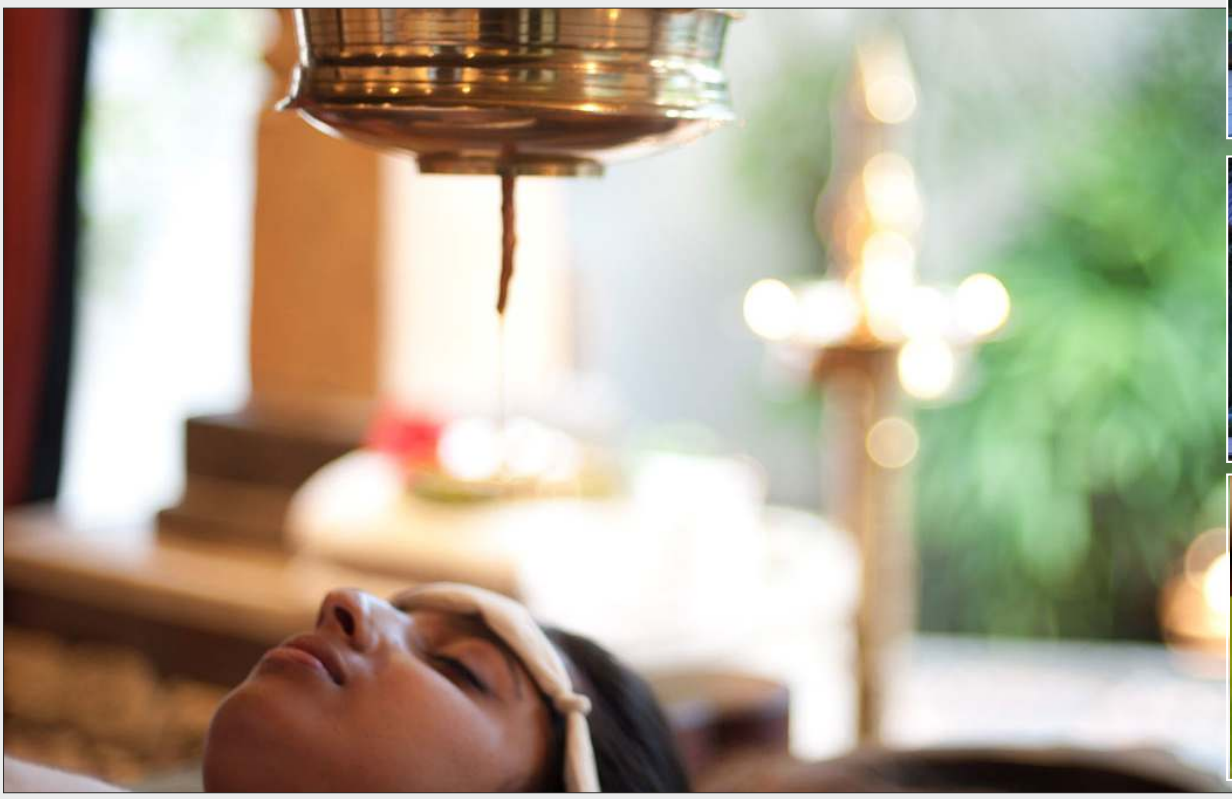
Government-owned Air India resumed its flight services to Gwalior in Madhya Pradesh besides launching air services to Surat from Mumbai. Air India, in a statement said that both flights, Mumbai-Surat-Mumbai and Mumbai-Gwalior-Mumbai will operate three times a week on (Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays) with an ATR 72-600 aircraft.

Air India Express boosts Kerala-Middle East flights

The low-cost carrier will add a second daily service on the route between Kozhikode and Dubai, and it is also planning to introduce new daily flights linking the coastal city with Bahrain and Doha. A brand new four-times-a-week service between Kozhikode and Ras Al Khaimah will also be launched, marking a brand new destination for the airline. And extra capacity will also be added to its services linking Kochi with Dammam, the Saudi Arabian port city, and Thiruvananthapuram with Dubai. In total, the number of flights Air India Express provides between Kerala and the Middle East will increase from 96 to 119 per week from 28 March 2016.

GETAWAY RESORT OF THE MONTH

NIRAAMAYA SURYA SAMUDRA, KOVALAM



Surrounded by lush greenery, by the Arabian Sea, Surya Samudra's 31 heritage cottages are traditional Keralite heritage homes. Which effortlessly blend weathered wood with contemporary luxury. Offering a perfect balance between old world charm and modern day comfort.

Indulge in a long shower in our open air bathrooms. Bask, in the sunlight by the pool. Breathe in the heady scent of jasmine. Or just sit by on the verandah and watch the waves gently kiss the shore.

The Rock Garden Room offers a mix of traditional accommodation with modern amenities. The rooms are set amongst coconut groves and feature open-to-sky showers. The Heritage Classic Rooms are Kerala-style elegant accommodations that open onto lush green gardens. The rooms have traditional Kerala architecture which reflects a history of about 100 years. They feature earthy interiors and serene natural surroundings. The Heritage Premium Rooms are luxurious, spacious, Kerala-style accommodations designed with ornate doors, terracotta roofs, and carved pillars. They feature private sit outs. The Octagon is a spacious traditional stone house set in Kerala style architecture. It features a panoramic view of the Arabian Sea with private sun deck. The Banyan Tree Bungalow is the perfect setting for honeymooners and romantic escapes. The bungalow features a private sit out. All rooms feature open-to-sky rain showers. Dining options feature an all day restaurant and a specialty restaurant, perched on a cliff.

The globally acclaimed Niraamaya spa is infused with timeless therapeutic traditions from across the world: including Ayurveda, the ancient Indian healing system, perfected for over 5000 years.

The therapists are trained in Yoga, meditation, authentic Thai and Western relaxation techniques and traditional Asian therapies like reflexology. Working along with the therapists, chefs tailor meals around your dietary requirements and those suggested by The Spa's doctor. A qualified doctor is always available for a personal consultation.

Contact us for special packages on info@tamarindglobal.com

TAMARIND PROMOTION OF THE MONTH

HYATT PLACE, GOA

Located within the heart of North Goa, Hyatt Place Goa/Candolim is close to popular beaches and tourist attractions like Candolim Beach, Calangute Beach and Fort Aguada. Hyatt Place is an upscale 4 star hotel that is designed for the multi-tasking traveller.

Offering 147 spacious guestrooms, Hyatt Place beach hotel in Goa features a variety of 4 star services and amenities, including the free Gallery Kitchen Breakfast served daily. The Gallery Café offers a delicious selection of Indian and international cuisine for lunch and dinner, while the convenient 24/7 Gallery Market provides takeaway snacks, salads, sandwiches and beverages. Hyatt Place Goa/Candolim offers flexible event space, perfect for a meeting, wedding party, or social get together. Other amenities at our beach hotel in Goa include free access to the 24-hour StayFit Gym, equipped with the latest equipment and an outdoor lap pool. In addition, guests have access to free public computers with internet access and free Wi-Fi throughout the hotel.

Contact us for more information on info@tamarindglobal.com

TOP FIVE PICKS

TOP-5 PLACES TO CELEBRATE 'HOLI' IN INDIA

Mathura and Vrindavan

Holi in Braj is especially famous. Braj is a historical region which covers the area of Mathura and Vrindavan. The birthplace of Lord Krishna, Mathura is the first place that comes to mind when it comes to celebration of Holi in India. Here people play holi for about a week with immense zeal and fervour. On the eve of Holi in Mathura, a huge number of devotees can be seen at the Banke-Bihari Temple of Vrindavan, passionately chanting the name of Lord Krishna and Radha. For people of Mathura, Holi is a religious festival which they associate with divine love of Lord Krishna and Radha.

Shantiniketan, West Bengal

In Bengal, Holi is celebrated as Basant Utsav or Spring Festival following the traditional way as started by poet and Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore at Shantiniketan. People of Bengal joyfully welcome Spring-the season of hope not just with colours but with songs, dance and chanting of hymns in the peaceful ambience of Shantiniketan. Every year, the students of the institution, attired in colorful yellow, celebrate Holi in a very special way. A number of cultural programs, including group choreography, songs and dance performances, are staged, followed by the fun and frolic of throwing coloured powders on everybody.

Jaipur Elephant Festival

Rajasthan isn't just all about camels and camel festivals! The Jaipur Elephant Festival is a great opportunity to see the sturdy symbol of Rajput royalty, the elephant, at its finest. The Jaipur Elephant Festival happens on Holi eve each year. What better way to commence Holi celebrations! Elephant beauty contests, folk dances, and tug-of-war between elephants, locals and foreigners are all regular events. It gets underway with a traditional procession of decorated elephants. They proudly parade up and down, like catwalk models, to an appreciative crowd. In the evening, fireworks light the sky. It takes place at the Rambagh Polo Ground on Bhawani Singh Road, near the Taj Rambagh Palace hotel, from 4 p.m. until 7 p.m

Barsana (Lath Mar Holi)

Barsana village is famous as the birthplace of Radha and is located 42 kms away from Mathura. Here, the festival of holi is celebrated with laths (sticks)! On the first day, men from Nandgaon (Krishna's village) visit Barsana to play Holi with the women of Barsana who playfully chases them away with their laths. The second day celebration starts with Barsana men going to Nandgaon to play holi with women of Nandgaon. The air reverberates with holy songs on the occasion of Holi. These songs known as Hori are based on the conversations between Krishna and Radha. Barsana is about 32 kms away from Mathura.

Purulia, West Bengal (Folk Holi)

A three day Basanta Utsav folk festival is organised in the Purulia district of West Bengal. Apart from playing Holi, visitors can indulge in a wide variety of unique folk art. This includes the remarkable Chau dance, Darbari Jhumur, and songs by Baul musicians.

The festival is organised by the villagers as a way of sustain themselves and keep their culture alike. People smear Aabir (colours) on each other, drink Mahua (country liquor) and sway to the local 'Jhumur' tunes. Also, Bengali folk songs by wandering baul musicians are performed.

GLOBAL CUISINE

CHOCOLATE CHEESECAKE

A sinfully decadent treat for all you chocaholics out there!

INGREDIENTS

2 cups graham cracker crumbs
2 tablespoons white sugar
1/3 cup melted butter
1 cup semisweet chocolate chips
3 (8 ounce) packages cream cheese, softened
1 cup white sugar
3 eggs
1/2 cup sour cream
3 tablespoons all-purpose flour
2 teaspoons vanilla extract
1/2 cup sour cream (optional)

METHOD

Prepare crumb crust by combining cracker or wafer crumbs, butter or margarine, and 2 tablespoons sugar. Press mixture into bottom and 2 inches up sides of a 9 inch springform pan. Refrigerate.

Melt chocolate chips in top of a double boiler over hot water. Set aside.

Beat cream cheese and 1 cup sugar in a large mixing bowl until smooth and creamy. Blend in eggs. Gradually pour in chocolate mixture beating on low speed until well-blended. Add 1/2 cup sour cream, flour, vanilla. Blend until smooth. Pour into prepared crust.

Bake in a preheated oven at 350 degrees F (175 degrees C) for 55- 60 minutes or until filling is firm. Turn oven off. Cool cheesecake 1 hour without opening door. Cool completely. Chill several hours or over night. Garnish just before serving with sweetened sour cream made by combining 1 tablespoon sugar with 1/2 cup sour cream.

THE MOST AMAZING EVENTS IN THE WORLD!

INTERNATIONAL PICKS OF THE MONTH

BALISPIRIT FESTIVAL

BaliSpirit is a poster child for a new generation of festivals for the rapidly growing holistic travel marketplace. Meghan Pappenheim, well-known in Ubud for running a few different restaurants and creating the Yoga Barn, created the festival in 2008 as a means of connecting people to themselves. There are music and art classes, tours of local temples and spiritual sites, nutrition and health workshops, and a collection of family activities like Balinese dance for kids, circus tricks, and storytelling. At the daytime Dharma Fair and the Night Market there are a variety of vendors who will teach you how to live a healthier life. There are healing huts where you can get a cranial sacral treatment, Reiki, Chakra balancing, an Esalen-style massage, Balinese traditional healing, and Tama-Do Sound medicine.
Where : Ubud, Bali, Indonesia When : Mar 29- Apr 3, 2016

LAS FALLAS

The Las Fallas celebration dates back to the Middle Ages when excess winter supplies were torched in an equivalent to a spring cleaning. Today's rendition takes a more grandiose approach, paying homage to Spain's history and culture with spectacular displays of pyrotechnics. Participants dress up in traditional clothing, dance to the beats of neighborhood bands, and offer flowers to the Virgen de los Desamparados, Valencia's patron saint. Fiestas extend well into the night with live music, frequent explosions, and frenetic dancing. Entertainment options abound with peak time hitting the nightclubs at around 4am or even later. Every evening, fireworks emblazon the sky, each subsequent night's display more impressive than the last, culminating in the monumental Nit del Foc (Night of Fire).
Where : Valencia, Spain. When : Mar 15- 19, 2016

INDIAN PICKS OF THE MONTH

MAHASHIVRATRI

This transcendent Hindu festival with a carnival-like atmosphere is one of the more culturally fascinating events in the world. The 2,000 year-old temple Pashupatinath, situated on the bank of the sacred Bagmati River, is one of the most significant Hindu temples of the god Shiva, the third deity in the Hindu trinity. There's a celebratory flavor to Maha Shivaratri, with musicians playing sitars and table drums, dancers in vibrant colors lyrically surrounding the temple, and street vendors hawking religious wares, Among the mass of hundreds of thousands of Shiva revelers are a few thousand Sādhus , or wandering monks dressed in ochre and saffron colored robes carrying tridents. People fast for days before the festival and smoke charas (hashish) and drink bhang (milk spiced with marijuana leaves).
Where: Kathmandu, Nepal. When: Mar 7, 2016

HOLI

Join the masses at Holi during the last lunar cycle of the winter, when the streets are awash with pigment in an effort to welcome in spring and break down social barriers. It's a wildly immersive and participatory festival, as everyone gets involved, from young to old. Holi celebrations start on the night before Holi with a Holika bonfire where people gather, sing and dance. The next morning is a free-for-all carnival of colours, where participants play, chase and colour each other with dry powder and coloured water, with some carrying water guns and coloured water-filled balloons for their water fight. Groups carry drums and other musical instruments, go from place to place, sing and dance. People visit family, friends and foes to throw colour powders on each other, then share Holi delicacies, food and drinks.
When: February Mar 23, 2016 Where: Mumbai, and all over India

INDIAN WEDDING TRADITIONS

WHAT IS KANYADAN?

In the Hindu tradition there are many rituals and customs that are involved in a wedding. While the groom is considered to be an incarnation of Lord Vishnu, the bride is considered to be a form of Goddess Lakshmi, the deity of wealth and prosperity. Therefore, giving the daughter away (or kanyadaan) is a very emotional as well as a religiously significant act for the bride's parents in an Indian wedding.

Though this particular ritual of handing over the responsibility of the daughter to another is not peculiar to Hindu tradition, it is definitely given more importance due to its religious implications.

As the groom is considered to be Lord Vishnu at the time of the wedding, kanyadaan is the biggest offering that any parent can ever make to the God. It is believed that kanyadaan purifies the parents' of the bride of all their sins (even those that they might have committed in their previous births). For the father of the bride, this is a symbol that he is now transferring his daughter's responsibility to the groom. Considered as the noblest donation possible by a couple, giving away of the "prosperity" of their life, is an emotional moment for everyone who is present.

India offices:

Mumbai, Delhi, Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Chennai, Cochin, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Jodhpur, Kolkata, Pune, Trivandrum, Udaipur, Vadodara.

Marketing offices:

Russia, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom

Mumbai: 601, Oracle Point, 3-Gurunanak Road, Bandra (W), Mumbai 400050, India
Tel: +91-22-66802500 |Fax: +91-22-67102876

Gurgaon: 5th Floor, Building No 91, Sector – 44, Gurgaon 122003, India
Tel: +91-124-4565454 | Fax: +91-124-2570337

Website: www.tamarindglobal.com
Online: www.tamarindglobalonline.com
info@tamarindglobal.com