TAMARIND GLOBAL

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TAMARIND EVENTS & NEWS

Tamarind Wins The GIWA Award fo the Second Year in a Row

Tamarind Global won the Great Indian wedding Award for best Destination Wedding, for the wedding we planned and executed at the Waldorf Astoria in Ras Al Khaimah last year. The award was presented by International Convention of the Wedding Fraternity, and was the second consecutive win by Tamarind!

Tamarind Wins two Taj Travel Awards for 2014-15 and 2015-16

Tamarind Global was presented with two awards in recognition for outstanding contribution and support of Vivanta by Taj Hotels and Resorts, and Taj Grand Palaces for 2014-15 and 2015-16. The awards ceremony took place in New Delhi.

Tamarind Gobal organised and executed the CREDAI Conference in Shanghai for over 900 people in August!

Our Events team was also in the magical kingdom of Bhutan for a Viacom Conference

FEATURED EVENT DESTINATION - MANDARIN ORIENTAL MARRAKECH

With the Atlas Mountains as a backdrop and a series of serene ponds as a centrepiece, Mandarin Oriental, Marrakech lies nestled in 20 hectares of olive groves and landscaped gardens, beautifully scented with jasmine, night-blooming cestrum and over 100,000 fragrant roses. Only 10 minutes from the city's famous Medina, this elegant, contemporary resort feels a world away in terms of serenity, with just 54 luxurious villas and 9 spacious suites, a world-class spa and excellent dining overseen by celebrated chef Meryem Cherkaoui.

With accommodation consisting exclusively of villas and suites, Mandarin Oriental promises a truly luxurious experience, combing space, privacy and exquisite design. From fine Moroccan dining to relaxed poolside meals, the stunning restaurants and bars are destinations in their own right.Drawing inspiration from an Oriental heritage and Moroccan location, the serene spa is the ultimate holistic oasis. All of the treatment suites include a private, walled garden where guests can relax after their treatments.

Set in 20 hectares of lush, landscaped gardens, the leisure facilities have been designed so as you can make the most of your time in Marrakech by doing as little or as much as you'd like.

From important meetings to romantic weddings, the hotel offers an ideal backdrop ... leave it to the Tamarind team to create the perfect event for you!.

DESTINATION NEWS

Luxury Hotels Group welcomes one of the world's leading wellness retreats

Adding to its growing global portfolio of distinctive, one-of-a-kind properties, Luxury Hotels Group is delighted to announce its newest member this month. Deep in the tropical forests of Batangas in the Philippines, The Farm at San Benito is a renowned luxury retreat with unrivalled health and wellness credentials. Describing itself not as a hotel but a healing journey – a 'must-have' in every individual's life at least once a year, The Farm brings together a holistic approach to wellbeing with the feel and facilities of a five star resort. Built around a 250-year-old mango tree said to possess healing powers, it's a beautifully landscaped oasis where nature redresses the imbalances of modern life.

Delegation from the Indian State of Gujarat to Meet Leading Companies and Senior Government Officials in Oman and United Arab Emirates (UAE)

The Consulate General of India, Dubai ; The Embassy of India, Abu Dhabi and The Embassy of India, Muscat in association with India Trade & Exhibition Centre (ITEC), Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ADCCI) and Oman Chamber of Commerce & Industry (OCCI), are organizing roadshows and organizing Business-to-Business (B2B) Meetings, hosting a high-level Vibrant Gujarat Delegation, which is visiting Oman & UAE under the auspices of the Government of Gujarat from 3rd to 8th September 2016. The Vibrant Gujarat Delegation will comprise representatives of over 20 reputed Indian companies from various sectors (including Aviation, Education, Financial Services, Gems & Jewellery, Tourism & Hospitality, Information Technology, Infrastructure, Manufacturing, Oil & Gas, Power, Textile, Ports & Maritime, Energy & Power, Skill Development/Education, Infrastructure & Real Estate, Smart City, Gems & Jewellery etc.) in addition to representatives of the Government of Gujarat and Indian Chambers. The Vibrant Gujarat roadshow is aimed to strengthen the economic and social ties between the countries and to promote Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2017. With the theme of "Gujarat - Connecting India to World", the roadshow will feature various activities involving leading Omani & UAE companies, industry associations and government officials, strengthening the cause of development and promote cooperation between Oman, UAE and the State of Gujarat. The delegates will apprise about some of the investor-friendly policies, the robust industrial ecosystem and single window clearance procedures that Gujarat offers, making it one of the most sought after investment destinations globally.

Oman Tourism to organize four-city roadshow in India

The Sultanate of Oman in association with the national airline Oman Air will conduct a multi-city roadshow for the travel trade in India in September representatives from Ministry of Tourism, Oman along with a 15 member delegation representing hotels, DMCs and attractions in Oman. The roadshow begins on September 19 at Park Hyatt, Hyderabad; September 21 at The Oberoi, Kolkata; September 23 at Courtyard by Marriott, Ahmedabad; and conclude on September 26 at JW Marriott, Pune.

Kerala Tourism Minister wants to re-look on closure of liquor bars

Kerala Tourism Minister AC Moideen is to 're-look' on closure of liquor bars in tourist hotspots in the state which has seen a fall in arrivals causing a loss to the tourism industry. The previous UDF government had decided to close down 700-odd liquor bars attached to hotels below five star categories in 2014. Kerala has seen a severe dip in tourist arrivals and fall in revenues following the closure of bars. “The present excise policy has dealt a severe blow to the tourism industry in Kerala,” Mr Moideen told reporters in Thiruvananthapuram. “There has been a severe fall in the growth of tourist arrivals in the state. With hotels not serving liquor, conferences have come down and the state is losing out,” he said, adding, liquor should be made available in bars in tourist hotspots.

Department of Tourism Philippines organized multi- city roadshow in India

The Department of Tourism (DOT), Philippines conducted a series of roadshows from August 8 to 11, 2016 in Kolkata, Chennai, Bengaluru and Mumbai. A delegation led by DOT Philippines' Director Verna C Buensuceso, Officer in Charge, Market development Group, and Raymund Glen A. Agustin, Chief, Tourism Operations Officer, Market Development Group-Russia, India, & the Middle East highlighted on the booming tourism industry in the archipelago, with the presence of hoteliers, resorts, spas, representatives of travel attractions and tour operators from the Philippines to interact with over 400 local travel trade partners and buyers in B2B sessions. On the occasion, Director Verna C Buensuceso,Officer in Charge, Market development Group, says, " India is an important source market for the Philippines with 74,824 Indians visiting the destination last year, registering a 22.36 per cent year-on-year growth.”

BRICS tourism convention kicks off in Khajuraho

The 'BRICS Convention on Tourism' was inaugurated on Thursday 1 September 2016 in Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh, and will conclude on Friday. Delegations from the five BRICS countries – Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa – were in attendance, including South Africa's Tourism Minister Derek Hanekom. The group is being hosted by Shri Surendra Patwa, Tourism Minister for the state of Madhya Pradesh, and the Indian government's Tourism Secretary, Shri Vinod Zutshi. Speaking at the opening of the event, Zutshi stressed about the importance of tourism as a catalyst for economic growth and job creation.

Indian arrivals to Singapore jump 10%

According to the latest data from the Singapore Tourism Board (STB), a total of 573,010 Indians visited the Lion City in the first six months of 2016, 10.1% more than the same period last year. This makes India the third largest source of international visitors to Singapore, having overtaken Malaysia (-1.6% to 552,679). In total, international arrivals to Singapore jumped 12.5% to 8.17 million in the first half of 2016, although the figures do compared to a weak 2015.

HOTEL NEWS

First in India - W Goa, opening 29th September, 2016

W Hotels' first property in India is located in the tropical paradise of North Goa's coast, with secluded beaches, pristine sands and coconut palms, lined with dramatic red cliffs and scenic views. W Goa is spread over 25 acres overlooking Vagator beach in North Goa. Once home to the hippies, this laid back beach has evolved into one of the most exciting and vibrant destinations within Goa. From trendy cafes serving a host of international and local flavours, to fashionable boutiques and eclectic music clubs, to the historic treasures of Old Goa, Hindu temples, flea markets and local fishermen landing their daily catch, there is an aura of creativity and cultural mix. With a private coastal setting and breathtaking views of the sea and the Chapora Fort, W Goa will offer 160 rooms and villas. Dining options include the Pan Asian restaurant, Spice Traders with sumptuous sea views and the all-day dining, The Kitchen Table which will serve modern interpretations of local and international flavours.

AccorHotels Launches First ibis in Hyderabad

AccorHotels, the world's largest and leading hotel operator, lately announced the opening of ibis Hyderabad HITEC City, taking the group's presence to five hotels in the city. The group is now the largest hotel operator in Hyderabad with a room inventory of over a thousand rooms. The opening of its first economy hotel in the global city of Hyderabad marks a milestone for AccorHotels with 42 hotels in India across a well-rounded portfolio of luxury, midscale, boutique and in-demand economy brands. ibis Hyderabad HITEC City features 178 well-appointed rooms and is strategically located in the heart of HITEC city, the largest IT Park in the country, home to some of the world's leading technology corporations. The hotel is a short drive from the Hyderabad International Convention Centre, one of India's premier meetings and events venues, making it the preferred destination for the MICE market.

Jaipur Development Authority unseals main gate of Rajmahal Hotel

Putting an end to the deadlock, the Jaipur Development Authority (JDA) removed the seal and opened the main entrance gate of the Rajmahal Palace hotel in early September. The decision was taken following a meeting between Rajasthan Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje and Padmini Devi, the Rajmata of the erstwhile royal family and the owner of the disputed property. The five-member committee, constituted to look into the matter, had also given its nod. However, the decision is conditional and the main entrance will be kept open until the owners develop an alternative entry route to the palace.

Zostel Entrepreneurship Program 2 to add more backpacking destinations in India

Get ready to open your Zostel, customise it , name it your way through Zostel Entrepreneurship Program.The Entrepreneurship Development Programme 2 was launched on 15th August 2016 during Zostel's 3rd anniversary which is run for a duration of 10 days . Zostel Entrepreneurship Program was first launched on 15th August 2013 along with the inauguration of Zostel in Jodhpur.We received more than 1600 applications.We started 11 Zostels through EDP Programme with more than 20 entrepreneurs. The campaign is about creating entrepreneurs build an extremely strong community. In next 30 days, Zostel would select 30 such mavericks who will go ahead and open backpackers hostels in the cities of their choices. The main focus will be on youth especially the ones who will be graduating from colleges and the ones who have been working for some time now but want to change the status and create something of their own.

Sheraton Grand Bangalore Hotel At Brigade Gateway Celebrates 1 Year Of Being 'Grand'

Sheraton Grand Bangalore Hotel at Brigade Gateway celebrates its anniversary of being crowned as 'Grand'. It is the only Sheraton Grand in India. As a part of the Sheraton 2020 vision Sheraton Grand Bangalore Hotel has adapted elements of the “Effortless Travel” initiative. This new brand positioning has been introduced to allow guests to make the most of their stay through the three major travel solution elements PackPoint Packing, One Hour Gem and Paired Menu. PackPoint Packing for Sheraton allows guests to make their travel easier and better by providing firsthand information on length of the travel, weather at their destination and their planned activities. An exclusive Sheraton Grand experience, the Paired Menu gives guests a taste of distinctive, locally-inspired flavours for a unique dining experience, offering unexpected culinary pairings of small plates with premium wines or beer from Sheraton Selects. Another unique addition is to this initiative is One Hour Gem, an experience designed for the guests to get a flavour of the destination by highlighting a few local gems of the city within an hour's distance from the hotel.

AccorHotels has opened a new beach resort in the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh, overlooking the Bay of Bengal.

The new Varun Beach Bheemili Resort is set on a two-hectare plot of beachfront land 25km up the coast from Visakhapatnam. It features just 28 rooms, all of which offer sea views. Resort facilities include a restaurant, poolside bar and grill, a rooftop infinity pool, spa and facilities for meetings and outdoor team-building activities. “India is a priority market for us and one in which we are seeing solid growth momentum. By the end of this year, we expect to have a strong presence with a network of 45 hotels in the country,” said Jean-Michel Cassé, AccorHotels' senior vice president of operations for India. “The state of Andhra Pradesh is integral to our development strategy and we are committed to opening more world-class hotels here.”

AIRLINE NEWS

Air India planning direct flight to Singapore from Chandigarh

After Sharjah, Air India is eying Singapore for a direct international flight from Chandigarh. “I am happy to announce that our parent company is planning to start more international flights from Chandigarh. The date is not confirmed, but the intention to start the international flight is firm,” K Shyam Sundar, CEO, Air India Express, told the media. Also, said - I believe Air India is examining Singapore as the potential destination. This is something the CMD of Air India has told me to inform that Air India has plans to start operations from Chandigarh.

Air India successfully introduces Ahmedabad to Newark via London flight

Last month, Air India today commenced first ever flight between Ahmedabad to Newark via London. The Flight AI 171 took off from Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport at 05:00 hrs. The flight is receiving immense response from the passengers and not only inaugural flight but all bookings till September,16 are sold out. The first passenger to check in was handed the boarding pass by Chief Guest, Shri Bhupendrasinha Chudasama, Hon'ble Minister, Revenue, Education (Primary, Secondary and Adult), Higher and Technical Education, Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs, Govt of Gujarat.

AirAsia adds new routes in India

AirAsia India announced their expansion plans of their new route Hyderabad along with Bengaluru and Goa on a daily basis and also will be launching its fleet 7th A320, 180 seater one class aircraft that to be operational from the 22nd of September 2016. Keeping in mind the Government of India's vision of improving regional connectivity and increasing the airlines footprint in the North East region, AirAsia India will also connect Bengaluru to Guwahati with a daily service. Bookings for all the new sectors are open from 17th Aug 2016.You can avail fares from as low as INR 1499, INR 2499 & INR 5499 for flights from BLR – HYD, HYD – GOI & BLR – GAU.

Chandigarh Airport set to go solar with ReNew Power

ReNew Power Ventures Private Limited, India's leading renewable energy company, recently announced that it has signed a Power Purchase agreement (PPA) with the Chandigarh International Airport (CHIAL) for solar installations. The agreement duration for the project is 25 years and was signed after a competitive bidding process, in February 2016, for 5MW installation at the airport. Once completed the project will help CHIAL generate 8.4 million units of power annually and offset over 8,000 tonnes of Carbon emissions annually. The power generated by the installations will be utilized for captive consumption of the airport and will reduce the cost of energy by 20%.

DeepikaPadukone appointed as Vistara's new brand ambassador

Vistara, India's fastest growing full service carrier, is launched its newmultimedia brand campaign along with its first TV commercial. The campaign reinterprets and delivers on the brand promise of 'Fly the new feeling', through the eyes ofairline's new brand ambassador Deepika Padukone, the internationally acclaimed actress and one of the nation's most popular and admired role models.

GETAWAY HOTEL OF THE MONTH

RAKKH RESORT, PALAMPUR (DHARAMSHALA)

Perched on a hilltop just outside the pretty village of Rakh and surrounded by terraced hillsides and the scintillating Dhauladhars in the distance – Rakkh Resort awaits you. Rakkh offers seventeen cottages with the perfect blend of authentic design using local materials and all the modern comforts one would expect of a boutique property. Rakkh features a modern spa, a world class restaurant with a mix of Indian and International dining options, a traditional Himachali kitchen and wood-fired pizza oven and has a dedicated and passionate activities team who will organize mountain biking, hiking trails and climbing wall activities, slacklining as well as dedicated camp skills workshops for our younger guests.

More importantly, you are invited to indulge in a unique experience – one where the simple joys of personal interaction, reconnecting with nature and a passion for the great outdoors is given precedence over everything else. You will not find a television or mini-bar in you rooms. Communal dining is encouraged for guests to get to know each other. There are guided nature walks in the nearby hills and short hikes through nearby villages, paddy fields, forests and tea gardens. Test your stamina and skills on the climbing wall. Explore the surrounding countryside on two wheels. Try your hand at transforming a lump of clay to a beautiful art work or get stuck in with a lesson in a cooking lesson and lunch of traditional mountain cuisine.

The six hill cottages each have their own private sit out terrace and bonfire pit for cozy evenings outside under the stars. The nine mountain cottages are located on a hilltop with its spectacular views of the Dhauldhar peaks. Each cottage has panoramic views of the valley below, and have private sit outs. Two spacious, interconnecting rooms, located in the main building, are perfect for a large family or two families travelling together. At Rakkh, there is a strong emphasis on local Himachal food on the menus, with its rich and out of this world flavours.

For those who want to take it easy, the resort offers rejuvenating and relaxing treatments at Baanka, the in-house spa.

TAMARIND PROMOTION OF THE MONTH

THE TAJ MAHAL PALACE & TOWER, MUMBAI

Strategically located in Mumbai's prime historical and commercial hub, The Taj Mahal Palace and Tower are walking distance from Colaba Causeway, known for its touristy tiny roadside shops. This flagship Taj hotel offers you splendid views of the Arabian Sea and Gateway of India, alongside refined century-old hospitality.

Signature experiences such as the afternoon tea at Sea Lounge and private dining at the Chef's Studio make your stay truly memorable. Discover the story behind every pillar of The Taj Mahal Palace. Take a historic walk through the hotel where the butlers keep you enthralled with its rich and varied stories, and anecdotes of yesteryears' guests. Watch history come alive!

The hotel's 560 rooms and suites, in the Palace and Tower wings, blend old-world charm and modern facilities. The hotel features some of the most renowned fine-dining restaurants in India. Discover tantalising Indian, Middle Eastern and Oriental cuisines, served with a dash of tradition and a sprinkling of innovation.

Contact us for more information on info@tamarindglobal.com

TOP FIVE PICKS

TOP-5 NEW MID-SCALE RESORTS IN GOD'S OWN COUNTRY, KERALA

The Mountain Courtyard, Thekkady

The Mountain Courtyard, Thekkady offers complete relaxation. Walk up to the spell-binding Thekkady lake. In the distance, you might spot hoards of elephants taking sedate stroll along the banks. Go for a boating into the wilderness of the Periyar Tiger Reserve Forest. Try shooting the wild animals with your camera. Take a leap into the mysterious Thekkady wilderness, in your trekking gear. Explore the Tiger Reserve, and discover a new you within. From the Banyan Cottage to the Forest Flame Rooms and Tamarind Rooms, the accommodation has an air of refined comfort in an environment of radiant romanticism.

Cuckmere Resort, Munnar

Situated in the Southwestern Indian state of Kerala, aptly titled as "God's own country", Cuckmere is located in Pallivasal village, within 5 miles to Munnar. The architecture is a confluence of contemporary design and traditional Keralite elements. The diverse culture of Kerala is personified by the elegant use of Coconut timber, its arable and lush land with finest of stones brought from across the country. Rooms are spacious and the serenity of the views sets the ambience for reflection on our times and lives. Enjoy spice garden visits, arhcery, trekking, cookery classes and badminton. Rest for the evening listening to chattering river splashing across the boulders, countless stars adorning the darkest of skies.

Tea Harvester, Munnar

Perched on the hillside in comfort and style, about 1800 feet above sea level, amid three acres of verdant tea trees, cardamom plantation and pepper wine, lays Tea Havester. Radiating the warmth and invitation of a planters charm, originally designed with 16 guest accommodations maximising the panoramic vistas of the emerald green plantations and azure sky. Tea Harvester is a boutique property brilliantly designed in spacious and contemporary architecture, where vintage meets vogue. Ideal for both romantics and jetsetters who like a bit of elegance and opulence. Enjoy a personal experience of Tea harvesting, trekking, cycling or mountain biking.... or simply relax in the pristine surroundings!

Marari Sands Beach Resort, Mararikulam

An amazing nearby 'private' stretch of clean sandy beach; lush green palms with hammocks; meandering stone path ways leading to your private villa set in lush green grass; clear blue skies; warm and discreet service; amazing cuisine – this is what the Marari Sands Beach Resort by Tree Leaf offers you. With just 13 quaint rooms and private villas, surrounded by swaying green palms trees, this 'hideaway' gives you time to do all that you have always wanted to – take a dip in the blue sea or, a leisurely stroll on the beach with the setting sun, unravel yourself in that book which has remained unfinished ever since. Or, then why not indulge in a soothing Ayurveda experience in the spa as our experienced therapists soothe the mind and the soul.

Aquatic – The Floating Resort, Kochi

Famous as India's first floating resort, Aquatic Floating Resort boasts a floating swimming pool, a spa and wellness centre and a fitness centre. Free WiFi access is available in this resort. The accommodation will provide you with a TV and air conditioning. Featuring a shower, private bathroom also comes with free toiletries and slippers. You can enjoy lake view from the room. Extras include a seating area and satellite channels. The in-house restaurant serves Indian, Chinese and continental delicacies. Room service can be requested for in-room dining comforts. You can enjoy lake view from the room. Extras include a seating area and satellite channels.

GLOBAL CUISINE

Easy Cheese Souffle

Patatas bravas, also called patatas a la brava or papas bravas, is a dish native to Spain, often served as a tapas in bars. It typically consists of white potatoes that have been cut into irregular shapes of about 2 centimeters, then fried in oil and served warm with a sauce such as a spicy tomato sauce or an aioli. This dish is commonly served in restaurants and bars throughout Spain.

INGREDIENTS

50g butter, plus extra for greasing
25g breadcrumbs
50g plain flour
1 tsp mustard powder
300ml milk
4 egg
100g grated extra-strong cheddar, (blue cheese, goat's cheese and smoked cheeses also work well)

METHOD

Preparing the soufflé dish: Heat oven to 200C/fan 180C/gas 6 and place a baking sheet on the middle shelf. Butter a 15cm soufflé dish generously, then sprinkle in the breadcrumbs and rotate the dish to ensure the butter is evenly coated. Tip out any excess breadcrumbs.

Making a thick white sauce: In a pan, melt the butter over a medium heat; stir in the flour and mustard. Cook, stirring, for 1 min. Take off the heat and gradually stir in the milk, mixing it in thoroughly before adding more. Return to the heat and stir continuously until very thick (around 10 mins). Transfer to a bowl and allow to cool. Crack the eggs, placing

the whites into a clean bowl and stirring the yolks into the sauce. Stir in cheddar and season well.

Adding the egg whites: Use a clean whisk to beat the egg whites until peaks form that just hold their shape (electric is best as it will make the job much quicker). Then take a metal spoon and gently stir the whipped whites into the white sauce in a figure of eight.

Top-hatting: Spoon the mixture into the dish. Run a cutlery knife around the edge to create a 'top hat' effect; this ensures the soufflé rises above the rim and doesn't stick. Place on the baking sheet and bake for 25-30 mins until the top is golden and risen and has a slight wobble. Serve immediately.

THE MOST AMAZING EVENTS IN THE WORLD!

INDIAN PICKS OF THE MONTH

ASHVA PUJAN

Known as the Worship of the Horse, this unique Rajasthani festival is grandly celebrated by the Mewar royal family of Udaipur on the last day of Navaratri. It honors the special relationship between warrior and horse. See the royal horses being worshiped by the current head of the royal family, accompanied by the palace band. A highlight of the festival is the mouthwatering Rajasthani cuisine. A great way to enjoy the celebrations is to stay at the Shiv Niwas Palace hotel or Fateh Prakash Palace hotel in the Udaipur City Palace Complex. Overlooking the pristine Lake Pichola, the crescent-shaped Shiv Niwas palace was built in the early 20th century, in the reign of Maharana Fateh Singh (period of reign: 1884-1930), and has been meticulously maintained and preserved for guests.

When: October 10, 2016. Where: Udaipur City Palace, Rajasthan

DURGA POOJA

Durga Puja is a celebration of the Mother Goddess, and the victory of the revered warrior Goddess Durga over the evil buffalo demon Mahishasura. The festival honors the powerful female force (shakti) in the Universe. In honor of warrior Goddess Durga, beautifully handcrafted statues of Durga are created. The start of the festival sees huge, elaborately crafted statutes of Goddess Durga installed in homes and beautifully decorated podiums all over the city. In almost every lane of the city during this festival. People flock to the streets to view the goddess statues amid mesmerizing light shows, drumming, and aromatic food stalls. At the end of the festival, the statutes are paraded through the streets, accompanied by much music and dancing, and then immersed in the water.

When: October 7-11, 2016 Where: Kolkata, West Bengal

MYSORE DUSSEHRA

Mysore Dasara is Dussehra with a difference! The city's royal heritage ensures that the festival is elaborately celebrated on a grand scale. In Mysore, Dussehra honors the Goddess Chamundeswari, who killed the great demon Mahishasur. In contrast to other parts of India where Dussehra is only celebrated for one day, Mysore Dasara takes place over the whole 10 days of the Navaratri festival. The main attraction takes place on the last day of the festival. A traditional procession (known as Jumboo Savari) winds its way through the streets of Mysore, starting at noon from Mysore Palace and ending in Bannimantap. It features an idol of the Goddess Chamundeshwari, carried atop a lavishly decorated elephant.

When: October 2-11 2016 Where: Mysore in Karnataka

NAVRATRI

Navaratri is a nine day festival that celebrates the Mother Goddess in all her manifestations, including Durga, Lakshmi and Saraswati. Worship and fasting take place in the daytime, while the nights are reserved for feasting and dancing. The festival culminates with Dussehra, the victory of good over evil, on the tenth day. In Delhi, the feature of Navaratri celebrations are the Ramlila plays that take place all over the city. The festival is celebrated as Golu, with the display of dolls, in south India.In western India, Navaratri is celebrated with nine nights of dancing. The traditional dances of Gujarat, known as garba and dandiya raas, are performed in circles with dancers dressed up in colorful clothes.

When: October 1-10, 2016 All across India, but particularly in Gujarat, Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata, Varanasi, and Mysore.

ONLY IN INDIA!

Freddie Mercury and Ben Kingsley are both of Indian descent

Freddie Mercury, the legendary singer of the rock band 'Queen' was born a Parsi with the name Farrokh Bulsara while the famous Oscar winning Hollywood star Ben Kingsley was born Krishna Pandit Bhanji.

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