



# Samachar

JUL - AUG  
2013

## Official Newsletter of the India Association of Memphis

Dear Friends,

I can't believe that the summer of 2013 is already behind us. Of the 18 years I have been in Memphis, I think this was one of the milder summers we had. I for one, definitely didn't have to wear that deodorant stick out. Ha!

I sincerely hope that all of you had the chance to take a vacation with their families whether it was within the US or that ever worthy trip back to India. Personally my wife Nisha & I decided to send our kids to spend time with both sets of grandparents for the entire summer. It turned out to be quite a blast for everyone!

We are dedicating this issue of Samachar to our **Summer of Sports** and our much awaited **India Unlimited** ('India Night') celebrations. Judging by the feedback that's been pouring in from this year's audience, if you weren't at India Unlimited this 7<sup>th</sup> September, you have missed a truly amazing show!

Our Athletic Director Raghu Guttikonda was instrumental in putting together a very successful series of sporting events including a Cricket tournament, a Volleyball tournament and Tennis tournaments for individuals as well as teams. Don't forget to view the winners on page 19. I thank Raghu and his team in earnest for all their organizing efforts and heartily congratulate them upon the success of our Summer of Sports. Unfortunately Raghu had to move to Dallas at the end of the summer. The entire IAM team is already missing him a lot!

Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> September saw India Night in a new and improved avatar — **India Unlimited 2013**. As our team orchestrated this show for the community, all the painstakingly expended efforts paid off beautifully! We were pleased beyond measure when over 700 guests from the community joined us at White Station high to support IAM and encourage our performers. All the kids from the community who participated in dance performances left the audience spellbound, presenting a fine exhibition of their amazing talent. Also, this year we introduced something new at India Unlimited — for the first time in Memphis, IAM organized a singing competition! To be honest, I'd been worried about the participation during the planning stages, but after the auditions I didn't have a shred of doubt in my mind that this was going to be a memorable night! It was great to witness our contestants practicing and rehearsing backstage, after which their presented scintillating singing performances on the stage. The audience responded with thunderous applause. The very atmosphere of the auditorium was electric!

With the summer and India Unlimited both behind us, we march on to India Fest—a fitting grand Finale to 2013 which has been a very productive year for IAM. If you wish to be a part of India Fest, please reach out Naveen Mamidipalli and crew, who are on the lookout for people willing to serve the community.

Enjoy the beautiful colors of the fall! We'll see you and your families at India Fest!

Best Wishes,

*Navin Eric*

IAM President - 2013

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### Upcoming Events:

**Nov 02 India Fest**  
**Dec 07 GBM**

### Featured in this Issue:

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# Editorial

samachar@iamemphis.org

Salut!

Let me begin with a brief apology,  
Explaining this delay in proper chronology...

The last three months have been ridiculously busy,  
And yet we've kept our enthusiasms fizzy...

At India Unlimited you witnessed our labors,  
And tasted many arts of delectable flavors...

But we hardly got a chance to rest on these laurels,  
For the season of India Fest is already upon us...

By the time this fourth issue is in your hand,  
The hourglass of time will have bled more sand...

I earnestly hope not to delay the fifth newsletter,  
But arriving late isn't so bad, if you're dressed better... 😊

Our editorial room is like a meditation hall where silent chants of introspection reverberate, birthing waves on the placid surface of the mind. In our halls, critiques and kudos are born equal, and hailed alike. Please share your reflections, praise or criticism with us by sending an e-mail to [samachar@iamemphis.org](mailto:samachar@iamemphis.org).

Sincerely,

Achint Choudhry

Chief Editor, 2013




# 2013 Event Calendar

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
<b>IAM</b>			
Republic Day	Jan 26	2pm - 5pm	Bert Ferguson
Kids Financial Workshop	Feb 23	2pm - 4pm	Library
Holi Celebrations	Mar 23	1pm - 4pm	ICCT
Tennis Workshop	June (TBD)		LOG
Sporting event - Cricket	Jun 01 - 16		Nikki McCray Park
Sporting event - Tennis	Jun 08 - 23		Powell Park, Collierville
Sporting event - Volleyball	Jul 13 - 14		TBD
Sporting event - Indoor Soccer	Jul 20 - 21		Dulins Sports Complex
Sporting event - Carrom, Chess	Jul 27		Cordova CC
India Unlimited	Sep 07	4pm - 9pm	White Station High
India Fest	Nov 02	10am - 7pm	Agricenter
General Body Meeting	Dec 07	1pm - 4pm	Cordova CC
<b>Taranga Kannada Sangha</b>			
Dasa Aaradhane	Mar 16		
Ugadi Program	May 4	2pm - 6pm	Singleton CC
Picnic	Sep 7		
Ganesh Visarjan	Sep 14		
Rajyostava and Deepavali	Nov 16		
<b>Mid South Punjabi Heritage Foundation</b>			
Baisakhi	Apr 19	6pm onwards	Esplanade
Tian Festival	Jul 27		
Picnic	TBD (Sep)		
Kids' Workshop	TBD (Oct)		
<b>Malayalee Association of Memphis</b>			
Mid South food Bank	May 04	9am - 12 noon	
MAM Picnic & Sports Day	Aug 17	All day	
Mid South food Bank	Sep 07	9am - 12 noon	
Mid South food Bank	Dec 07	9am - 12 noon	
Greeting cards for Charity	TBD		
Book collection for Charity	TBD		
General Body Meeting	TBD (Dec)		
<b>Memphis Marathi Mandal</b>			
Gudhi Padva (Marathi new year)	Apr 20	11am - 2pm	HW Cox Park
Ganesha Chaturthi	Sep 14		
Diwali Celebrations	Nov 16		
<b>Mid South Tamil Sangam</b>			
Chitirai Gallata	Apr 13		
Drama (Tentative)	May 19		


We will duly communicate detailed updates by e-mail, on our website and on our Facebook page ahead of each event

Our complete and updated event calendar can also be found at: <http://www.iamemphis.org/home>

## *Isha Foundation - Proud Partner of India Fest 2012*

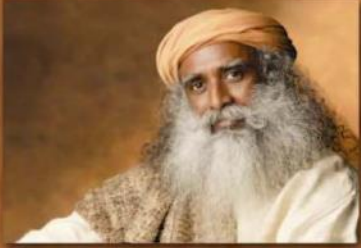
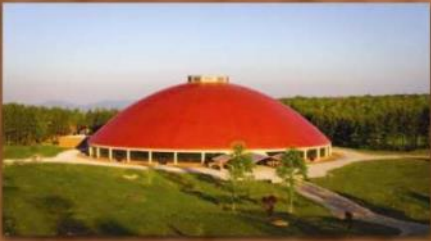



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### *Painting Unity at Trolley Night*



On Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> September, Team India Fest visited Trolley Night to create a novel artistic experience — a painting made by people from all walks of life.

This "Painting of Unity" is composed of brushstrokes by hundreds of people! The India Fest 2013 Marketing team achieved this by engaging with over 300 people from Trolley Night outside the Russian Cultural Center in downtown Memphis. The result was a unique work of art and a memorable experience for the team.

Kudos to the India Fest 2013 Marketing Team for this successful and unique endeavor!



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# On Driving

- Bryan D'Souza

"What time are you coming home for lunch?" my wife asks me while I am at work pondering whether or not to attack that pesky hair in my right nostril. "Hmm... I will leave at 11:53" I tell her. "Why not 11:52?" she retorts. "Because, if I leave at 11:53, there is a greater than 75% chance that I will not have to stop at the traffic light at Hacks & Winchester" I tell her matter-of-factly. "Jackass!" she says and hangs up. Now there is a good reason for her reaction. The distance from my workplace to the place we lived was exactly 0.23 miles. It was the primary reason I had decided to live in those apartments for almost nine years while our friends were buying houses willy-nilly. I disliked driving. Would it surprise you if I told you that I would fill gas in my car once in five to six weeks? Such halcyon days are long gone of course. We had made the inevitable move to the burbs.

It was one of the hardest decisions I have had to make. We had moved into three different units within the same apartment complex in order to find more space. The last one even had an attached garage. That, of course was mainly used to store all the junk that we cherished. Our cars were parked outside where the birds showcased their creativity on them. Come to think of it, even our car trunks were full of must-keep objects. The environment was getting increasingly testy with two adults, two toddlers, a hundred pound dog and the occasional mother-in-law. A couple of years ago, we bought a house. Despite our best efforts, much of the stuff from the garage followed us to our new abode. Now they lie in repose in what was once our spacious attic.

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## On Driving *continued...*



But this is about my disdain for driving. All these years, I had outsourced most chores that entailed driving to my Ayrton Senna-wannabe spouse. She was a seasoned veteran of the Bangalore roads. Driving here in comparison was almost bucolic. Heck, I have a strong feeling that she knit my 2006 Holiday sweater wholly when driving on the roads. She has ambidextrous feet. She can steer with either of them. So when it came to driving, it was a win-win situation. Mostly she won.

The first thing I did when we settled upon a house to buy was hit Google Maps. Not trusting Google's ability to chart the shortest route or perhaps it's inability to find hidden passages, I manually dragged and dropped the route in all sorts of combinations. At work, when walking down hallways, I would be deep in thought, gesticulating feverishly, drawing imaginary routes in the air. This in addition to my perpetually unkempt hair ensured that folks either crossed to the other side of the walkway or stood still with their backs to the wall till I passed them by. All in search of the holy grail of a shorter driving route. Alas, all hopes were squashed when I couldn't manage anything less than eight miles one-way. Okay, I made my peace with it. Sixteen miles a day it was. But then to my chagrin, I realized, no more of the steaming hot delicious lunches! (And the chance to see l'amour de ma vie). On the flip side, I stopped coming to work smelling like a portable *sambar* machine.

A highly lauded attribute of the Indian community is our pursuit of an excellent education. I have seen meek mothers turn into machete wielding guerrillas when the quality of their child's education was in danger of being compromised. Naturally, this bit me right in my posterior when the Mrs. after much thought (fifteen minutes over chai with other desi moms) embarked upon a quest to enroll our son (you remember the guy with the exotic dance moves?) in an optional program. Since it was late in the application cycle and the standards for admission had been ratcheted up, I acquiesced without much fight thinking that the child would not get in. Late in June, a war-whoop from the kitchen informed me otherwise. My weekday drive had, in an instant, been more than quadrupled. I walked outside to my dear old automobile, placed my hand gently on her bonnet and spent a few moments of silence with her knowing that much would be asked of us both in the future. With a sense of despondency I glanced at our neighborhood school that is practically within pushing distance (you know, you push your kid outside the door and he pretty much rolls to the entrance of the school) of our house, knowing that we will never share a relationship.

Today, a few years later, driving close to eighty miles a day, I have become the ultimate driving machine. I switch lanes like a svelte ballet dancer (with the accompanying music from my fellow highway travelers). My vocabulary of swear words has blossomed into multiple languages (there's a kid in the backseat. There were times in the beginning when I almost slipped up when

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## On Driving *continued...*

someone made a jerk-move on the road and blurted out..."why you little piece of s\*\*\*!", but caught myself instead, shook my index finger menacingly in front of me and said "bad man! very bad man!!" instead.), my repertoire of detours and alternate routes can rival that of any GPS and my middle finger has a new-found purpose. Speed limits are now just a suggestion, optimizing points to use for gas fill-ups is a favorite activity and narcissism is at an all time high with me complimenting myself on my excellent driving after every trip.

But best of all, roles have been reversed in the household with the Mrs. declaring that she does not like driving any more. Worth it! Despite the hair-loss brought on by the stress of the morning commute (not the nostril hair; well, actually that too... What else does one do when stuck in traffic. By the way, why is it that hair grows lush and abundant only where we don't really care for it?). I would like to mention that the increase in the number of accidents on the highways I travel is a mere coincidence. All the dents and bruises on my car must have happened when someone else was driving it. Oops! Gotta go, I am almost at my son's school.



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## My Experience at Governor's School

- Saie Ganoo

This past summer I attended Governor's School for Engineering and without a doubt it was the best month of my life. I now know that a lot of parents have quite a few fears regarding camps that last a month, but honestly, it was one of the safest and most open environments I have ever experienced. The students around me positively encouraged me to learn and made me want to be a part of the family that quickly formed. Many of my friends there told me afterwards how it was the first place where they felt like they belonged, and I have made friendships that I know will last a lifetime. Along with meeting interesting new people, this camp also allows students to get their first real taste of college life like never before.

While most students have gone to week-long camps, Governor's School allows for this experience to last 4 weeks allowing for students to really adjust to all the aspects of campus life. I stayed at the UT Knoxville campus, where the wide variety of daily activities were stimulating and helped me keep my mind off the invariable feeling of homesickness. A piece of advice from my experience is that in my opinion, rising seniors would get more out of Governor's School than rising juniors do. This doesn't just have to do with level of academic experience. A majority of students in my class were rising seniors and so those who had just finished sophomore year were often behind them in some aspect, whether it be social or academic.

Most rising seniors also have the advantage of confidence from having completed three years of high school, and the lectures about applying to college were more relevant to the seniors in the audience. Going to Governor's School as rising seniors allows students to feel more at home in the camp as they are already thinking about their upcoming college life and are better prepared to grasp the material in the limited time span. Just a tip: be sure to apply to a Governor's School that you are truly interested in, so you will get the most out of this wonderful camp.

I hope all of you students out there choose to apply for Governor's School, as it will be an unforgettable experience and one that will certainly help you grow as a person as well as a student.

Saie Ganoo

President — 2013 Youth Committee

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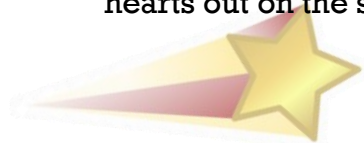
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# India Unlimited Nite — A Night Like None Before!

Thanks to an amazing turnout and fantastic participation, India Unlimited Nite was a truly memorable experience. We extend a note of sincere gratitude to all the performers for pouring their hearts out on the stage and creating memories for us which will last a lifetime!



## PHOTO CREDITS

A word of special thanks to **Murali Manikonda** and **Dinesh Bol** for photo & video coverage of India Unlimited!











## Kitchen Couture Masala-Bhare Baigan/Stuffed Eggplants

Baby eggplants stuffed with a delicious, tangy spice mix! This easy-to-cook dish goes well with any flatbread of your choice or plain white rice!

### Ingredients:

Baby Eggplants	8-10 no.s
Oil	1/4 cup
Onion	1 medium size
Ginger	1" piece
Garlic	3-4 cloves
Cilantro seeds	1 tsp.
Cumin	1/2 tsp.
Sesame seeds	1 tsp.
Coconut powder	1 tsp. (dry or freshly grated)
Turmeric powder	1/4 tsp.
Garam masala	1 tsp.
Mango powder	1/2 tsp.
Red Chili powder	1/2 tsp.
Salt	to taste



### Method:

1. Wash the eggplants thoroughly, make slits along the length and set aside. Do not remove the stems.
2. Chop the onion, ginger and garlic roughly and dry roast together on a griddle until they turn light-brown. Set aside.
3. Dry roast the cilantro seeds, cumin and sesame seeds.
4. Grind all the roasted ingredients together with coconut powder, adding 1-2 tablespoons of water to make a paste.
5. Add the garam masala, turmeric powder, mango powder (*amchur*), red chili powder and salt to the paste. Set the paste aside to use as stuffing.
6. Pry open the slits on the eggplants and stuff the paste into them. If any mixture is left over, store it in the refrigerator.
7. Heat oil in a pan and add the stuffed eggplants. Sauté for 1-2 minutes on a medium heat.
8. Cover the pan and cook for 5 minutes or till the eggplants soften up.
9. Gently turn the eggplants and cook for another 2-3 minutes without disturbing.
10. The eggplants are cooked when oil begins to separate from the dish. Remove from the heat.
11. Garnish and serve hot.

### Suggestions:

- Garnish with lemon wedges and green chilies
- Stuffed eggplants make a great combination with butter *naan* and *paranthas*

Recipe courtesy — Manjit Kaur

Dr. Manjit Kaur is an eminent Memphian with skills ranging from woodwork to microbiology & from martial arts to fine cuisine. For more recipes, visit her blog — [zaikabharat.blogspot.com](http://zaikabharat.blogspot.com)



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A	Z	R	<b>W</b>	K	G
U	J	N	<b>O</b>	O	F
<b>S</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>H</b>
Y	Q	X	<b>D</b>	I	R

## India Fest Special

With India Fest less than a month away, hidden in the grid below are 12 words/phrases related to IAM's biggest festival.

Can you find them all?



A	C	L	X	I	Q	Y	X	S	V	S	R	F	D	I
G	A	M	R	P	N	B	X	A	F	O	N	R	N	H
R	Z	A	F	O	S	D	C	J	P	R	I	D	I	C
I	Y	Z	F	W	G	L	I	T	L	H	I	F	U	N
C	U	Q	L	D	D	O	A	A	T	A	R	E	I	A
E	Y	O	U	T	H	C	O	R	N	E	R	S	V	M
N	P	L	U	Q	B	R	E	F	U	D	Z	T	P	G
T	Z	A	K	R	A	B	O	W	A	T	E	J	D	N
E	X	B	G	A	M	O	V	I	S	P	L	C	B	A
R	V	Q	H	E	D	B	A	Z	A	A	R	U	O	R
U	Y	L	V	D	G	V	I	M	Z	S	N	E	C	R
O	A	O	S	R	E	E	T	N	U	L	O	V	D	Z
M	N	Z	X	Z	B	H	S	U	D	J	G	G	E	M
J	T	Z	D	K	Y	U	A	I	R	I	L	R	R	B
I	M	G	P	F	G	T	Y	A	S	A	A	J	G	M



**Answers:**

AGRICENTER, BAZAAR, CULTURALS, FEST, INDIA, INDIANDECOR, INDIANFOOD, MALHAAR, RANGMANCH, NOVEMBERTHIRD, VOLUNTEERS, YOUTHCORNER



# Summer of Sports — Tournament Winners

Once again, we congratulate the winners of IAM's 2013 Summer of Sports, and thank the community for their wholehearted participation in making the events a success.

— 2013 IAM Executive Team



**Cricket**

**Tournament Winners:**  
**Memphis Tigers Cricket Club**

**Runners-up:**  
**Jaguar Warriors**



**Tennis**

**Under 16 Tournament Winner:**  
**Shriniket Maddipatla**

**Under 16 Runner-up:**  
**Sreehith Mummareddy**

**Mens Singles Tournament Winner:**  
**Shanmyugan Kameshwaran**

**Mens Singles Runner-up:**  
**Andrew Anand**

**Mens Doubles Tournament Winners:**  
**Shanmyugan Kamesh/  
Praveen**

**Mens Doubles Runners-up:**  
**Samarth Das/Ambarish**



**Volleyball**

**Tournament Winners:**  
**Spikers**

**Runners-up:**  
**HighFlyers**



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# Gandhi — The ‘Light’ That Guided Martin Luther King Jr.

Having won our independence in a nonviolent struggle, Indians joined Americans in celebrating Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.’s leadership of the civil rights movement in the United States. On Aug. 28, we commemorated the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington where King delivered his “I Have a Dream” speech, and, on April 4, we mourned the 45th anniversary of his assassination.



March 10 marked another milestone moment in King’s public ministry and personal journey. On that day, 54 years ago, he returned from a month-long journey to India where he rededicated himself to the nonviolent struggle for justice to which the leader of our nation’s independence movement, Mahatma Gandhi, gave his life.

King carried forward Gandhi’s commitments — and Indians enthusiastically embraced King’s campaigns — because both shared common values, common strategies and common struggles. While each leader’s life was cut short by violence, both these prophets of peace still have much to teach a world plagued by war, terrorism, discrimination and divisiveness.

Through most of the past century, Indians and African-Americans supported each other’s struggles because we identify with each other’s predicaments and principles. While born and raised in India, Gandhi first struggled for social justice in South Africa where he protested peacefully against discrimination against Asians as well as Africans.

Returning to India in 1914, he developed the doctrine of Satyagraha — nonviolent resistance to evil. This watchword has been translated as “truth force,” “love force” — and, in a phrase made famous by the U.S. civil rights movement, “soul force.” From the Salt March in 1930 to hunger strikes and prison terms, our nonviolent struggle won our independence in 1947.

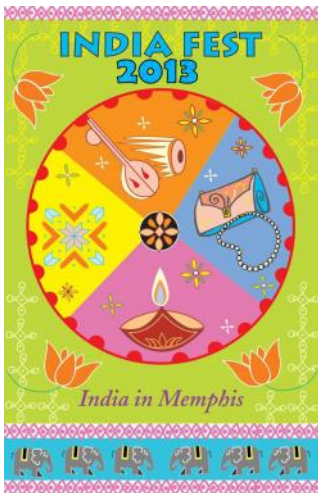
Gandhi also reached out to African-Americans, spreading seeds of nonviolent protest that King would ultimately harvest. In 1929, he authored a short article in the NAACP magazine, *The Crisis*, and in 1935 he met with a group of African-American leaders visiting India, including Benjamin Mays, who later became president of Morehouse College in Atlanta, which King attended.

As a mentor to King, Mays encouraged him to read Gandhi’s writings, which informed King’s leadership of the bus boycott in Montgomery, Ala., in 1955. King later wrote that Gandhi’s teachings were “the guiding light of our technique of nonviolent social change.”

**Suggested reading, courtesy Dr. C.P. Chandradas | Source:**

<http://www.politico.com/story/2013/03/mahatma-gandhis-lightguided-martin-luther-king-jr-88581.html>

# IndiaFest 2013 — Arts, Food, Music and Family Fun



**WHEN**  
**November 2, 2013**  
Saturday  
10:00 AM - 6:00 PM

**WHERE**  
**Agricenter**  
**International**  
7777 Walnut Grove Road  
Memphis, TN 38120

Once again, IAM is ready to present India Fest to the Memphians on November 2, 2013 at the Agricenter. This will be its 11th year of the festival. Though the venue has remained the same over the last few years, the magnitude and grandeur of India Fest has been ever-growing. This year the festival is anticipated to be bigger and better than ever. The expected crowd this year is a staggering 12,000! Even bigger than 2012 record!

The theme of this year's India Fest is based on the "Kingdoms of India". The idea is to showcase the rich history of India and the grandeur of its kingdoms. The audience will not only feel the opulence of the majestic dynasties of India, but also compare and contrast it with the contemporary way of life in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

Like last year, the cultural performances of the day will be organized in two primary segments, named *MALHAAR* and *RANG-MANCH*. *Malhaar* is the non-competitive cultural segment that will attempt to string together an array of performances by local talents. It primarily attracts youth performers where local organizations creatively amalgamate elements of western and eastern culture. *Rang-Manch* on the other hand, is a team-based competitive performance segment that brings out the best of talents in Memphis.

The food booths will be a mix of commercial and non-commercial food stalls from several different regions and states of India – from the spicy south to the sweet north. The bazaar too will be bigger than the years before – adorned with ethnic jewelry and designer dresses straight out of India, brought in specially for the festival. Visitors will get the unique opportunity to shop in the experience of a typical Indian bazaar.

The musical and dance-drama performances, a rich backdrop of colorful Indian dresses and henna-tattoos (the plant-based "*mehndi*"). The sights and sounds of laughter of friends and families, accompanied with delicious Indian food and years' worth of photographs are expected to make this day a very memorable one for all participants, volunteers and visitors alike.

So Mid-Southerners, please make a note of the date and venue – November 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Agricenter International, Memphis. Indulge your curiosity in the rich traditions of one of world's oldest cultures and largest democracies. Do not miss out on this opportunity to give your senses an experience which is uncommon outside India!

Courtesy — **Prantik Sinha**



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