



## Diwali @ Federation Square

by **Celebrate India** inc.

The “Victorian festival of Diwali” also known as the Festival of Lights, has a beautiful message of “victory of good over evil & light over darkness” which is relevant even today.

This annual festival will be launched on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> Nov with a 5 day Bollywood films show at Fed Square sponsored by Mind Blowing Films.

The Diwali festivities on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> Nov will immerse Federation Square in rich, vibrant colours of India. The whole day of cultural blast will cater for all ages.

Interesting arts & craft making workshop for children with ART PLAY, jugglers, face painting, fun filled interactive items for young and adults, OPEN Workshop to learn Bollywood dancing with JHOOM Bollywood group, meet & greet the AFL players & Australian cricketers are just some of the exciting activities planned for the day along with captivating folk, traditional & Bollywood dances, live band, bazaar and a variety of traditional and Indo-Chinese cuisine for food lovers.

Some unique collaborative fusion items will be performed by local Indian, Salvadorian and Chinese artists.

But this is not all. This year Celebrate India is extremely proud to host an incredible, “**Sidi-Goma Tribal Dance Group**” sponsored by the Government of India, which is coming especially to perform for Diwali@ Fed Square.

The Sidi’s known as the Black Sufis of Gujarat are a tribal Sufi community of East African origin which came to India more than eight centuries ago and settled there. They brought with them their exceptionally rich musical heritage and kept it alive through the generations, unknown to the rest of the world.

It would be a rare opportunity for Victorians to witness this incredibly exuberant, joyful music & dance of the hidden community of African-Indians.

Every year on Diwali, Celebrate India does its bit to raise awareness and funds toward a worthwhile cause. This year we have joined hands with White Ribbon, an organisation spreading the message of “**STOP violence against women**”. Throughout the day, Oath taking ceremonies will be conducted asking all Victorian men to say **NO** to violence against women and funds will be raised for this deserving cause.

Chairman of Celebrate India who is also the first White Ribbon Ambassador from the South Asian Communities wants to invite all Victorian men to commit & stand up for the women in their lives.

## Diwali@Fed Square- Program in brief

### ❖ **From 5<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> Nov- Diwali Film Shows,** Sponsored by Mind Blowing Films

Free screening of Bollywood Hits

- 5<sup>th</sup> Nov, Mon, 6pm- **"Band Baja Baarat"** romance, funny hit of 2011
- 6<sup>th</sup> Nov, Tues, 12.00- **"Aarakshan"** with Amitabh Bachchan, 2011
- 7<sup>th</sup> Nov, Wed, 12.00- **"Ek Main aur Ek Tou"**, Karina Kapoor, 2012
- 8<sup>th</sup> Nov, Thurs, 12.00- **"Joker"** - fantasy with Akshay Khanna, 2012
- 9<sup>th</sup> Nov, Friday, 12.00- **"Ladies vs Ricky Bahl"**, Romantic comedy, 2011

### ❖ **On 7<sup>th</sup> Nov -**

5pm- Dance Performances at **NGV** and

5.30pm- **Flinders St Station** with Multilingual announcements of Diwali wishes in the Loop

- ❖ Look for **Horse Carriage with Diwali decorations** on 5<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> Nov in the city.

### ❖ **Diwali @ Melbourne Airport-6<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> November**

Temple decoration at the Departure lounge with **banners,**

Hourly announcements of Diwali wishes daily

& dance performances on 6<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> Nov.

- ❖ **Diwali Window Decorations** at Westpac Bank, City Square, Melbourne  
From 29<sup>th</sup> Oct till 16<sup>th</sup> Nov 2012

- ❖ **Lighting of Iconic Buildings**- Parliament of Victoria, Fed Square Museum, Exhibition Building & Counsel General of India.

## ❖ Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> Nov- Diwali@Fed Square

- 12 noon-** Bazaar and food stalls open
- 1-2.30pm-** BMW Edge -Exhibition of 100 yrs old Indian Stamps, Art effects, Lectures on Yoga, Meditation, Indian therapies & Classical performances.
- 2-3pm** Fun activities for children like face painting, Clown,  
Craft workshop with **ART-PLAY**  
Novelty & interactive items, dances and singing
- 3-5pm-** Meet & Greet AFL players & Workshop with **Richmond Football club**,  
Open **Bollywood Dance Workshop** by “Jhoom Bollywood”  
**Live band** & Bollywood singing,  
**Folk dances** of India,  
**OATH ceremony** for all Victorian men with White Ribbon, supporting  
“**Stop Violence against Women**”
- 5-7pm-** Collaborative fusion items with artists from **Chinese and Salvadorian** communities, **Aboriginal** dance group, **Indian Drums act** &  
Meet/Greet Australian Cricketers
- 7-9.30pm-** Traditional opening ceremony, **surprise items**, performance by the amazing  
“**Sidi Goma Dance Troupe**” from India, sponsored by Govt. of India  
**Bollywood & folk dances** continue...
- 9.30pm-** **Fireworks on the Yarra** to conclude the festivities

It's a free family event.

आइये मिलकर दिवाली मनाएँ

Celebrate India inc. invites all Victorians to celebrate Diwali at Federation Square, which is the biggest Diwali celebration in Australia and much awaited annual event of Melbourne's cultural calendar.

For more information, visit [www.celebrateindia.org.au](http://www.celebrateindia.org.au)