



General Information

Language: English, Hindi, Urdu, Bengali

Religion: Hindu, Muslim, Christian, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi

Time Difference: Central Europe (MET): +3,5h (summer time)

+4,5h (winter time), further information can be found at www.worldtimeserver.com

Currency: Indian Rupee (INR)

You can check the current currency rate at www.oanda.com

Emergency Call: police: 100, fire department: 101, rescue: 102

Electric Power Supply: 220-240 V 50. Adapter is required. Further information at: www.electricaloutlet.org/

Finances: It's generally possible to withdraw money with cash card. Currently credit cards are accepted by quite a large part of hotels and restaurants in bigger cities.

Before leaving please inform yourself about the embassy and the contact details in India. Take this information with you on the trip.

Entry Requirements and Security

Entry Requirements (VISA):

You need an at least 6 months valid passport and a visa for the entry. Visas are available through the Indian embassy as well as visa agencies.

Please apply for your visa here: <https://indianvisaonline.gov.in/visa/>

Customs: Foreign exchange from a counter value of 5,000 US Dollar have to be declared. High-value articles like video cameras and so forth also have to be named. The import and export of Indian Rupee is strictly forbidden.

Safety: India is a relatively safe country. You should use take precautions to avoid pick pocketing at public places.

Health Care

Recommendation for Inoculation: Protection against diphtheria, hepatitis A, malaria, rabies, tetanus, typhoid is needed

Further Health Protection: Vaccinations are sometimes advised for hepatitis B, Japanese encephalitis, polio and tuberculosis.

Water for drinking, brushing teeth or making ice should be boiled or sterilised. Milk is often unpasteurised and should be boiled as well. Avoid dairy products have been made from unboiled milk. Eat only well-cooked meat and fish. Vegetables should be cooked and fruits peeled.

In India tropical diseases like malaria or dengue also appear in large cities. Basically consulting by a general practitioner or tropical disease specialists is recommended. You can avoid many tropical and infectious diseases and also diarrhoea by using hygienic food and beverages as well as consistent repellent (sprays, lotions, long clothing, and mosquito net).

Health Care: Health care facilities are available in all major cities, but facilities in rural areas are often limited. Travellers are strongly advised to have full comprehensive medical insurance before departing to India. It is advisable to bring specific medicines.

The medical care isn't comparable to Europe and it is often – especially in the countryside and in small cities – hygienically problematic. In many cases well skilled, English speaking doctors are missing. The health care in metropolis is obviously better, partly high standard. We recommend strongly an adequate, worldwide valid health insurance coverage and reliable travel cancellation insurance. The medicine supply is good but specific drugs should be entrained. The best storage of drugs is in dispensaries.



Code of Behaviour

Greeting: Traditionally you say „Namaste“ or „Namaskar“, with a slight bow, handshaking only when it is offered.

Address: The most common way to address a person is to prefix the name with „Mr.“, „Mrs.“, „Miss“ or a title („Doctor“) together with the surname.

Indian Names: In North India most people have a family name like “Singh” or “Sharna”. The written order is the forename followed by the surname. Surnames aren’t used in South India, but the name of father and hometown are put in front of the forename. Usually both are shortened with the initials.

Appearance: Normal business dress for men is a suit and tie. However, since India has a warm climate, often just a full-sleeved shirt with a tie is also acceptable. Women are suggested to wear pant-suits or at least knee covering skirts, the necklines of tops should be restrained, women are also able to wear Salwars (Indian trousers with tunics) or Saris in business life. Generally it’s seen as amicable gesture if foreigners wear Indian clothing.

Business Life: Personal relationships and feelings are important in business life. Mutual trust is absolutely essential. Small talk is very important before starting conversation about business. First meetings should take place with the highest ranking contact person if possible. Women in higher positions are very new in India. A foreign business woman is met with respect and politeness. However it takes more time for her getting to discuss business. Indians like to bargain. You should always set elbowroom in your offers; everything else would be understood as unaccommodating.

Business Card: Business cards are an important aspect in business and private life. Several numbers of business cards is highly recommended. The business language is English, a translation of the card is not necessary.

Punctuality: Punctuality is expected, although being 10 minutes late will not have disastrous consequences. Flexibility is paramount. Family responsibilities take precedence over business so last minute cancellations are possible when doing business.

Having a Conversation: Indians are open-minded and friendly. Questions about family and personal interests, as well as compliments are common. You don’t mention disagreements directly, but express them indirectly. Popular topics of conversations are policy, sport and the economic reform. A bit preparation in these subjects helps you to enforce the own acceptance. Conversations about religion and Pakistan should be avoided. Furthermore you shouldn’t initiate discussions about poverty in India, but it’s possible to participate at such a conversation which is started by the Indian dialog partner.

Hierarchy: Of all the cultural influences that most impact Indian business culture, hierarchy plays a key role. With its roots in Hinduism and the caste system, Indian society operates within a framework of strict hierarchy that defines people's roles, status and social order.

Food and Beverages: Hospitality is very important in India. Many Indians are vegetarians, as it is usual in the religious group of Hindus. Consequently there are many vegetarian restaurants.

Traditional Indian meals are eaten with the fingers of the right hand. The left hand is deemed to be dirty. Washing hands before and after meal is absolutely necessary.

Small presents: Gift giving is customary in India, and is seen as a sign of friendship. However, it is generally not expected at the first meeting. It is advisable not to give expensive gifts, unless you are very close to the person. Normally, large and expensive gifts are given only by family friends and close relatives - and for specific family occasions, such as a wedding. Indians do appreciate a gift which is representative of your, or a specific, culture. Usually you don’t unwrap presents in the presence of the endowing person.