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- **Foods** vary widely in India and are often influenced by religion. Hindus do not eat beef or consume alcohol while Muslims avoid pork and alcohol. Vegetarianism is widely practiced in India.
  - When visiting **temples**, saffron powder, holy water from the Ganges River, and sometimes food are offered to visitors as blessings: it is discourteous to refuse these gifts. Women should cover their heads when entering temples.
  - Avoid touching anyone's **head** as Indians believe the head is very sensitive. Similarly, avoid touching anyone with your **feet** or shoes as these are considered unclean.
  - Indian **agents** are a vital link in the chain of complex selling processes in India. Most Canadian companies find an agent invaluable in guiding them through the maze of regulations and red tape.
  - **Joint venture** arrangements often are preferred when the Canadian firm is bringing some form of technology or know-how, rather than a specific product, to the partnership. Generally, at least in the beginning, the partnership tends to be of equal value (a 50-50 joint venture agreement).
  - Normal **business hours** are from 9:30 to 13:00 and 14:00-17:00 from Monday to Friday, though many work far longer hours. Government offices open at 10:00.
  - **National holidays** include International New Year's Day (January 1), Republic Day (January 26), Independence Day (August 15), and Mahatma Gandhi's Birthday (October 2). In addition, there are a number of national and regional religious festivals throughout the year.
  - **Travellers** to India require a visa and valid passport. Yellow fever vaccinations are required if you are coming from an infected area and vaccinations against cholera and typhoid as well as protection against hepatitis and malaria should be considered. Water is not potable and food should be eaten only if hot and well-cooked or fresh and thoroughly washed.