

4. INDIAN CUISINE AND PROHIBITION:

Indian food is varied and highly spiced. The curries of the south are much hotter than those of the north. Nan (Indian bread) or rice are traditional accompaniments to Indian curries. Good Indian food is available in all first class hotels and restaurants.

In some parts of India it is necessary to possess liquor permits before ordering and consuming alcoholic beverages. Liquor permits are freely available to visitors on arrival.

5. SOCIAL AND BUSINESS CUSTOMS:

Some business practices common in India are

- appointments should be made by telex or telephone.
- morning appointments are preferred
- business cards should be presented before meetings
- local business and government representatives prefer to deal with their prospective clients personally.
- try to match the visitors status to the host's status in organisations, so that the senior people meet senior people and technicians meet technicians.
- be punctual though a short 15 minute wait is normal.
- use surnames in business dealings
- regular follow up correspondence is recommended
- luncheon appointments are common, dinner invitations are extended only after a relationship has been formed.

Indian social customs:

- the people of India have many diverse and strong beliefs, hinging on their religious convictions
- cows are sacred to Hindus, they do not eat beef and most are vegetarians.
- the majority of Hindus, especially women, do not consume alcohol
- women do not shake hands — the correct greeting for women is the 'namaste' accompanied by a gesture of the hand, similar to that adopted in prayer. If the meeting takes place in a westernized setting, men and women do shake hands
- Sikhs and Parsees do not smoke tobacco
- Muslims do not drink alcohol or eat pork and during Ramadan, do not eat or drink between sunrise and sunset.
- when visiting holy shrines or mosques, dark clothes that are not revealing should be worn. Shoes must be removed

6. HOURS OF WORK

Most private offices in India work from 0930 hrs through 1730 hrs, with an hours lunch-break usually from 1300 hrs to 1400 hrs. Most government offices work from 10.30 a.m. to 6.30 p.m. with an hour's lunch break. Banks are usually open to the public between 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays.

The normal work week is five and a half days, Monday through Saturday. A 5-day week is also prevalent in many offices, including those of the central government.

7. CLIMATE

The yearly Indian seasons are winter (December-February) Summer (March-May) Monsoon (June-September) and post Monsoon (October-November). Although India is classified as a tropical monsoon country, the climate is varied, the common factor being the monsoon from June to September, when there is torrential rain in many parts of the country. Temperatures in Bombay vary from 20°C in January to 34°C in May, while in Delhi it can vary from 5°C to 45°C.

8. DRESS

Clothing should be light and loose-fitting throughout the year in most parts of India. Cotton clothes are recommended. The northern winters are cold and require woollen clothing for 2-3 months of the year, but