

# PART VI

## YOUR BUSINESS VISIT TO INDIA

### 1. TRAVEL AND COMMUNICATION

There are 4 international airports and 85 other aerodromes in India. The international airports are in Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi and Madras. Indian air services are provided by 3 airlines: Air India, Indian Airlines and Vayudoot. Air India provides international services. Almost all cities of tourist or business importance are connected by jet flights. The fare structure is one of the cheapest in the world. Vayudoot provides domestic services to smaller cities.

India has several major ports on both the west and east coasts. Bombay is the largest and busiest, followed by Madras, Calcutta and Kandla.

The Indian railway system is the largest in Asia and the second largest in the world under a single management. However, this network, more than a century old, is seriously in need of upgrading.

The Indian road network is one of the largest in the world, however roads tend to be congested and in poor condition.

A towns and many villages are connected by bus services run by state governments. Though the fares are cheap the vehicles are crowded and this mode is not recommended for visitors. However, long-distance air conditioned coaches are increasingly available for getting to popular destinations.

All major cities and towns of India have telephone systems, although they operate with varying degrees of efficiency. Telephone rates are not very high, although calls from hotels can be expensive. All state capitals are linked with Delhi by direct dialing system, and direct dialing facilities are available to most countries world-wide. The entire country is covered by a postal and telegraph system and most major towns are linked by telex.

### 2. TIPPING

Tipping in India is a way of getting things accomplished. If you are going to be using a service repeatedly, tipping will ensure better service.

Tip porters 10 rupees. In hotels and restaurants leave 10%, unless a service charge is included in the bill in which case tipping is optional. Taxi drivers can be given 10% of the fare, though this is not obligatory. Do not offer money to beggars. As a rule of the thumb — someone who approaches and offers help wants a tip.

### 3. HOW TO STAY HEALTHY

Before coming to India, it is recommended to have hepatitis, cholera, typhoid, polio and tetanus inoculations. A certificate of vaccination against yellow fever is required for those entering India but they are not valid until 10 days after vaccination.

While in India, certain precautions should be taken with food and drink:

Avoid unboiled drinking water, ice, salad, icecream from vendors, or any other uncooked or undercooked food. All meats should be well done. Although India offers a variety of exotic fruits and vegetables, it is advisable to eat only those which can be peeled. Food from street vendors should not be eaten. First class hotels and restaurants are recommended as safe eating places. Be aggressive about keeping away flies.

The risk of developing malaria is great in India. Anti-malaria pills should be taken on a regular basis. Rabies is common in India. Unnecessary contact with stray dogs, monkeys and small wild animals should be avoided. Perhaps the greatest hazard to travellers in Asia as road accidents. Use extreme care in driving and do not hesitate to caution reckless taxi/scooters/bus drivers.