

Multilingualism and Development

11th International Language and Development Conference
18-20 November 2015, New Delhi, India

Notes for visitors to India and travel advisory

www.britishcouncil.in/language-and-development-conference-2015

www.langdevconferences.org

Useful addresses and contact numbers

British Council Division
British High Commission

+91 (11) 2371 1401 (Tel)
+91 (11) 2371 0717 (Fax)

17 Kasturba Gandhi Marg
New Delhi 110 001

About the conference

Date: Wednesday 18 November – Friday 20 November 2015

Venue: The Lalit New Delhi
Barakhamba Avenue, Connaught Place,
Near Modern School, New Delhi,
Delhi 110001
Phone: +91 11 4444 7777

You can participate in the conference under two categories

- ❖ **Speakers** – Individuals who will be presenting a paper at the conference or conducting a workshop
 - Results have been announced on Monday 27 July.
 - All speakers whose paper has been selected have been informed over email.
 - Please confirm your participation by sending an email to LDC2015@in.britishcouncil.org by 14 August 2015.
 - You will receive an email with a bespoke registration link.
 - Please register online, pay the conference fee (given below). Upon successful payment you will receive a confirmation email.
 - Foreign speakers will be required to fill up a [Visitor information form](#) and email this along with a scanned image of their passport to LDC2015@in.britishcouncil.org for issuing the visa facilitation letter.

- ❖ **Delegates** – Individuals who participate in the conference but are not presenting
 - Please register online from the link given below and pay the conference fee. Upon a successful payment you will receive a confirmation email.
www.britishcouncil.org.in/registration-language-and-development-conference-2015/new-registration.php
 - Foreign delegates will be required to fill up a [Visitor information form](#) and email this along with a scanned copy of their passport to LDC2015@in.britishcouncil.org for issuing the visa facilitation letter.

Registration and Conference fee

Participant category*	Early bird fee	Regular fee	Currency payable
India and SAARC countries	GBP 80	GBP 100	INR or GBP equivalent
International speakers and delegates	GBP 150	GBP 200	GBP or USD equivalent

* For the purposes of "Participant category" the organisers will go by the nationality mentioned in your passport.

Registration opens: Monday 27 July

Early bird deadline: Monday 31 August

Registration closes: Monday 2 November

All participants are requested to carry the following documents for identification while reporting at the conference desk to collect the conference pack. Subsequently all participants are required to have the non-transferable unique conference id on them at all times during the conference and related events.

- A valid photo ID card (passport for foreign participants)
- Printout of the confirmation email

The conference fee includes:

- conference kit with programme, materials, pen, unique conference ID
- access to all sessions during the conference (some venues for the parallel sessions have limited capacity and these will be available on a first-come-first-seated basis)
- buffet lunch, two services of tea/coffee on all three days of the conference
- one conference gala dinner and cultural programme.

Visa Advisory

Please note that granting of a visa, its duration, number of entries permitted, etc. are entirely at the discretion of the Indian Embassies/ consulates and the organisers have no role to play in that process or influence those decisions directly or indirectly.

Our recommendations for securing a visa:

- All participants (speakers and delegates) should complete conference registration and payment by Tuesday 1 September 2015.
- Once you receive the participation confirmation email (this is a single document that serves as your payment receipt), please email this along with a scanned image of your valid passport to LDC2015@in.britishcouncil.org within 24 hours. Please refer to "[Enrolling for the conference](#)" section above for other documents that you need to send.
- British Council India will produce a visa facilitation/ invitation letter at the earliest.
- All participants are required to apply for a **Conference visa**. Please note that a conference visa is not available on arrival. You have to apply well in advance and with the requisite documentation.
- Participants should apply for a visa at least one month ahead of the date of travel, if not earlier.
- Almost all individuals with ordinary passport will need a visa to come to India. Please contact your local VFS office or Indian embassies/consulates for any support or information regarding visa application process.

About Delhi

Area: 1484 sq. km.

Altitude: 216 mts. above sea level

Population: 13.78 million

Area code: (0)11

Languages: English, Hindi, Urdu, Punjabi

Summer months: May and June are the hottest months. The temperature goes up to 46 degrees Celsius.

Winter months: December and January are very cold at night although warm during the day. A typical winter morning is very foggy with a thick layer of smog all around. The temperature may be as low as 4 degree Celsius at night.

November is expected to be pleasant, with temperature ranging between 25 to 13 degrees Celsius. It is not likely to rain this time of the year.

Best time to visit: October / November, February / March

Languages

Hindi is the national language although little spoken in South India. **English** is widely spoken and understood almost everywhere in India by the educated sections of society, and increasingly by the wider section of population in cities.

Some tips

- Drink plenty of liquids, even if you're not thirsty.
- Always buy mineral water. Make sure you buy recognised brands of mineral water like *Catch*, *Kinley*, *Aquafina*, *Himalayan*. Ensure it is sealed.
- Dress in lightweight, light-coloured, loose-fitting clothing, preferably cottons in summer.
- Avoid midday heat and try to rest during the hottest part of the day
- Wear a hat. Don't expose the back of your neck.
- Ensure that you wear sun block (Sun Protecting Factor 30) before going outdoors.
- Eat light. Avoid hot, heavy meals and opt for foods high in water content like fruits and soups.
Do not buy food from roadside stalls.
- Use air conditioning. If the temperature is 90 degrees Fahrenheit or above, fans alone usually cannot protect against heat-related illness.
- In November, you are likely to need light woollens in Delhi, especially for outdoors in the evening.

Travel Insurance

Essential. The British Council does not pay for individual medical or travel insurance, nor can it accept any liability for medical costs incurred during your trip or any loss or damage to personal

belongings. You must therefore take out medical and travel insurance for yourself before you leave your country, to ensure you are properly covered, including the costs of medical evacuation.

Electricity

240 volts

Airport

New Delhi has two terminals, 4.5 km apart. From Terminal 3 (T3) international & domestic flights such as Air India and Jet Airways operate. Spice Jet, Indigo & Go Air flights depart from Terminal 1D and flights operated by these airlines arrive at Terminal 1C. Complimentary Golf cart service is also available for convenience of passengers. The two are linked by coach services. The airports have restaurants, snack bars, business centre and other facilities.

Indira Gandhi International Airport T3, Delhi's international terminal, is 20 km from the city centre, about 45 minutes journey by car. A Pre-paid taxi is about Rs 500/- to downtown. Chauffeur-driven cars and coaches are also available through the Indian Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) counter. They charge around Rs 1,000/- and Rs 700/- respectively. There is a courtesy coach shuttle service for passengers, every 20 minutes between domestic and international terminals of the Indira Gandhi International Airport. T3 facilities include Plaza Premium Lounge, "Shower & Massage" Lounge, "Nap & Massage" Lounge, shop & eat, Wi-Fi, Information, foreign exchange counters and duty free shops.

For information on flight departure and arrivals, call the International/ Domestic airport helpline at 0124 3376000

Transportation system in Delhi

Delhi has four main systems for commuting – buses, auto rickshaws (three wheelers), Delhi Metro and taxis. Autorickshaws and taxis can be hired from pre-paid counters, or flagged down on the street. Buses tend to be crowded and so should be avoided, especially during rush hours (0900 till 1700 hours).

The best and safest option is to get your hotel to call a taxi from the local stand for you or you can avail Easy Cabs (Phone no: 43434343 <http://www.easycabs.com>) or Meru Cab services (Phone no: 44224422 <http://www.merucabs.com>). Bookings can also be done online.

Taxis can be hired for half or full days (typically Rs 400 – 500 and Rs 800 – 1000 respectively). For short journeys, make sure the driver uses the meter.

Taxis at the airport

These are black with yellow tops and are available from the taxi point at the airport. All taxis in Delhi operate on Compressed Natural Gas (CNG), a non-polluting fuel.

The pre-paid taxi counter is located right before you leave the terminal building. You will be given a receipt at the counter for your payment, which you then hand over to the driver. There are fixed

fares for fixed points from the international terminal and metered fares elsewhere. The taxi driver will produce on demand a printed fare card, which relates the actual fare to the metre reading. Tips are not expected.

Do NOT accept a lift in a private car or take a taxi passing by or standing at a place other than a taxi point at the airport. Do not share a taxi with a stranger or use a taxi which has any other person in it apart from the driver. It is best to agree the fare before you start as meters often don't work.

Transit through Delhi

You should allow a transit time of about 4 hours between international and domestic flights and about 3 hours between domestic flights. Domestic passengers are expected to check-in 75 minutes in advance of the departure time for all flights. Check-in counters are closed half an hour before flight times. The closure is strictly observed. For international flights the check-in time is a minimum of 2 hours before the time of departure.

Accommodation

Conference venue hotel

The Lalit, New Delhi

<http://www.thelalit.com/the-lalit-new-delhi/>

Limited rooms are available at special conference rates and the booking form to confirm reservation is available for download on our website.

Please complete one form for each attendee and return the form to Email: Mr Vijay Ranvir Bhalla at vbhalla@thelalit.com / +91-9818126696, Ms Pearl Dhingra at pdhingra@thelalit.com / +91-9818533394 and delgroupres@thelalit.com

Transit hotels near the airport

Eaton Smart, New Delhi Airport Transit Hotel

<http://newdelhiairport.eatonhotels.com>

If you have to spend a few hours in transit from international to domestic flights the best place to book yourself at the Eaton Smart, New Delhi Airport Transit Hotel

Located within the airport terminal, the 93-room hotel offers discerning travellers everything they need to continue their journey in comfort and style.

The hotel is divided into two wings with rooms available at both the International and the Domestic wings of the T3 terminal.

Featuring a modern design and comfortable facilities, the 57 rooms at the International Terminal are reserved for transiting passengers or those who have cleared customs.

Lemon Tree Premier, Delhi Airport

<http://www.lemontreehotels.com/lemon-tree-premier/delhi/delhi-international-airport.aspx>

JW Marriott Hotel New Delhi Aerocity

<http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/delap-jw-marriott-hotel-new-delhi-aerocity/>

Holiday Inn New Delhi Int'l Airport

<http://www.ihg.com/holidayinn/hotels/us/en/new-delhi/delap/hoteldetail>

Budget hotels

YMCA Youth Hostel

1, Jai Singh Road, New Delhi 110001, Tel. +91 11 43644000

Contact: Mr. Lawrence Cardoza, 011 - 23746031/ 43644063/ 9871738838, Email:

ymcath@ndf.vsnl.net.in

Hotel Vikram

819, Hemkunt Chambers, 89, Nehru Place New Delhi - 110019

Tel : 011- 46576217

Contact: Vikram Singh, Mob-09582262515, Email: vikram.singh@inreachhotels.com

4 Tolstoy

4 Tolstoy Marg, New Delhi – 110001

Contact: Lochanam Agarwal – 8010085027

Foreign Exchange

The unit of currency is the rupee and all money should be changed with authorised moneychangers only. You should insist on a receipt which will help in reconverting the money when you leave India.

Avoid touts.

You can cash your travellers' cheques at one of the 24 hour exchange bureau desks before you leave the International Airport. Most hotels have foreign exchange conversion facilities. As a foreigner, payment of hotel bills in rupees will only be accepted if you show that you have exchanged foreign currency into rupees. So keep your currency exchange receipt. Never make any payment in foreign exchange except at an authorised place or accept any offer for conversion from an unauthorised person.

Most European bank cards are now also accepted at ATMs, which are located all over the city. You will be charged a fee (usually around 2% of the transaction value). Your ATM receipt should be kept as proof of currency exchange.

Do not sell items in order to obtain Indian rupees. Some of the possessions you bring in with you (such as camera, Walkman, etc.) may be entered in your passport. You will be expected to carry the same articles on your departure.

Exchanging rupees back to hard currency can be a lengthy business. Try to change foreign currency in small amounts or spend any excess rupees before departure.

Credit cards are now widely accepted in Delhi, in larger shops and emporiums, restaurants and hotels.

Travel Agencies

If you want to fix up a private trip, these agencies are accredited:

HRG SITA, Travel DESK, Windsor IT Park, Level A-1 Sector-125, Noida-201301 UP, India

T: +91(120)6763666

F: +91(120)6763555

Web: www.hrgworldwide.com

Web: www.dnata.com

Narula Travels, 13 Tolstoy Marg, Mohandev Building, New Delhi – 110 001, Tel: 2332 8121

Thomas Cook, C-33, Connaught Place, Inner Circle, New Delhi – 110 001 Tel:

66271900/66271923

Himalayan Travels & Tours, Ashok Hotel Lobby, Chanakyapuri Tel: 26881517/18

Sight seeing

Trips can be fixed up either via your hotel or through a travel agency (see above). Do not accept an offer of a tour from any unauthorised person.

There are several private run and government run tour operators. The most reliable operators are the Government run **Delhi Tourism Development Corporation (DTDC)** and **Indian Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC)**. Both organise city sightseeing tours everyday by air-conditioned and non air-conditioned coaches.

Contact DTDC at 23315322 / 23730416 and ITDC at 24360317 / 24360182. You can also call American Express Related Services at 23311561. For more details, contact the travel desk in your hotel.

Shopping

Travel with an empty suitcase. The opportunities for shopping in Delhi are endless – from expensive up-market stores to cheap markets. Excellent value, particularly leather goods, pottery, tableware, cotton clothes, crafts and local anti facts. Hotel arcades are generally good but more expensive although often better quality.

Most shops and emporiums accept credit cards (although your card provider will charge you a fee, usually around 2% on foreign transactions); markets accept only cash.

Delhi is a shopper's paradise. You can go to **Connaught Place** and the shopping centres around it where modern Delhi shops. Browse in the various state emporia that sell exotic handicrafts from various parts of India. Walk down Janpath, visit Bengali market, and the small shops, until you reach **Central Cottage Industries Emporium**, for good quality handicrafts, handloom textiles and silks from all over India at a fixed price.

Another emporium worth visiting is **Kashmir Government Arts Emporium** on 5 Prithviraj Road in New Delhi. This emporium has two other branches: one in Connaught Place and the other on Baba Kharak Singh Marg. Baba Kharak Singh Marg also houses all other State Government Emporia, which are well worth a visit.

For more European-style brands, try **South Extension** market, **Select CITYWALK** in Saket and **DLF Promenade and Emporio** in Vasant Kunj. **Khan Market** is close to the city centre, for sports shops, clothes, toys and books, as well as imported food. **Sarojini Nagar** market is good for export surplus clothing, particularly for children.

For an authentic Indian experience, you may also visit **Dilli Haat** where you can shop for authentic crafts from all parts of the country and try out cuisines from each Indian state.

You may also like to go where the Mughuls once shopped - in **Chandni Chowk**. Ancient, narrow, twisting lanes hoarding as it were a myriad historic secrets, keeping alive the traditional workmanship that makes Delhi famous. The best way to get around Old Delhi is by cycle rickshaw.

Shopping hours are 1000 to 1800 for government emporia, and 0930 to 1930 for other shops. Most shops usually close for lunch for one hour between 1300 and 1500. Shopping centres mentioned above are closed on Sundays although the shopping malls remain open.

CLOSED DAYS FOR SHOPS:

Sundays

Connaught Place, Janpath, Baba Khadak Singh Marg, Hauz Khas Village, Jor Bagh, Khan Market, Malcha Marg, Nehru Place, Sunder Nagar, Yashwant Place, Santushti Shopping Complex, Chandni Chowk, Darya Ganj and Sadar Bazaar

Mondays

Mondays: Bhogal, Defence Colony, INA Market, Jangpura, Karol Bagh, Kotla Mubarakpur, Lajpat Nagar, Nizamuddin, Sarojini Nagar, South Extension-1 and 2

Tuesdays

Greater Kailash Part-1 and 2, Green Park, Hauz Khas, Kalkaji, Safdurjung Enclave, Ansal Shopping Plaza, Vasant Vihar and Yusuf Sarai.

Restaurants

Delhi has an excellent selection of restaurants with different cuisines – Mughlai, Italian, Chinese, Mexican, Thai, Lebanese, Goan, and Central Asian. The most popular Indian cuisine is Mughlai, which uses clay ovens or *tandoors*, and local herbs and spices. Mughlai food can be found everywhere from roadside stalls called **dhabas** to speciality restaurants in five star hotels.

Our best recommendations:-

Indian

Bukhara: ITC Maurya Sheraton Hotel, Diplomatic Enclave, Sadar Patel Marg, New Delhi. Ph: 26112233.

Karim's: 16, Gali Kebabian, Jama Masjid, Old Delhi. Ph: 23269880.

Masala Art: Taj Palace Hotel, 2 Sadar Patel Marg, New Delhi. Ph: 26110202

Punjabi By Nature: Basant Lok Community Centre, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi. Ph: 41516666

Chor Bizarre: Hotel Broadway, 4/15A Asif Ali Road, New Delhi. Ph: 43663600.

South Indian

Sarvana Bhavan

16 Janpath, Connaught Place: Ph 23317755

Sagar Ratna

Connaught Place: Ph 23412470 / 23417455

Gunpowder

22 (3rd floor), Hauz Khas Village: Ph 26535700

Oriental (Chinese, Thai, Japanese)

Chopsticks

Asian Games Village: Ph 26492348

The Oriental Bloom

Ansal Plaza, Khel Gaon Marg: Ph 26265444

Ego Thai

New Friends Colony: Ph 26331181-82

Sakura:

The Metropolitan: Ph 42500200

Multi-Cuisine

Urban Café

70, Khan Market: Ph 43597127

TGIF

302-304, DLF Place, Vasant Kunj: Ph 46060956/7

Eatopia

IHC, Lodhi Road: Ph 24682222

Italian

Diva

M Block Market, GK II : Ph 29215673

Spaghetti Kitchen

Select Citywalk Mall, Saket: Ph 42658431

Mist, The Park Hotel

15 Parliament Street: 23743000

The Big Chill Café

62, Khan Market: Ph 41757588

European

Lodi-The Garden Restaurant

Lodhi Road: 24655054

Fast food

Pizza – Dominos and Pizza Hut

KFC

McDonald's

Coffee Bars

Barista
Café Coffee Day
Costa Coffee
Starbucks

Pub/Bar

QBA
E-42/43, Connaught Place: 41512888
Route 04
K-2, Middle Circle, Connaught Place: 9717590444

Importing Goods to Britain

If you decide to purchase goods whilst in India and arrange for them to be shipped to Britain it is fairly simple. Most reputable companies will ship goods for you e.g. carpet dealers, furniture manufacturers, etc. It is relatively cheap but can take time. Here are a few tips:

Clear items through Heathrow yourself. An agent will do it but it can cost quite significant sums (£ 60 on a carpet).

It is best to obtain a certificate of origin when purchasing. You will have to pay VAT; do not undervalue, as HM customs are very aware of prices in India!

Storage charges at customs can build up rapidly (i.e. free for first four days but building up to £ 25 per week for a package the size of a carpet). If you take the certificate of origin with you this facilitates clearance.

Hotel Booking

Hotel bookings made by BCD offices on behalf of BC funded visitors should automatically involve luxury tax being excluded from bills. BCD offices also can provide exemption certificates if these are required.

All 5-star hotels have a licence to serve alcoholic drinks, as do most good restaurants. Local beer and spirits are reasonably priced, but wine is expensive because it is imported and subject to high levels of luxury tax. No hotels or restaurants will serve alcoholic drinks on 'dry' days, which are 7th of every month, and national holidays: 26 January, 15 August and 2 October.

Medical care

Should you fall ill whilst in Delhi, you should contact your travel insurance company first, who will recommend a doctor or hospital. British Council staff covered by the FCO Health Care scheme should contact:

Doctors

The British High Commission in Chanakyapuri has a hospital staffed by Dr David Gaskann, Dr Sian Harris, Dr Rajiv Khosla, Dr Seema Harsiania and a team of nurses. They can be contacted on 26872161 (ext. 2426). You will need to settle your bills for consultation and claim on your return to UK. The other recommended hospital is:

Sitaram Bharatia Institute (Contact Person: Yogander Singh Tomer. Mobile no 9811805381)
of Science and Research
B 16, Mehrauli Institutional Area
New Delhi – 11 0 016
Tel: 42111111 (Hotline no)
Fax: 26533027

Max Super Speciality Hospital
2 Press Enclave Road, Saket
New Delhi 110 017
Phone: +91 11 2651 5050
Fax: +91 11 2651 0050

Max Emergency Service:
011 4055 4055

Indian Spinal Injuries Centre (Contact Person: Dr A.S Kohli. Mobile no 9810387858)
Sector – C, Vasant Kunj
New Delhi – 110 070
Tel: 42255225/9990905436/9911000080
Fax: 26898810

Fortis La Femme (Contact Person : Mr Abijit Singh Mobile no 9818622143)
S-549 Greater Kailash Part II
New Delhi-110048

24-hour Chemists

Mediworld Chemist, F-44 East of Kailash: Ph 41620182
Kolmet Chemist, 7-B, Pusa Road, Karol Bagh: Ph45099999
RBS Jessa Ram Hospital, Karol Bagh; Ph 45013222
Apollo Pharmacy -Connaught Place: Ph 23363743

24-hour Ambulance Service

In case of accident, call Centralised Accident and Trauma Services (CATS) at ☎ 1099, 5453388 (control room) or
Ambulance service at ☎ 102 or ☎ 1066

INFLUENZA A (H1N1) VIRAL FEVER (SWINE FLU)

Please note that there has been a significant increase in the number of reported cases of seasonal flu in 2015 - including H1N1 (swine flu) in parts of India, including in Delhi. For information and advice on how to protect yourself from seasonal flu, visit the website of the [National Travel Health Network and Centre \(NaTHNaC\)](#) and consult your General Physician before travel.

For advice from the FCO on travel to India, including that on health, please visit <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/india/health>.

Post & Communications

There are post offices throughout the city. Speedpost services are available to 74 countries, and can be booked at 36 centres in the city. The main poste restante is at the GPO on the round about of Ashoka Road and Baba Kharak Singh Marg. Also at the Foreign Post Office (C/o The Postmaster), Bhai Bir Singh Marg. Packets should be marked Poste Restante, New Delhi 110001 and you should carry your passport to collect the mail.

The Central Telegraph Office is at Eastern Court, Janpath (24 hours). Also at Nehru Place and the airport. Overseas Communication Service via telex or telephone is available 24 hours at Bangla Sahib Road. There are fax services at 25 Telegraph offices, which also receive messages. The entire city has private STD booths and e-mail – internet services.

Country code for India: 0091. Code for Delhi-011. When calling from overseas omit the zero in the city code.

Tipping

It is customary to tip 10% of the bill at restaurants, but you may tip less if service charges have been included in the bill. At hotels tip 10 rupees to the bellhop, the same to the doorman 'durban'; if the service is particularly good, substantially more to the concierge and housekeeping.

Black and yellow cab drivers do not expect to be tipped. The opposite is true if you have a hired a cab for a long period. You'll find some of the most friendly and colourful service at tiny nondescript roadside stalls called 'dhabas'. A small tip, even if it is only loose change, will be appreciated tremendously.

Banks

Banks are usually open from 0930 am to 0330 pm on Mondays through Fridays and 0930am to 12.30 noon on Saturdays. The Central Bank in Ashok Hotel at Chanakyapuri and State Bank of

India at Indira Gandhi International Airport are open 24 hours. Traveller's cheques can be encashed at all foreign banks and most head offices of Indian Banks. Some leading international banks are:

Standard Chartered, Narain Manzil, 23- Barakhamba Road ☎ 23766671 / 41524402

Citi Bank, Jeevan Bharati Building, 124 Connaught Circus ☎ 23714211

HSBC, ☎ 23738989 / 18002090100

Almost all the leading international banks have 24-hour ATMs.

Local Information

For local information about what's on in Delhi plus tourist attractions and restaurant listings, the monthly Delhi Diary is available at news-stands.

Recommended reading

City of Djinn by William Dalrymple

Delhi by Khushwant Singh

India: A History by John Keay

The Idea of India by Sunil Khilnani

Guides

India – a Travel Survival Kit

Geoff Crowther

Lonely Planet Publishers

Fodor Eugene etc (ed.): India, Nepal and Sri Lanka