India

Insights for studying, volunteering, interning, researching or working abroad

This guide gives you a snapshot of the social and cultural norms you’ll encounter in India, with a focus on workplace behavior. Read it to build a basic understanding of the culture and how you might navigate it from both the local and North American Perspective. Enjoy!

This guide includes:

1. Small Talk
2. Non-verbal Communication
3. Displays of Emotion
4. Dress, Decorum & Punctuality
5. Preferred Management Styles
6. Hierarchy & Decision-making
7. Gender, Religion, Class & Ethnicity
8. Business & Personal Relationships
9. Favoritism & Patronage
10. Workplace Conflict & Feedback
11. Motivating Local Colleagues
12. Bonus Tips

Country Guide Exercises
Put what you’ve learned into practice!

To view detailed map CLICK HERE

Capital New Delhi
Population 1.4 billion
Language(s) Hindi, Bengali, Marathi, Telugu, Tamil, Gujarati, Urdu, Kannada, Odia, Malayalam, Punjabi, Assamese, Maithili, English
Religion(s) Hindu 79.8%, Muslim 14.2%, Christian 2.3%, Sikh 1.7%
Ethnic Group(s) Indo-Aryan 72%, Dravidian 25%, and other 3% (2000)
1. Small Talk

I want to make a good first impression with local colleagues. What topics should I discuss during friendly conversations?

Local Perspective

Topics for initiating discussion could include family-oriented themes, beginning with yourself sharing information concerning your marital status, parents, grandparents, spouse, siblings and children. You could also talk about your educational background, where you grew up and your country of origin. Indians enjoy cricket, soccer, field hockey and many other sports. A North American could speak about ice hockey, American football, baseball, canoeing, skiing, and so on. Other neutral topics could be about the North American wilderness, hiking and trekking trails and parks, wildlife, flora and fauna. Music is often an excellent topic, especially Western music. Most city dwellers enjoy both Indian and Western music. In a rural setting, people will be familiar with folk music, dance and songs.

Food is another excellent topic for discussion, however, first find out from your host or hostess whether or not they are vegetarian before getting into discussions about your summer barbeque favourites. Meat and discussions about it could be offensive to a vegetarian.

Topics best avoided until you know your hostess or host well would be issues surrounding religion, politics, class or caste, poverty, health care and pollution, for very obvious reasons. Firstly, you might not know your host’s political, religious affiliations or class/caste and secondly, subjects such as poverty and pollution could be interpreted as condescending.

North American Perspective

Family is very important to Indians. The social fabric of India is woven around the extended family. This is a great topic of discussion. In many cases, Indians working in key urban centers have come there from villages in rural areas or from smaller cities.

Questions about where people are from, where their family, including extended family, is residing are common. Marriage is also central to the social fabric of Indians. Be prepared to have others ask you if you are married, particularly if you are a woman and have completed your studies. Asking lots of questions to get to know others is very common.
The caste structure systematically determines the occupation and work of Hindus, which is the major religion in India. Asking what caste someone belongs is not appropriate, given the risk that they may be from a lower caste. However, asking about someone’s work or occupation is acceptable. It is probably best also not to ask if someone is Muslim or Hindu, as tensions amongst these groups can be high. In addition, avoid discussions about the tensions in Kashmir as well as between India and neighboring Pakistan.

Want more advice on small talk?

Check out this Quick Guide:

**Peach & Coconut Cultures: Navigating Small Talk Around the World**
2. Non-verbal Communication

I don’t want to make a faux pas. Which non-verbal communication norms should I be aware of?

Local Perspective

An arms length would be a good distance to keep between you and the person to whom you are speaking.

Most Indians make direct eye contact during conversation; however, a woman from a conservative or traditional or rural background may speak to you from behind the veil of her sari.

It is not acceptable to touch someone during conversation unless you know the person well. For example, an older person could take offence if you touch him or her because you are not a Hindu or, if you are a man, a woman would feel very uncomfortable and think you are making a pass at her.

During most large social and official gatherings, men and women will tend to stay clustered in their own groups, however both genders tend to mix more freely with each other during smaller family or social gatherings. If you are not sure about a non-verbal cue, do not hesitate to ask your friend or business associate or host.

Professionals in India would keep the same distance a business colleague would keep with you in North America, unless you know them very well.

Pointing a finger at someone would be considered rude. If you need to get the attention of the waiter in a restaurant, make eye contact or try to gesture to him with your right hand and arm stretched out, palm facing down and moving your fingers towards yourself.

North American Perspective

Personal space and distance when speaking to someone are a lot smaller in India than they are in North America. Indians tend to stand closer with those they already know or with whom they have built a rapport. Approximately one and a half to two meters is the norm.

Eye contact, or avoiding it, is used as a means of expressing respect for those who are in a position of higher authority. For example, it is common for employees not to look directly into
their manager’s eyes, but rather to look at the ground or straight ahead when having conversations with him.

It is normal to touch someone’s arm or hand when speaking to them, as long as they are from the same sex. Verbal and non-verbal communication with the opposite sex tends to be more conservative than it is in North America. This, however, varies greatly, depending on the level of education and occupation of those involved.

Conversations with friends and professional associates tend to be similar to those in North America. There tend to be greater levels of self-disclosure and discussions about personal matters, the closer the relationship has become or the longer someone has been known and can be trusted.

Want more advice on non-verbal communications?

Check out these Quick Guides:

- **Non-verbal Communication**: Intro (4 pgs)
- **Non-verbal Communication in Action** (23 pgs)
3. Displays of Emotion
How expressive is the culture?
Are public displays of emotion considered normal?

Local Perspective
Public displays of affection with the same gender are more readily accepted than with the opposite sex. In cosmopolitan cities such as New Delhi, Mumbai and Bangalore, displays of affection are more common, whereas in Chennai, people are more traditional and conservative in showing affection in public. However, people are more used to sharing their good news, sorrow and anger in public. Again, emotions may not readily surface within a work environment where a senior officer or superior may be present.

North American Perspective
The public display of affection among couples is kept to a minimum. Most couples, particularly those who are not married, display their affection in private spaces in their village or cities. Overall, India tends to be a very conservative country although many urban centers like Bombay or Delhi are becoming more liberal. It is somewhat common to see young married couples holding hands in public areas in urban centers. Rural areas are a lot more conservative.

Public affection amongst adult friends of the same sex, brothers or sisters is normal. It is common for these relations to hold hands in public without any fear of sexual misrepresentation.

With the extremely dense population of India, it is common to see domestic conflicts being verbalized outside of the home. Indians are very expressive with family members and those whom they know well and thus it is common to see arguments take place in public places.

Women tend not to be as expressive in situations of conflict in public as men are.
4. Dress, Decorum & Punctuality

How formal is the workplace culture? Are schedules strict? What attire is standard?

Local Perspective

Dress conservatively as a rule. During a field trip, men should wear long pants with long or short sleeve shirt and a hat, if necessary, to protect from the sun. Office wear should be a two-piece suit with tie and dress shoes, like you would in North America. However, on a social or festive occasion, if preferred, native clothing such as kurta pajama is quite acceptable, but not shorts.

Women should dress formally like they do in North America for office wear. While doing field work, they could wear a long skirt or long pants and a blouse with sleeves. On social or festive occasions, they could wear casual clothing or a salwar kameez, but no halter neck, mini shirt or shorts.

North Americans have a tendency to speak too quickly during presentations or conversations. Speaking more slowly is considered courteous. Also, North Americans typically ask "How are you?", but do not necessarily wait for a response. This may seem rude to an Indian. ‘Sir’, ‘Madam’, ‘Mr.’ or ‘Mrs.’ are used frequently by Indians as an indication of respect for age and sometimes to reflect status. Do not address someone by their first name until they ask you to do so.

As a rule, in most work places, people arrive on time and are punctual, unless faced by unavoidable circumstances such as illness, death in the family, a traffic accident or a breakdown of the vehicle they may have used to travel to work. This sometimes is not the case when going to meet with a civil servant as it is not unusual for them to be late. Bring along some work or a book to read while you wait.

Private sector is very entrepreneurial and extremely competitive, so deadlines are respected. This may not always be the case in public sector organisations.

While handing documents or your visiting cards to any Indian, keep in mind to always use your right hand. The same would also apply when you attend Indian social events. Food is always eaten with your right hand. Using the left hand is considered unclean.
North American Perspective

Men tend to wear dress shirts and dress pants. Indian women tend to wear saris or shalwar kameez, which is a long shirt and baggy pants with a scarf. It is acceptable for foreign women not to wear traditional Indian clothing as long as they are dressed in a respectable fashion according to Indian standards. Long skirts or loose fitting pants with a long blouse or top would be appropriate.

Colleagues can usually be addressed by their first names unless they are significantly older. Supervisors are most often addressed as Mr. or Mrs. It is important to take notice of how managers, or those in authority, are treated, as this varies tremendously throughout different organizations and different regions in India.

Although Indians tend to be late and start work late, it is probably best that North Americans are at work on time initially to get a sense of the working patterns in their specific organization.

Deadlines are not as rigid as they tend to be in North America. Again, however, it is best to meet deadlines until you have a better sense of the specific environment in which you are working.
5. Preferred Management Styles

I want to be an effective manager. What qualities are considered ideal?

Local Perspective

Seniority, education and experience are highly valued. North American educational background, profession, social status and travel experience could also play an important role in forming relationships both within the public and private sectors. However, human qualities such as respect for local knowledge and an individual’s age, patience, and understanding are equally important. Most importantly, never cause someone to lose face, especially in front of others. The co-operation and respect you earn from your staff will give you an idea of the opinion they have of you.

North American Perspective

Education, your position of leadership and experience are all highly regarded. Your willingness to understand the Indian culture as well as the working norms and practices of the Indian people will earn you the greatest respect. Integrating into the culture is challenging, however, this will help enable you to complete your tasks effectively.

Your staff may find it difficult if you practice North American management styles such as inclusive processes and teamwork. The integration of these styles will require proper training and time. Most work environments in India are top down and employees are accustomed to being given directions that they have to follow. You may find staff being intimidated by you. Taking the time to get to know your colleagues will help build their trust and camaraderie towards you.
6. Hierarchy & Decision-making

Is the workplace culture “flat” or more hierarchical? How are decisions made and by whom?

Local Perspective

Power and decision-making in the workplace tend to be based on rigid, hierarchical communication patterns and lines of authority, both in the private and public sectors.

In North America, it is not entirely necessary for face-to-face communications, as business can be done through telephone or electronic communication. However, face-to-face communication is preferred in India. In North America, one can get to the point without having to get into casual conversation before proceeding to discuss matters of concern, while in India, verbal communications that tend to be informal and casual conversation typically precedes discussion of matters of concern.

North American Perspective

Ideas are generally developed at middle management or higher levels. However, key decisions are decided at the highest levels and this is usually not an inclusive process.

Asking for feedback or recommendations on your work may be looked upon in a negative manner. You will probably be viewed as an expert in a particular area, and it may be perceived that you are not competent if you ask for ideas or opinions on your project. Since you are working in a different cultural context, such questions can be framed as such so as to avoid making it look like a lack of competence on your part.

It is probably best to confirm a day before a scheduled meeting just to ensure that there have been no changes. Meetings are usually held with only senior staff behind closed doors. Meetings are chaired by the person with the highest position attending the session. Meetings are run without stringent time lines and they often run for many hours. However, this varies tremendously from one organization to another.
7. Gender, Religion, Class & Ethnicity

Are cultural values around gender, religion, class and ethnicity visible in the workplace?

Local Perspective

Within the Indian context it is almost impossible to describe one local cultural attitude. All of the following four issues are very present in everyday life. While these issues would be more significant in a more traditional context, they may not always be significant in an urban situation. Once visitors are more familiar with their hosts, they could have discussions around these issues. Indian society on the whole is quite conservative and is not as flexible in accommodating differences as the West. This does not mean that Indians are somehow "backward"; they are only more bound to tradition and customs. Westerners, with their emphasis on cultural fluidity, tend to overlook this. It is important that people get to know their local environment before drawing their own conclusions.

- Gender: In most workplaces, the issues of gender, religion, class and ethnicity may not be visible, but they do exist below the surface. A woman may face gender discrimination from her superiors and from men who work for her.

- Religion: While religion may not be discussed or be an issue at work, recent Hindu-Muslim tensions have led to many riots in public places and created divisions among people. A visitor must keep in mind that India is home to Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, Judaism, Sikhism, Jainism, Zoroastrianism, and Buddhism.

- Class: Class is becoming more of an issue especially among many of the "nouveau riche" group. Suddenly, when a lower or lower-middle class person comes into money, class distinctions become more evident. Such a person may make many colleagues envious within the work place.

- Ethnicity: Unless someone identifies themselves as being a member of a certain caste or Scheduled Tribe, or their surname identifies them as such, it does not come up as an issue in the workplace within an urban setting. However, in a rural context, everyone within that particular small community will know that person’s background and he or she will have to behave within certain prescribed norms.
North American Perspective

- **Gender**: There are significant gender inequities in India resulting in major differences in the way men and women are treated in the workplace. Women in many areas of India, particularly in the rural areas, do not work outside of the home. This has changed significantly in the urban centres, although gender equality is not practised because of cultural and social customs. Women tend to have the more administrative positions in organizations and are seldom seen in management positions.

- **Religion**: The majority of the population in India are Hindus, although a significant number are Muslims, Christians, Sikhs or Buddhists.

  It is important to be cognizant of the tensions among the Hindus and Muslims.

  Religion is a very integral part of the Indian way of life and as such the impact of religion in each workplace is unique, depending on the views of the senior management and employees of the organization.

  Overall, it can be assumed that working relations are usually not impacted by religious beliefs in large organizations. Those who are highly educated or in working professions tend to distance their religious beliefs when working with those from a different religion.

- **Class**: The caste system in India is very dominant in all aspects of life and it determines the occupation and work of Hindus. There are five different levels of the system: Brahman, Kshatriya, Vaishya, Shudra, and Harijans. Within each of these categories are the actual "castes" or Jatis within which people are born, marry, and die. This system has worked to keep a sense of order and peace among the people.

  Those in higher castes tend to be richer, have access to higher education and tend to hold senior positions in the workplace.

- **Ethnicity**: There are many diverse ethnic groups in India. Ethnicity is based more on religion than on race, as in other countries. For example, a specific geographic area in India will have multiple ethnic groups practicing different religions. Examples of some ethnic groups include the Sikhs, Jains and Tamils.

  The ethnic conflicts in Kashmir between the Hindus and Muslims have heightened once again. It is probably best to avoid discussions in the workplace about the tensions in Kashmir between India and neighbouring Pakistan with those whom you don’t know very well.
8. Business & Personal Relationships

How defined is the boundary between personal and professional life? Should I focus on building personal relationships at work?

Local Perspective

The establishment of trust and confidence is a precondition to the development of close working relationships. North Americans’ tendency to separate professional and private life may be misinterpreted as dislike. Similarly, the common North American concern for use of time and its effect on quality of social interaction, particularly in the working environment, may be misinterpreted as dislike.

While ready to extend hospitality, Indians, like North Americans in general, are cautious and slow to form real friendships. How long it will take to establish this relationship depends entirely on how soon the North American and Indian individuals begin to understand each other.

Shaking hands with your male professional associates is expected; however, wait for a female associate to extend her hand to be shaken. The Indian greeting Namaste, with your hands clasped together in front of you as if at prayer, is an accepted greeting.

While North Americans tend to feel uncomfortable engaging in a more personal level of conversation during initial meetings, Indians find topics of conversation concerning family, children or education and professional backgrounds totally appropriate.

North American Perspective

It is important that the North American culture of efficiency and the bottom line don’t get in the way of Indian norms and ways of conducting professional activities. Developing a rapport and relations with colleagues and business associates is extremely important to Indian organizational practices. This is time-consuming and should be factored into the planning of new initiatives. In India, top-down management styles are predominant. North Americans need to work within these parameters and protocols so as not be regarded poorly by the local population.

Tea (chai) is usually served in formal and informal meetings. Having chai is an important part of the rapport building or small talk before a meeting officially begins. This process is often
lengthy and should not be undermined. Rather, it should be celebrated as one of the norms of meeting officials and conducting business in India. The process of developing relations is not instant and can last for the entire duration of your stay in India.

As a newcomer you may not realize the internal dynamics and class issues. It is probably advisable to develop strong relations with the colleagues with whom you work closely, as well as your supervisor. Everyone else should also be treated with respect. Taking time to converse with others will be appreciated. As a North American male, it is important to be conservative when speaking with women until you are aware of the culture of the organization you are working with.

Remember to take Indian sweets/pastries (mithai) to work on your birthday. This is similar to taking cigars or chocolates to work when you’ve had a new baby in North America.

The most common means of meeting officials is to greet them by saying *Namaste* with your hands placed together as though you are praying. There is a high degree of formality and respect shown to officials in India. It is best not to take a seat until the officials you are meeting have, or until they have welcomed you to sit.

Topics of conversation when meeting with officials should focus on the business at hand. Your appreciation for India in terms of its food and culture would also be excellent topics of discussion. Officials of India will be very curious about North America. As such, you may be asked lots of questions about life in North America, including winter and snow.

For professional "work lunches", the person who is at the higher occupational position and would tend to be the same person who has initiated the lunch. Since Indian’s view foreigners to be very wealthy it would be acceptable for the North American to offer to pay.
9. Favoritism & Patronage

Do personal relationships influence professional progression? Are family and work intertwined?

Local Perspective

Preferred treatment, a pay increase, hiring of their friends or family do exist, both in the public and private sectors. However, nowadays, people have to justify their actions and the person who accepts special privileges has to prove themselves worthy of the position they hold. Today, the granting of special privileges will not go without being questioned or noticed.

North American Perspective

It is normal for a colleague or employee to expect to be given special privileges or consideration based on a personal relationship or friendship. Indians are very loyal to those whom they know, and they view special privileges as a way of demonstrating their loyalty to their relations. Granting special privileges is even often viewed as an obligation that should be carried out.

Indians are at the same time very entrepreneurial and would not risk the bottom line because of special privileges or considerations given to personal relationships or friendships.
10. Workplace Conflict & Feedback

How is feedback and criticism handled in this culture? Is conflict considered normal?

Local Perspective

In many Indian cultures, harmony, saving face and avoidance of conflict are important principles guiding communication, to the extent that avoidance of conflict may be valued more than clarity of meaning. However, as in North America, it is important to clarify what one does not understand right away. Any disagreement should be handled delicately.

Given that saving face is very important, you should call a meeting with your colleague and confront them directly. Disagreements can usually be resolved amicably. Most often, problems arise due to miscommunication. Lay out your frustrations and ask the individual to do the same and resolve the situation as a team. If, however, the problem persists, inform the individual that you would like to give them another chance to resolve the issue amongst yourselves before you take the matter to your superior.

North American Perspective

In most cases, confronting a colleague may not be the most effective means of trying to resolve a work-related problem. Indians tend not to like confrontation and will try to avoid the issues or disregard their impact. The best way would be to bring up the issue informally in a conversation and not addressing it directly. Asking for the assistance of a mutual colleague may be useful, as long as they are respected by the person you are having difficulty with. Asking your supervisor to intervene should be considered as a last resort and perhaps only if the problem with your colleague is getting in the way of your work.

It is often difficult to know if a colleague is having problems with you. They may mention something indirectly in a conversation, or in passing. This is often not picked up by North Americans who are used to discussing such issues directly and in greater depth. Often, listening carefully and picking up on non-verbal signs is the most effective approach. In this regard, it is best to observe and let your Indian colleagues take the lead when you are unsure about the activities at hand. It also best to develop a network of friends and associates who are also from abroad with whom you can discuss these issues.
11. Motivating Local Colleagues

I want to encourage a positive and productive work environment. What motivates local workers to perform well?

Local Perspective

Job satisfaction, commitment, money, loyalty, good working conditions, and fear of failure are all motivations. Indians value good working conditions, loyalty, trust, age, education and money. Many may not have the privilege of job satisfaction. Unemployment is very high and many people may accept a position in order to support their family even though they may be overqualified for the position they hold.

North American Perspective

Monetary remuneration and recognition would motivate local colleagues to perform well on the job. Families in India are large as extended members of a family reside together. As such, those who work face tremendous pressure to provide for their family. Monetary remuneration is a great incentive to work well on the job.

Status and recognition are important cultural factors in India. Recognition for good work as well as the promotion to a higher level are viewed as great motivators for employees to perform well. Special recognition would be viewed upon favorably by the employee as a means of recognition amongst peers in the workplace, and also outside of the workplace, amongst family members and the community at large.
12. Bonus Tips

A last word on integrating successfully into the culture.

Cultural Diversity and Traditions in India

- India cannot be “explained” or “summarized”. There is so much diversity, so many traditions, such a complex history and such a wide range of cultural and traditional features, that it is impossible to make general statements about Indian culture. India is also changing at an astonishing pace. It is best to discover parts of India, each with their respective wealth of cultural elements, traditions and lifestyle, in sections, or regions. Even the food changes from one region to another.

- The common aspect that can be found in every part of the country is the influence of religion, tradition, family and community. The major religions are Hinduism, Islam and Sikhism, but there are several smaller religious groups as well.

- As a North American, you should be aware of the cultural differences, social norms and expectations. It is essential that you respect local customs and traditions. Dress modestly, especially when visiting religious sites, and remove your shoes before entering temples and homes. Avoid public displays of affection, be prepared for the crowds, overwhelming traffic and chaos of the cities. Drink only bottled water and avoid raw fruits and vegetables, which may have been washed in contaminated water. Also, stay aware of your surroundings, as small theft and pickpocketing can happen.

- India is the largest democracy in the world, with a significantly portion of the population being highly educated. Education is important to Indians. Some foreigners may feel that Indians’ work ethic is too lax because their working style is more laid back than that of North America or Europe, but the reality is that Indians are extremely hard working and very entrepreneurial. They are different in their approach, but they still are very efficient and keen to succeed.
India is a large country, with a very large population. The cultural heritage and variety of natural wonders are countless; there are many things to do and see all over India. India’s film industry is the largest in the world. It really is worth going to watch a movie at a theatre to get a feel of how Indians engage in movie watching; it’s truly fascinating. There are also many opportunities to take a glimpse of Indian culture through various exhibits, plays, musicals, concerts and shows held in most urban centers. Attending an Indian classical dance concert is a must.

Many festivals and events are celebrated throughout the year. They offer a glimpse into the country’s traditions and customs, and each one is celebrated with enthusiasm and zeal. The Kumbh Mela, the Pushkar Camel Fair and the Holi Festival are just a few examples of the colorful and fascinating festivals that take place in India.

Some of the landmarks of India are popular destinations like the Taj Mahal, the Red Fort in Delhi, the ancient city of Varanasi and the Ajanta and Ellora Caves in Maharashtra. Beautiful natural landscapes, including the Himalayas, the beaches of Goa, the backwaters of Kerala, and national parks and wildlife sanctuaries, such as the Ranthambore National Park and the Sunderbans National Park, are just a few of the wonderful sites to explore.

Cricket is the most popular sport, by far, in India. Its impact on Indian society is significant for its cultural, social and economic values. It is deeply ingrained in Indian culture and identity. The Indian cricket team is a source of national pride and unity; the sport brings people together and promotes social cohesion.

Field hockey, badminton, football, kabaddi and tennis have also gained in popularity in recent years. Kabaddi is an indigenous contact sport that originated in ancient India, now played internationally. Kabaddi requires speed, agility and strength, and it emphasizes teamwork and strategy. Tennis also has a growing fan base in India, with several successful Indian players on the international circuit.
Country Guide Exercises
Put what you’ve learned into practice!

After reading the *Workplace Country Guide*, solidify your understanding and choose exercises below that match your needs.

1. **Read the Quick Guide:** our culture theory is clean and simple.
2. **Do the exercise:** re-read the country guide (the real world is messy and complicated) while applying the culture theory.

### MyWorldAbroad Certificate Program:
These exercises are integrated into our [certificate program](#).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How long are you going abroad for?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than a week</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Surface Culture
*Discover surface culture: sites, sounds and flavors*

1. **READ** *The Culture Tree in Action* (30 minutes)
2. **EXERCISE** *(coming soon)* (30 minutes)

### Small Talk
*Learn to navigate small talk around the world*

1. **READ** *Peach & Coconut Cultures* (30 minutes)
2. **EXERCISE** *(coming soon)* (30 minutes)

### Non-verbal Communication
*Learn to observe, interpret & use social cues*

1. **READ** *Non-verbal Communication in Action* (30 minutes)
2. **EXERCISE** *(coming soon)* (60 minutes)

### Culture Spectrum
*Adapt to new behaviors in the workplace*

1. **READ** *The Culture Spectrum in Action* (60 minutes)
2. **EXERCISE** *(coming soon)* (60 minutes)
About Workplace Country Guides
Providing context for the above advice.

The contents of this guide has been reproduced and adapted with permission from the Centre for Learning in Intercultural Effectiveness and International Assistance Policy. Previously known as Country Insights, these are no longer being published and MyWorldAbroad has therefore adapted them for use by students and young professionals. The original contributors were diplomats and aid workers, as well as foreign born nationals who had experience working with North Americans.

The content is intended to provide a general overview of social and cultural norms and workplace environments in specific countries abroad. Contributors were asked to draw on as broad a base of experience as possible when formulating their answers. However, this content should still be understood as reflecting the subjective perspectives of individuals, rather than being a comprehensive analysis of the culture.

We welcome your comments and feedback about how to improve Workplace Country Guides and make it a richer and more accurate educational resource.

Share your advice about living in India.

Have you lived, worked or volunteered in India? Do you have Indian heritage? Do you have further experience of the culture and insights to share? If you have in-depth experience of the culture, we’d love to hear from you. Submissions may be published as a Bonus Tip or other update to this guide.

Contribute your perspective!

CLICK HERE to share your insights and advice.

See Other Country Guides

Want more advice? Login or register for free access to MyWorldAbroad.com

Your access is free; your school has paid for a campus licence.