

# India Country Packet

Updated January 2017



## Maranatha in India

The Seventh-day Adventist Church has had a presence in India since the late 1800s, when Georgia Burrus arrived in Kolkata to become the first regular Adventist worker to reach India. Other missionaries joined her, and steadily the Adventists shared the Gospel message while opening schools, orphanages, and even a hospital. The India Union Mission was eventually organized in 1910 and joined the Asiatic Division in 1915. In 1919, the Southern Asian Division was established with 26 churches and 978 members.

Maranatha began working in India in 1998. So far, more than 1,600 projects have been completed throughout the country. Early in the effort, Maranatha built only block construction churches in various sizes for the villages. But with rapidly increasing requests, the need is being met more quickly with the One-Day Church structures.

India is also in need of more schools, as many children and young people have no access to education. Maranatha has been working steadily on constructing large Christian campuses in rural parts of India. Volunteers have built both One-Day School campuses and Education and Evangelism Centers, which consist of six to ten classrooms and a large multi-purpose room. These structures provide Christian education to countless students each year, and through the children many families have come to know of Christ's love.

Even after many years of Maranatha working in India, the immense need for churches and schools continues to provide many opportunities for volunteers to experience God's work in India.

## Volunteer Opportunities

Currently Maranatha has numerous requests for churches and schools throughout India. The majority of these projects are located in northeastern India, although some are located in southern India as well. Maranatha selects projects as funding allows.

Volunteers typically combine construction work with community outreach in the form of medical clinics and children's programs. However, the details of each project vary, depending on the volunteers, availability of opportunities, and needs of the local church.

## Project Funding

The local church or school is responsible for providing the land and the labor to excavate the site. Maranatha has agreed to raise funds to help subsidize the building costs in India. These funds come from donations from individuals, churches and school groups, and businesses as well as the donors of the \$10 Church program. If you or your team are interested in helping to sponsor a church or school in India, please speak with Maranatha for more information.

# India Overview

The diversity of India's culture and its rich history has made this country an intriguing place of contrasts. The beggar on the street wears a cheerfully vibrant sari. Hunger is widespread, but the air is thick with simmering spices. The country is crippled by illiteracy, but some of the world's brightest thinkers have emerged from India's cities and countryside. Blending modernity and antiquity, India is pushing forward to make social and economic progress while reconciling the future with its past. Yet these juxtaposed details are what make India a captivating country to visit and a fascinating place to work with Maranatha.

In its early history, India was the center of fiscal and cultural wealth as art and literature flourished and the trade of spices, ivory, and silk abounded. Hinduism became the dominant belief system, although Islam also wove its way into the region over the years. India's prosperity made it a desirable target, and the British began to colonize the region in the 1600s. Efforts to liberate India started 200 years later, but it wasn't until Mohandas Gandhi introduced a nonviolent approach did the Indians achieve independence from the British in 1947. Gandhi quickly became the ideological leader of the Indian Independence movement and a world icon of peaceful civil resistance.

Even though the country achieved freedom from the British, there was still a high internal tension between the Muslims and the Hindus. The British stepped in and partitioned the region into two nations: India and Pakistan.

Today, India is the second most populous nation in the world with over 1.2 billion people. The impact of this huge population is rampant poverty, which has caused illiteracy, inadequate access to drinking water, and widespread illness. Despite India's recent rise of the middle class and rapidly growing economy, India still has one of the largest concentrations of people living below the poverty line.

Potentially contributing to the overall poverty is a cultural remnant from India's past: the caste system. Although discouraged by the government, this system of social stratification still dominates many rural communities. The caste system, rooted in Hindu religion, assigns a class to individuals and offers no escape from this imposed category. For those subjugated to the lowest level of "untouchables," life is a constant flood of prejudice, discrimination, and abuse. The government is continuing to make progress in minimizing the caste system where it can and has instituted affirmative action policies to discourage its use.

India remains a country of diversity and beauty. The architecture of the Taj Mahal, the dances and music of Bollywood, the colorful saris and festivals, and the spicy curries—India remains a country rich in culture and full of life.

## Culture

The root of many cultural rituals in India is religion. India is the birthplace of several religions including Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, and Sikhism, and it remains one of the most religiously diverse nations in the world. At any given time during the year there is bound to be a colorful religion observance or festival taking place in the cities and countryside.

## Facts & Figures

<b>Capital:</b>	New Delhi
<b>Nationality:</b>	Indian
<b>Population:</b>	1.24 billion
<b>Poverty:</b>	29.8%
<b>Unemployment:</b>	8.8%
<b>Languages:</b>	Hindi, Bengali, Telugu, Marathi, Tamil, and many other local dialects
<b>Education:</b>	62.8% literacy
<b>Life Expectancy:</b>	67.8 years old
<b>Work Force:</b>	487.3 million
<b>Main Religions:</b>	81% Hindu, 13% Muslim, 2% Christian
<b>Economy:</b>	Industry: Textiles, Food Processing Exports: petroleum, precious stones, machinery
<b>Currency:</b>	Indian Rupee
<b>Time Zone:</b>	UTC/GMT +5:30 hours

The food of India mirrors the diversity in its people. Different spices and regional produce give the area's cuisine a unique flavor and aroma. Basmati rice and curries rich with ginger, cardamom, coriander, and hot pepper are common staples in Indian food. Rice and curries are often accompanied by types of flat bread such as naan or bhatoora. Chutneys made from assorted fruits and vegetables are also used widely in the country's cuisine. Many Hindus are vegetarian, although lamb and chicken are common main dishes for non-vegetarians.

Another key element of the Indian culture is the art of music and dance. Four primary groups of instruments, strings, drums, cymbals, and air, give Indian music its unique sound. Classical Indian music is structured around specific time cycles and melody organization conveying different moods. Many classical forms of dance accompany the music and often tell a narrative story or are dedicated to the devotion of Hindu gods or goddesses. Folk dances were historically an outlet for the lower classes, where they could explore universal topics such as love and local policies.

## Geography and Climate

India's diversity extends to its geography. The Himalayan Mountains skirt the northern part of the country and serve as a natural border between India and other Himalayan countries such as Nepal, China, and Bhutan. Below the Himalayas are the Great Plains, dominated by the three main rivers in India, The Indus, Ganges, and Brahmaputra. Due to the richness in minerals and availability to water sources, this area was one of the world's most intensely farmed areas, producing rice, wheat, sugarcane, and cotton each year. Toward the west, the Thar Desert serves as the border to Pakistan and is comprised of sand dunes and craggy rock formations. Central India is primarily plateaus, forests, and jungles bordered by coastal plains on either side of the sub continent. While much of India is open countryside, the large cities such as New Delhi, Bangalore, Kolkata, and Mumbai pose a stark contrast with intricate networks of narrow streets jammed with rickshaws.

The diversity in geography also leads to diversity in its climate. Northern India, while comprised of alpine tundra, does not get as cold as expected in the winter due to the Himalayas, which block the frigid winds from Central Asia. And during the summer, this same natural barrier keeps the area relatively warm. Southern India is hot and humid year round, allowing it to support the large rain forests and tropical regions. Overall, there are four main seasons. Winter is in January and February; summer is March through May; the rainy monsoon season is from June to September, and there is a "post-monsoon" season from October to December.

## Cultural Sensitivity

Maranatha's volunteer experience includes meeting new people and learning how to serve them. Every culture has a unique view of the world. It is important to enter another culture with humility, respect, and understanding of their traditions. Sometimes you may observe something in India that will be very different from what you're accustomed to. It does not make it wrong, just different. Try to be respectful, try something new, and embrace yourself in their way of doing things.

Being sensitive to a culture also means being respectful to micro cultures, such as Adventism, within a larger culture. Women in India, and in particular Adventist women, tend to be more conservative than Adventists in the U.S. or Canada. We try to be sensitive to this by asking both men and women to dress as modestly as possible. Pants and cap sleeves are preferred to shorts and tank tops. For church activities, women need to have skirts or dresses reaching past the knees, and men need to wear ties and closed-toe shoes, especially if they are involved in platform activities. Indian Adventists also appreciate when volunteer embrace their local customs and wear local outfits for church activities.

## Planning a Project

### Partnering with Maranatha

There are many reasons to plan a project with Maranatha. After nearly 50 years of laser-focus on construction-oriented mission projects, the organization has this process mastered.

- **Maranatha has a great track record.** From local church members to church officials to volunteer team leaders—everyone recognizes that Maranatha is reliable and gets things done. We know that the details are important. Maranatha will always have your worksite prepared and support you in creating a successful project for your team.

- **Maranatha provides local support.** It is a huge help to have someone at your location, before your arrival, to scout out details and make arrangements for your group. Once your group arrives our volunteer support person will be around to help as a translator and navigate the inevitable bumps in the road.
- **Maranatha provides quality construction support.** You don't have to be a construction expert to build a project with Maranatha. Our qualified crew will prep the project site before you arrive, and they will stay to teach and assist the volunteers throughout the project. You won't just build a church or school—you will do it right!
- **Maranatha office support is available as you plan.** Maranatha has a group project specialist dedicated to answer your questions and provide resources so you can effectively plan your project and work with your group members.
- **Maranatha is an independent organization but we work hand-in-hand with church leadership around the world.** Every Maranatha project in the Kenya has been selected by the local Adventist conference and approved by the division as a priority for growth. That means that your project will have the full support of the larger church.

## Accommodations

Most leaders of Maranatha projects in India choose to have the group stay in a local hotel or at an already completed Maranatha building such as a school dormitory or classrooms. In either circumstance, you should expect rather simple accommodations.

Check with the project packet or your group leader for specific information regarding bed linens, towels and washcloths, hot water, air conditioning, Wi-Fi availability, and eating facilities.

## Excursion Options

From nature reserves and colonial palaces to decorated shrines and impressive temples, India has a variety of excursions to explore. There are many ways to find out about excursions and attractions that you may be interested in. Conducting online searches is one of the easiest ways, and it provides a good way to get peer ratings through sites like Trip Advisor. Guidebooks published by Lonely Planet or Frommer's are also good places to start.

## Attractions

**Bandhavgarh National Park** | This park is located in Madhya Pradesh and is known as India's Tiger Hotspot due to the large of the Bengal tiger population. This wildlife reserve is also densely populated with other species such as deer, nilgai, caracals, and hyenas.

**Gateway of India** | This magnificent arch monument is located in the fascinating, upbeat city of Mumbai (Bombay) and is one of the most visited sights in the city. It is located on the waterfront and was used as a landing place for British governors and other prominent people throughout India's history.

**Goa** | Located on the western coast of India, Goa is known for its excellent tropical beaches, churches, and temples.

**Jog Falls** | India's tallest waterfall is located in western India. It is best seen in the monsoon season, but water continues to trickle year round. Fog and frequent rains play with the views of the waterfall, making it disappear and reappear every few minutes.

**Kaziranga National Park** | This park is located on the borders of the Brahmaputra River in northern India, and it is home to the world's largest population of Great One-horned Rhinoceroses. Other animals in the park include water buffalo, elephants, Indian tigers, leopards, sloth bears, sambar deer, hoolock gibbons, Assam macaques, and the endangered Ganges river dolphin. Elephant rides are a popular attraction at the park.

**Kolkata** | Kolkata (Calcutta) is one of the largest cities in India and widely known for the work of Mother Teresa of Calcutta. City tours are available, which gives you an overview of the city's tourist sights. There are also tours of the Mother Teresa Home and Missionaries of Charity Center. Mother Teresa lived most of her life in India and founded these homes to care for the sick and poverty stricken "untouchables" of India.

**Mani Bhavan** | This two story house was once the private residence of Mahatma Gandhi and is now a museum of the life and trials of the man who inspired a country with nonviolent resistance. Different rooms display photographs, press clippings, and personal letters having to do with Gandhi's life. It won't take long to tour this free museum, but the visit is worth the trip.

**Periyar National Park** | This national park is located in the middle of the Cardamom Hills in southwestern India. There are 35 species of mammals in the park, and it is an important tiger and elephant reserve for the area. In 2008, there were 24 Bengal tigers reported in the park. Other mammals include the guar, Indian giant squirrel, sloth bear, and the stripe-necked mongoose. There is also a wide array of birds and reptiles throughout the park, along with a variety of plants.

**Red Fort** | The Red Fort of Agra Fort attracts fewer tourists than its more famous neighbor the Taj Mahal, but it is still a site worth visiting. This walled imperial city was established in 1565 and was home to generations of Indian royalty. Tourists are welcome to explore the ancient citadels, mosques, palaces, and stunning views of the Taj Mahal.

**Taj Mahal** | Located in Agra, the Taj Mahal is regarded one of the world's wonders and the "jewel of India." The stunning architectural beauty of the white marble mausoleum is beyond compare. The Taj Mahal was built over a period of 20 years by Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan, one of the Muslim rulers of India. It was built in memory of his wife and queen, Mumtaz Mahal and now serves as a mausoleum that houses the grave of the queen. An estimated three million people visit the building and its surrounding gardens each year.

## Foreign Cash and Money Exchange

India uses the Indian Rupee, and it has an exchange rate of approximately 61 rupees to \$1 USD (October 2014), depending on where you make the exchange. Any cash you bring should be in new, unmarked U.S. dollar bills.

You can exchange money both inside and outside the airport at banks or exchange booths. Often times your project coordinator will be willing to exchange money at a simple rounded rate.

ATMs allow you to withdraw rupees directly and will probably give you the best exchange rate. There are ATMs in the airport, but they can be hard to find and unreliable outside large cities.

## Credit/Debit Cards

While some establishments accept credit and debit cards, it might be easier to use cash while traveling through the country. If you do use a credit or debit card, expect a 5% - 12% surcharge for international use. Be careful when using your credit card in public; never let it out of your immediate sight. It is wise to let your credit card company know in advance the dates you will be in India so they don't block your card when you use it in a foreign country.

## Traveler's Checks

Traveler checks are not widely accepted, and commissions can be high.

## Electricity

The standard current in India is 220-240 volt AC. For any small appliances (hair dryers, electric shavers, camera chargers) you will need a plug adapter and a voltage converter. Voltage converters can be found at most stores like Walmart or Target for about \$10. The standard outlets have three round prongs (Type D). Plug adapters can be found in sets or individually at many stores. Electrical surges and outages can be common. You should use a surge protector for expensive appliances and computers.



## Laundry

Most cities and large towns have full service laundromats. Many hotels also provide laundry service, but often charge per item of clothing, which adds up pretty fast. You can also choose to do your laundry by hand at no additional cost.

## Communication

Cell phone service is available in India, but rural areas often experience limited service. Local cell phones can be purchased relatively cheaply and then you can reload minutes to call locally and internationally for reasonable rates. You can also buy a SIM card for your unlocked device. If you choose to use your own phone service, check international rates and service areas since international roaming and data charges can be very expensive.

To call India from the U.S., enter the international access code (011) plus the Indian country code (91) plus the local number.

To call the U.S. from India, enter the U.S. country code (001) plus the local area code and phone number. For example, to call the Maranatha office you would dial: +1 (916) 774-7700.

You can also communicate with loved ones at home through free smart phone and computer apps such as WhatsApp, Viber, FaceTime, and Skype. Wi-Fi is available at hotels and restaurants throughout the country and internet cafes are also popular.

## Time Zone

India is located in the India Time Zone UTC+05:30. When the United States is on Daylight Savings Time, India is 12 and a half hours ahead of Pacific Daylight Savings Time and nine and a half hours ahead of Eastern Daylight Savings Time. When the United States is on Standard Time, India is 13 and a half hours ahead of Pacific Standard Time and ten and a half hours ahead of Eastern Standard Time.

## Restrooms

Public restrooms are few and far between in India, so you should take breaks at your hotel or restaurants. Western-style flush toilets are the norm in most places. But toilet paper usually goes in the wastebasket, not down the toilet.

## Weights & Measures

India officially uses the metric system, but in some areas you will find pounds and gallons used as well.

# Travel

## Airports

There are several main international airports located in India, including Delhi (DEL), Kolkata (CCU), Mumbai (BOM), Chennai (MAA), and Bangalore (BLR). Many Maranatha projects will require a connecting flight from one of the major hubs to smaller Indian cities such as Cochin, Guwahati, Dimapur, or Imphal. There is a nice transit hotel located in the Delhi airport that makes long layovers or overnight stays easier.

Most major carriers will have connections to the large Indian airports directly or through their European or Middle Eastern partners. Popular carriers include KLM, Lufthansa, British Airways, United, Delta, Turkish Airlines, Emirates, and Qatar.

Domestic carriers from main hubs to smaller airports include Air India, Air India Express, Spice Jet, Jet Airways, Jet Konnect, IndiGo, and Go Air. When booking your flights we recommend that you try to book on one itinerary all the way to the final destination to take advantage of the international baggage allowances. Individual domestic flights tend to have stricter limits for baggage weight and size.

## Entry and Exit Requirements

**Passport** | All U.S. and Canadian citizens must present a passport valid for at least six months from your scheduled return date. If you do not have a passport, U.S. citizens can apply at any U.S. post office or online at <http://travel.state.gov>. Canadian citizens can apply online at [www.passport.gc.ca](http://www.passport.gc.ca). It can take up to two months to complete the entire process, so plan accordingly to give yourself enough time to receive your passport. You can expedite the process for an additional fee. Passport photos can be taken at the post office, FedEx office, Costco, or Walgreens.

### Entry Requirements

- Valid Passport
- Indian Visa

**Tourist Visa** | In addition to a passport, travelers must have a valid visa for the country of India before traveling. Volunteers can complete a Tourist Visa on Arrival (TVoA), which is a fully online, 30-day, single-entry visa. This is usually the best option for single trips to India.

However, if you are planning several trips to India in the next year or you are doing an excursion that requires leaving and returning to India, you will need a visa valid for a longer period of time or a multiple-entry visa. For this process, the Indian government requires that you apply with the consulate or embassy in your regional jurisdiction and you will need to mail your passport to receive the visa.

US citizens need to process their visa through [Cox and Kings Global Services](#), the official partner of the Indian Embassy. Canadian citizens can process through [Travisa](#). For either process, you will need a visa application form, passport photos, your flight itinerary, and other forms depending on the jurisdiction. A visa packet explaining more about this process is available from Maranatha.

Citizens of other countries should consult the Indian embassy or consulate in your home country for entrance requirements. For more information regarding U.S. entrance procedures in India, visit: <http://travel.state.gov/>

## Immigration and Customs

On the airplane to India, you will receive entrance forms that need to be filled out for processing upon arrival at the airport. These forms will ask for your name (use the name on your passport), passport number, flight number, and address and phone number for where you will be staying in India. Be sure to consult your project packet or your group leader for this address prior to departure.

After you exit the plane in India, you will follow the signs to Immigration. You will need to present your entrance forms, passport, and visa. They may ask you a couple questions regarding your trip to India. Make sure you say that you are a tourist. If you say you are coming to “work” on a Maranatha trip, it can cause confusion; they may believe you need a work or business visa for your travel in the country. At immigration, they may stamp your passport or give you a slip of paper. Make sure you keep whatever they give to you with your passport for the duration of your time in India.

After passing through immigration, head to the baggage claim, gather your bags, and go through customs. They may put your bags through an x-ray, do a randomly selected bag check, or manually search your bag. Don't worry about this process as they are primarily looking for fruits, vegetables, animals, and drugs. After passing through customs, proceed to the arrivals area of the airport where you can meet up with the rest of the group or continue on to your domestic flight.

## Tips for Airline Travel in India

Traveling in India is a little different from even traveling in South America or Africa. Here are a few tips to help you along the way.

- Most domestic flights in India only allow one checked bag. You must pay for each additional bag by weight in kilos. After you check in, you will go to a separate counter to pay, and then will need to return to show proof of payment and turn in your bags.
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- It is wise to print and travel with several copies of your travel itinerary showing your name. At some airports, it is required to show it in order to enter the airport.
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- If you overnight in Delhi or any other transit airport, make sure you collect your bags. Even if you are “checked all the way through,” sometimes they come to baggage claim in Delhi and you’ll want to make sure to pick them up otherwise they’ll probably still be waiting for you in Delhi when you head home.
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- Security is segregated for men and women and each person will get pat down. When you check your bags, make sure to get the paper airline tags for each carry on and personal item as well since they will often stamp your ticket and each luggage tag proving that you’ve gone through security.

## In-Country Transportation

The roads around major cities are usually good, but watch out for merging traffic, small rickshaws, and potholes, and familiarize yourself with local laws and traffic norms. Roads between smaller towns are not usually paved. It is not recommended to travel at night.

Taxis in India are relatively cheap, but some can be unreliable and unsafe. We recommend that when traveling by taxi in large cities, you look for “tourist taxis” outside hotels and the airport. They can be a little more expensive, but they will respect international driving standards better. Taxis do not have meters. Instead they may have a preset fare to your destination. Make sure you agree on the fare before entering the taxi, and request that the driver does not pick up additional passengers during the trip. Rickshaws are an integral part of city transportation. Two, four, and six seat motorcycle rickshaws are available and follow the same basic principles as taxis.

India is known for its excellent long distance railway systems, connecting most major towns and cities. Indian Railway’s main hub is in Delhi. There are also many bus services. However, with both trains and buses, travelers should be cautious with their personal belongings because theft and pick pocketing is common.

Maranatha coordinates transportation for Open Team projects in privately rented vehicles with drivers. If you are leading a group project with Maranatha, we can help your group reserve a private school bus, coaster bus, or tourist coach for your transportation needs.

## Traveling with Minors

Minors under the age of 18 are welcome to join projects to India. Maranatha requires that at least one adult travel with every four minors ages 14-17 and that an adult travel with every minor age 13 and under. Minors traveling without both legal guardians must carry a notarized consent form. You can find this form and complete instructions on the Maranatha resource page. While India does not have any additional entrance requirements for minors, you may be required to submit additional documents in order to acquire your visa.



# Health, Safety, and Security

For more detailed health guidelines for international travel, see our international traveler's guide.

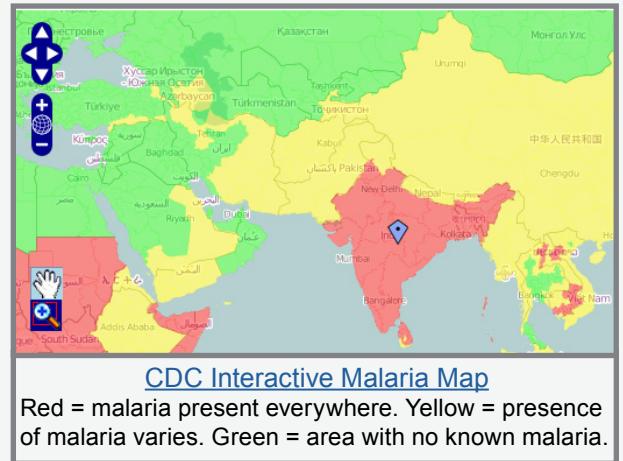
## Vaccines and Medications

The only vaccine required by Maranatha is a current tetanus vaccine. In addition, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends other vaccinations such as hepatitis A and B, typhoid, Japanese Encephalitis, and an oral antimalarial drug other than chloroquine. More information is available at <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/>. Maranatha recommends that you schedule a consultation with a travel clinic doctor prior to travel to talk about medical precautions for your trip to India.

## Malaria, Japanese Encephalitis, and Mosquitoes

The CDC states all parts of India, with some minor exceptions, as transmission areas for malaria and Japanese encephalitis. Both of these diseases are spread primarily by mosquitoes.

Maranatha suggests you speak with a medical professional regarding prevention options. There are different oral medications that can lower your risk of contracting malaria. Each has different side effects and dosages, so speak with a travel clinic doctor before making a decision on whether to take a certain medication. When considering preventative medications for malaria, keep in mind that Chloroquine is NOT effective in India. The malaria strain in the country is considered to be Chloroquine-resistant.



Malaria can be treated effectively early in the course of the disease, but we recommend that you avoid it altogether. Japanese encephalitis can be prevented with a vaccine and the vaccine is typically recommended for travelers spending more than a month in endemic areas. However, the CDC also recommends considering the vaccine even for short-term travelers if they are in endemic areas during transmission season or if they plan on traveling to rural areas.

For more information regarding vaccines for India visit the CDC at <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/>.

Mosquitoes and other flying insects can also carry a variety of others diseases. Personal precautions are strongly recommended to lower the risk of being bitten. Bring a bug repellent with a 30%-50% concentration of DEET. Wear long sleeves, long pants, and closed-toe footwear when possible. Avoid areas of standing water and do not spend a lot of time outside during dusk and dawn.

## Preventative Health

In general, preventative measures are the best ways to avoid becoming ill during your time in India. Food should be properly washed and cooked. Use only purified water for drinking and brushing your teeth, and avoid ice cubes at restaurants. Be sure to wash your hands regularly. Wear sunscreen and mosquito repellent while outdoors.

## Medical Care in India

Large cities in India have fairly modern clinics and hospitals. In general, private clinics are safer and cleaner than public hospitals. There are also Adventist run pharmacies, clinics, and hospitals in several large cities throughout the country. Maranatha will have identified several medical care locations near the project locations that we believe are safe for our volunteers. If you are leading a group to India, be sure to ask Maranatha project support to show you the clinic location closest to your housing and work sites.

## Travel Safety

Maranatha will not knowingly send volunteers to an area that is of elevated risk. We consistently monitor security alerts from the areas where we are working and we consciously avoid high-risk regions. However, it is important for you to take responsibility for your own personal safety while traveling. Here are some ways you can start. For a more detailed list of tips and Maranatha insurance information, be sure to read our International Traveler's Guide. While we do take precautions, there is nothing we can do to guarantee safety. We can only place our trust in God's hands.

- Avoid traveling at night or alone.
- Dress conservatively and keep a low profile.
- Avoid marginal areas of cities, alleyways, and crowds of people.
- Use caution if you are approached on the street by strangers, including vendors.
- Leave valuables, both expensive and sentimental, at home.
- Don't leave your personal belongings unattended, especially in open sight. Consider using a money belt or concealed pouch for passports, credit cards, and cash. Keep your purse or bag in front of you, held with a tight grip.
- **US Department of State:** Register your travel with the U.S. Department of State by enrolling with the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program. The U.S. government will then contact you in case of an emergency, natural disaster, or civil unrest. They can also be a point of contact for family emergencies. You can also check for security updates prior to your departure.
- **Travel Guard:** The AIG accident insurance provided to Maranatha volunteers provides access to security updates and other resources. You can access this resource by using the policy number provided to you in your information packet or by a Maranatha representative once your volunteer group is confirmed.

## Maranatha Insurance

Maranatha mission projects are construction projects where people can get hurt. Accident insurance is essential. It is not possible for Maranatha to analyze everyone's insurance policy to see whether it is current and the coverage is in effect at the location of the mission project. For that reason, all volunteers will be covered by accident insurance, coordinated by Maranatha, from the time they arrive at the project until their departure. This is a secondary policy, which means all claims will first be processed through your primary policy. This policy covers accidents only and does not include illnesses or other medical coverage. For more information about project insurance, contact Maranatha.

## Communication

### Promoting Your Maranatha Trip

You may contact Maranatha's marketing department for materials to help you promote your trip to India. There are DVDs and printed materials available for your convenience. Contact Maranatha for more details.

Also, when discussing this mission trip with your team and while promoting it to your church or school, please be sure to mention that you are partnering with Maranatha! We hope that you will help to spread the word about our mission to spread the Gospel through construction.

## Contact Information

### United States Embassy:

Shantipath, Chanakyapuri  
New Delhi – 110021  
Telephone: +91 11-2419-8000

### Canadian Consulate:

7/8 Shantipath, Chanakyapuri  
New Delhi - 110021  
Telephone: +91 11-4178-2000

### Maranatha Volunteers

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990 Reserve Drive, suite 100  
Roseville, CA 95678  
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