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## **OECD CONFERENCE ON FINANCIAL EDUCATION**

**21-22 September 2006  
New Delhi, India**

### **Information Note for Participants**

The OECD Conference on Financial Education will take place on 21-22 September 2006 in New Delhi, India. The conference will be hosted by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority of India and will be organised under the aegis of the OECD Insurance and Private Pensions Committee and the Committee on Financial Markets with sponsorship by the Government of Japan.

#### **Registration**

Please note that participation is by invitation only. Delegates of the OECD Insurance and Private Pensions Committee, the OECD Working Party on Private Pensions, and the OECD Committee on Financial Markets are invited to register for this conference. To do so, please contact:

Mrs. Morven Alexander-Drane, OECD  
E-mail: [morven.alexander@oecd.org](mailto:morven.alexander@oecd.org)  
Fax: +33 1 45 24 18 33

#### **Conference venue**

The conference will be held at the ITC Hotel Maurya Sheraton & Towers, New Delhi. Please find below the address and contact persons at the hotel:

<p>ITC HOTEL MAURYA SHERATON &amp; TOWERS Diplomatic Enclave New Delhi-110021 India</p>	<p>Ms. Vaani Monga, Conference Co-ordinator Email: <a href="mailto:vaani.monga@itwelcomgroup.in">vaani.monga@itwelcomgroup.in</a> Reservations fax: +91 11 2302 3020 or Hotel fax: +91 11 2611 3333 Tel: +91 11 2611 2233 Website: <a href="http://www.welcomgroup.com">www.welcomgroup.com</a></p>
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### Accommodation

We have obtained a negotiated rate with this hotel for participants of the conference. Each participant is responsible for the reservation and payment of his/her own accommodation. To make your reservation, please complete the Hotel Reservation Form (attached to your invitation letter) and send it directly to the hotel.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Reservations must be made by **15<sup>th</sup> August at the latest**, as after this date, the group booking made for conference participants will no longer be held and the conference rate will no longer apply.

**Please also note the hotel's very strict cancellation policy:**

**Bookings cancelled 30 days prior to arrival will be charged one night retention,**

**15 days prior to arrival will be charged two nights retention,**

**7 days prior to arrival will be charged full retention to the participant's personal credit card.**

If you choose not to stay at the designated hotel, please inform Mrs. Morven Alexander-Drane, OECD (email: [morven.alexander@oecd.org](mailto:morven.alexander@oecd.org)) of the hotel where you will be staying.

A list of alternative nearby hotels is attached at the end of this note. The Taj Palace Hotel is closest to the conference venue; the others are a 10- to 15-minute taxi journey from the venue. Please note that these prices are approximate and may vary according to date of reservation and availability.

### Visa for India and Insurance

Please note that a visa is required for most nationalities to enter India. For information, please visit the following website: <http://www.india-visa.com/>

For official invitation letters for visa purposes, please contact:

Mr. Gyan Bhushan, Officer on Special Duty  
Pension Fund Regulatory & Development Authority  
Jeevan Bharati Bld, Ground Floor,  
124 Connaught Place, New Delhi – 110 001, India  
Tel: 91-11-23359912 (direct); 91-11-23705716/17 (switchboard)  
Fax: 91-11-23359910/12  
Email: [gyanbhushan@nic.in](mailto:gyanbhushan@nic.in)

Participants are advised to have adequate medical and travel insurance to cover their visit to India.

### Airport transfers to and from the hotel

The ITC Hotel Maurya Sheraton & Towers offers an airport pickup service, at a cost of USD38 one-way, payable to the hotel upon check-out. This service can be reserved via the Hotel Reservation Form (attached to your invitation letter).

Participants can obtain a taxi by contacting the local pre-paid taxi booths at the airport. The distance between the Indira Gandhi International Airport and Maurya Sheraton is about 15Kms and at the currently prevalent rates an ordinary air-conditioned taxi from the airport to the hotel should not cost more than USD15.

### **Procedural arrangements**

The conference will begin at **9h00** on Thursday 21 September and will end at **17h00** on Friday 22 September. Registration of participants will begin at **8h30** on the first morning.

### **Working language**

The conference will be held in English.

### **Documentation and website**

If you have been asked to contribute a paper or presentation to the conference or wish to submit any relevant background materials, please send your material to:

**Ms. Nina Paklina, OECD** (email: [nina.paklina@oecd.org](mailto:nina.paklina@oecd.org)) by **Friday, 8 September at the latest**.

The conference documentation will be posted, as soon as available, on the OECD's website, at [www.oecd.org/daf/financialmarkets](http://www.oecd.org/daf/financialmarkets) . Participants will receive a set of documents upon arrival at the conference.

### **Presentations**

Facilities for PowerPoint presentations will be available in the conference room.

### **Meals and Social Events**

Lunch for all participants will be provided by the OECD on both days of the conference.

All participants are invited to a dinner reception on the evening of Thursday 21 September, hosted by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority of India. The venue and time will be confirmed in due course.

The organisers regret that no programme for spouses/partners can be arranged.

### **For further enquiries please contact:**

For further information or enquiries, please contact the following OECD staff:

Ms. Nina Paklina  
tel: +33-1-4524-8478; e-mail: [nina.paklina@oecd.org](mailto:nina.paklina@oecd.org)

Ms. Morven Alexander-Drane  
tel: +33-1-4524-8836 ; fax: +33-1-4524-1833; e-mail: [morven.alexander@oecd.org](mailto:morven.alexander@oecd.org)

## **General information about India**

**India**, officially the **Republic of India**, is a country in [South Asia](#). It is the [seventh-largest](#) country by geographical area, the [second most populous](#) country and the largest [democracy](#) in the world. India has a coastline of over seven thousand kilometres, and borders [Pakistan](#) to the west, [Nepal](#), the [People's Republic of China](#) and [Bhutan](#) to the north-east, and [Bangladesh](#) and [Myanmar](#) to the east. In the [Indian Ocean](#), it is adjacent to the [island nations](#) of [Sri Lanka](#), [Maldives](#) and [Indonesia](#).

Home to the [Indus Valley Civilization](#), a centre of important trade routes and vast empires, India has long played a major role in human history. [Hinduism](#), [Sikhism](#), [Buddhism](#) and [Jainism](#), all have their origins in India, while [Islam](#) and [Christianity](#) enjoy a strong cultural heritage. Colonised as part of the [British Empire](#) in the nineteenth century, India gained independence in 1947 as a unified nation after an intense [struggle for independence](#). The country has one of the most diverse populations, wildlife, geographical terrain and climate systems.

## **ABOUT DELHI**

Sprawling on the banks of the river Yamuna, Delhi, the capital of India, typifies the soul of the country. Delhi is the third largest city in India. Its multi-layered existence is tantalizing, and can entice the curious traveller into a fascinating journey of discovery. Delhi is one of the most historic capitals in the world and two of its monuments - the Qutub Minar and Humayun's Tomb - have been declared World Heritage Sites. It is also one of the greenest capitals. For the visitor, it serves as a perfect introduction to the cultural wealth, the complexities and dynamism of India. The city is a curious blend of the modern and traditional, skyscrapers, beautiful gardens and wide tree-lined avenues perpetuate the Mughal passion of landscaping and architectural excellence. More important, however, Delhi blends within its folds the great cultural variety of India; an unceasing range of activity, a million ways of saying 'You are Welcome'.

Delhi, the capital of India, has always occupied a strategic position in the country's history. Delhi is today, one of the fastest growing cities of India.

Delhi, besides being the seat of the Central Government, has an economy supported by agriculture, tourism, commerce and a growing industry. With the development of infrastructure facilities, Delhi plays host to a number of national and international events including sports - related events, conferences and seminars.

## **GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION**

Delhi total area is 1483 sq. Kms. with altitude 239 m above sea level.

## **CLIMATE**

### **Best Season**

September to March

Summer(March to June): Warm

Monsoon(July to August): Warm

Winter(November to February): Cool and pleasant

### **Language Spoken**

Hindi, English, Urdu and Punjabi

### **Clothing:**

Summer-Cottons

Winter – Woollens

### **Cuisine:**

An irresistible range of Indian cuisines are available at numerous restaurants and fast food joints in central Connaught Place. Also, speciality restaurants offering international delicacies. For authentic Mughlai cuisine, try the restaurants in Old Delhi.

## **OTHER INFORMATION**

<b><u>Currency</u></b>	<a href="#">Rupee (Rs.) (INR)</a>
<b><u>Time zone</u></b>	<a href="#">IST (UTC+5:30)</a>
- Summer ( <a href="#">DST</a> )	not observed ( <a href="#">UTC+5:30</a> )
<b><u>Internet TLD</u></b>	<a href="#">.in</a>
<b><u>Calling code</u></b>	+91

## **DELHI PLACES OF INTEREST**

### **Qutub Minar**

The origins of Qutab Minar are shrouded in controversy. Some believe it was erected as a tower of victory to signify the beginning of the Muslim rule in India. Others say it served as a minaret to the muezzins to call the faithful to prayer. No one can, however, dispute that the tower is not only one of the finest monuments in India, but also in the world.

### **Red Fort**

So called because of the red stone with which it is built, the Red Fort is one of the most magnificent palaces in the world. India's history is also closely linked with this fort. It was from here that the British deposed the last Mughal ruler, Bhadur Shah Zafar, marking the end of the three century long Mughal rule. It was also from its ramparts that the first Prime Minister of India, Pandit Jawharlal Nehru, announced to the nation that India was free from colonial rule.

### **Purana Quila**

The fort is said to be constructed on the historic site of Indraprastha (900BC) by Humayun and Sher Shah. Covering a circuit of about a mile, the walls of the fort have three gates and are surrounded by a moat fed by the river Yamuna.

### **Jantar Mantar**

At first sight, the Jantar Mantar appears like a gallery of modern art. It is, however, an observatory. Sawai Jia Singh II of Jaipur (1699-1743), a keen astronomer and a noble in the Mughal court, was dissatisfied by the errors of brass and metal astronomical instruments.

### **Humayun's Tomb**

The mughals brought with them a love for gardens, fountains and water. The first mature example of Mughal architecture in India, Humayun's Tomb was built by the emperor's grieving widow, Haji Begum, in 1565 AD.

### **Jama Masjid**

Work on the Jama Masjid mosque was begun in 1650 by the Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan to complement his palace at the Red Fort. More than 5,000 workers toiled for six years to complete the largest mosque in

India. Every Friday, the emperor and his retinue would travel in state from the fort to the mosque to attend the congressional prayers.

### **Safdarjung's Tomb**

Representing the last phase of the Mughal style of architecture, Safdarjung's Tomb stands in the centre of an extensive garden.

### **India Gate**

Built as a memorial to commemorate the 70,000 Indian soldiers killed in World War I, India Gate was designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens and completed in 1931.

### **Rashtrapati Bhawan**

Formerly the Viceregal Lodge, the building is the highlight of Lutyens's New Delhi and was completed in 1929 at a cost of 1,253,000 pounds sterling. Located in an area of 130 hectares, the palace has 340 rooms.

### **Rajghat**

The mortal remains of Mahatma Gandhi were cremated on this spot on the west bank of the river Yamuna on the evening of January 31, 1948.

### **Lakshmi Narayan Mandir**

Built in 1938, the temple is an ideal introduction to some of the gods of the India pantheon. The temple contains a large number of idols and visitors can also watch priests performing ritualistic prayers.

## **GETTING AROUND**

By metro

Two lines of the brand new **Delhi Metro** (<http://www.delhimetrorail.com/>) are now fully open and the third line is scheduled for completion in December 2005. Line 2, in particular, is useful for getting to the Old Delhi and New Delhi railway stations as well as the ISBT bus terminal. Fares range from Rs. 6 to 14.

By taxi

**Taxis** or **hired car** (usually with driver) are required to see many of the far-flung sites around and just outside Delhi. To get a taxi or a hired car, you have to go to a taxi stand; they are not usually flagged from the street. There is also a service called dial-a-cab. The number is 1090.

By autorickshaws

**Autorickshaws** (also called **3 wheeled Scooters** or **3 wheelers**) are good for shorter trips. Autorickshaws are three-wheeled partially enclosed contraptions (they don't have any doors) that can seat three people in the back and usually run on CNG, petrol or diesel, mostly CNG in Delhi. Although by law the rickshaw driver have to charge by the electronic meter in their vehicles, they will almost always try to haggle for prices. If using a rickshaw, make sure you settle on either (a) paying by meter or (b) a fixed price in advance, or there will be no end of trouble. In general, they are much cheaper than taxis, and can be hailed from the street.

## **TOURIST OFFICES**

The Government of India Tourist Office, 88 Janpath, Connaught Place (Ph: 011 – 23320005)

Also, Delhi Tourism counters at the airport; Maharana Pratap Inter-state Bus Terminus (Ph: 011 – 22962181); New Delhi Railway station (Ph: 011 – 23732374); Old Delhi Railway Station (Ph: 011 – 22511083).

**OTHER WEBSITE LINKS:**

[www.delhigov.in](http://www.delhigov.in)

[www.yatraindia.com](http://www.yatraindia.com)

[www.indiatourism.com](http://www.indiatourism.com)

[www.delhitourism.com](http://www.delhitourism.com)

<http://www.incredibleindia.org/>

<http://www.tourisminindia.com/>

<http://www.tsiindia.com/climate.html>

**LIST OF ALTERNATIVE HOTELS**

**PLEASE NOTE: PRICES ARE APPROXIMATE AND CAN VARY DEPENDING ON DATE OF RESERVATION AND AVAILABILITY**

The Taj Palace Hotel is closest to the conference venue; the others are a 10- to 15-minute taxi journey from the venue.

Name	Category	Rooms	Location	Single	Double	Taxes	Address/Contact
Taj Palace Hotel	5 Star Deluxe	422	14 kms. from Airport	US\$325*	US\$350*	12.5%	Sardar Patel Marg Diplomatic Enclave, New Delhi 110 021 Tel (91-11)26110202 Fax (91-11) 26110808,26884848 Email: <a href="mailto:palace.delhi@tajhotels.com">palace.delhi@tajhotels.com</a>
Ashok Hotel	5 Star Deluxe	550	15 kms. from IGI Airport; 12 kms. from Domestic Airport	Standard room : US\$182 Rs.8,000 Club room: US\$205 Rs.9,000	Standard room : US\$205 Rs.9,000 Club room: US\$225 Rs.10,000	12.5%	50B Chankaya Puri, Delhi -110 021 Tel +91 11-26110101 Fax: 91-11-26873216, 26876060, 26876378 Email: <a href="mailto:reservation@theashokgroup.com">reservation@theashokgroup.com</a>
Hyatt Regency Hotel	5 Star Deluxe	518	15 kms. from Airport	US\$329 Rs.15,100		12.5%	Bhikaiji Cama Place, Ring Road, New Delhi, India Tel: +91 11 2679 1234 Fax: +91 11 2679 1122 Email: <a href="mailto:india.reservations@hyattintl.com">india.reservations@hyattintl.com</a>
Hotel Samrat	5 Star	255	15 kms. from I.G.I. Airport;9 kms. from New Delhi Railway Station;	US\$141 Rs.5,500	US\$154 Rs.6,000	12.5%	Kautilya marg, New Delhi -110 021 Tel No. +91 1126110606 Fax:+91 11 26887047, 24679056 Email: <a href="mailto:reservation@theashokgroup.com">reservation@theashokgroup.com</a>

\*room rate will increase on 1 September, price not yet confirmed.