

WORLD FOCUS



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF SAFETY ENGINEERS

www.asse.org



Asia/Pacific Rim

Country Profile: India

Editor's Note: This is the eighth in a series of articles summarizing various countries' government and SH&E legislative processes. It is intended to serve as a useful planning tool for SH&E professionals preparing to conduct business in the profiled country. Previous profiles included Japan, the U.K., Chile, Ireland, Singapore, Spain and Mexico. All country profiles are available on the International Practice Specialty website (www.asse.org/practicespecialties/international/). The material contained has been provided courtesy of ENSR International. Requests for additional country information should be sent to Halley Moriyama at hmoriyama@ensr.aecom.com; +1-978-589-3233 or Jack Fearing at jack_fearing@aon.com; +1-973-463-6240.

India is the seventh largest country in the world, and the second largest in Asia, with a landmass of 3.29 million square km, or slightly more than one-third the size of the U.S. Much of the country extends as a peninsula into the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean, yielding a coastline of more than 7,500 km. The islands of Andaman and Nicobar in the Bay of Bengal, and Lakshadweep in the Arabian Sea, are also parts of India. On the west, India is bounded by Pakistan and the Arabian Sea; on the north by Afghanistan, China, Nepal and Bhutan; and on the east by Bangladesh, Myanmar (Burma) and the Bay of Bengal. Sri Lanka lies directly off the southwest tip of the Indian peninsula. Facing India, across the ocean, are Saudi Arabia and Africa to the west, and Myan-

mar (Burma), Malaysia and Indonesia to the east (see map on pg. 4).

The country's climate is varied. Temperatures range from below freezing in the elevations of the Himalayan Mountains, to a tropical climate found in much of the remainder of India. In the northeast, the states of Assam and West Bengal are rainy, while the arid Thar Desert lies in the west.

Population

India is the second most populous country in the world, with an estimated 2001 population of 1.27 billion (Census of India, 2001). More than 72% of the population lives in rural areas. Between 1991 and 2001, the population growth rate was approximately 21.34%.

The country has diverse cultures, religions and languages. Of all Indians, Hindus comprise 83%, Muslims 11%, Christians 2%, Sikhs 2%, Buddhists 0.7% and Jains 0.5% (Microsoft, 1994). More than 1,650 languages are spoken in India, 18 of which are officially recognized. According to the Indian Constitution, Hindi is the country's official language; however, this is unacceptable to many of the states that do not speak Hindi, so this provision has yet to be fully implemented. English is used for most official purposes.

continued on page 3

KOSHA: Living Up to Its Mission

As president of the Korea Occupational Safety and Health Agency (KOSHA), Kil-Sang Park ensures that the agency's many initiatives, programs and policies advance its mission of protecting "the lives and health of working



Kil-Sang Park, president, Korea Occupational Safety and Health Agency.

continued on page 11

This Issue

Are You Ready for Global Harmonization?	8
An In-Depth Look at U.S. TAG Operations	16
OHSAS 18001	18
ECJ Health & Safety Ruling	22
2007-08 Professional Development Opportunities	23

Country Profile: India

continued from page 1

Government Overview

India is comprised of 28 states and seven union territories to form the world's largest practicing democracy (Table 1). The polity is both parliamentary and federalist, with a central government in New Delhi, the capital and 28 state governments.

On Jan. 26, 1950, the Indian Constitution was enacted, establishing three branches of government: legislative, executive and judiciary. The executive is subordinate to the legislature, while the judiciary functions independently.

With respect to matters within its legislative competence, the Union Legislature (Parliament) enacts and enforces the laws of India. It consists of two houses, Rajya Sabha (Council of States), elected by the state legislatures, and Lok Sabha (House of the People), elected directly by the people (Chubai, 1995). Elections are held every 5 years.

The executive branch includes the president, vice president and Council of Ministers, which is headed by the prime minister. The president, who holds all executive power, is advised by the Council of Ministers. The president is elected from an electoral college of the elected members of both houses of Parliament and the elected members of the state legislative assemblies.

The constitution has supreme authority over the Parliament. Therefore, the Indian courts may adjudicate on the constitutionality of any law passed by the Parliament. India's Supreme Court not only acts to protect the constitution, but also has the authority to settle disputes between the union and the states, and disputes between states. India has high courts in each state and lower courts at the district level.

A similar structure governs the states. At this level, the Council of Ministers, headed by the chief minister, answers to the state legislature (called the legislative assembly). The state legislative assembly is elected by the people of that state and performs similar duties as those of Parliament.

The Indian Constitution delegates certain authority, such as foreign affairs, exclusively to the central (federal) government and other responsibilities, such as public health, to the states. Although many matters are settled directly by the

central government, SH&E issues are primarily state functions guided by central government policies. In addition, the states may enact their own environmental laws, with respect to matters within their legislative competence, as long as they respect the Indian Constitution and the policies of the central government. Enforcement of SH&E rules is exclusively a state duty.

SH&E Authorities

The Government of India established a Department of Environment (DoEn) in November 1980 to oversee the planning, promoting and coordinating of environmental programs at the national or central government level. Subsequently, a full-fledged Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoE&F) was constituted in 1985 to oversee these functions and for policy formulation at the national or central government level. MoE&F also issues new acts and rules in addition to amending existing acts and rules.

The Central Pollution Control Board (Central Board), a statutory body attached to MoE&F, administers the executive responsibilities for the enforcement of several major acts. Directly and indirectly, through 28 state pollution control boards (state boards), the Central Board oversees the implementation of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974; the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Cess Act, 1977; the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981; the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986; the Hazardous Waste (Management & Handling) Rules, 1989; and other acts and rules. One of the functions of the Central Board is to establish minimal national standards (MINAS) for discharge of emissions and effluents from various industries. MINAS then are implemented through the state boards. The state boards have the authority to set standards (within the state) to more stringent levels than required by MINAS; however, they cannot relax these standards.

TABLE 1 States & Union Territories

States		Union Territories
Andhra Pradesh	Maharashtra	Andaman & Nicobar Islands
Arunachal Pradesh	Manipur	Chandigarh
Assam	Meghalaya	Dadra & Nagar Haveli
Bihar	Mizoram	Daman & Diu
Chattisgarh	Nagaland	Lakshadweep
Goa	Orissa	Pondicherry
Gujarat	Punjab	Delhi
Haryana	Rajasthan	
Himachal Pradesh	Sikkim	
Jammu & Kashmir	Tamil Nadu	
Jharkhand	Tripura	
Karnataka	Uttar Pradesh	
Kerala	Uttaranchal	
Madhya Pradesh	West Bengal	

In addition, the state boards oversee the management and discharge of hazardous waste and issue consent letters to industries for discharge of liquid effluent and air emissions and authorizations for the management and handling of hazardous wastes. The state boards also play an active role in the environmental clearance process (for new projects and expansion of existing projects requiring environmental clearance) and are specifically responsible for conducting environmental public hearings and issuing "no objection certificates."

The ministries of Labor and Environment are both entrusted with the enforcement of occupational health and workers' safety-related provisions. Other ministries, such as those for petroleum, chemicals and fertilizers, transport, industry, commerce, health and public works, play important roles depending on the industry. The provisions of the Factories Act, which is a central government legislation, are enforced by the state governments through the Inspectorates of Factories (in some of the states, the Factory Inspectorate is referred to as Directorate of Industrial Safety and Health).

The Directorate General of Factory Advice Service and Labor Institute (DGFASLI), with its central and regional labor institutes, is responsible for providing technical advice to Factory Inspectorates on matters connected with the administration of the Factories Act. It also is responsible for undertaking the necessary research, training and educational activities related to the promotion of safety

continued on page 4

Country Profile: India

continued from page 3

and health in factories. It plays a coordination role on behalf of the Ministry of Labor to ensure that significant differences in the rules and practices between different states and union territories are avoided.

Legislative Overview

History of Environmental Regulations

Following the first UN Conference on Human Environment (Stockholm, 1972), India began to address basic environmental issues: water quality management, air quality management, wildlife protection and forest conservation (Desai, 1994).

Important environmental laws include the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972; the Water (Prevention and Control and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974; the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980; and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981. Prior to 1972, India had a variety of basic health and safety regulations in effect, such as the Explosives Act, 1984; the Explosive Substances Act, 1908; the Indian Boilers Act, 1923; the Factories Act, 1948; and the Insecticides Act, 1968.

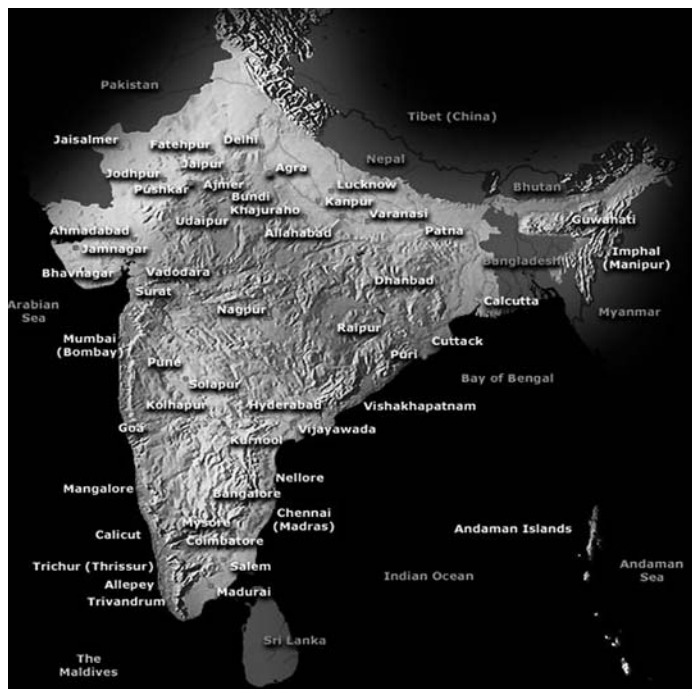
Initially, the Indian Constitution did not directly address the environment. However, the Parliament, noting the Stockholm Conference and the growing public concern about environmental issues, amended the constitution in 1976 to directly protect the environment (Chubai, 1995). The Amendments to the Constitution (42 Amendment) Act, 1976, enjoin not only the state, but also its citizens, to protect the environment. Article 48-A says, "The state shall endeavor to protect and improve the environment and to safeguard the forests and wildlife of the country." Article 51-A (g) states, "It shall be the duty of every citizen of India to protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wildlife and to have compassion for living creatures."

The Bhopal disaster in 1984 triggered new SH&E legislation, such as the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (EPA) and the Public Liability Insurance Act of 1991. The new legislation covered previously unregulated areas, including the manufacture and transport of toxic chemicals, hazardous waste handling, noise, public liability, vehicular emissions, and the discharge of pollutants to air, land and water.

EPA is the major piece of legislation to result from the Bhopal incident. EPA is India's "umbrella" environmental law, designed to provide the central government with a framework within which to coordinate the environmental activities of the states and the central government (Chubai, 1995). EPA also provides a context for previously existing environment laws, such as the Water Act and the Air Act, and standards for the planning and implementation of a long-term environmental policy.

The country is consistently expanding the scope and stringency of SH&E legislation at the national level. Recent examples are the enactment of the Ozone Depleting Substances Rules, 2000 (Rules) to regulate the production, consumption, export/import, sale, purchase and use of ozone depleting substances (ODS). These rules specifically prohibit new investments in facilities manufacturing products, which contain or are made with ODS.

Another example is the recent amendments made to the Hazardous Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 1989, by a notification dated May 20, 2003. The amended rules have been promulgated pursuant to India's ratification of the Basel Convention on the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal. The amended rules inter-alia 1) broaden the definition of hazardous waste to include any waste, which by reason of its physical, chemical, reactive, toxic, flammable, explosive or corrosive characteristics causes danger or is likely to cause danger to health or environment, whether alone or when in contact with other wastes or substances; 2) frame and/or amend the rules to bring recyclers or refiners of nonferrous metal wastes as well as waste lubricating oil within the ambit of the rules; 3) make the occupier and operator of a facility expressly liable to reinstate or restore damaged or destroyed



elements of the environment at his cost, failing which s/he shall be liable to pay in advance the entire cost of remediation or restoration as estimated by the state boards; and 4) enlarge the list of wastes prohibited for purposes of import.

The Supreme Court is currently dealing with a writ petition pertaining to a specific case involving the import of hazardous wastes. During the pendency of the petition, the court had directed the setup of a High-Powered Committee (HPC) to examine matters related to hazardous wastes, including changes, if any, required to be made to the existing laws. The HPC submitted its report along with its recommendations, which have been considered in detail by the court.

Upon consideration, the court has issued a series of directives to the central government, MoE&F and the central and state boards. For instance, the central government/MoE&F have been directed to consider the recommendations made by the HPC with respect to restructuring the MoE&F to ensure that there is actual implementation of rules and not mere issuance thereof; banning the import of all hazardous wastes covered by the Basel Convention and also other wastes as recommended by the HPC; considering requiring a bank guarantee from the importer seeking permission to import used oil, furnace oil and zinc wastes to be released only on the imported consignment found to be in conformity with the declared item of import; and establishing

or amending appropriate legislation to prevent and punish illegal traffic of hazardous wastes.

Directions have also been issued to the Ministry of Labor to constitute a committee to examine and enumerate appropriate medical benefits (including compensation) resulting from the occupational health hazards to the workers dealing in hazardous wastes. The court also has issued show cause notices to the importers of waste oil who are parties to the writ petition to show why their consignments are not required to be re-exported or destroyed at their cost and why they should not be asked to pay compensation on the "polluter pays principles." Lastly, the court has appointed a Monitoring Committee to ensure timely compliance with its direction. The committee is to report to the court quarterly.

The following are other examples of the continuing trend to increase the stringency of existing laws and regulations:

- Framing of the Environment (Protection) (Second Amendment) Rules, 1998 by a notification dated Dec. 22, 1998, and their modification by another notification dated Oct. 5, 1999. These rules prescribe the emission standards for various industries like battery manufacturing, rayon, thermal power plants and brick kilns as well as effluent standards for battery manufacturing industries and gas/naphtha-based thermal power plants.

- Framing of Environment (Protection) Second Amendment Rules, 2002 by a notification dated May 17, 2002, and Environment (Protection) Third Amendment Rules, 2002 by a notification dated July 9, 2002. These amendment rules prescribe the emission and noise limits for diesel generator sets up to 800 KW and more than 800 KW, respectively.

- The enactment of the Public Liability Insurance Amendment Act, 1992.

- The establishment of crisis groups and the setup of a crisis alert system for management of chemical accidents under the Chemical Accidents (Emergency Planning, Preparedness and Response) Rules, 1996.

- The restrictions imposed on setting up or expanding industries, operations and processes under the Coastal Regulation Zone notification dated Feb. 19, 1991, as amended by notification dated July 9, 1997.

- The changes to the Environment

(Protection) Rules, 1986 regulating use of ash content by coal-based thermal power plants, pursuant to the notifications dated Sept. 19, 1997, and June 30, 1998.

- The prohibition of import of wastes containing or contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), polychlorinated terphenyls (PCTs), polybrominated biphenyls (PBBs) (other than waste oil), waste asbestos (dust and fiber), and wastes containing pesticides, herbicides and insecticides under the Hazardous Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules 1989 by notifications dated April 15, 1997, and Oct. 13, 1998.

- The enactment of the Bio-Medical Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 1998 to regulate the generation, collection, reception, storage, transportation, treatment, disposal or handling of biomedical waste in any form.

- The enactment of the Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000, which require that every operating facility take all possible steps to meet the ambient noise level standards prescribed in the rules.

- The enactment of the Batteries (Management and Handling) Rules, 2001 laying down specific responsibilities of consumers and bulk consumers, manufacturers, importers, assemblers, reconditioners, dealers, recyclers and auctioneers involved in the processing, trade and use segments of the lifecycle of batteries.

- The issuance of a public notice dated May 19, 2001, by the Central Pollution Control Board to regulate the reuse/reprocessing of recyclable wastes in an environmentally sound manner. The notice regulates the sale (auction/negotiation/contract) of waste oil, used lead batteries and other nonferrous metal wastes.

- The establishment of the Water Quality Assessment Authority dated June 22, 2001, to take necessary actions for improvement in the quality of surface and groundwater resources and to promote recycling/reuse of effluents. The authority also is to review the status of water resources to identify "hotspots" for taking necessary actions for improvement in water quality.

- The issuance of a public notice in September 2001 by the Central Ground Water Authority requiring industrial establishments that exploit ground water in notified areas of South and South West districts of the National Capital Territory,

Delhi, and certain other areas in the states of Haryana and Uttar Pradesh to adopt the roof-top water harvesting system for groundwater recharge in their premises. In a recent judgment of the Supreme Court, the Delhi Government has been specifically directed to extend the water-harvesting project throughout Delhi.

- The amendments made to the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess Act, 1977 by a notification dated May 6, 2003, to extend the act to all (as opposed to only a specified few) operations, processes, or treatment and disposal systems which consume water or give rise to sewage or trade effluent.

History of Occupational Health & Worker Safety Regulations

The earliest worker safety and health regulation was the Factories Act, 1934. Due to administrative problems associated with this act, it was repealed and replaced by the Factories Act, 1948. The new version is India's major piece of safety and health legislation. Regulating the health, safety and welfare of workers, the act has been amended many times, most recently in 1989.

In addition, the Child Labor (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 prohibits the employment of children below the age of 14 in a total of 57 industries, including industries dealing in the manufacture of dyes and dyestuffs, manufacture and handling of insecticides and pesticides, electroplating, and manufacturing processes having exposure to lead, brick kilns, etc.

Future SH&E Legislation

The Indian Constitution makes environmental protection a key principle of state policy. With the rapid growth of industry in India, environmental matters have assumed enormous significance. Courts in India also have been active in ensuring compliance with environmental laws. For example, facilities not conforming to environmental standards (despite opportunity for correction) have been directed by the courts to be closed down. The Indian courts also are increasingly adopting the precautionary principle and the polluter pays principle, which are the essential principles of sustainable development as enunciated at the Stockholm Conference and also in the Brundtland Report, 1987.

The Supreme Court is taking a particu-

continued on page 6

Country Profile: India

continued from page 5

larly stringent approach toward violation of environmental laws by the polluter and inadequate enforcement by the enforcing authorities. While continuing to apply the principle of polluter pays, the Supreme Court is levying substantial costs against the authorities for any delay and/or failure in complying with the court's directions.

In a recent judgment related to import of hazardous wastes, the Supreme Court has directed that when illegal import of hazardous wastes takes place due to non-fulfillment of the requisite conditions under the prescribed rules, an inquiry should be conducted and appropriate action taken against the concerned officers of the responsible departments and, if necessary, specific provisions to this effect be incorporated in the rules.

In India, enforcement of existing legislation rather than enactment of new environmental legislation is emphasized. In fact, the Supreme Court has recently held that the problem is not the nonexistence of relevant laws but their implementation. The court also has condemned the authorities under environmental laws for limiting their role to specifying norms, thereby abdicating their constitutional and statutory duties.

Accordingly, the courts have directed that more stringent and deterrent measures must be taken for violation under the environmental laws, including directing closures of defaulting units and imposition of fines "commensurate with the seriousness of the violation." The courts also have directed the authorities to consider obtaining bank guarantees, bank deposits, or personal guarantees to ensure compliance with statutory and other conditions. The courts repeatedly direct payment for restoration of environmental damage in addition to the fine payable under the polluter pays principles.

In a recent judgment pertaining to the environmental degradation resulting from mining activities of the defaulting company, the Supreme Court has directed the closure of the mining operations over a period of 5 years subject to the defaulting unit bearing the costs of the rehabilitation and reclamation plan to be prepared and implemented by MoE&F and deposit of a monetary compensation of Rs. 250 million (at 50 million annually) in a separate bank account to be used for purposes of

research, monitoring and strengthening the affected areas.

MoE&F is preparing a draft national environment policy with the objective of combining environmental protection with the development imperative. The draft policy is expected to be ready by the middle of 2004 and will be made available on the Internet for comments from interested parties. Other than this, the government is not contemplating any new SH&E legislation. However, some of the issues that have assumed importance and are likely to influence future legislation are the focus of the following discussion.

Enforcement of SH&E Regulations

India's institutional system is designed to implement SH&E standards, monitor SH&E compliance and enforce adherence to the standards. However, if the responsible agency fails to enforce SH&E laws, three forms of civil actions are available to the public: a common law tort action against the polluting company; a writ petition to force the agency to take action; and, in certain cases, a citizen suit or class action.

Civil Penalties

Under Indian law, a victim will be compensated if death, injury or damage is caused to property or person as a result of an accident involving the handling of hazardous substances. The Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991, and its amendments establish strict liability (based on the principle of no fault) on the part of the owner of the company that handles the hazardous substances. Compensation for damages will be assessed up to a maximum of Rs. 25,000 per case (\$521 U.S.; \$1USD = 48 rupees).

Under the EPA, a person or corporation found guilty of noncompliance with environmental rules may be fined as much as Rs. 1 lakh (Rs. 100,000 or nearly \$2,083 U.S.). If the offense continues, an additional fine may be assessed up to Rs. 5,000 (\$104 U.S.) for every day of noncompliance. Corporate officers directly in charge of a company may be found guilty and liable for both intentional and negligent acts of noncompliance.

In cases of noncompliance under the Factories Act, the Supreme Court has recently held that only a director of a company can be notified as the occupier of a factory. If the factory fails to nominate one of the directors as the occupier of the fac-

tory, the Chief Inspector of Factories will be free to hold any or all of the directors liable for any noncompliance with the Factories Act. The act establishes fines for safety and health offenses of as much as Rs. 200,000 for a first violation, and an additional fine that may extend to Rs. 5,000 for every day that the violation continues. In addition to civil penalties, criminal sanctions also may be applied.

Criminal Sanctions

Under the EPA, a person or corporation found guilty of noncompliance with environmental rules also may be punished with imprisonment for up to 5 years. For safety and health violations, the Factories Act, 1948 authorizes the imprisonment of the "occupier" (who necessarily has to be a director of the company) for up to 2 years for the first offense, and as long as 10 years for serious repeat offenses. In addition to criminal sanctions, civil penalties may be applied.

Enforcement Practices

Upon discovery of an environmental law violation, the Pollution Control Board may take legal action against the offending company. In practice, however, the board often will itemize the violations and request that corrective actions be made with an associated implementation schedule (Chubai, 1995). Failure to comply with the implementation schedule may result in a complaint filed with the civil courts. Serious infractions may result in criminal prosecution, in which a warrant is issued against the polluting party and the matter is tried and settled in court.

Similar actions are taken to correct safety and health violations. The facility must designate one of its directors as the "occupier" of the facility. The occupier is considered primarily responsible for the company's action. If a factory inspector notes a violation, a notice of the offense is sent to the occupier of the facility. If the facility does not correct the problem, civil and criminal liabilities may be imposed on the facility and on the occupier for violations of health and safety regulations.

Safety Data Sheets

An occupier controlling an industrial activity in which a scheduled hazardous chemical is or may be involved is required to obtain or to develop information in the form of a safety data sheet (SDS) in a prescribed form. The SDS must record the chemical identity of the chemical; its phys-

ical and chemical data; fire and explosion hazard data; health hazard data; preventive measures and manufacturer/supplier data.

Packaging & Labeling

Every hazardous chemical container must be clearly labeled or marked to identify the contents of the container; the name and address of the manufacturer or importer of the hazardous chemical and the physical, chemical and toxicological data as per the scheduled criteria. Where it is impracticable to label a chemical due to the size of its container or the nature of the package, provision must be made for other effective means such as tagging or accompanying documents. Additionally, certain other labeling requirements exist for the transportation of hazardous or dangerous goods provided under the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989; these require the transporter to display a distinct mark of the class label appropriate to the type of hazardous or dangerous goods and specify the manner of displaying such class label.

Key Agencies

Central Government Authorities

Ministry of Environment and Forests
Government of India
Paryavaran Bhavan, C.G.O. Complex
(Phase II)
Lodi Road, New Delhi 110003

Phone: (91-11) 2436 0605; 2436 0629; 2436 0496

Central Pollution Control Board

Parivesh Bhavan
C.B.D. cum office complex
East Arjun Nagar
Delhi 110032
Phone: (91- 11) 2230 6128; 2230 6127; or 2230 4948
E-mail: cpcb@alpha.nic.in

Major Accident Hazards Control Advisory Division
Central Labor Institute
Directorate of General Factory Advice Service and Labor Institutes
P.B. No 17851, N.S. Mankikar Marg
Sion, Mumbai 400022
Phone: (91-22) 2409 2203, ext. 416
Fax: (91-22) 2407 1986
Telex: (91-22) 01174577 CH IN

Major Accident Control Cell
Regional Labor Institute
Government of India
Ministry of Labor

Lake Town, Kolkata 700089
Phone: (91-33) 2214 3732

Major Accident Hazards Control Cell
Regional Labor Institute
Government of India
Ministry of Labor
Sarvodaya Nagar,
Kanpur 208005

Phone: (91-512) 2218691; 2218692; 2218745

Major Accident Hazards Control Cell
1 Sardar Patel Road
Taramani
Chennai 600113

Phone: (91-44) 2235 1569
National Safety Council
Plot #98-A, Institutional Area
Sector 15, CBD Belapur
Navi Mumbai - 400 614
Phone: (91-22) 2757 9924
E-mail: nsci@glasbm01.vsnl.net.in

Contacts

Embassy of the Republic of India
2107 Massachusetts Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20008
Phone: (202) 939-7000
Fax: (202) 939 7027
U.S. Department of State
Country Desk Officer, India
Washington, DC

Phone: (202) 647-2141
Visa Information: (202) 663-1225

U.S. Department of Commerce
International Trade Administration,
India Desk
Washington, DC
Phone: (202) 482-2954

U.S. Embassy
Shanti Path
Chanakya Puri
New Delhi 110 021
Phone: (91-11) 2611 3224; 2611 3225; or 2611 3226
Fax: (91-11) 2419 0017

The Secretary General
Indo-American Chamber of Commerce
1-C, Vulcan Insurance Building
Veer Nariman Road, Churchgate
Mumbai - 400 020
Phone: (91-22) 2282 1413; 2282 1485
Fax: (91-22) 2204 6141
E-mail: iacc@scnl.com
Website: <http://www.indous.org>

U.S. India Business Council
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
1615 H. Street, NW
Washington, DC 20062-2000
Phone: 202-463-5492
Fax: 202-263-3173
E-mail: india@us-india.org

National Holidays

All dates should be verified before visiting India. When holidays fall on a Saturday or Sunday, commercial establishments may be closed the proceeding Friday or the following Monday. Check with local contacts for variable dates.

Business Customs & Practices

Business practices and protocols vary around the world. What is acceptable in one country may be taboo in another. Useful information on appropriate business practices and protocols in India can be obtained from the following sources:

Getting Through Customs
Newtown Square, PA
Phone: (610) 353-9894
E-mail: 74774.1206@compuserve.com
Website: www.getcustoms.com
Craighead Publications
Darien, CT
Phone: (203) 655-1007
Website: www.craighead.com ■

Public Holidays

Holiday	Fixed Date
Republic Day	Jan. 26
Idu'l Zuha	
Mahashivratri – Worship of Shiva	
Muharram	
Holi – Festival of Colors	
Good Friday	
Baisakhi (Hindu Solar New Year)	April 13
Milad-un-Nabi – Birthday of Prophet	
Buddha Purnima – Birthday of Lord Buddha	
Independence Day	Aug. 15
Janmashtami – Birthday of Lord Krishna	
Mahatma Gandhi's Birthday	Oct. 2
Dussehra – Triumph of Ram over Rauana	
Deepavali– Festival of Lights	
Idu'l Fitri – End of Ramadan	
Guru Nanak's Birthday	
Christmas	Dec. 25