



UNITED NATIONS REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON CENSUSINFO

New Delhi, 28–30 November 2011

INFORMATION NOTE FOR PARTICIPANTS

GENERAL

The United Nations Regional Workshop on CensusInfo will be held from 28 to 30 November 2011 in New Delhi, India. The Workshop is co-organized by the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) and the Office of the Registrar-General of India.

VENUE

The Workshop will take place at the Le Meridien Hotel, located at 8 Windsor Place, New Delhi 110001, Tel (91-11) 2371-0101, Fax (91-11) 2371-6996, Email info@lemeridien-newdelhi.com, Web <http://www.starwoodhotels.com/lemeridien/property/overview/index.html?propertyID=1831>. All sessions of the Workshop will be held in **Conference Room 2010-2020**.

REGISTRATION OF PARTICIPANTS

Registration of participants will be conducted on Monday, 28 November 2011, between 9.00 and 9.30 a.m. in the hall outside the conference room.

OPENING SESSION

The Workshop will be opened at 9:30 a.m. on Monday, 28 November 2011.

LANGUAGE

The Workshop will be conducted in English.

VISA REQUIREMENTS

A valid visa and a valid passport are required for most nationalities to enter India. Participants should obtain a visa from the Embassy or Consulate of India located in their countries before departing for New Delhi. Participants from countries without diplomatic representation of India will need to obtain their entry visa from the nearest country with Indian diplomatic mission. Participants anticipating difficulty in obtaining visa to India are requested to contact the organizers. If necessary, the United Nations can assist by sending a letter addressed to the nearest Indian diplomatic mission.

Participants are urged to check the latest information regarding visa requirements applying to their citizenship with the nearest Indian diplomatic mission. For information on Indian embassies and consulates, please visit: <http://india.gov.in/overseas/embassies.php>

Participants are further advised to apply for visa at the nearest Indian embassy/consulate well in advance of their travel dates.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

Hotel accommodation at a special negotiated rate has been arranged for participants at Hotel Janpath (Janpath Road, New Delhi 110001, Tel: 91-11-23340070, Fax: 91-11-23347083, Email: hotel_janpath@yahoo.co.in, Web: <http://www.theashokgroup.com/hotels/janpath.html>). Hotel Janpath is a 4-star hotel located in the central area of New Delhi and is 5 minutes walking distance from the conference venue. The hotel is about 20 kms from the international airport and 2 kms from the New Delhi Railway Station. The vicinity of the hotel offers a variety of shops and restaurants within easy walking distance.

The rate for a single room occupancy is Rs 4,800 plus taxes (approximately USD \$113); breakfast is included. Check in and check out time is 12:00 noon. However, on the basis of availability, the hotel may allow early check in from 7:00 am and late check out until 4:00 pm without extra charges. Cancellation of booking must be received by the hotel at least 48 hours prior to date of arrival. For any last minute cancellation, one night's room tariff may be charged. All payments must be settled by Cash or Credit Card by the participants at the time of their departure.

Each participant is responsible for the payment of his/her own accommodation. Participants are also individually responsible for settling their own bills for incidental charges and personal expenses such as room service, use of telephone, business center, etc.

The hotel can arrange for a one-way airport pick-up service for a fee of Rs. 1,000 plus extra charges for parking. If you choose to take this service from the hotel, please fully complete the attached form providing your arrival details (including flight number, arrival date and time) and forward it to the attention of Mr. Sahil Sheokand at sahilsheokand.itdc@gmail.com with copy to hotel_janpath@yahoo.co.in or Fax: 91-11-23341459 to ensure your reservation.

TRANSPORTATION UPON ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE

Participants should make their own transportation arrangements from the Indira Gandhi International Airport to their respective hotels. Taxi and railway service via Delhi Metro are available at the airport.

The airport has a relationship with three authorized taxi operators—Meru Cabs, Mega Cabs and Easy Cabs—all located outside the international terminal. These cabs are air conditioned and payment can be made by cash or credit card at the airport counter on a pre-paid basis before the start of journey. After you have availed of the service, payment may be made only by cash. Participants can obtain a taxi by contacting the local pre-paid taxi booths at the airport. The distance between the airport and the central part of New Delhi is about 20 kms and at the currently prevailing rates a taxi ride from the airport to a centrally located hotel should not cost more than USD 20.

The Airport Express line of Delhi Metro—a rapid transit railway system connecting the airport with the central part of New Delhi—is one of the fastest ways to commute. If you plan to use the Airport Express Metro to go to Hotel Janpath, you may get off at the Shivaji Stadium station (which is about 2 km from the hotel) and take an auto-rickshaw (three-wheeler) from there to Hotel Janpath. The Airport Express is currently operating from 05:00 am till 11:00 pm with a frequency of 20 minutes.

Alternatively, participants can arrange an airport pickup service directly from the hotel they are taking accommodations.

More information on the airport, pre-paid taxis and the Delhi Metro is available at: <http://www.newdelhiairport.in/to-from-airport-tool.aspx>

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

The local currency is the Indian Rupee (Rs.). The average exchange rate is 49.8 Indian Rupees to the U.S. dollar. Please note that this rate is subject to change.

Money can be exchanged at any one of the accredited foreign exchange bureaus. Travelex and Thomas Cook are among the more common foreign exchange bureaus represented. Money exchange facility is also available at the airport upon arrival and at most major banks.

Most banks in New Delhi are open weekdays from 0930 to 1500. The State Bank of India (SBI) and the ICICI Bank have some of the largest ATM networks and accept most international cards at a nominal charge. International banks such as Citibank, HSBC, Barclays, Deutsche Bank, ABN Amro and Standard Chartered have presence in major Indian cities.

Credit cards are accepted at major hotels, restaurants, and larger shops—provided that they are either Visa or MasterCard. Small businesses and family-run stores almost never accept credit cards, so it is useful to keep a moderate amount of cash on hand.

Travellers Cheques or foreign currency notes are not widely accepted.

TIME AND WEATHER

New Delhi time is 5 hours and 30 minutes ahead of GMT.

The climate of New Delhi is monsoon-tropical, with high variation between summer and winter temperatures. The winter season starts in November and lasts till March. During the duration of the workshop you can expect temperate weather with cool evening temperatures. The average temperature in New Delhi in November is expected to be around 21°C; the daily average low and high will be 13°C and 28°C, respectively. You may refer to <http://www.weather.com/> for further information on the weather in New Delhi.

ELECTRICITY

The available voltages for all electric appliances used are 220/240 volts. Plugs are 2- or 3-hole-round-pin type. The frequency of electricity is 50 Hz.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Questions regarding the administrative aspects of the meeting, including travel arrangements, may be directed to Ms. Jennifer Tungol, UNSD, phone +1 (212) 963-9120, e-mail: tungol@un.org.

The organizers of the Workshop will not assume responsibility for such expenditures as:

- a. Expenses in the home country incidental to travel abroad, including expenditures on visa, medical examination, vaccinations and other such miscellaneous items and internal travel to and from the airport of arrival and departure in the home country;
- b. Salary and related allowances for the participants during the period of the workshop;
- c. Costs incurred by participants in respect to travel insurance, accident insurance, medical bills or hospitalization fees in connection with attending the workshop;
- d. Compensation in the event of death or disability of participants in connection with attending the workshop;
- e. Any loss or damage to personal property of participants while attending the workshop or losses or damages claimed by third parties as a result of any negligence on the part of the participants;
- f. Any other expenses of a personal nature, not directly related to the purpose of the workshop.

GENERAL INFORMATION ON DELHI

Delhi, the capital of India, bridges two different worlds. Old Delhi, once the capital of Islamic India, is a labyrinth of narrow lanes lined with crumbling havelis (mansions influenced by Islamic Architecture) and formidable mosques. In contrast, the imperial city of New Delhi created by the British Raj is composed of spacious, tree-lined avenues and imposing government buildings. Delhi has been the seat of power for several rulers and many empires for about a millennium. The importance of Delhi, the second largest city in India, lies not just in its past glory as the seat of empires and magnificent monuments, but also in the rich and diverse cultures. Delhi blends within its folds the great cultural variety of India. For the visitor, Delhi serves as a perfect introduction to the cultural wealth, the complexities and dynamism of India. Besides being the seat of the Central Government, Delhi has an economy supported by agriculture, tourism, commerce and a growing industry. Delhi is today, one of the fastest growing cities of India. With the development of infrastructure facilities, Delhi plays host to a number of national and international events including sports-related events, conferences and seminars.

Some of the interesting places to visit in Delhi include:

Red Fort — The Red Fort is one of the most magnificent palaces in the world and is one of Delhi's top tourist sights. A brilliant red sandstone fort built by the Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan (who also built the Taj Mahal) as his ruling palace, the Fort was completed in 1648. Though the years since have not treated the buildings kindly, still, the scale remains imposing and the gardens are kept lush and green even in midwinter. 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.

Humayun's Tomb — Humayun's Tomb is one of Delhi's three UNESCO World Heritage Sites and exemplifies the Mughal architecture in India. The centerpiece of the site is the eponymous tomb of Humayun, the second Mughal emperor. Built starting in 1562, it was the first major Mughal structure in

the city and has been described as a predecessor or prototype of Agra's Taj Mahal. The structures are, indeed, stylistically similar, although Humayun's Tomb is built from red sandstone, not white marble, and was built by a wife grieving for her husband, not the other way around.

Qutub complex — Designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the complex houses awe-inspiring structures and monuments. The most famous structure on the grounds is the Qutub Minar, which is a 72.5 metre minaret billed as the tallest "skyscraper" in the world when built. The complex also features gardens which are kept in excellent shape, making the complex a popular relaxation and picnic spot.

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.

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 6 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 — Formely the Viceregal Lodge, the building is the highlight of Lutyen'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.

Raj Ghat — 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.

For further information on sight-seeing in Delhi, please consult the official tourism website of the Government of the city of Delhi <<http://delhitourism.nic.in/delhitourism/index.jsp>> and Wikitravel at <<http://wikitravel.org/en/Delhi>>.

TOURIST OFFICE

The Government of India Tourist Office is located at 88 Janpath, Connaught Place (Tel: 011-23320005).

GETTING AROUND

By radio taxi

"Radio Taxis" were recently introduced in Delhi to provide comfortable commuting. Radio taxis are air-conditioned and fitted with GPS technology, digital fare meters and printers for issuing receipt. The billing is done on a per kilometre basis from point to point. Radio cabs are available 24x7 in Delhi. You can book a Radio Taxi by calling one of the various Radio Taxi companies. A few of the leading Radio Taxi operators and their telephone numbers are: Delhi Cab 011-44333222; Easy Cab 011-43434343; Quick Cabs 011-45333333; Meru Cabs 011-44224422; Mega cab: 011-41414141. Night charges (25% extra) apply between 11 pm and 5 am.

By taxi (black and yellow roofed taxis)

To hail a black and yellow roofed taxicab, you normally just wait on the street or go to locations called taxi stands. Taxi drivers have to charge by the electronic meter in their vehicles on a per kilometre basis from point to point. Night charges (25% extra) apply between 11 pm and 5 am.

By auto-rickshaw

Auto-rickshaws (also called 3 wheeled Scooters or 3 wheelers) are less expensive than taxis and are good for shorter trips. Although by law the rickshaw drivers have to charge by the electronic meter in their vehicles, they will almost always try to haggle for price. If using a rickshaw, make sure you settle on either (a) paying by meter or (b) a fixed price in advance. In general, they are much cheaper than taxis, and can be hailed from the street.

By metro

The fast-growing Delhi Metro network provides a cheap, quick and air-conditioned way of zipping around the city. Fares range from Rs. 8 to 30. You can pay for your travel by buying a single-journey token or a "Travel Card". Tokens are valid only on the day of purchase and can be used only from the station they are bought, so you can't buy two and use the second for a return trip. The "Travel Card" is a machine-readable, stored-value card which is convenient to avoid the queues for buying tokens. Travel Cards are available in the denominations of Rs. 50 and can be recharged in multiples of Rs. 50 to a maximum limit of Rs. 800. Deposit of Rs. 50 payable at purchase is refundable upon return of the card. Alternatively, a "Tourist Card" can be used for unlimited travel over short periods. There are two kinds of Tourist Cards: a 1-day card valued at Rs. 100 and a 3-day card valued at Rs. 250. Deposit of Rs. 50 will be refunded upon return of the card. Special fares apply for travel on the Airport Express. Metro stations use the new, official, Indianized names, so Connaught Place is "Rajiv Chowk", Old Delhi Railway Station is "Chandni Chowk" and ISBT is "Kashmere Gate".

For local transport options, including information on fares, please consult the transport section of the official tourism website of the Government of the city of Delhi:

http://delhitourism.nic.in/delhitourism/transport/local_transport.jsp

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