



## WINTER SOUTH ASIAN CLIMATE OUTLOOK FORUM 2015

### Winter South Asian Climate Outlook Forum (WinSASCOF-1) and Climate Services Users Forum for Agriculture (CSUF-Ag1)

14-16 October 2015, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India

#### General Information for Participants

India Meteorological Department (IMD) is hosting the first session of the Winter South Asian Climate Outlook Forum (WinSASCOF-1) and the Climate Services Users Forum for Agriculture (CSUF-Ag1) from 14-16 October 2015 in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India. World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and Regional Integrated Multi-hazard Early Warning System for Africa and Asia (RIMES) shall support the event, through funds available from the Government of Canada.

WinSASCOF-1 will begin on 14 October 2015, followed by a joint session between WinSASCOF-1 and CSUF-Ag1 on 15 October 2015. CSUF-Ag1 will culminate on 16 October 2015.

The session will be conducted in English only; there will be no arrangements for translation.

#### Chennai Overview

Chennai is the capital city of the Indian State of Tamil Nadu. Located on the Coromandel Coast, off the Bay of Bengal, it is the biggest industrial and commercial center in South India, and a major cultural, economic, and educational center.

Chennai emergency phone numbers:

Police	100	Apollo Ambulance	1066
Traffic Police	103	Apollo Hospital	1860-500-1066
Fire Control	101/102	Tourist Enquiry	1913

#### Entry Visa Requirement

Foreign participants may need a visa to enter India. Participants are kindly requested to inquire about visa requirements from their respective Consulates or Embassies of India.

All foreign participants are also required to complete the attached Bio-Data form, and subsequently send to Dr. SD Attri (contact details indicated below), who can also arrange a letter of invitation in support of visa application.

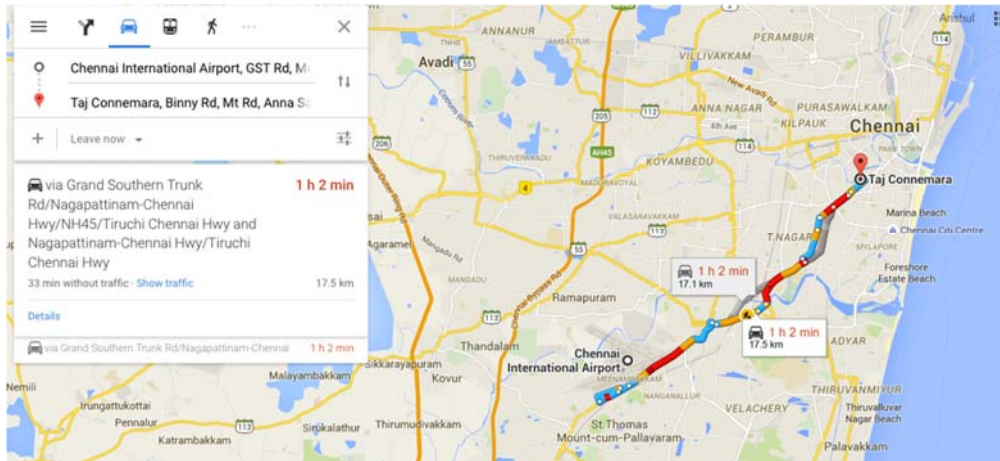
#### International and Domestic Airports

By Air: Chennai International Airport and Kamaraj Domestic Terminal are both located at Meenambakkom, about 17km from Taj Connemara.

#### Local Transport

Airport Hotel Transfer:

All participants are requested to visit the FASTTRACK pre-paid Taxi counter immediately after collecting baggage and crossing customs check at international arrivals. FASTTRACK has been instructed to expect winter SASCOF participants and will arrange a Taxi from Airport to Taj-Connemara. You need to make the payment for the Taxi which will be reimbursed by RIMES for all sponsored participants.



### Event Venue and Accommodations

The event will be held at Vivanta by Taj – Connemara. Accommodations for all sponsored participants have been booked at the same hotel venue:

Vivanta by Taj – Connemara  
Binny Road  
Connemara, Chennai  
Landline: +91 44 66000 0000  
URL: [vivantabytaj.com](http://vivantabytaj.com)



Non-sponsored participants who may like to stay at the same hotel may contact Dr. Anshul Agarwal ([anshul@rimes.int](mailto:anshul@rimes.int)) for booking accommodation at reduced rates for this conference before 20<sup>th</sup> Sept, 2015.

### Computer and Internet Access

Participants are strongly encouraged to bring their own wi-fi/Ethernet-ready laptop computers. Wireless internet access is available at the venue.

### Electricity

The mains supply in India is 220 V (50Hz). Plugs and sockets have either grounded/ earthed 3-pin connections or ungrounded 2-pin connections. If you wish to use an electrical appliance, you may need an appropriate international adaptor plug.

### Currency and Credit Cards

Local currency is Indian Rupee (INR). Visa, MasterCard, American Express and Diners cards are accepted in most establishments.

Most banks in the area also have ATMs, which normally operate for 24 hours. Stand-alone ATMs can also be found at several locations around the city. Banks will also cash Traveler's Cheques, although you will probably need to show some identification, such as a passport. As of 21 August 2015, 1 US Dollar is equivalent to 65.76 Indian Rupees.

### Time Zone

The Indian Standard Time is UTC+5.30, all year.

### Local Weather

For October, historical average temperature is 27.8 °C; average rainfall at 11.1 inches (second only to the highest rainfall estimates which occurs in November). It is advisable to carry an umbrella.

### Additional Local Information

[http://www.madras.com/v/city\\_info/](http://www.madras.com/v/city_info/)

## Contacts:

For any additional local information or assistance that you may require, please contact:

### Regional Meteorological Centre, Chennai

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#### (Local Organizing Secretary)

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### India Meteorological Department (IMD), Delhi

Dr S D Attri  
Dy Director General of Meteorology  
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### WMO Contacts

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Division (WCAS) Climate Prediction and  
Adaptation Branch (CLPA)  
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### RIMES Contacts

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