



Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs



3rd Session, Chennai India
The Gateway Hotel IT Expressway
6th Feb 2017 - 10th Feb 2017



World Health Organisation



Food and Agriculture Organisation of the
United Nations





GENERAL INFORMATION

The Third Session of Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH) will be held from 6th - 10th February, 2017 at The Gateway Hotel IT Expressway, Chennai, India. The Session will begin at 09:30 hours, Monday, 06th February 2017. All meetings, registrations, and working groups will take place at the venue hotel. The Session will be simultaneously interpreted in English, Arabic, Fresh and Spanish.

ONLINE PRE REGISTRATION

Delegates are requested to use the Codex Meeting Manager website. We encourage delegates to register by 06th January 2017 using the following link: <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/login/en/> Your Codex Contact Point (CCP) has been provided a username and password for the system. Please contact your CCP for assistance in registering online.

ONSITE REGISTRATION DESK

The Registration Desk at the Venue hotel will provide information and assistance to all the delegates. Registration will be open from 17:00 to 20:00 hours on 5th February and from 08:00 to 18:00 hours on 6th February 2017. Upon receipt of the completed registration form, a badge will be given to the participants. Participants are kindly requested to wear their name badges visibly at all functions during the meeting.

FORMALITIES FOR ENTRY INTO INDIA

e-Tourist Visa Facility is available for holders of passport of following countries:

Anguilla, Antigua & Barbuda, Australia, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Brazil, Cambodia, Canada, Cayman Island, Chile, Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kiribati, Laos, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Montenegro, Montserrat, Myanmar, Nauru, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niue Island, Norway, Oman, Palau, Palestine, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Republic of Macedonia, Russia, Saint Christopher and Nevis, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tonga, Tuvalu, UAE, Ukraine, USA, Vanuatu, Vatican City-Holy See, Vietnam. Foreign nationals travelling to India are required to possess a valid passport of their country and a valid Indian visa. However, nationals of Nepal and Bhutan do not require visas to enter India.

Nationals of Maldives do not require visa for entry in India for a period up to 90 days (a separate visa regime exists for diplomatic/ official passport holders). For further details, visit the following link: <https://indianvisaonline.gov.in/visa/index.html> In case of problems with visa applications or if you need a personalized invitation, please contact by e-mail at: ccsch@indianspices.com or ccschthampi@gmail.com.





VENUE HOTEL

The Gateway Hotel IT Expressway

The venue for the conference Gateway Hotel IT Expressway, of Taj group is located at the heart of the IT corridor on Rajiv Gandhi Salai, erstwhile old Mahabalipuram road, Chennai. The hotel is easily accessible from the airport and the railway station. The nearest airport to the hotel is Chennai International airport, which is at a distance of 30 km and the Chennai Central Train Station and Egmore stations are 35 km away. The Koyambedu (CMBT) Bus Station is 48 km away from the venue.

Address: No. No: 309 Old Mahabalipuram Road, Sholinganallur Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India 600119

For reservation of rooms follow the link:

<https://www.myhotelreservation.net/b/tajcorporatehotels/HLTMAAGH/?f=2017-02-05&t=2017-02-06&i=COR1126890&rac=%2AG1%24>

Other hotels near to the venue:

1. Holiday Inn Express

Email id for reservation: reservation.maaci@ihg.com

Website : <https://www.ihg.com/holidayinnexpress/hotels/us/en/chennai/maaci/hoteldetail>

2. Centre Point hotel

Email id for reservation: reservations@hotelcentrepoin.co.in

Website : <http://hotelcentrepoin.co.in/>

3. Gokulam park sabari OMR

Email id for reservation : rsv.omr@gokulamhotels.com

Website : <http://www.gokulamhotels.com/hotels-in-omr-navalur-chennai/classic.html>





ACCESS TO CHENNAI

By Air

The nearest airport to the venue is Chennai international airport, about 30 km from the venue hotel (60 minutes drive). The airport is well connected to all the cities of the world as well as India. Pre-paid taxis are available outside the terminal building.



By Rail

The nearest railway station is Chennai central railway station which is at distance of 36 km from the venue hotel and is well connected to all places of India.



Currency

The official currency of India is the Indian Rupee.

1 US Dollar = Rs. 66.82

(As on 16th August 2016)

ATMs are available at the Airport as well as near the Venue Hotel. International credit cum debit cards are accepted at most of the shops. Please keep in mind that only cash is accepted at traditional markets or at street food carts.

Languages

Tamil and English are the major languages used for communication in Chennai.

Time zone

Chennai is in the Indian standard timezone (IST) UTC/GMT + 5:30 hrs and day light saving is not applied.

Climate

February is the end of winter season in Chennai. During this month, the average moderate temperature in the city is around 25°C (77°F) and the minimum temperature is around 21°C (69.8 °F). The average high temperature still reaches 30°C (around 86 °F).





Electrical System

India uses 230 volts, 50 Hz alternating current as the power source. The two pin plug used is also called the Euro plug. It has two round 4 mm (0.157 in) pins. The three pin plug is rated at 6A/ 250V. It has three round pins in a triangular pattern

CUISINE OF CHENNAI

An actual South Indian person starts the day with a cup of hot filtered coffee, which is the signature beverage of the Chennai, and also of the South Indian region. Rice is the staple food of South India and this is why most of the food items are made of rice, be it the breakfast, lunch, snacks or dinner.

In breakfast, people prefer to have idli (steamed rice cakes) or dosa along with coconut chutney or tomato chutney. Both these are made from a fine paste of rice and lentils. They also like to have upma (made of rava), idiyappam or vada. In lunch, there is a variety of food including steamed rice served with sambar, rasam, kootu, buttermilk, chutney and curry. The non-vegetarian meal includes curry or dish prepared by chicken, mutton or fish. However, the lunch is incomplete without pickle, salad and papad or appalam. The snacks include chilly or onion pakoda, vada, murukku along with filtered coffee.



In most of the food items, fresh or dried curry leaves are added for a special taste and aroma. It's used widely across all of South India.

The famous sweet dishes of Chennai are payasam, kesari, sweet pongal, etc. Whereas, among the non-vegetarians, chettinad Pepper Chicken is very popular and is one of the best cuisines of the city. But what is most surprising to know is that the South Indian art of culinary is a blend of all six different tastes including sweet, salt, sour, bitter, pungent and astringent. Apart from the traditional cuisine, you will get a variety of food items from other parts of the country, including foreign cuisine





PLACES OF INTEREST

Mamallapuram

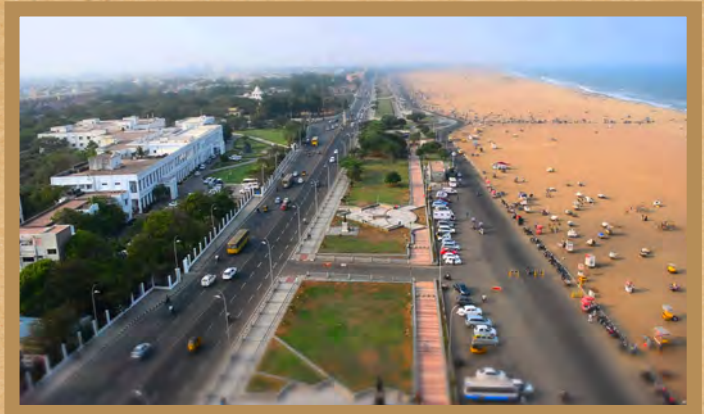
Mamallapuram, alias Mahabalipuram, a town situated in the Eastern Coast takes a 40 km journey southwards from the Venue hotel. The ancient Mamallapuram was a flourishing port town of the Pallava rulers during 7th to 9th century AD.

During the Pallava dynasty, stone carving techniques reached its peak as it requires a great talent to carve entire hills to temples. Different structures in the site are Rathas (temples in the form of chariots), Mandapas (cave sanctuaries), giant open-air rock reliefs such as the famous Descent of the Ganges, and the Shore Temple. The Group of Monuments at Mahabalipuram has been classified as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Staying at Mahabalipuram is an unique way of experiencing its history.



Marina Beach

India's longest beach happens to be the Chennai's Marina Beach. One of the best places for viewing a spectacular sun rise, this sandy delight is located at a distance of 19 km from the Venue. The memorials and statues of prominent personalities, morning walk, joggers' track, aquarium, and an old lighthouse makes a hangout for people of all ages.



Kapaleeshwar Temple

This Shiva temple built during the Vijayanagara rulers during 14th and 15th century AD is of typical Dravidian architectural style. There are two entrances to the temple marked by the gopuram on either side. The east gopuram is about 40 m height. The temple is situated in Mylapore at a distance of 16 km from the venue hotel.





Santhome Church

The Church was first built in the 16th century by Portuguese explorers, over the tomb of St Thomas, an apostle of Jesus. St Thomas arrived India and preached between 52 AD and 72 AD, The present structure is a rebuilt Church with the status of Cathedral by the British in 1893 A.D. It is 18 km from the Venue hotel and very near to Marina Beach.



Kovalam Beach

Located on the coast of Coromandel, Kovalam Beach is well-known for its beach activities and the serene beauty of its surroundings. Once a major port, it is now thronged mostly by water sports enthusiasts for activities such as wind surfing and swimming. Close by are ancient monuments like forts, churches and mosques apart from the town of Mahabalipuram and the Crocodile Farm, making Kovalam Beach a popular destination for a day outing. The Beach is a distance of 16 km from the Venue hotel on the same way to MGM Dizzee world



Connemara Public Library and Government Museum

The library alongwith the Museum present in the same site in Egmore. Constructed in late 19th century, Connemara library is a treasure house of centuries-old publications. With a collection of over 600,000 books, it is one of Asia's largest libraries.

The Museum is very rich in its collections which take the mind to various past centuries and to forget the busy city life for sometime. There are 46 galleries with collections in different sections such as Archeology, zoology, botany, geology and numismatics. It will take hardly 1 hour 30 minutes to reach the site from the venue hotel. Museum is open till 5 pm everyday except in Fridays.



Arignar Anna Zoological park

The zoological park, locally called as “Vandalur Zoo” is the largest zoological garden in India, crawling over an area of 1500 acres. The expansive grounds of the zoo is a home for 1500 species of wild beings, some of which are even endangered. An aviary, a lion safari, a deer safari and an elephant safari form the popular sections of the zoo. The zoo is located 24 km away from the venue hotel. Opening timings are from 9 am – 5 pm.



Crocodile Bank

Started as an effort to preserve and protect these reptile species, the Crocodile Bank even houses alligators, snakes, sea turtles and water birds. In all there are 2500 creatures within the premises of the Bank and one can spot crocs as well as ghariyals sunning themselves on the edge of the water body during the day. There is also a book shop where one can purchase materials related to these reptiles. The place is located at a distance of 20 km from the venue hotel, the opening timings from 8:30 am to 5:30 pm (except monday).

MGM Dizee world

The MGM Dizee world is the most liked and visited places for its Slides, roller coasters, amusement rides etc., which offer absolute fun for all ages. MGM dizee world is situated in Muttukad, on the way to Mahabalipuram. It is around 10.5 km from the venue hotel.



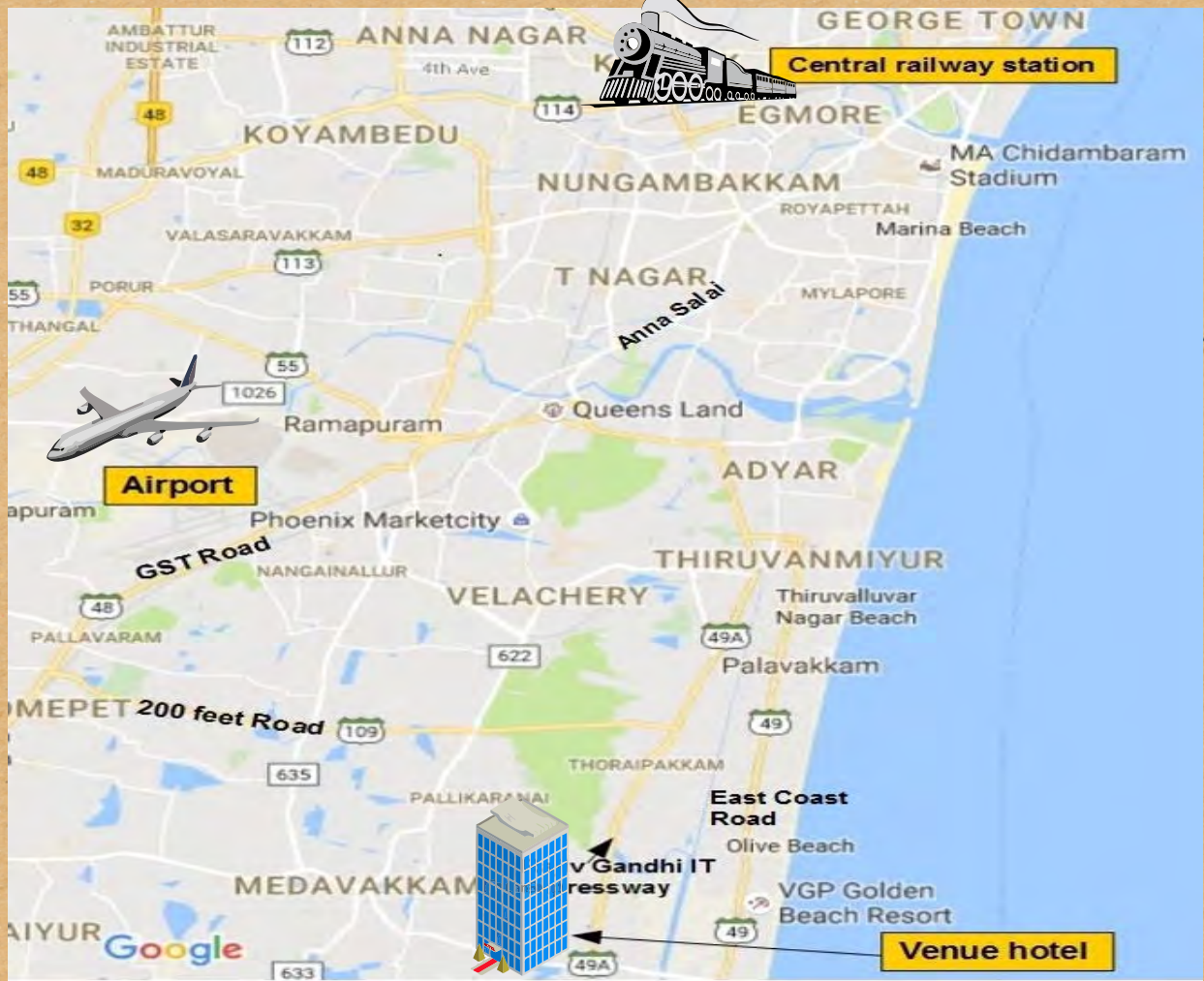
VGP Universal Kingdom

An amusement park located in East Coast Road which provides several fun and adventure rides for children, youth and adults. VGP 2000 millennium tower, Water cascades, Paner fort and statueman are some of the main attractions. The site is a distance of 5 km from the Venue hotel.

Semmozhi Poonga

Semmozhi Poonga, a botanical garden located in the Cathedral Road – Anna Salai junction. The garden houses some of the popular exotic flora and rare plant species, medicinal and aromatic herbs. Many of the exotic plants are imported from countries like China and Thailand. Visitors can relax on the park grounds which also contain a water and rock garden, a butterfly garden, a fern garden, a sunken garden and many theme gardens. The place is at a distance of 16 km from the venue hotel

MAP OF CHENNAI



All correspondence concerning the meeting should be addressed to:

CCSCH Secretariat,
Spices Board India
Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Govt. of India,
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