

Beyond the Conference: Explore India

*India – Where Heritage
Meets Diversity*

India is a land of timeless traditions, vibrant cultures, and profound spirituality. With over 5,000 years of recorded history and a vast geographical canvas, India offers every traveler a deeply immersive life-long experience. From ancient temples and sacred rivers to modern cities and natural landscapes, the country beautifully blends the old and the new.

After participating in the International Conference on Algal and Cyanobacterial Biology (ICACB-2026) at Banaras Hindu University, delegates are encouraged to explore India's unmatched cultural and natural diversity.



One of the world's oldest continuously inhabited city, is a mosaic of temples, ghats, music, and mysticism!



In and Around Varanasi (0–50 km)

“The Spiritual Capital of India”

Ganga Ghats & Ganga Aarti: Witness the sacred rituals on the banks of the river Ganges (<https://kashi.gov.in/listing-details/ganga-aarti>).

Sarnath: Located near Varanasi, it is the revered site where Lord Buddha delivered his first sermon after attaining enlightenment. Rich in Buddhist heritage, it houses ancient stupas, the Dhamek Stupa, the Ashokan Pillar, and the renowned Sarnath Archaeological Museum, making it a key pilgrimage and historical destination (<https://kashi.gov.in/listing-details/sarnath>) (<https://www.incredibleindia.gov.in/en/uttar-pradesh/varanasi/chaukhandi-stupa-in-sarnath-varanasi>)

Kashi Vishwanath Temple: The Kashi Vishwanath Temple, dedicated to Lord Shiva, is one of the twelve Jyotirlingas and holds immense spiritual significance in Hinduism. Located in the heart of Varanasi, it attracts millions of devotees who come to seek blessings and experience the sacred aura of this ancient shrine (<https://kashi.gov.in/listing-details/shri-kashi-vishwanath>).

Ghat Walk and a boat ride on the river Ganges: A Ghat walk in Varanasi offers a soulful journey through ancient riverfronts, where life, devotion, and culture unfold with every step. A boat ride on the Ganges at sunrise or sunset reveals a breathtaking panorama of historic ghats, temples, and rituals, capturing the timeless essence of the holy city. (<https://www.incredibleindia.gov.in/en/uttar-pradesh/varanasi/let-us-walk-in-varanasi>)

Bharat Kala Bhavan: Renowned museum of Indian art and heritage (<https://www.incredibleindia.gov.in/en/uttar-pradesh/varanasi/bharat-kala-bhavan>)

BHU Campus: The Banaras Hindu University (BHU) campus is one of Asia's largest residential university, known for its sprawling greenery, grand architecture, and academic excellence. Founded by Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya, the campus houses iconic landmarks like the Vishwanath Temple, Bharat Kala Bhavan, and a vibrant blend of culture, learning, and tradition (https://www.bhu.ac.in/Site/Home/1_2_16_Main-Site)

Ramnagar Fort: Located on the Eastern bank of the river Ganges opposite Varanasi, it is a 18th-century sandstone structure built by the Kashi Naresh. Known for its blend of Mughal and Indian architecture, the fort houses a museum showcasing royal artifacts, vintage cars, and historical manuscripts, offering a glimpse into the regal heritage of Varanasi. (<https://www.incredibleindia.gov.in/en/uttar-pradesh/varanasi/ramnagar-fort>)

Nearby Excursions (100–600 km)

“Heritage, Architecture & Nature”

Bodh Gaya (250 km): The sacred site where Lord Buddha attained enlightenment under the Bodhi Tree. Home to the UNESCO-listed Mahabodhi Temple, it is a revered pilgrimage destination that draws Buddhists and spiritual seekers from around the world (<https://bodhgayatemple.com/>).

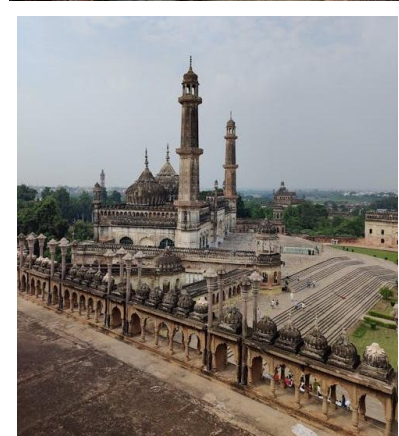
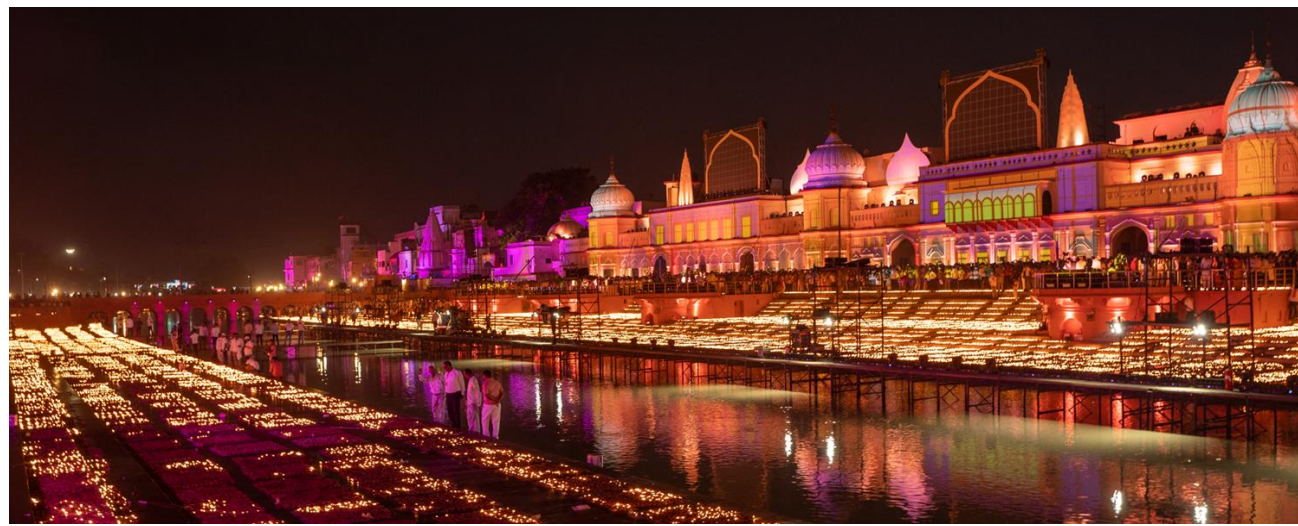
Shri Ram Janmabhoomi, Ayodhya (220 km): An ancient city revered as the birthplace of Lord Rama, a central figure in the Hindu epic Ramayana. Rich in spiritual and historical significance, it is home to the newly built Ram Mandir and numerous sacred temples and ghats along the Sarayu River (<https://uptourism.gov.in/en/article/ayodhya>).

Prayagraj (120 km): A sacred city near Varanasi, where the holy rivers Ganga, Yamuna, and the mythical Saraswati converge at the Triveni Sangam. Renowned for hosting the grand Kumbh Mela, it holds immense religious, historical, and cultural significance in Hindu tradition (<https://uptourism.gov.in/en/page/prayagraj-chitrakoot>).

Lucknow (300 km): Well-known for its rich Nawabi heritage, exquisite cuisine, and elegant architecture. The capital of Uttar Pradesh, also known as the "City of Tehzeeb" (etiquette), it charms visitors with landmarks like Bara Imambara, Rumi Darwaza, and its vibrant blend of tradition and modernity (<https://uptourism.gov.in/en/page/lucknow>).

Khajuraho (420 km): Famous for its stunning medieval Hindu and Jain temples adorned with intricate and expressive sculptures. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, Khajuraho reflects India's rich artistic heritage and the celebration of life, love, and spirituality through stone carvings (<https://www.mptourism.com/destination-khajuraho.php>).

Rajgir & Nalanda (350–400 km): Ancient sites rich in spiritual and scholarly heritage. Rajgir, once the capital of Magadh, is closely associated with Lord Buddha and Lord Mahavira. Nalanda houses the ruins of the world's oldest residential university, a center of learning and Buddhist philosophy from the 5th century CE (<https://www.incredibleindia.gov.in/en/bihar/nalanda>).



Across India (600+ km)

“Super-iconic Destinations for the Curious Traveler”

Agra: World-famous for the iconic and timeless Taj Mahal, a symbol of love and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Alongside this marble masterpiece, Agra also boasts historic landmarks like Agra Fort and Fatehpur Sikri, reflecting the grandeur of the Mughal era (<https://www.tajmahal.gov.in/>).

Delhi: The capital of India is a vibrant blend of ancient history and modern dynamism. From iconic monuments like the Red Fort, Qutub Minar, and India Gate to bustling markets, diverse cuisine, and rich cultural heritage, Delhi offers an unforgettable experience at every corner. (<https://www.incredibleindia.gov.in/en/trips/trip-listing/delights-of-delhi-a-tapestry-of-timeless-treasures>).

Jaipur: The capital of Rajasthan is known as the "Pink City" for its rose-hued buildings and regal charm. Rich in history and architecture, it features majestic forts like Amber Fort, opulent palaces like City Palace, and vibrant bazaars filled with handicrafts and traditional Rajasthani culture (<https://www.tourism.rajabasthan.gov.in/jaipur.html>).

Udaipur: Often called the "City of Lakes," it is a romantic city in Rajasthan known for its stunning palaces, serene lakes, and rich cultural heritage. Highlights include the majestic City Palace, the shimmering Lake Pichola, and the timeless beauty of traditional Rajasthani architecture (<https://www.tourism.rajabasthan.gov.in/udaipur.html>).

Jodhpur: Known as the "Blue City" of Rajasthan, it is famed for its cobalt-colored houses, majestic Mehrangarh Fort, and vibrant bazaars. Set on the edge of the Thar Desert, it offers a rich blend of history, culture, and architectural grandeur (<https://www.tourism.rajabasthan.gov.in/jodhpur.html>).



Himalayan Escapes

Rishikesh & Haridwar (900 km): Nestled along the banks of the river Ganges in Uttarakhand, are twin spiritual cities renowned for their sacred atmosphere and yogic traditions. Haridwar is known for the grand Ganga Aarti at Har Ki Pauri, while Rishikesh is the global hub of yoga, meditation, and adventure sports like river rafting (<https://uttarakhandtourism.gov.in/destination/rishikesh>) .

Shimla: Once the summer capital of British India, Shimla attracts tourists with its heritage, scenic beauty, and bustling Mall Road. One of the most popular hill stations of India (<https://himachaltourism.gov.in/destination/shimla/>)

Manali: Nestled in the Himalayas of Himachal Pradesh, is a picturesque hill station known for its snow-capped peaks and adventure sports (<https://himachaltourism.gov.in/destination/manali/>)

Dharamshala: Located against the backdrop of the Dhauladhar range, it is a serene hill town known as the spiritual home of the Dalai Lama (<https://himachaltourism.gov.in/destination/dharamshala/>).



Western & Southern India

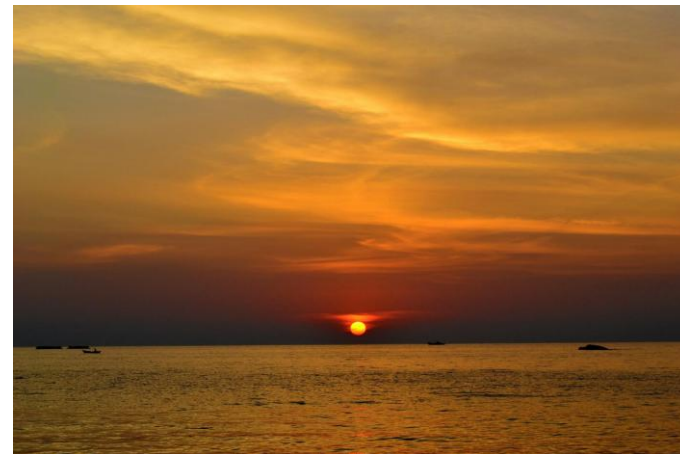
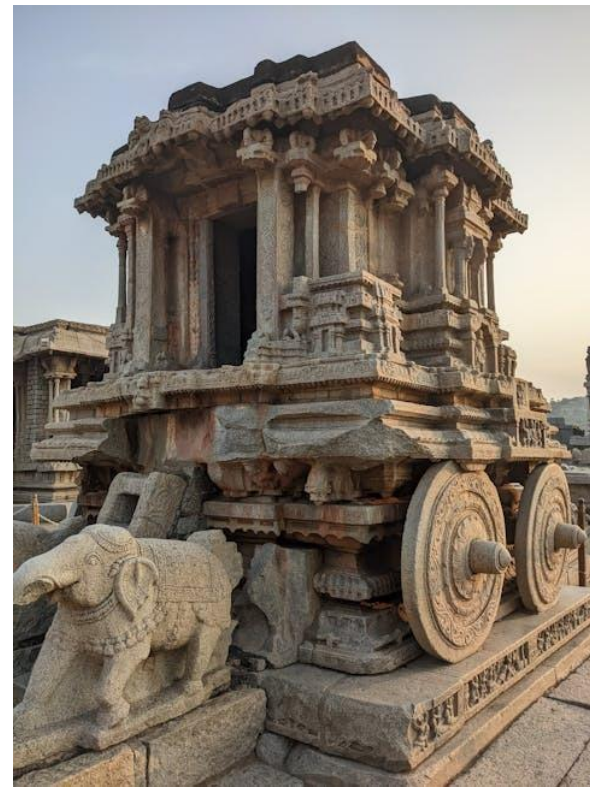
Mumbai (1,450 km): The financial capital of India, is a vibrant metropolis known for its fast-paced life, Bollywood film industry, and colonial-era architecture. From the iconic Gateway of India to the bustling streets of Colaba and Marine Drive, Mumbai offers a dynamic mix of culture, commerce, and coastal charm (<https://maharashtratourism.gov.in/districts/mumbai-city/>) .

Goa (1,700 km): India's coastal paradise is famed for its golden beaches, vibrant nightlife, Portuguese heritage, and laid-back charm. With its mix of colonial churches, spice plantations, and seafood cuisine, Goa offers the perfect blend of relaxation, culture, and celebration (<https://goatourism.gov.in/>).

Kerala (2,100 km): Often called "God's Own Country," is a tropical haven in South India known for its serene backwaters, lush greenery, and rich cultural traditions (<http://www.keralatourism.gov.in/en>) .

Hampi (1,600 km): This UNESCO World Heritage Site in Karnataka, is a mesmerizing landscape of ancient ruins, giant boulders, and sacred temples. Once the capital of the Vijayanagara Empire, it showcases remarkable architecture, including the Virupaksha Temple and stone chariot, echoing the grandeur of a lost civilization (<https://karnatakatourism.org/tour-item/hampi/>).


Chennai (1,800 km): The capital of Tamil Nadu, is a vibrant coastal city known for its rich cultural heritage, classical music and dance, and historic temples (<https://www.tamilnadutourism.tn.gov.in/destinations/chennai>) .



Tips for Delegates

- Best travel window: February to April (post-conference)
- Domestic air connectivity is excellent from Varanasi to major Indian cities.
- Consider pre-booking trains and flights well in advance.
- Explore the Incredible India website (<https://www.incredibleindia.gov.in/en>) for official tourism resources.

MOST IMPORTANTLY: Feel free to contact us in case you want suggestions to explore India beyond ICACB-2026

 **Make the Most of Your Visit**
Your scientific journey doesn't end with the conference!

Scan the QR code to explore travel options, cultural hotspots, and unforgettable experiences across India curated especially for ICACB-2026 delegates.

