

TAX FLASH NEWS

5 March 2019

India's e-Visa regime gets more liberalised

Background

The e-Visa regime was introduced in 2014 and the facility is currently available to the nationals of 166 countries¹. There are five sub-categories of e-Visa currently.

The Government of India (GOI) has made a series of amendments in the e-Visa guidelines with an intent to make India a more tourism and business friendly destination. GOI has issued a press release² which further liberalises e-Visa guidelines.

Changes on grant, duration and number of entries

- **e-Business visa** and **e-Tourist visa** may be granted multiple times in a year for a maximum period of one year with multiple entry facility (earlier thrice in a calendar year for a maximum of 60 days with triple entry facility).

Changes on continuous stay

- In case of an **e-Business visa**, the continuous stay in India cannot exceed 180 days during each visit. (earlier 60 days)
- In case of an **e-Tourist visa**, the continuous stay cannot exceed 90 days during each visit. However, nationals of USA, U.K., Canada and Japan, can continuously stay in India for 180 days. (earlier 60 days)

1. <https://indianvisaonline.gov.in/evisa/tvoa.html>

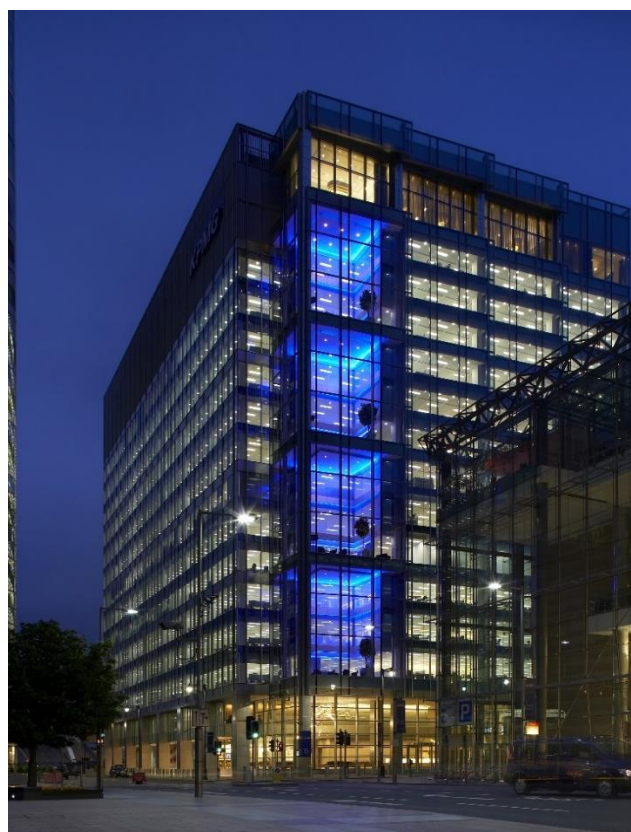
2. For details, please refer <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=188642>

Other changes

- The visa on arrival facility has been extended to the nationals of Republic of Korea (earlier only available to nationals of Japan).
- Two more airports (Port Blair and Bhubaneswar) have been added to the list of e-Visa entry airports, raising the total to 28.

Our comments

The changes made by GOI is a welcome step. Bringing e-Visa guidelines more or less at par with regular visas, will be administratively convenient for foreign nationals and make India a more attractive tourist and business destination.



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