

# Government of India launches Tourist Visa on Arrival enabled with Electronic Travel Authorisation scheme for nationals of 43 countries

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## In brief

The Government of India (GoI) in its efforts to ease the visa regime and facilitate the movement of Foreign Nationals (FN) into India has simplified the Tourist Visa on Arrival (TVoA) (the scheme). Under the new scheme, manual process is being **withdrawn** and further TVoA has been extended to the nationals of many more countries.

## In detail

Currently, TVoA has been available to the nationals of 12 countries. The GoI has recently extended the benefit of TVoA to the nationals of 43 countries<sup>1</sup>. Further, the manual process has been withdrawn and now FNs would need to apply for TVoA online and will travel into India after granting of Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA).

<sup>1</sup> Australia, Brazil, Cambodia, Cook Islands, Djibouti, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Finland, Germany, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kingdom of Tonga, Laos, Luxembourg, Mauritius, Mexico, Myanmar, New Zealand, Niue, Norway, Oman, Palestine, Papua & New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Kiribati, Republic of Korea (i.e. South Korea), Republic of Marshall Islands, Republic of Nauru, Republic of Palau, Russia, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Thailand, Tuvalu, UAE, Ukraine, USA, Vietnam and Vanuatu.

## Key features of the scheme:

- The sole objective of the FN is sightseeing, recreation, casual visit to meet friends or relatives, short duration medical treatment or casual business visit, and stay should not exceed 30 days.
- The scheme cannot be availed of more than twice in one calendar year.
- The holders of Diplomatic/ Official passport and travellers holding Pakistan passport or of Pakistani origin are not eligible to avail the scheme.
- The scheme is valid for a single entry into India for a period of up to 30 days, and is valid for entry through designated international airports of Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Goa, Cochin, Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Trivandrum.

- The visa issued will be Non-Extendable and Non-Convertible.

## Compliances by the FN:

- The FN would be required to fill in the online application form after uploading all the required documents and paying a fee of USD 60 (non-refundable) per foreign national, at least four days of their expected arrival. After this is done, an ETA will be issued.
- The FN should hold a passport with a minimum validity of six months, and a re-entry permit, if the same is required as per the laws of the FN's home country.
- The FN should have a return ticket and sufficient money to spend during their stay in India.

### ***The takeaway***

The simplification of scheme is a welcome step in the right direction and is to encourage more and more FN to visit India. Although, the term casual business visit has not been defined, it seems that expatriate coming to India for exploration trips prior to their accepting Indian assignment may be able to use the window.

### ***Let's talk***

For a deeper discussion of how this issue might affect your business, please contact:

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