

India restores 5-year e-tourist visas suspended in 2020

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Recently, the Government of India restored the five-year e-tourist visas for people from 156 countries.



[Ref: Indian Eagle]

E-Visa

- **e-Visa** enables the prospective visitor to **apply for an Indian Visa from his/her home country online without visiting the Indian Mission** and also pay the visa fee online.
- Once approved, the applicant receives an email authorizing him/her to travel to India and he/she can travel with a printout of this authorization.
- On arrival, the visitor has to present the authorization to the immigration authorities who would then stamp the entry into the country.

Categories of e-Visa:

- e-Visa has been sub-divided into 5 categories i.e. **e-tourist visa, e-Business visa, e-Medical visa, e-Conference, and e-Medical Attendant.**

Significance:

- Facility is available to Foreigners whose sole objective of visiting India is **recreation, sight-seeing, short duration medical treatment**, and **not valid for any other purpose/activities**.

Process:

- Applicants of the eligible countries/territories may apply an online minimum of 4 days in advance of the date of arrival with **a window of 120 days**.
- Duration of stay in India of e-Tourist and e-Business visa is maximum up to 1 year with multiple entries.
- On **e-Tourist Visa**, continuous stay during each **visit shall not exceed 90 days** in case of nationals of all countries who are eligible for grant of e-visa except nationals of **USA, UK, Canada and Japan**.
 - In the case of nationals of the **USA, UK, Canada, and Japan** continuous stay during each visit shall not exceed 180 days.
- On an **e-Business visa**, continuous stay during each **visit shall not exceed 180 days** in case of nationals of all countries who are eligible for grant of e-visa.

Eligibility:

- International Travellers whose sole objective of visiting India is recreation, sightseeing, casual visit to meet friends or relatives, short duration medical treatment, or casual business visit.
- Passport should have at least six months validity from the date of arrival in India. The passport should have at least two blank pages for stamping by **the Immigration Officer**.
- **International Travellers** should have a return ticket or onward journey ticket, with sufficient money to spend during his/her stay in India.
- International Travellers having **Pakistani Passport or Pakistani origin** may please **apply for a regular Visa at Indian Mission**.
- Not available to Diplomatic/Official Passport Holders.
- Not available to individuals endorsed on **Parent's/Spouse's Passport** i.e. each individual should have a separate passport.
- Not available to **International Travel Document Holders**.