



## **Global Employer Services Alert** Harmonizing global & local perspectives

### **Liberalization of e-Visa regime**

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**In this issue:**

[Background](#)

[Key Highlights](#)

[Conclusion](#)

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## Background

- With an aim to stimulate economic growth, increase earnings from export of services such as tourism, medical value travel, travel on account of business and to make India an attractive destination for foreign direct investment, the government of India (GOI) has approved the e-Visa scheme. This seeks to liberalize, simplify and rationalize the visa regime with effect from April 01, 2017.
- With this, the existing 'e-Tourist visa' is replaced by the 'e-Visa' regime.

## Key Highlights

Heads	Particulars
Effective	New e-Visa scheme is effective from 01 April 2017.
Applicability	All international travelers from specified 161 countries and territories except the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pakistani Passport holder or Pakistani origin</li> <li>• Diplomatic or official passport holder</li> <li>• International travel document holder</li> </ul>
Sub-categories of e-Visa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• e-Tourist visa</li> <li>• e-Business visa</li> <li>• e-Medical visa</li> </ul>
Purpose of e-Visa	<p>Recreation, sightseeing, meeting friends and relatives, short-term medical treatment and casual business visit.</p> <p>Unlike the erstwhile e-Tourist visa which covered only casual business visit, the applicant can carry out all activities which are permitted under normal business visa as per the visa manual.</p>
Validity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Valid for 60 days (erstwhile 30 days) from the date of arrival into India.</li> <li>• As against single entry facility it has now extended double entry facility under e-Business and e-Tourist visa and triple entry facility for e-Medical visa</li> <li>• e-Visa facility can be used for a maximum of two times in a calendar year</li> </ul>
Benefits under the new regime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extended validity and entry facility</li> <li>• Clubbing of categories of e-Visa (e.g. applicant may attend business meetings as well as visit for sightseeing)</li> <li>• The application window will be open from 120 days before the scheduled travel date (erstwhile 30 days). However, the application has to be submitted at least four days before the scheduled date of arrival in India.</li> </ul>
Others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Entry will be allowed through 24 designated airports and five designated seaports (such as Mumbai, Cochin, Goa, Chennai and Mangalore). Exit is allowed from any of the authorized immigration check posts (ICPs) in India</li> <li>• e-Visa is an independent visa category and does not replace the regular business visa, tourist visa and medical visa.</li> </ul>

## Conclusion

The above changes in e-Visa should help in reducing processing time for business visa applications and thereby help in improving "ease of doing business" in India.

**Source:**

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

[Press release \(ID 160825\) dated 31 March 2017 issued by Ministry of Home Affairs, New Delhi](#)

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