

GENERAL POLICY GUIDELINES RELATING TO INDIAN VISA

General Information

Visitors entering India must possess a passport valid for at least 6 months after their date of entry into India. There should be at least two blank pages in the passport.

An entry visa is essential for all those visiting India. There are several types of visas, including Conference, Tourist and Business Visas. Those travelling specifically for ICITD 2023 Conference should apply for a **Conference Visa (C1) only**. Under no circumstance should a delegate apply for a Tourist visa for the purposes of this conference as that might create entry clearance problems with the Indian Immigration authorities upon arrival in India. Also please refer the latest COVID 19 guidelines (dated on 2 September 2022) issued by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India for international arrivals.

<https://www.mohfw.gov.in/pdf/GuidelinesforInternationalarrivalsupdatedon02September2022.pdf>

Conference Visa: For participants of conferences organized by Government authorities including Public Sector Undertakings, Autonomous bodies under Government.

Possession of travel documents

In terms of the provisions in the Passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920, and the Rules made thereunder, every foreigner entering India must be in possession of a valid national passport or any other internationally recognized travel document establishing his/her nationality and identity and bearing - (a) his/ her photograph, and (b) a valid visa for India granted by an authorized Indian representative abroad (except to the extent mentioned in paras 2, 4 and 5 below).

Identity documents required for citizens of Nepal and Bhutan for travelling to India

A citizen of Nepal or Bhutan entering India by land or air over Nepal, or the Bhutan border does not require a passport or visa for entry into India. However, he/she should be in possession of any of the following identity documents -

- Nepalese/ Bhutanese Passport; or
- Nepalese/ Bhutanese Citizenship Certificate; or
- Voter Identification Card issued by the Election Commission of Nepal/ Bhutan; or
- Limited validity photo-identity certificate issued by Nepalese Mission/ Royal Bhutanese Mission in India when deemed necessary.
- For children between age group of 10-18 years, photo ID issued by the Principal of the School, if accompanied by parents having valid travel documents. No such document is required for children below the age group of 10 years.
- A citizen of Nepal or Bhutan must be in possession of a Passport when entering India from a place other than Nepal/ Bhutan.
- A citizen of Nepal or Bhutan must have a visa for India if he/she is entering India from China, Macau, Hong Kong, Pakistan and Maldives.
- If a citizen of Nepal or Bhutan visits India on valid Nepalese/ Bhutanese passport, he/ she may not be

allowed to proceed to any third country from India, unless he/ she obtains a ‘No objection Certificate’ from the Embassy of Nepal/ Royal Bhutanese Mission in India.

A photograph is necessary irrespective of age i.e., even for minor children below 15 years of age, if their name is included in the passport of either of their parents. Minor children whose names are entered in their parent’s passport must obtain a valid Indian visa for travel to India.

Application for grant of visa

An applicant for a visa shall have to apply on the on-line system in the standard visa application form. For this purpose, the applicants may log to <https://indianvisaonline.gov.in> . The foreigner should be present within the jurisdiction of the Indian Mission/ Post concerned at the time of making an application and grant of visa.

When to apply

For most countries, the time taken by Indian missions to issue a Conference Visa is normally 10-15 days, and the visa is valid for three months from the date of issue by the embassy (not from the date of entry into India). For applications from citizens of Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan, Sudan, Foreigners of Pakistani Origin and Stateless persons, the time taken to process visa is 60 days and the visa is valid for one month.

Get Your Supporting Documents

The supporting documents required for a visa application are:

- Two passport-size photographs
- Letter of identification from your institution or employer
- Four Letters of permission from Indian Government Ministries for holding the conference
- Letter of Invitation from the conference authorities

You should obtain items 1 and 2 yourself. Items 3 and 4 can be obtained from the Congress website. All the documents should be submitted together to your nearest Indian Embassy or Consulate. All these documents are described in more detail below.

Letter From Your Institution

This letter from the institution you are associated with should identify you and their relationship with you and confirm that they understand that you intend to visit India for the Congress duration (plus any extra days for tourism).

Documents provided by the congress via website: four permissions and invitation letter

Four Letters of permission from Indian Government Ministries for holding the Congress

These documents must be submitted by the applicant along with any other documents required by the local embassy.

Accompanying Persons

Accompanying Persons are not entitled to attend the Congress Technical Sessions and should apply for a Tourist Visa.

The application process for Tourist Visa is much simpler than Conference Visa. No letter of invitation is required. Accompanying persons can use the e-Tourist visa facility at the website <https://indianvisaonline.gov.in/visa/tvoa.html>

For a Tourist Visa, the purpose of visit should be stated as Tourism. Mentioning “Conference” on a Tourist Visa application is incorrect and will lead to the visa application being rejected.

Letters of invitation is issued only to delegates attending the Scientific Congress; not for accompanying family

persons.

Activities permitted on a visa

Foreign nationals shall be required to strictly adhere to the purpose of visit declared while submitting the visa application. However, a foreign national (other than a Pakistani national) coming to India on any type of visa will be allowed to avail activities permitted under Tourist Visa.

Persons arriving from a country which is having public health risk

If a person is arriving from a country which is having public health risk regarding any condition which has been declared as public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC) by WHO DG, then he/ she may be required to undergo medical screening or additional measures as decided by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

