

INDIA

In the past weeks, India has achieved the remarkable milestone of administering 1 billion Covid-19 vaccinations to her citizens. It became the second nation to administer as many doses and the drive is still going strong with an average of over 6.4 million people being vaccinated on a single day.

The health officials are also hopeful of starting vaccination of children between the age of two and twelve years at the earliest to return the country to normalcy and ready to welcome international guests.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India (MoHFW) has released the international arrival guidelines for travellers wishing to visit India on e-Tourist Visa when the country reopens the borders for scheduled international flights and visitors from 15 November.

Here are the key takeaways from the Visa Related Guidelines:

- (1). Foreign nationals intending to visit India for Tourism are allowed to enter into India on e-Tourist Visa/ Tourist Visa through chartered flights (for group tourism) from 15 October 2021 and as individual tourist from 15 November 2021.
- (2). In no case the foreign nationals will be allowed to enter into India through Land ICPs on e-Tourist Visa/ Tourist Visa.
- (3). They may apply fresh 30 days single entry to be utilised within 120 days of issuance of e-Tourist Visa/ Tourist Visa on indianvisaonline.gov.in.
- (4). Existing e-Tourist Visa/ Tourist Visa issued prior to October 06, 2021 shall remain suspended.
- (5). Countries have been divided into two categories
 - (i) Countries from where travellers would need to follow additional measures on arrival in India, including post-arrival testing (Countries at-risk)
 - (ii) Category A: Countries with which Government of India has agreement for mutual recognition vaccination certificate for individuals fully vaccinated with Nationally recognized or WHO recognized COVID-19 vaccine and ones exempting Indian citizens fully vaccinated with Nationally recognized or WHO recognised vaccines

As on date, United Kingdom appears on both lists and we will keep you updated on the latest developments once the government releases the details.

[Click here](#) to read more on our updated health and safety protocols and visa guidelines for tourists prepared by us based on the [guidelines](#) released by the MoHFW.

This announcement comes at an auspicious time as India is gearing up to celebrate Diwali or the Festival of Lights, often associated with renewal, growth, and prosperity. In the eastern parts of the country, Goddess Kali is worshipped to mark the victory of the forces of good. While the festivities bring with them happiness, we must also be cautious and follow social distancing and hygiene protocols to ensure that we do not slip up.

For detailed and latest updates on vaccination and number of cases, please [click here](#).