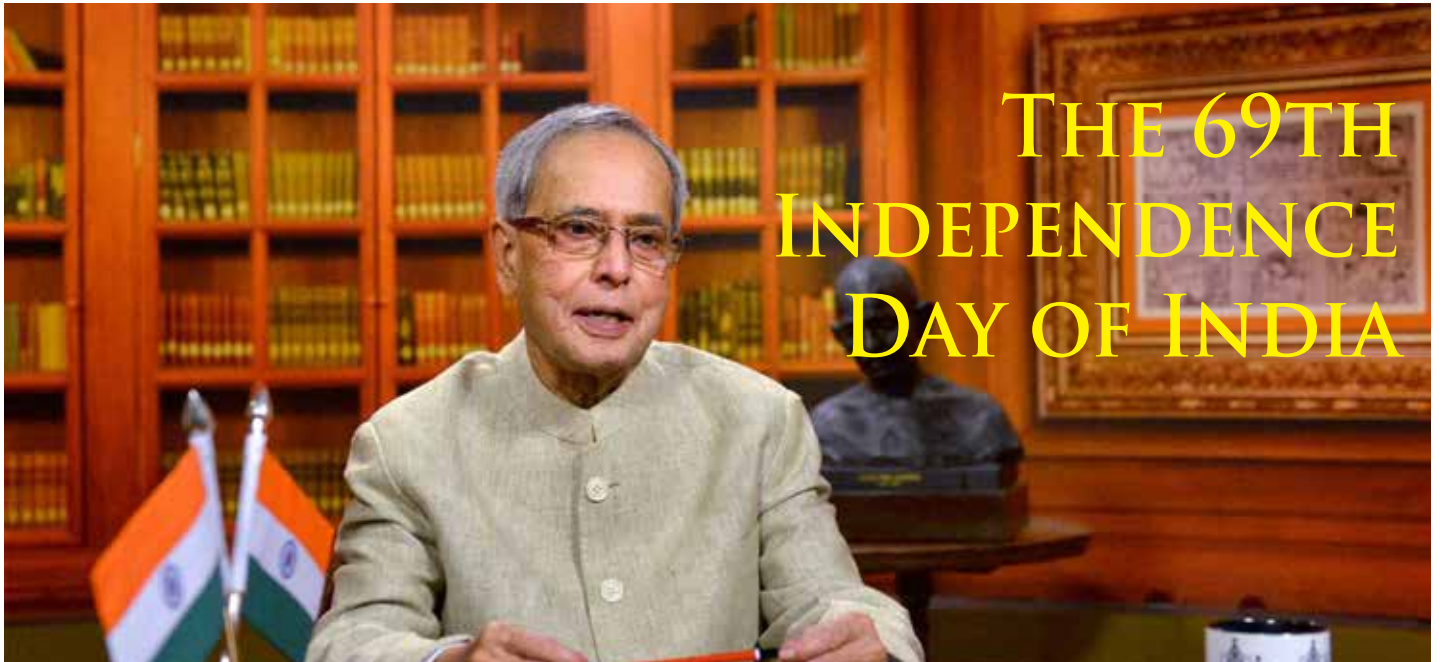




THE 69TH INDEPENDENCE DAY OF INDIA



India celebrated its 69th Independence Day on 15th August, 2015. The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee addressed the nation on the eve of India's 69th Independence Day. He extended warm greetings to all the Indians around the world. He also conveyed his special greetings to the members of Armed Forces, paramilitary forces and internal security forces.

He congratulated the sportspersons who participated and brought laurels to India in various tournaments in India and abroad. He congratulated Shri Kailash Satyarthi, Nobel Peace Prize winner for 2014.

He recalled the ideals and convictions that had held through the travails of India's freedom struggle and the principles of Constitution. Recognising democracy as the most precious gift, he cautioned that the institutions of democracy are under stress and the correctives must come from within.

Hailing the commendable performance of the Indian Economy during the last decade, the President laid emphasis that the policies must be geared to meet the 'Zero Hunger' challenge in a foreseeable future. He recalled the guru-shishya parampara and called for introspection by students, teachers and authorities on today's reality in the education system. He noted that our democracy is creative because it is plural but diversity must be nourished with tolerance and patience.

Recognising the shared destiny of the Indian sub-continent, he laid emphasis to strengthen connectivity, expand institutional capacity and enhance mutual trust to further regional cooperation. He expressed satisfaction at the resolution of long pending land boundary issue with Bangladesh. He reiterated India's policy of zero tolerance for terrorism and said that infiltration into our territory and attempts to create mayhem will be dealt with a strong hand.

He saluted the courage and heroism of the security forces that maintain an eternal vigil to safeguard the territorial integrity of our country and the safety of our people. He noted that India's strength lies in its unique capacity to blend apparent contradictions into positive affirmations.

THE 69TH INDEPENDENCE DAY OF INDIA



The Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi unfurled the National Flag at the Red Fort in New Delhi on 15th August 2015. While delivering his second Independence Day speech, the Prime Minister gave a broad overview of his Government's achievements over the last 15 months and called India 'Team India' of 125 crore Indians which would become partners in development. He said that partnership with people is the biggest asset of democracy.

He outlined how through the new initiatives of the Government like MyGov, letters from citizens, Mann ki Baat, Jan Bhagidari (people's participation) is increasing. Recalling his commitment of last year to provide the poor with financial security, the PM said that over 17 crore bank accounts were opened and over 20,000 crore rupees have been deposited in accounts under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana.

The Prime Minister announced his government's commitment to support the entrepreneur sector in the country and called for 'Start up India, Stand up India'. He spoke about 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan' (Clean India) and Swachh Vidyalaya (Clean school) and that these initiatives touched every person and 4.25 lakh toilets have been built in 2.62 lakh schools in the last year. He announced that Rs.50,000 crore have been earmarked under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana for irrigation and to increase agricultural productivity. He also announced that the Ministry of Agriculture would be renamed as Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare.

The Prime Minister mentioned the PAHAL scheme, by which subsidy on the purchase of LPG cylinder is directly credited into the bank accounts of intended beneficiaries, which has resulted in the saving of Rs.15,000 Crore. He affirmed his government's commitment to provide electricity to all 18,500 villages which still remain without electricity within next 1000 days. He emphasised the resolve of 125 crore Indians as 'Team India' to make India a developed nation by 2022, the 75th Anniversary of Independence.

CELEBRATION OF INDEPENDENCE DAY IN IRELAND



The Independence Day of India was celebrated at India House in Dublin.

The flag hoisting ceremony was attended by a large number of Persons of Indian Origin and members of Indian Community, in addition to the officers, staff and their families of Embassy of India in Dublin.

The Ambassador of India, Mrs. Radhika Lal Lokesh unfurled the Tricolour which was followed by singing of the National Anthem. Thereafter, the Ambassador read out the President of India's address to the nation on the eve of Independence Day.





Two patriotic songs were sung by Dr.Vandan Ward and his group. Dr. Vandan Ward is a medical doctor and Person of Indian origin. He directed and composed the two songs "Hum sab ek hain" & "Mera Bharat Mahan". The singing group included Leena Ward, Shifa Ward, Taaran Ward, Suhas, Snehal, Akshada & Aditi Khandekar, Ravi and Sapana Kutaphale Jayant & Priya Roy and Tanu Sharma.

Light refreshments were served while the Ambassador interacted with the guests following the flag hoisting ceremony.





EXTENSION OF E-TOURIST VISA SCHEME TO 36 MORE COUNTRIES AND 7 MORE AIRPORTS FROM 15TH AUGUST 2015

The Government of India had launched e Tourist Visa on 27th November 2014. The scheme was extended to 77 countries at nine airports designated for providing e-Tourist Visa service till now. From 15th August 2015, the e Tourist Visa facility has now been extended to Irish nationals. This facility has been extended to 36 more countries (including Ireland) from 15th August, 2015. The new countries being included in e Tourist Visa Scheme are :

Andorra/Argentina/Armenia/Aruba/
Belgium/Bolivia/Colombia/Cuba/
East Timor/Guatemala/Hungary/Ireland/Jamaica/Malta/
Malaysia/Mongolia/
Monaco/Mozambique/Netherlands/Panama/Peru/
Poland/Portugal/Seychelles/
Slovenia/Spain/St.Lucia/St.Vincent & the Grenadines/
Suriname/Sweden/
Taiwan/Tanzania/Turks & Caicos Island/United
Kingdom/Uruguay/Venezuela



With this addition, the total count of countries under the scheme will go up to 113 (One Hundred Thirteen). Simultaneously, 7 more Indian Airports have been designated for entry on e Tourist Visa from 15th August 2015. New Airports being included in the Scheme are :

Ahmedabad/Amritsar/Gaya/Jaipur/Lucknow/Tirchy/
Varanasi

Since the launch of the scheme on 27/11/2014, more than 2,00,000 (Two lac) e-TVs have been issued. Further details in this regard may be checked on the e-Tourist Visa website

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



Eligibility for E-Tourist Visa

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 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 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.
Not available to those who have a residence or occupation in India.
Not a persona-non-grata to the Government of India.
Not considered an undesirable person.

Instructions for e-Tourist Visa

Applicants of the eligible countries may apply online minimum 4 days in advance of the date of arrival with a window of 30 days. Example : If you are applying on 1st Sept then applicant can select arrival date from 5th Sept to 4th Oct.

Recent front facing photograph with white background and photo page of Passport containing personal details like name, date of birth, nationality, expiry date etc. to be uploaded by the applicant. The application is liable to be rejected if the uploaded document and photograph are not clear / as per specification. e-Tourist Visa (eTV) fee is US\$ 60/- per passenger excluding interchange charge for credit/debit cards. The fee must be paid at least 4 days before the expected date of travel filled by you otherwise application will not be processed.

eTV fee once submitted is non-refundable as the fee is for processing of the application and is not dependent on either Grant or Rejection of VISA.

Applicant should carry a copy of eTV along with him/her at the time of travel.

Biometric details of the applicant will be mandatorily captured at Immigration on arrival in India.

The validity of visa will be 30 days from the date of arrival in India.

eTV is valid for entry through 9 designated Airports i.e. Bengaluru, Chennai, Cochin, Delhi ,Goa, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Mumbai & Trivandrum.

From 15th August 2015, 7 more Indian airports are designated for entry on e-tourist visas. These are Ahmedabad, Amritsar, Gaya, Jaipur, Lucknow, Trichy and Varanasi. However, the foreigner can take exit from any of the authorized Immigration Check Posts (ICPs) in India. This facility is in addition to the existing visa services. e-Tourist Visa (eTV) is allowed for a maximum of two visits in a calendar year.

e-Tourist Visa (eTV) once issued on arrival is **Only single entry**, non-extendable, non-convertible & not valid for visiting Protected and Cantonment Areas. Applicants can track the status of their application online by clicking <https://indianvisaonline.gov.in/visa/VisaEnquiry.jsp> "blank" visa status.

Please be careful while making payment of the eTV fee. If the number of unsuccessful attempts is more than three (03), then the application id would be blocked and the applicant would be required to apply afresh by filling the application form again and regenerating a new application id.

Before re-applying, the applicants are requested to wait for 4 hours for payment status updating, after final submission of the application form and payment of the fee. The payment status updating may take up to 4 hours. Nationals of Yellow Fever affected countries must carry YELLOW FEVER VACCINATION CARD at the time of arrival in India, otherwise they may be quarantined for 6 days upon arrival in India. Please visit our Ministry of Health & Family Welfare latest guidelines regarding yellow fever countries <http://www.mohfw.nic.in/index-1.php?lang=1&level=1&sublinkid=1342&lid=1259>"\t
" blank.

For any assistance call 24 * 7 Visa support center at +91-11-24300666 or send email to **mailto:indiatvoa@gov.in.**