भारत सरकार
Government of India
गृह मंत्रालय/विदेशी प्रभाग
Ministry of Home Affairs/Foreigners Division
(विदेशी-I अनुभाग)
(Foreigners-I Section)

मेजर ध्यान चंद राष्ट्रीय स्टेडियम,
Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium,
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India Gate,
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New Delhi-110002

संदर्भ सं०/Ref. No.25022/8/2018-F.CC

दिनांक/Dated: 6th February, 2018

To

All Indian Missions/Posts

Subject: Instructions relating to grant of Conference Visa to foreign nationals coming to attend international conference / seminar / workshop

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Sir,

It has come to the notice of this Ministry that for the purpose of grant of Conference Visa to foreign nationals intending to come to India for attending an international conference/ seminar/ workshop, some Missions/Posts are insisting on submission of documents conveying prior clearance of the Ministry of Home Affairs (Foreigners Division) for holding the event. In this context, your kind attention is invited to the para 13.5 of Chapter 13 of the new Visa Manual pertaining to Conference Visa. It has been specifically provided therein that prior clearance of the Ministry of Home Affairs for holding an event (i.e. international conference/ seminar/ workshop) will be required only if the event falls within the following parameters as mentioned in para 13.3 of the Visa Manual:-

(a) If there are participants from Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq, Sudan, foreigners of Pakistani origin and Stateless persons; and

(b) If the participants of conferences /seminars/workshops are required to visit 'Restricted' or 'Protected' areas in India, or areas affected by terrorism, militancy and extremism etc. viz. Jammu & Kashmir and the North Eastern States (other than the States of Manipur, Mizoram and Nagaland).

2. Further, a detailed procedure for obtaining prior clearance of the Ministry of Home Affairs for holding an international conference / seminar / workshop (event clearance) by the organizers has also been laid down in para 13.5 of the new Visa Manual. It has also been specifically provided in a note below para 13.5 of the new Visa Manual that the

Indian Missions/ Posts should not insist on submission of documents conveying event clearance of MHA in case the event does not fall under the parameters mentioned in para 13.3 of the new Visa Manual.

3. The Ministry of Home Affairs is shortly launching an online module for submission of application by the organizers of international conferences/ seminars/ workshops for seeking clearance of the Ministry of Home Affairs for holding the event and for processing of such applications by this Ministry online. The clearance of this Ministry for holding the event will be generated through the online system and sent to the organizers. A copy of the clearance will also be endorsed to all Indian Missions/ Posts.

3. It may also be noted that the Visa Manual provides that the Missions shall carefully examine the subject of the conference/seminar/workshop and Visa shall not be issued for events which involve politically and/ or socially sensitive subjects [*para 13.2(iii) of the new Visa Manual refers*].

4. It is further provided in para 13.8 of the new Visa Manual that a foreign national intending to attend an International Conference/ seminar/ workshop while already in India on Business/ Employment / Student/ Research visa may seek prior permission of the FRRO/ FRO concerned by making a suitable application along with all relevant details. However, in respect of cases falling within the parameters mentioned in para 13.3 of the Visa Manual, such permission shall be granted by FRRO/ FRO concerned only with the prior approval of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

5. Above instructions as contained in the new Visa Manual are once again brought to the notice of all Indian Missions/ Posts for strict compliance.

Yours faithfully

(Pramod Kumar)
Director (Foreigners)
Tel. no. 23077508

Copy to:-

1. Ministry of External Affairs [Joint Secretary (CPV)], Patiala House Annexe, New Delhi – with the request to convey the above instructions to all Indian Missions/ Posts for compliance.

2. Ministry of External Affairs [Joint Secretary (Coord)], South Block, New Delhi

3. Principal Secretary (Home) of all State Governments/UT Administrations

4. Joint Director, Bureau of Immigration

5. Cabinet Secretariat

6. FRROs- Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Amritsar, Bangalore Hyderabad, Kochi, Thiruvananthapuram, Calicut, Goa , Lucknow and Ahmedabad

7. DDG, NIC – with the request to place these instructions on the online notice board of C-Visa and C-FRO.

(Pramod Kumar)
Director (Foreigners)