

## Qatar opens its first visa center in Delhi; 6 more to follow



New Delhi, Mar 27 (UNI) People travelling to Qatar for work and tourism will soon find it easy to get their visa application process done in a hassle free manner as the Arab country on Wednesday here launched its first visa center.

Qatar Visa Center was inaugurated at Akshardham metro station by Ambassador of the State of Qatar to the Republic of India

Mohammed Khater Al Khater.

At Qatar Visa Center, mandated by country's Ministry of Interior, work visa applicants will be able to sign on work contracts digitally, enroll their biometrics and undergo mandatory medical test all under one-roof, thus saving time and making it hassle free for the applicants.

The opening ceremony was attended by Major Abdullah Khalifa Al Mohannadi, Director of Department of Visa Support Services, Ministry of Interior of the State of Qatar.

The Arab country will soon launch visa centers in six other locations--Mumbai, Kochi, Hyderabad, Lucknow, Chennai and Kolkata.

"The move to get work visa applicants to complete the most essential and critical part of their visa processes in the country of origin (India in this case) is aimed at guaranteeing prospective employees their rights in a manner consistent with the best international standards," said Mr Khater while briefing reporters here.

The visa center is in sync with international standards guaranteeing greater transparency, traceability and improved anti-fraud measures and security screening mechanisms for the visa applicants.

As part of the visa application process, the employer in Qatar will ensure all necessary procedures and make the visa payments on behalf of the applicant.

Mr Khater stressed that the State of Qatar has witnessed a speedy growth and development over the past years and the Indian community in the Qatar has contributed significantly in the development process.

He further stressed upon the keenness of the State of Qatar to protect the rights of the expatriates and facilitate their work procedures while recognising the contribution of the Indian community.

He added that it is certain that a large number of Indian expatriates travelling to Qatar for work and tourism will benefit through these centers, which will facilitate smooth and hassle-free recruitment process and ensure speedy completion of procedures to obtain the visas and residence permits for the State of Qatar.

"The opening of Qatar visa centers in India comes with celebration of the year 2019 as Qatar-India year of Culture," he stated.

Information on appointment scheduling, requirements and steps at the visa center can be found in English, Hindi, Marathi, Telugu, Bengali, Tamil and Malayalam through a dedicated website (<http://www.qatarvisacenter.com>), call center helpline (+91 44 6133 1333) and walk-in at the reception.

The center will operate between 0830 hrs to 1630 hrs from Monday to Friday.

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