



Royal Thai Consulate General
Chennai



Press Release

**Travel to Thailand now gets easier from Bengaluru – VFS Global opens
New Thailand Visa Application Centre in the heart of the city
~ Will accept Thai visa applications through it's newly relocated centre at Central Street ~**

Bengaluru, 19 April 2012: Mr Chanchai Charanvatnakit, Consul General, Royal Thai Consulate General, Chennai, announced the launch of the new service in the city for collection of visa applications and delivery process through VFS Global's Thailand Visa Application Centre (Thai VAC). VFS Global, the global outsourcing and technology services specialist for diplomatic missions and governments worldwide, will manage and operate the Thai VAC at Prestige Atrium, Central Street. VFS Global has been associated with the Government of Thailand in India and Bangladesh since 2005, providing similar services in New Delhi, Chandigarh, Chennai and Hyderabad in India, and in Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet in Bangladesh. This extension of association affirms the Thai Government's faith on VFS Global and its services.

VFS Global will be responsible for accepting applications for Thai visas from applicants residing in Bangalore as well as other parts of Karnataka. All applications will continue to be assessed and processed by the Royal Thai Consulate General, Chennai. The key features of the centre will be longer operating hours, dedicated website for easy access, visa information including visa types, applicable fees and application status, professional and responsive staff dedicated to handle visa queries, dedicated call center unit, email support and door step delivery of passports. The service would attract a nominal service fee, payable at the Thai VAC at the time of submitting the application. The Thai VAC will remain open from 08:00 to 15:00 hrs for better convenience to the applicants.

Speaking on the occasion, **Mr Charanvatnakit** stated *"It is with great pleasure that I announce the opening of the new Thai Visa Application Centre in Bengaluru, which reflects our constant endeavour to enhance services and facilities for visa applicants in Bengaluru and Karnataka to travel to Thailand, the land of smiles. There is an increase in the number of Indians visiting Thailand each year, especially from Southern India for both business and tourism. It is to meet this requirement that we have partnered with VFS Global to expand the centre in Bengaluru. We believe that with the opening of this centre, visa applicants will get prompt and efficient services in order to permit them to spend best times of their life in Thailand which is widely accepted as a favoured tourist destination."*

The Thai VAC at Central Street, relocated from Infantry Road, to a state-of-the-art facility with plush interiors, is aimed at bringing about convenience for applicants applying for Thai visas in Bengaluru and adding more efficiency with additional staff and counters. The premise spread nearly 2,000 sq. ft., offers an increased seating capacity of over 60 applicants at any given point of time, and ample parking facility.

Upbeat about this association, **Mr Vishal Jairath, Regional Head - South Asia, VFS Global** said, *"It is our privilege to partner the Royal Thai Consulate General, Chennai to provide visa application process for the residents of Bengaluru and Karnataka. We are committed to providing highly efficient and convenient services to all visa applicants applying for Thai visas in the city. Applicants in Bengaluru and other cities of Karnataka can now apply at VFS Global's convenient and comfortable Thai Visa Applications Centre and expect professional services at all times."*



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India's steady growth in economy as well as direct trade and bilateral ties with Thailand has been augmented by improved air-connectivity and enhanced economic collaborations. This has contributed to increase in passenger traffic over the past few years significantly, boosting tourism, business as well as education and prompting the need for extension of visa services to manage these growing needs of travellers.

Thailand Visa Application Centre

Address: Prestige Atrium 2nd Floor, No 1, Central Street, Bengaluru 560001

Helpline: +91 44 43506353 | **Email:** infothai.southin@vfshelpline.com | **Website:** www.vfs-thailand.co.in

Business Hours:

Acceptance of Applications: 08:00 to 1200 hrs and 13:00 to 15:00 hrs Monday to Friday
(except listed holidays)

Return Delivery of Passports: 08:00 to 1200 hrs and 13:00 to 15:00 hrs Monday to Friday
(except listed holidays)

Service Fee and other charges (over and above the Consulate's visa fees) will be payable at the Thai VAC at time of application. Optional services like SMS, courier, etc. are available at a nominal additional cost.

**VFS Global will be responsible only for accepting applications for Thai visas. All applications will continue to be assessed and processed by The Royal Thai Consulate General, Chennai. Timelines for turnaround of visas are as per the discretion of the authorities.*

About VFS Global

VFS Global is a global outsourcing and technology services specialist for diplomatic missions and governments worldwide. The company manages visa issuance-related administrative and non-judgemental tasks for its client missions. With 526 Visa Application Centres (VACs) located in 63 countries across five continents as at 31 December 2011, VFS Global serves the interests of the diplomatic missions of 37 sovereign governments. The company has successfully processed over 41.06 million visa applications since its inception in 2001. For more information, please visit www.vfsglobal.com

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