



Consulate General  
of the Federal Republic of Germany  
Mumbai



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## **Press Release**

# **Germany and VFS Global inaugurate Visa Application Centre in Mumbai**

**~VFS Global broadens visa application service reach to the tenth city in India~**

**Mumbai, 16 January 2014:** The Federal Republic of Germany and VFS Global, the world's largest outsourcing and technology services specialist for governments and diplomatic missions, extended their visa application services for Germany to Mumbai, with the inauguration of a new Germany Visa Application Centre (VAC).

Mr Michael Siebert, Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Mumbai, inaugurated the new facility located at Express Towers, Nariman Point in Mumbai.

The VFS Global VAC launch in Mumbai is an extension to the decision to offer such services to more locations across India. The Mumbai VAC launch will be followed by commencement of operations for Germany VACs in Pune and Ahmedabad on 20 January and in Goa on 17 February 2014. For Western India, VFS Global will be responsible for accepting and processing visa applications submitted at these Germany VACs from applicants residing in Maharashtra, Gujarat, Goa, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Daman and Diu.

Inaugurating the centre, **Mr Michael Siebert, Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany** in Mumbai said: *“This new, stylish and appealing Germany Visa Application Centre in Mumbai will ideally serve the needs of the Indian business and tourist travelers of today. It can easily facilitate visa applications of travelers from Western Region, the economic powerhouse of India. Visas are processed on time and without customers having to stand in a queue. Germany – in the heart of Europe – with its strong economic ties with India and attractive destinations, is among the prime destinations of Indian travelers.”*

Speaking on the occasion, **Mr Anil Katoch, Head-South Asia, VFS Global** said, *“We are pleased to be the trusted partner to the Government of Germany in extending our services to facilitate visa application process for travellers across more locations in India. It is indeed a privileged moment for us to increase our services to 11 new locations in India and one in Bhutan. We are committed to provide quality services to all applicants in the region applying for a visa at the German VAC. This longevity of our association with the German Government reflects their trust in our abilities. We are confident this association will reciprocate a long term partnership with The Federal Republic of Germany.”*

Direct flight connectivity between Mumbai and major cities in Germany has contributed to increase in passenger traffic over the past few years. The boost in tourism and business, especially in the field of trade fairs has prompted tremendous growth in Indian nationals travelling to Germany. As many as 120,000 travellers applied for German visas in 2013.



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The key features of the new centre include:

- Longer operating hours allowing applicants to visit at a time of their convenience
- Dedicated website for easy access to information including visa categories, requirements and check list, applicable fees and application status
- Professional and responsive staff dedicated to handle visa queries
- Door-step delivery of passports
- Dedicated call centre and email support to answer queries and status of application

The Mumbai office will remain open from 8:00 to 16:00 hrs for submissions and 15:30 to 17:00 hrs for pass backs keeping in mind the convenience of the applicants. All applications will continue to be assessed by the Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Mumbai.

For more information about the visa application centre, please visit [www.vfs-germany.co.in](http://www.vfs-germany.co.in)

### **Germany Visa Application Centre Details**

#### **Address:**

German Visa Application Centre  
3rd Floor,  
Express Towers,  
Nariman Point,  
Mumbai - 400 021

**Helpline:** +91-22-67866013 || **Email:** [infowest.germanin@vfshelpline.com](mailto:infowest.germanin@vfshelpline.com)

#### **Working Hours:**

Acceptance of Applications (All Applicants): 08:00 hrs to 16:00 hrs from Monday to Friday (Except Holidays as declared by the Consulate)

Return delivery of Applications: 15:30 hrs to 17:00 hrs from Monday to Friday (Except Holidays as declared by the Consulate)

Service Fee and other charges (over and above the Consulate visa fees): Service fee for normal applications: INR 1275 inclusive of prevailing Service Tax & Education Cess @ 12.36% per application

*\*VFS Global will be responsible only for accepting and processing visa applications. All applications will continue to be assessed by the Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany, Mumbai. Timelines for turnaround of visas are as per the discretion of the authorities.*



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### **About Germany**

The Federal Republic of Germany lies in the heart of Europe. It is a cosmopolitan, democratic country with a rich tradition as well as a vibrant modern life. Germany has one of the world's strongest economies and offers an innovative research and education landscape. At the same time, it has a strong creative economy and a dynamic cultural scene. Germany is the European Union's most populous nation with over 82 million inhabitants. Germany is surrounded by nine neighbouring countries.

Its territory encompasses roughly 357,000 square kilometers, stretching from the North Sea and the Baltic Sea in the north to the Alps in the south. Some of the largest European rivers – the Rhine, the Danube and the Elbe – flow through the country. German landscapes are extraordinarily varied and attractive: low and high mountain ranges, extensive lake districts, forests, and roughly 2,390 kilometres of coastline. Germany is popular as a tourist destination – also among numerous visitors from abroad. Tourist attractions in Germany include not only the capital city Berlin and other cultural and historical centres, but also concert series, festivals and major sporting events. Germany boasts 14 national parks, 101 nature parks and 15 biosphere reserves. Fashion and design are highly regarded and members of Germany's creative professions are as successful internationally as German architects, many of whom have specialised in the design of sustainable buildings.

[www.tatsachen-ueber-deutschland.de](http://www.tatsachen-ueber-deutschland.de)  
[www.deutschland.de](http://www.deutschland.de)

### **About VFS Global**

VFS Global is the world's largest outsourcing and technology services specialist for diplomatic missions and governments worldwide. With **1140** Visa Application Centres (VACs) located in **107** countries across five continents as at **30 November 2013**, VFS Global serves the interests of the diplomatic missions of **45** client governments. VFS Global's worldwide operations are certified ISO 9001:2008 for Quality Management System, ISO 27001:2005 for Information Security Management System and ISO 14001:2004 for Environmental Management System by TÜV SÜD, one of the world's leading external and independent certification bodies. The company has successfully processed over **72** million applications since its inception in 2001.

### **Media Contacts:**

#### **Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Mumbai**

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#### **VFS Global**

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