

MEDIA INFORMATION

New Delhi, 19 December 2018

Russia Visa Application Centres launched in 4 cities in India

- **Applicants can now apply through centrally located Visa Application Centres and also avail of Premium Lounge services in Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai**

Residents of India can now apply for visas to Russia at VFS Global Visa Application Centres opened for the Embassy of the Russian Federation. The new centres will cater to the growing needs of out-bound travellers to Russia, and increase accessibility to, and convenience of, visa services. With Russia emerging as a popular destination – approximately 55,000 travellers visit Russia from India each year – the application process through the new centres will prove to be smoother and more streamlined.

The centre in New Delhi was inaugurated by H.E. Mr Nikolay Rishatovich Kudashev, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to the Republic of India, in a ceremony held on 17 December 2018.

During the ceremony, H.E. Mr Nikolay Rishatovich Kudashev stated, “It is indeed a matter of great satisfaction for me to be present here with the personnel of VFS Global and the Russian Embassy to inaugurate the new Russian Visa Application Centre. It looks very impressive, very advanced and it perfectly fits into the new substance of our bilateral ties as well as our global co-operation. As you would surely know our relationship is a relationship of Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership. It carries political, economic, cultural and humanitarian content, but after all and finally, it is all about people; it is all about people to people connection, making this enormous relationship going. And this person to person connection will not be possible without such a simple thing as visa. So in a way, the visa is the key to the strategic nature of our bilateral ties, and this key is in the clever hands of the people of VFS Global. I hope this visa application centre will make a real contribution to the growing strategic connection between our countries and our people.”

Speaking about the development, Mr. Vinay Malhotra, Regional Group Chief Operating Officer – Middle East, South Asia & China, said, “We are delighted to extend our partnership with the Russian Government to the Indian subcontinent with the opening of these visa application centres in four cities in India. The network of Russia Visa Application Centres serves the needs of the ever-increasing numbers of travellers to Russia from this region and we are confident it will deliver services that exceed the expectations of the applicants.”

The key features of the centre include:

- Convenient and centrally-accessed location
- Premium Lounge for personalised and comfortable service
- Dedicated website for easy access to information including visa categories, requirements, check-list and applicable fees
- 100% secure handling of passports, documents and personal information
- Door-step delivery of passports

VFS Global has been operating visa processing services for the Government of Russia since 2009, and today serves the client government in 22 countries, apart from India.

VFS Global is the trusted partner to a total of 46 client governments in India.

About VFS Global

VFS Global is the world's largest outsourcing and technology services specialist for governments and diplomatic missions worldwide. VFS Global, headquartered in Dubai, UAE, has Swiss parentage and is a portfolio company of EQT, a leading global private equity firm headquartered in Stockholm, Sweden.

With **2834 Application Centres**, operations in **141 countries** across **five continents** and **over 187 million applications processed** as on 30 November 2018, VFS Global is the trusted partner of **62 client governments**.

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