

## MEDIA INFORMATION

1 November 2022

### **VFS Global introduces various measures, including opening a new India Visa Application Centre - in central London - to help deal with the surge in demand for visa applications to India**

LONDON: Leading outsourcing and technology services provider for governments and diplomatic missions worldwide, VFS Global, opened an India Visa Application Centre (IVAC) for the Indian High Commission in central London to help deal with the surge in demand for visa applications since the opening of international borders and relaxation of Covid guidelines.

The new Centre is conveniently located in central London - Boston Place, Marylebone and was inaugurated on Tuesday 1 November by the Indian High Commissioner to the UK, His Excellency Vikram Doraiswami. The new Centre will be the third IVAC in London. VFS Global operates a network of ten IVACs across the United Kingdom in Belfast, Birmingham, Bradford, Cardiff, Edinburgh, Glasgow, central London, Hounslow, Leicester, and Manchester.

At the same time, VFS Global has introduced more appointments – existing IVACs in London and Birmingham have started receiving applications on Saturdays and weekday afternoons. Since March, VFS Global has partnered with the High Commissioner of India in London and its Consulates to set up weekend consular camps across the UK. Together, these measures will double the current capacity so that VFS Global can support the Indian High Commission to release more appointments.

The Indian High Commissioner, His Excellency Vikram Doraiswami said in a video message on Friday, "The number of appointments we have been able to do has increased to about 40,000 per month thanks to our partners at VFS Global."

Further, he also announced that a new process is being introduced for group tourism – for those travelling as a group, typically, via a travel agency to the same destination using the same flights. Tourists from the U.K will now also have the option of a visa at your doorstep service (VAYD) at a cost. Details of this service are available here: [Advisory for Group Tourism.pdf](#)

Mr Doraiswami added, "Your papers can be collected at your home and will be brought to you after it is processed. To help with that, the service provider will also offer a special service to get your documents checked online for a small cost. We are also starting a form-filling service which will be offered by our service provider VFS Global" Details of this service are available here: [Additional Services | vfsglobal](#)

Speaking about the new Centre, Aditya Arora, COO, of VFS Global said, “The new VAC will increase the visa application capacity in London by providing additional appointment slots. This along with the recently opened visa centre in Glasgow will double the capacity of visas handled by VFS Global. We are always looking at finding practical solutions to address customer experience challenges. As a responsible service provider that manages non-judgmental and administrative tasks related to visa applications for the governments we work with, we have taken measures along with the High Commissioner of India in London to help visa applicants with a seamless visa application experience”.

ENDS

### **About VFS Global**

VFS Global is the world's largest outsourcing and technology services specialist for governments and diplomatic missions. VFS Global is the trusted partner of 66 client governments, operating a global network with more than 3,300 Application Centres in 144 countries. The company has processed over 248 million applications since its inception in 2001. The company manages non-judgmental and administrative tasks related to applications for visa, passport, and consular services for its client governments, enabling them to focus entirely on the critical assessment task. VFS Global has its headquarters in Zurich/Switzerland and Dubai/United Arab Emirates. VFS Global is majority-owned by funds managed by Blackstone, the world's largest alternative asset manager. Blackstone seeks to create positive economic impact and long-term value for their investors, the companies in which they invest, and the communities in which they work. Blackstone's USD 915 billion in assets under management include investment vehicles focused on private equity, real estate, public debt and equity, infrastructure, life sciences, growth equity, opportunistic, non-investment grade credit, real assets, and secondary funds, all on a global basis.

The Swiss-based Kuoni and Hugentobler Foundation and EQT, a global investment organisation, headquartered in Stockholm/Sweden, hold minority stakes in VFS Global.