

India expands e-visa entry points, Attari among 9 land ports on list

Facility not available for Pak passport holders, says government

Express News Service
New Delhi, August 10

THE CENTRE has notified 11 international ports — nine land ports, including Attari on the India-Pakistan border, and two airports — allowing e-visa holders to enter India.

“With the addition of these new ports, the total number of international ports where e-visa holders can enter has risen to 88. This includes 37 airports, 38 seaports and 13 land ports, aimed at making the e-visa facility more accessible and beneficial for international travellers.



BSF personnel at Attari Integrated Check Post. EXPRESS FILE

The newly added land ports are Darranga, Gede, Ghojadanga, Haridaspur, Jaigaon, Dawki, Moreh, and Attari (Road), along with the airports in Bhopal and Tirupati,” said the government statement released on Monday.

“International travellers holding a Pakistani passport or of Pakistani origin must apply for a regular visa at an Indian Mission, as the e-visa facility is not available to them,” according

to the press note.

The e-visa facility, currently available to 17 sub-categories of travellers including medical, student, mountaineering, cruise, tourist, transit, group travel and business among others, processes 95% of applications within 72 hours.

Introduced in 2014 to liberalise and simplify the Indian visa regime for nationals of 43 countries, this facility now serves citizens from 172 countries.

The Centre has taken several measures in recent years to liberalise, streamline and simplify India's visa regime while strengthening technological infrastructure to support internal security, the press release said.

The addition of the 11 international ports further increases the appeal and utility of the electronic visa, which constitutes 78% of the total visas issued by India.

“Under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and leadership of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Government of India has taken a number of significant initiatives over the last few years to liberalise, streamline and simplify the visa regime with a view to facilitate the legitimate foreign travellers while simultaneously ramping up the technological infrastructure to enhance internal security,” the statement said.



Security personnel check vehicles outside Bakshi Stadium as security heightens ahead of the 80th I-Day, in Srinagar Monday. ANI

In historic first, Vande Mataram to be sung during I-Day celebrations

Express News Service
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WHEN INDIA marks its 80th Independence Day on August 15, the occasion will mark the first recital of the national song Vande Mataram from the ramparts of the iconic Red Fort in New Delhi.

Defence Secretary R K Singh, addressing a press conference, stated that as 2026 marks 150 years of Vande Mataram, the national song that inspired millions during the freedom struggle, will be sung from the fort ramparts for the first time as a tribute to its enduring legacy.

“Vande Mataram will be sung upon the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's arrival at the Red Fort. Thereafter, he will unfurl the national flag and deliver the customary address to the nation,” Singh said.

A Mi-17 helicopter of the Indian Air Force will carry a banner commemorating 150 years of Vande