

Government of India
Ministry of External Affairs

REVISED GUIDELINES FOR KNOW INDIA PROGRAMME (KIP)

1. **About the Programme:**

KIP is an engagement programme for Diaspora youth (between the age of 18-30 years) of Indian origin to introduce them to India and promote awareness about different facets of Indian life, our cultural heritage, art and the transformation taking place in India. This programme is open to youth of Indian origin (excluding non-resident Indians). The programme has been in existence since 2003.

2. **Main elements of KIP**

- a) Understanding of India's political system, economy, society, and developments in various sectors etc.
- b) Interaction with students at University/ College.
- c) Visit to places of historical importance.
- d) Participation in cultural programmes.
- e) Visit to industrial sites.
- f) Visit to a village.
- g) Interaction with non-profit organizations.
- h) Meetings with senior leadership/officials in India.
- i) Visit to a select state in India for 10 days.

3. **Arrangements:**

- (a) The Ministry of External Affairs will take care of participants only for the duration of the program. If participants wish to come early or stay late, they will have to make their own arrangements.
- (b) The participants are provided local hospitality e.g. boarding/lodging in State guest houses or budget hotels and Internal travel in India.
- (c) Missions may arrange for return air tickets before participants leave for India, after getting 10% of total air fare from them.
- (d) Gratis visa shall be granted to selected participants by the Indian Missions/Posts abroad.

4. **Eligibility Criteria:**

NRIs are not eligible for KIPs

Age: The programme is open to youth of Indian origin (excluding non-resident Indians) in the age group of 18-30 years, as on the first day of the month in which the programme is

expected to begin. It is open to PIO youths from all over the world. Applicant must provide his previous PIO card number or that of his parents or grandparents. In the absence of any documentary proof of Indian Origin, the applicant must submit a written undertaking about his Indian Origin which must be attested by DCM/DCG or HOM/HOP of the Missions.

Previous participations: The applicant should not have participated in any previous KIP or Internship Programme for Diaspora Youth (IPDY) or Study India Programme of MEA.

Those who have not visited India before will be given preference.

Educational Qualification: Minimum qualification required for participating in KIP is graduation from a recognized University /Institute or enrolled for graduation.

Language: The applicants should be able to speak in English, should have studied English as a subject at the High School level or have English as the medium of instruction for undergraduate course.

5. **Duration**

- a) 25 days (excluding international travel) with 10 days in the partner State. The 25 day period includes the date of arrival and departure.

6. **Intake:**

- (i) The total number of participants in a KIP will not exceed 40. If there are less than 20 applicants, KIP will not be conducted and applicants will be permitted to opt for the next KIP, if they wish to.
- (ii) A reserve list of candidates will be maintained to fill the slots if the required number of candidates is not available for that particular KIP.

ROLE OF MISSIONS/POSTS

- (i) Mission/Post shall recommend to Ministry only the names of candidates who meet all eligibility criteria. Head of Mission/Post will certify that the applicant is a Person of Indian Origin.
- (ii) Mission/Post may arrange for return air tickets before participants leave for India, after getting 10% of total air fare from the participants. Mission may obtain a signed written undertaking from the participant that he/she will reimburse to the Indian Mission/Post the amount spent on airfare by Govt. of India, if he/she will not complete the KIP.
- (iii) Payment for airfare and Gratis visa by Indian Missions/Posts abroad shall be granted to selected participants after participant submits copy of valid travel and medical insurance for the visit to India. **This is a mandatory provision before issuing ticket and visa.**

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION OF PARTICIPANTS:

- (a) Preference would be given to Indian origin persons from **Mauritius, Fiji, Suriname, Guyana, Trinidad & Tobago (also known as Girmitiya countries)**
- (b) Person selected would be within 18-30 years of age.
- (c) From each country a total of five PIOs will be selected.
- (d) If the total number of participants in a KIP is less than 40, Ministry will select the candidates from the reserve list, including from those countries where five PIOs have already been selected.
- (e) Ministry shall maintain a reserve list of 15 candidates for each KIP.
- (f) If for any reason, the confirmed KIP candidates drop out 20 days before KIP starts, the slot will be offered to the candidates in the reserve list as per their placing in the list.
- (g) Effort will be made for balanced participation of male and female PIOs in each KIP.
- (h) KIP participants may submit proof of Indian Origin such as a PIO/OCI card of themselves; parents or grandparents. In the absence of these documents they have to submit a written undertaking about their Indian-Origin which has to be attested by DCM/DHC/DCG or HOM/HOP

ROLE OF MEA:

- (i) Equitable selection of maximum participants shall be made from across the globe. A reserve list of participants will be maintained to fill the vacant slots in case any of the selected participants cancel their visit.
- (ii) Constitution of a Committee for selection of participants in accordance with the guidelines.
- (iii) Drawing up the programme for KIP including the programme in the State, finalization of hotels, logistic arrangements.
- (iv) Selection of Event Manager for successful conduct of the KIP programme.
- (v) Details of the Programme shall be posted on the website www.mea.gov.in.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTNER STATE:

- (i) The Partner State shall bear the costs during the stay of the KIP participants for 10 days including hotel accommodation (twin sharing basis in a 3 Star or above category of hotel), local transportation (Volvo AC Coach for local transportation), boarding and lodging.

- (ii) The State Government will arrange visit of the participants to places of historic, cultural, industrial and tourist importance in the State.
- (iii) The State Government will facilitate participants meeting with leadership in State Government.
- (iv) Includes exposure of village life for one/ two days.
- (v) Arrange interactive sessions in premier universities/ organizations of the State.
- (vi) Arranged cultural programmes showcasing the State's cultural heritage.
- (vii) Ensure security of KIP participants and provide medical care as per requirement.
- (viii) Designate a Nodal Officer for coordinating the programme within the State.
- (ix) Designate a nodal officer of the State Government with whom MEA can coordinate.
- (x) Designate a Liaison Officer for the KIP Group during their tour of the State.
- (xi) Bring any untoward incident during KIP with regard to safety, security and health of KIP participants immediately to the attention of this Ministry.
- (xii) Include the Regional Passport Officer and the Ministry of External Affairs Branch Secretariat Officer in the formal meetings of the KIP participants with State Government Dignitaries.
- (xiii) Arrange for a wrap up session chaired by a high dignitary/ Minister of the State and distribute certificates of the programme, if it ends in the State.

