



Indian Diaspora Council

Indian Diaspora Council International

Shared heritage, aspirations and interests

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Date Sensitive Information:

Know India Programme for Young Overseas Indians

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By Government of India, Ministry of External Affairs

Know India Programme Schedule: 2017-18

On 17 June 2017, External Affairs Minister inaugurated a portal for Know India Programme (**KIP**), the Ministry's flagship initiative for engagement with young overseas Indians.

The portal www.kip.gov.in enables Indian-origin youth to apply online for KIP programmes.

This year i.e. in 2017, the Ministry will organise four KIPs with participation of 40 overseas Indians in each programme. The schedule of KIPs has been finalised and can be seen online. Indian-origin youth can submit applications online for the following first four KIPs to be held in 2017 i.e. 41, 42, 43 & 44:

No.	Date	State Partner
41 st KIP	3-27 September 2017	Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh
42 nd KIP	1-25 October 2017	Jharkhand & Chhattisgarh
43 rd KIP	1-25 November 2017	Meghalaya & Assam
44 th KIP	29 Nov -23 Dec 2017	Andhra Pradesh & Telangana

Among new features, the applicants can indicate their preferences online for any three KIPs. The Ministry will do their best to accommodate them in the KIP of their first preference.

Applications can be submitted online by the overseas Indians from 23 June to 21 July 2017

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 various aspects of contemporary India. This programme is open to youth of Indian origin (excluding non-resident Indians) with preference to those from Girmitya countries (Mauritius, Fiji, Suriname, Guyana, T&T, Jamaica etc.). The programme has been in existence since 2003.

2. Main elements of KIP

- Understanding of India's political system, economy, society, and developments in various sectors etc.
- Visit to places of historical, cultural, religious importance.
- Familiarisation with art, music and culture of India.
- Visit to industrial sites.
- Visit to a village.
- Interaction with non-profit organizations.
- Meetings with senior leadership/officials in India.

h) 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 arrive in India early or stay extra, they will have to make their own arrangements.

(b) The participants are provided local hospitality e.g. boarding/lodging in budget hotels and Internal transportation in India.

(c) Indian Missions/ Aboard Posts will 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:

Non Resident Indians 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 youth from all over the world. Applicant must provide his/her previous PIO card number or that of his parents, grandparents or great 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 Mission/Consulate.

Previous participation:

The applicant should not have participated in any previous KIP or Internship Programme for Diaspora Youth (IPDY) Study India Programme of MEA or any other programme organized and paid for by the Ministry of External Affairs and any other Ministry/Department in Government of India or a State Government in India.

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 can opt to join for the next KIP, if they wish to.

(ii) Effort will be made for balanced participation of male and female PIOs in each KIP.

International Medical and Travel Insurance:

There have been some previous instances in KIPs where participants have faced health issues during their visit to India. In the absence of a valid travel and medical insurance policy, it is difficult to settle the expenditure incurred on the medical care for the participant while in India. Therefore, all KIP participants are advised to obtain an international travel and medical insurance policy for their visit to India.

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 or DCM/DHC/DCG will certify that the applicant is a Person of Indian Origin in the absence of any proof of India 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 duration of their 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 Girmitya countries)**
- (b) Person selected would be within 18-30 years of age.
- (c) 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.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTNER STATE:

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

For more details, visit:

www.mea.gov.in/know-india-programme

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Indian Diaspora Council International (IDC), established in 1997, is an international non-profit organization with global affiliates and membership in 21 countries with the objective to embrace, engage and enhance the shared heritage, aspirations and interests of persons of Indian origin with optimum inclusivity.