

Times of India

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'Provision made for genuine tourists to re-enter India'

Sir,

This is in reference to the report "Genuine visitors pay price for Headley visa" in TOI on February 12. The report is not based on facts. The recent guidelines issued by the ministry of home affairs stipulating a gap of at least two months between two visits to the country on a tourist visa has been introduced with a view to curb the abuse/misuse of the tourist visa. However, this stipulation of two months' gap does not apply to foreign nationals coming on any other type of visa, including a business visa. This also does not apply to people of Indian origin holding PIO and OCI Cards.

In case a foreign national holding a tourist visa has to come to the country within a period of two months of his/her last departure due to any exigent situation, he/she may have to obtain special permission from the mission/post concerned after

duly satisfying the mission/post about the exigency.

A provision has also been made for genuine tourists who have to re-enter India, largely on account of neighbourhood tourism. In such cases, the Indian missions/posts abroad have been authorized to permit two or three entries, subject to their submission of a detailed

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itinerary and supporting documentation (ticket bookings).

Further, instructions have already been issued on December 24, 2009, authorizing the immigration authorities in all the immigration check posts in the country to allow such foreign nationals on tourist visas arriving in India without the specific authorization from the Indian missions/posts to make two or three entries into the country (need based), subject to production of an itinerary and supporting documentation (ticket bookings).

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