

F. No. 42180123/CC-1173

Government of India  
Ministry of Home Affairs  
(Foreigners Division)

Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium  
New Delhi-110001, Dated: 05.09.2019

To

Prof. Hafizur Rahaman, General Chair, ATS 2019  
Prof. Indian Institute of Engineering Science and Technology,  
Shibpur, Howrah - 711103, West Bengal

**Subject:- 28<sup>th</sup> Asian Test Symposium 2019 from 10<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> December, 2019 at The Lalit Great Eastern Hotel Kolkata.**

Sir/Madam,

With reference to your letter no. nil dated 28.08.2019 on the above mentioned subject, I am directed to convey that in the light of extant instructions contained in the Visa Manual, security clearance of Ministry of Home Affairs is required only for the foreign participants from the Prior Reference Countries i.e. Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan, Sudan, foreigners of Pakistani Origin and Stateless persons. Since there are no participants from the PRC category in the above mentioned event / list, accordingly event clearance from MHA is not required for Conference Visa. Indian Missions are authorised to issue Conference Visas with due diligence only after scrutinizing the case on its merits to foreign delegates on production of an invitation to a conference/ seminar / workshop being organised in India as per the provisions in Visa Manual.

2. Ministry of Home Affairs has launched an online event clearance platform (<https://conference.mha.gov.in>) for grant of security clearance for organizing an event. Necessary instruction in this regards is annexed as Annexure-'A' for reference and future compliance.

Yours sincerely



(Gopesh Kumar)  
Section Officer

(गोपेश कुमार)  
(GOPESH KUMAR)  
अनुमति अधिकारी  
Section Officer  
गृह मंत्रालय  
Ministry of Home Affairs  
भारत सरकार, नई दिल्ली  
Govt. of India, New Delhi

Ministry of Home Affairs on 02<sup>nd</sup> May, 2018 has launched online Event Clearance Platform (<https://conference.mha.gov.in>) for grant of online security clearance to the conference/seminar/workshop being organized in India by a Ministry or Department of the Government of India, State Governments or UT Administrations, Public Sector Undertakings, Central Educational Institutions, Public Funded Universities or private institutions or NGOs. The organizers are required to register themselves and apply for grant of the security clearance using the online system. A detailed FAQ, Dos, Don'ts and User Manual are available at the website for better understanding of the user. No offline/physical application form requesting for grant of Security Clearance will be entertained now onwards.

2. The organizers are required to approach the Ministry of Home Affairs for grant of security clearance to organize conference/seminar/workshop in India only in the following two categories:

- (i) If any participant is from Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq, Sudan, foreigners of Pakistani origin and Stateless persons (PRC Category) and
- (ii) Any participants of conferences /seminars/workshops are required to visit 'Restricted' or 'Protected' areas in India, or areas affected by terrorism, militancy and extremism etc. viz. Jammu & Kashmir and the North Eastern States (Other than States of Manipur, Mizoram and Nagaland)