

**AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA
AND
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA
ON EXEMPTION FROM VISA REQUIREMENT
FOR HOLDERS OF DIPLOMATIC AND OFFICIAL / SERVICE PASSPORTS**

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

Hereinafter referred to singularly as the "Contracting Party" and collectively as the
"Contracting Parties"

CONSIDERING the interest of both countries to strengthen their friendly relations, and

DESIRING to facilitate the entry of the citizens of the Republic of India and the
citizens of the Republic of Bulgaria

Who are holders of diplomatic or official / service passports into their respective
countries,

HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

ARTICLE 1

1. A citizen of either Contracting Party, who is in possession of a valid diplomatic or
official / service passport shall be permitted to enter into, exit from and transit through the
territory of the other Contracting Party through their respective international points of entry /
exit without a visa.

2. A citizen of either Contracting Party, holding the said passport shall be allowed to
stay in the territory of the other Contracting Party for the maximum period of ninety (90) days
within 6 months without a visa.

ARTICLE 2

1. A citizen of either Contracting Party, who is assigned as a member of the Diplomatic
mission or Consulate, or is a representative of his / her country in an International Organization
located in the territory of the other Contracting Party and is in possession of a valid diplomatic
or official / service passport, shall not be required to obtain a visa to enter the territory of the
other Contracting Party, and shall be granted, on request from the Diplomatic Mission or
Consulate, or from the International Organization concerned within ninety (90) days of the
arrival of the diplomatic/official/service passport holder, a residence visa for the period of his /
her official stay.

2. The facilities enumerated in paragraphs 1 of this Article shall also apply to the
spouse of a member of the diplomatic Mission or Consulate or representative in International
Organization, their children and their dependent parents, provided they hold a similar category
of passport.

3. The persons referred to in paragraph 2 of this Article shall not be permitted to engage in commercial activity during their stay in the territory of the other Contracting Party in the aforesaid quality.

ARTICLE 3

1. A citizen of either Contracting Party, who is in possession of a valid diplomatic or official / service passport and has to attend a meeting or conference convened by an international organization or Government, in the territory of the other Contracting Party, shall not be required to obtain a visa to enter and stay in the territory of the other Contracting Party.

2. The holders of diplomatic and official / service passports of either Contracting Party who are employed by an international organization, body, agency or any other such entity, would be required to obtain visa prior to their entry into the territory of the other Contracting Party for official or private visits.

ARTICLE 4

1. Each Contracting Party reserves the right to refuse the entry into, or shorten the stay in its territory, of any citizen of the other Contracting Party, whom it may consider undesirable.

2. If a citizen of one Contracting Party loses his / her passport in the territory of the other Contracting Party, he / she shall inform the authorities concerned of the host country for appropriate action. The diplomatic Mission or Consulate concerned will issue a new passport or travel document to its citizen and inform the concerned authorities of the host Government.

ARTICLE 5

Citizens of either Contracting Party, being holders of diplomatic or official / service passports shall abide by the laws and regulations of the other Contracting Party while crossing its frontier and throughout the duration of their stay in its territory.

ARTICLE 6

1. For the purposes of this Agreement, each Contracting Party shall transmit to the other, through diplomatic channels, specimens of its respective passports, including a detailed description of such documents currently used, at least thirty (30) days before the entry into force of this Agreement.

2. Each Contracting Party shall also transmit to the other through diplomatic channels, specimen of its new or modified passports, including a detailed description of such documents, at least thirty (30) days before they are brought into force.

ARTICLE 7

Each Contracting Party reserves the right for reasons of security, public order or public health, to suspend temporarily, either in whole or in part, the implementation of this Agreement, which shall take effect immediately after notification has been given to the other Contracting Party through diplomatic channels.

ARTICLE 8

Either Contracting Party may request in writing, through diplomatic channels, a revision or amendment of the whole or part of this Agreement. Any revision or amendment, which has been agreed to by the Contracting Parties, shall form part of this Agreement. The entry into force of the respective revision or amendment shall be governed by the terms of the entry into force of this Agreement.

ARTICLE 9

Any difference or dispute arising out of the implementation of the provisions of the Agreement shall be settled amicably by consultation or negotiation between the Contracting Parties without reference to any third party or an international tribunal.

ARTICLE 10

1. This Agreement is concluded for an indefinite period of time and shall enter into force on the thirtieth (30th) day after the date of receipt of the last written notification by which the Contracting Parties shall inform each other about the completion of their internal legal procedures for its entry into force.

2. Either Contracting Party may terminate this Agreement by giving written notice to the other Contracting Party through diplomatic channels. Such termination shall take effect ninety (90) days following the date of receipt of the notice by the other Contracting Party.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned being duly authorized by their respective Governments, have signed the present Agreement.

DONE at New Delhi on this 3rd day of March in the year two thousand nine in two (2) originals; each in Hindi, Bulgarian and English languages, all texts being equally authentic. In the event of any divergence of interpretation, the English text shall prevail.



FOR
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF INDIA

Pranab Mukherjee
External Affairs
Minister



FOR
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

Ivailo Kalfin
Deputy Prime Minister &
Foreign Minister