



RTI matter/ Time Bound

Government of India
Ministry of External Affairs
New Delhi

No. E/551/1/2021-RTI

02 February 2021

To:

Subject: Information sought under Right to Information Act, 2005

Sir,

Please refer to your RTI application bearing Registration No. MHOME/R/E/21/00067 addressed to Ministry to RTI cell, Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi.

2. With respect to point no. 1 & 4 of your query, the information sought is not available with the undersigned CPIO. However, Bureau of Immigration (BoI) has issued several advisories regarding Travel and Visa restrictions which is available in public domain and may be seen at <https://boi.gov.in/>. A copy of some advisories is enclosed for your information. Additionally, the application is being transferred to Bureau of Immigration as per the provision of article 6 (3) of the RTI Act, 2005 for providing information that may be available with them with respect to point no. 1 & 4 of your query.
3. With respect to point no. 2 of your query, the information sought is not available with the undersigned CPIO and the application is being transferred to Embassy of India, Beijing as per the provision of article 6 (3) of the RTI Act, 2005 for providing information that may be available with them with respect to point no. 2 of your query.
4. With respect to point no. 3 of your query, the information sought is not available with the undersigned CPIO and the application is being transferred to Ministry of Civil Aviation as per the provision of article 6 (3) of the RTI Act, 2005 for providing information that may be available with them with respect to point no. 3 of your query.
5. If you are aggrieved with this reply, you may file an appeal to Shri Satish K. Sivan, Director (East Asia) & Appellate Authority, Ministry of External Affairs, South Block, New Delhi -110001, within a month from the date of receipt of this letter.

Yours faithfully,

(Karthik G. Iyer)

DS (China) & CPIO
Room no. 270 A, South Block,
New Delhi - 110001
Telefax: 23011356
Email: dschina2@mea.gov.in

CC to:

1. Shri Arun Kumar, Under Secretary (RTI), MEA, New Delhi
2. Ministry of Home Affairs, Bureau of Immigration [Shri Rajeev Ranjan Verma, Commissioner (Immigration)- East Block-VIII, Level-V, Sector-1, R.K. Puram, New Delhi-110066]
3. Ministry of External Affairs, Embassy of India Beijing [Ms. Gina Uika, HOC, EoI Beijing- No. 5, Liang Ma Qiao Bei Jie, Chaoyang District, Beijing, China]
4. Shri Amit Kumar Jha, S.O, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Rajiv Gandhi Bhawan, Block B, Safdarjung Airport Area, New Delhi - 110003

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3

Has Government formally or informally told airlines to stop flying Chinese nationals into India.

4

How many Chinese citizens came into India, left India and stayed or staying in India. Please provide monthly data for the last 10 years.

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ADVISORY: TRAVEL AND VISA RESTRICTIONS RELATED TO COVID-19

- [Order of Govt. of NCT, Delhi dated 08.01.2021 regarding flights originating from United Kingdom \(UK\) to India in view of the new variant of SARS-CoV-2.](#)
- [Order of Govt. of NCT, Delhi dated 12.01.2021 regarding flights originating from United Kingdom \(UK\) to India in view of the new variant of SARS-CoV-2.](#)
- [Order of Govt. of India, MoH&FW dated 01.01.2021 regarding SOP on Epidemiological & Response for the new variant of SARS-CoV-2, for flights originating from United Kingdom \(UK\) to India from 08.01.2021.](#)

Vide Circular No. 4/1/2020-IR dated 30-12-2020 of Directorate of Civil Aviation (DGCA), Govt of India
Temporary suspension of flights from united Kingdom to India

In partial modification of circular dated 21-12-2020 on the subject cited above, the competent authority has further extended temporary suspension of flights to/from United Kingdom till 7th January 2021. However, this restriction shall not apply to international all-cargo operations and flights specifically approved by DGCA.

Vide Circular No. 4/1/2020-IR dated 30-12-2020 of Directorate of Civil Aviation (DGCA), Govt of India

In partial modification of circular dated 26-06-2020, the competent authority has further extended the validity of circular issued on the subject cited above regarding scheduled international commercial passenger services to/from India till 31st January, 2021. This restriction shall not apply to international all-cargo operations and flights specifically approved by DGA.

2. However, International scheduled flights may be allowed on selected routes by the competent authority on case to case basis.

Vide Circular No. 4/1/2020-IR dated 21-12-2020 of Directorate General of Civil Aviation(DGCA), Govt of India.
Temporary suspension of flights from united Kingdom to India

In view of emerging covid-19 situation in United Kingdom, the competent authority has temporarily suspended flights to/from United Kingdom with effect from 2359 hours IST of 22nd December, 2020. Therefore, no flights from united Kingdom will land in India after 2359 hours IST of 22nd December, 2020. The airlines shall enforce this at the port of initial departure. Consequently, flights from India to united Kingdom shall also remain suspended. However, this restriction shall not apply to International all-cargo operations and flights specifically approved by DGCA.

2. Airlines operating flights to/from India from other countries shall not board any passenger travelling from United kingdom to India and shall ensure that no passenger coming from united Kingdom is boarded in a flight for any destination in India either directly or indirectly.

3. During the transition period i.e upto 2359 hours IST of 22nd December 2020, all passengers arriving to India from United Kingdom shall be compulsorily subjected to RT-PCR Test at the arrival port in India. Passengers found Covid positive shall be quarantined as per guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health and family Welfare. All medical costs incurred shall be borne by the passengers.

4. All Airlines operating passenger services from United Kingdom to India shall ensure strict compliance of above instructions and shall make an in-flight announcement in this regard.

5. This is a temporary measure and shall be in force till 31st December, 2020.

Vide MHA O.M. No.25022/24/2020-F.V/FEI dated 21.10.2020

(i) Following categories of foreign nationals are permitted to enter India by water routes or by flights including those under the Vande Bharat Mission or 'Air Bubble' (Bilateral Air Travel Arrangements) Scheme or by any non-scheduled commercial flights as allowed by the Ministry of Civil Aviation:-

(a) All Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) cardholders and PIO cardholders holding passports of any country.

(b) All foreign nationals intending to visit India for any purpose(including their dependents on appropriate category of dependent visa) except those on Tourist Visa.

(ii) All existing visas, except electronic visas (e-Visa), Tourist visa and Medical Visa, which remained suspended, shall stand restored with immediate effect. If the validity of such visa has expired, the foreign national may obtain a fresh visa of appropriate category/sub-category from the Indian Mission/Post concerned. In the case of Medical Visa (including visa for Medical Attendants), foreign nationals intending to visit India for medical treatment in emergencies may be granted Medical visa for appropriate period by the Indian Missions/Posts. The condition of obtaining a visa will not apply to dependent family members of foreign diplomats/officials who are eligible for visa exemption in terms of bilateral visa exemption agreements or visa specific agreements entered into by India with various countries. Such foreign nationals covered by para (i) (b) above will not be permitted to travel to India on the strength of any electronic visa (e-Visa) obtained earlier.

(iii) In case any foreign national not covered by categories mentioned in (i) above is required to visit India urgently due to any family emergency, the Indian

- iii. Such persons will apply to MoCA or to an agency/ agencies designated by MoCA for this purpose, along with necessary details, including the places of departure and arrival
- iv. The travel from India shall be on the non-scheduled commercial flights, as are allowed by MoCA.
- v. Indian seafarers/ crew seeking to accept contracts to serve on vessels abroad, can travel on the non-scheduled commercial flights as allowed by MOCA or the flights arranged by their employers subject to clearance given by the Ministry of Shipping.
- vi. Before the tickets of such persons are confirmed, the airline concerned will ensure that the destination country allows entry of such persons with valid visa in that country. The conditions, if any, imposed by the destination country, will have to be fulfilled by the person intending to travel.
- vii. The cost of travel, as specified by the carrier, will be borne by such travellers as prescribed.
- viii. At the time of boarding the flight, MoCA will ensure that all travellers undergo thermal screening as per health protocol. Only asymptomatic travellers would be allowed to board the flight.
- ix. While on board the flight, required precautions such as wearing of masks, environmental hygiene, respiratory hygiene, hand hygiene etc. are to be observed by airline staff, crew and all passengers.

Vide MHA Order No. 25022/24/2020-FV / F.I dated :17 August, 2020

In addition to the categories of foreign nationals who are permitted to enter India it has been decided foreign nationals who are holding Journalist (J-1) and their dependents who are holding J-1X visa are permitted to enter India. If they have J-1 or J-1X visas, which have been suspended, such visas shall stand restored with immediate effect to facilitate their entry into India. However, if the validity of such visas has expired, they may obtain a fresh J-1 or J-1X visa, as the case may be, from the Indian Missions/ Posts concerned.

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare- Guidelines for International Arrivals(In suppression of guidelines issued on the subject dated 02nd August 2020)

Before Planning for Travel

- i. All travellers should submit self-declaration form on the online portal (www.newdelhairport.in) at least 72 hours before the scheduled travel or physically after arrival at the respective health counters.
- ii. They should also give an undertaking on the portal or otherwise to Ministry of Civil Aviation, Govt. of India, through concerned airlines before they are allowed to undertake the journey that they would abide by the decision of the appropriate government authority to undergo facility / home quarantine/ self-monitoring of their health for 14 days, or as warranted.
- iii. Only for compelling reasons/ cases of human distress such as pregnancy, death in family, serious illness and parent(s) with children of the age of 10 years or below, home quarantine may be permitted for 14 days.
- iv. If they wish to seek such exemption under para (iii) above, they shall apply to the online portal (www.newdelhairport.in) at least 72 hours before boarding. The decision taken by the government as communicated on the online portal will be final.
- v. Travelers may also seek exemption from institutional quarantine by submitting a negative RT-PCR test report. This test should have been conducted within 72 hrs prior to undertaking the journey. The test report should be uploaded on the portal for consideration. Each passenger shall also submit a declaration with respect to authenticity of the report and will be liable for criminal prosecution, if found otherwise. The test report could also be produced upon arrival at the point of entry airport in India.
- vi. International passengers arriving without an RT-PCR negative certificate and wishing to seek exemption from institutional quarantine may also avail the facility available at the airports to undergo RT-PCR testing (where such provisions exist)
- vii. All such passengers opting for exemption from institutional quarantine as in para (v) & (vi) shall undertake self-monitoring of their health and will be exempted from quarantine.
- viii. International passengers arriving without RT-PCR negative certificate and not opting for RT PCR test at airport (if facility is available)/arriving at an airport where testing facility is not available will have to undergo mandatory 7 days institutional quarantine and 7 days home quarantine.

Before Boarding

- ix. Dos and Don'ts shall be provided along with ticket to the travellers by the airlines/agencies concerned.
- x. All passengers shall be advised to download Aarogya Setu app on their mobile devices.
- xi. At the time of boarding the flight, only asymptomatic travellers will be allowed to board after thermal screening.
- xii. Suitable precautionary measures such as environmental sanitation and disinfection shall be ensured at the airports.
- xiii. During boarding all possible measures to ensure physical distancing are to be ensured.

During Travel

- xiv. Travellers who had not filled in self-declaration form on the portal shall fill the same in duplicate in the flight and a copy of the same will be given to Health and Immigration officials present at the airport.
- xv. Suitable announcement about COVID-19 including precautionary measures to be followed shall be made at airports and in flights and during transit.
- xvi. While on board the flight, required precautions such as wearing of masks, environmental hygiene, respiratory hygiene, hand hygiene etc. are to be observed by airline staff, crew and all passengers.

On arrival

- xvii. Deboarding should be done ensuring physical distancing.
- xviii. Thermal screening would be carried out in respect of all the passengers by the Health officials present at the airport. The self-declaration form filled online shall be shown (or a copy of physical self-declaration form to be submitted) to the airport health staff.
- xix. The passengers found to be symptomatic during screening shall be immediately isolated and taken to medical facility as per health protocol.
- xx. Post thermal screening, the passengers who have been exempted from institutional quarantine [para (iii) and (iv) above] (decision as indicated on the online portal in advance) will show the same to the respective State Counters on their cell phones/other mode before being allowed home quarantine for 14 days.
- xxi. Post thermal screening, the passengers who have RT-PCR negative certificates already with them [(para(v) and (vi))] shall be exempt from quarantine and shall be allowed to leave and undertake self-monitoring of their health for 14 days.
- xxii. All such passengers will also be provided the list of the national and state level surveillance officers and the respective call centre numbers, so as to inform state/national Call Centre in case they develop symptoms at any time during the quarantine or self-monitoring of their health.

- xxiii. The remaining passengers shall be taken to suitable institutional quarantine facilities, to be arranged by the respective State/ UT

(b) In respect of categories covered in para 2 (B) of this Ministry's O.M. of even number dated 30.06.2020, Indian Missions/ Posts may grant appropriate visa provided papers of the applicants are in order and there is no adverse input about them.

(c) Any Indian national holding any type of valid visa of such countries may be permitted to travel to the country concerned provided there is no travel restriction for entry of Indian nationals in that country. It would be for the airlines concerned to ensure that there is no travel restriction for Indian nationals to enter the country concerned with the particular visa category before issue of tickets/ boarding pass to the Indian passenger.

3. In partial modification of para 4 of this Ministry's OA. of even number dated 30.06.2020, it has been decided that the existing restrictions on incoming passenger traffic into India through the Immigration Check Posts will not apply in the following cases also:-

(i) All OCI cardholders who are permitted to enter India as mentioned in para 2 (a) above.

Any movement of cargo or goods and supplies in any vehicle, aircraft, ship, train etc. along with their crew, sailor, driver, helper, cleaner etc. However, in respect of quarantine and all other health/ COVID-19 related matters, guidelines of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare shall be adhered to.

Vide MHA Order No. 40-3/2020-DM-I (A) dated 01.07.2020

In continuation to Ministry of Home Affairs Order No. 40-3/2020-DM-I (A) dated 24.05.2020 and in supersession of MHA O.M of even no. dated 01.06.2020 the undersigned is directed to say that para-B 2 (ii) of Standard operating Protocol (SOP) for movement of persons stranded in India who are desirous to travel abroad is substituted by the following:

"Only those persons shall be allowed to travel to the destination countries, are citizens of that country; who have green card or Permanent Residency Status or OCI card or any other special status in that country; those who are stranded in close neighbouring countries and permitted to exit through India; Indian nationals who are holding any type of visa of any country (other than visa for tourism purpose) if they hold a visa of that country with a minimum residual validity of one month.

All such travel shall be entirely at the risk of the person seeking to travel, bearing in mind the existing restrictions on International travel"

Vide MHA Order No. 25022/24/2020-F.V/F.I dated 30.06.2020

Visa & Travel restrictions in response to COVID -19 - Permitting certain categories of foreign nationals (including Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) Cardholders) to enter India

The Government has further considered the need for relaxation of visa & travel restrictions for more categories of foreign nationals who want to travel to India.

2. Accordingly, in supersession of this Ministry's O.Ms of even number dated 17th April, 2020, 5th May, 2020, 7th May, 2020, 1st June, 2020 & 12th June, 2020, it has been decided to permit the following categories of foreign nationals (including Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) Cardholders) to enter India:-

(A) Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) Cardholders

(i) Minor children who hold OCI cards and whose parents are Indian nationals.

(ii) OCI cardholders who wish to come to India on account of family emergencies like critical medical conditions of immediate family members or death.

(iii) Married couples where one spouse is an OCI cardholder and the other is an Indian national.

(iv) Students, who are OCI cardholders where at least either of their parents is an Indian citizen or an OCI cardholder.

(B) Other foreign nationals (i) Foreign businessmen coming to India on a Business visa [other than on 13-3 visa for sports] in non-scheduled commercial/ chartered flights. (ii) Foreign healthcare professionals, health researchers, engineers and technicians for technical work at Indian health sector facilities, including laboratories and factories. This is subject to a letter of invitation from a recognized and registered healthcare facility, registered pharmaceutical company or accredited university in India. (iii) Foreigners, who are engineering, managerial, design specialists or specialists of other fields travelling to India on behalf of foreign business entities located in India. This includes all manufacturing units, design units, software and IT units as well as financial sector companies (banking and non-banking financial sector firms). (iv) Foreign Technical specialists and engineers travelling for installation, repair and maintenance of foreign-origin machinery and equipment facilities in India, on the invitation of a registered Indian business entity. These could be for equipment installation, or is under warranty, or for after sales servicing or repair on commercial terms. (v) Foreign nationals who are minor children where at least either of their parents is an Indian citizen or an OCI cardholder. (vi) Foreign nationals married to Indian citizens. (vii) Foreign nationals who are single parents of minor children holding Indian passports or OCI cards (viii) Students who are foreign nationals where at least one of their parents is an Indian citizen or an OCI Cardholder.

(ix) Dependent family members of foreign diplomats and official/ service passport holding service staff accredited to foreign diplomatic Missions, consular offices or accredited International Organizations in India.

(x) Foreign nationals who are persons of Indian origin, who wish to come to India on account of family emergencies like critical medical conditions of immediate family members or death. For this purpose, the person of Indian origin means someone who or any of whose parents had held an Indian passport or such parent (s) is / are or had been a citizen of India earlier.

(xi) Foreign nationals stranded in the close neighbouring countries and seeking to exit to their destination country through India. (xii) Foreign nationals coming on Medical grounds for treatment in India (including one Attendant, if so requested).

(xiii) Foreign nationals coming to India on any sub-categories of Employment Visa along with their dependents holding Dependent Visa.

3. All existing visas granted to foreigners except to those belonging to diplomatic, official, UN/ International Organizations, employment and project categories shall remain suspended till prohibition on international air travel of passengers from/ to India is lifted by the Government of India. Accordingly, foreign nationals covered in sub-para B.(i) to (xiii) above [other than those who are already holding valid visas of diplomatic, official, UN/ International Organizations, employment and project categories] shall have to obtain a fresh visa of appropriate category from the Indian Missions/ Posts abroad. Foreign nationals holding a valid long term multiple entry visa of appropriate category issued by the Indian Missions/ Posts abroad shall also have to get a fresh visa from the Indian Mission/ Post concerned and in such cases, no visa fee will be charged. Such foreign nationals will not be permitted to travel to India on the strength of any electronic visa obtained earlier. The condition of obtaining a fresh visa will not apply to dependent family members of foreign diplomats/ officials who are eligible for visa exemption in terms of bilateral visa exemption agreements or visa specific agreements entered into by India with various countries.

4. All incoming passenger traffic into India through any of the 107 Immigration Check Posts shall remain suspended till prohibition on international travel of passengers to/ from India is lifted by the Government of India. However, such travel restrictions would not apply in the following cases:-

(i) Foreign nationals permitted to enter India as mentioned in para 2 above and foreign nationals holding valid diplomatic, official, UN/ International Organizations, employment and project categories of visas, which have been exempted from the visa restrictions as mentioned in para 3 above.

(ii) Any aircraft, ship, train or any other vehicle and their crew/ sailor/ staff/ driver/ cleaner etc., by which the categories of foreign nationals mentioned in sub-para (1) above may travel to India.

Vide MHA O.M. No. 25022/24/2020-F.V/F.I.(Pt.) dated 29.06.2020.

In respect of foreign nationals, whose Regular Visa or e-Visa or stay stipulation period are expiring post 30.06.2020, such Regular Visa or e-Visa or stay stipulation period shall be deemed to be valid until 30 more days from the date of resumption of normal international flight operations on 'GRATIS' basis without levy of overstay penalty.

Vide MHA Order No. 25022/24/2020-F.V/F.I dated 12.06.2020

Visa & Travel restrictions in response to COVID -19 Permitting certain other categories of foreign nationals including Overseas Citizen of India

Vide MHA Order No. 40-3/2020-DM-I (A) Dated 24th May, 2020

B. Standard Operating Protocol (SOP) for movement of persons stranded in India who are desirous to travel abroad

In order to contain the spread of COVID 19 pandemic, international travel of passengers has been prohibited under MHA's Orders related to lockdown measures. As per information available, many persons are stranded in India who desirous to travel abroad urgently for various purposes.

2. In order to facilitate the movement of such persons, the following SoP is hereby laid down:

- i. Such persons will apply to Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) or to any agency designated by MoCA for this purpose, along with necessary details, including the places of departure and arrival, as prescribed by MoCA.
- ii. Only those persons shall be allowed to travel to the destination countries, who are citizens of that country; who hold visa of at least one year duration of that country; and green card or OCI card holder. In cases of medical emergency or death in the family, Indian Nationals holding six month visa can also be allowed.
- iii. The travel from India shall be by on the non-scheduled commercial flights that are allowed by MoCA for bringing back stranded Indian Nationals from abroad.
- iv. Indian seafarers/crew seeking to accept contracts to serve on vessels abroad, can travel on the non-scheduled commercial flights departing from India under the Vande Bharat Mission or other flights arranged by their employers subject to clearance given by the Ministry of Shipping.
- v. Before the tickets of such persons are confirmed, MoCA will ensure that the destination country allows entry of such persons in that country. The conditions, if any, imposed by the destination country, will have to be fulfilled by the person intending to travel.
- vi. The cost of travel, as specified by the carrier, will be borne by such travellers.
- vii. At the time of boarding the flight, MoCA will ensure that all travellers undergo thermal screening as per health protocol. Only asymptomatic travellers would be allowed to board the flight.
- viii. While on board the flight, required precautions such as wearing of masks, environmental hygiene, respiratory hygiene, hand hygiene etc. are to be observed by airline staff, crew and all passengers.

The Guidelines for International arrival issued by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW).

- i. Before boarding, all travellers shall give an undertaking that they would undergo mandatory quarantine for 14 days - 7 days paid institutional quarantine at their own cost, followed by 7 days isolation at home with self-monitoring of health.
- ii. Only for exceptional and compelling reasons such as cases of human distress, pregnancy, death in family, serious illness and parent(s) accompanied by children below 10 years, as assessed by the receiving states, home quarantine may be permitted for 14 days. Use of Aarogya Setu app shall be mandatory in such cases.
- iii. Dos and Don'ts shall be provided along with ticket to the travelers by the agencies concerned.
- iv. All passengers shall be advised to download Aarogya Setu app on their mobile devices.
- v. At the time of boarding the flight/ship, only asymptomatic travellers will be allowed to board after thermal screening.
- vi. Passengers arriving through the land borders will also have to undergo the same protocol as above, and only those who are asymptomatic will be enabled to cross the border into India.
- vii. Self-declaration form in duplicate shall be filled by the person in the flight/ship and a copy of the same will be given to Health and Immigration officials present at the airport/ seaport/ land port. The form may also be made available on Aarogya Setu app.
- viii. Suitable precautionary measures such as environmental sanitation and disinfection shall be ensured at the airports as well as within the flights.
- ix. During boarding and at the airports, all possible measures to ensure social distancing to be ensured.
- x. Suitable announcement about COVID-19 including precautionary measures to be followed shall be made at airports/port and in flights/ships and during transit.
- xi. While on board the flight/ship, required precautions such as wearing of masks, environmental hygiene, respiratory hygiene, hand hygiene etc. are to be observed by airline/ ship staff, crew and all passengers.
- xii. On arrival, thermal screening would be carried out in respect of all the passengers by the Health officials present at the airport/seaport/ landport.
- xiii. The passengers found to be symptomatic during screening shall be immediately isolated and taken to medical facility as per health protocol.
- xiv. The remaining passengers shall be taken to suitable institutional quarantine facilities, to be arranged by the respective State/ UT Governments.
- xv. These passengers shall be kept under institutional quarantine for a minimum period of 7 days. They shall be tested as per ICMR protocol available at <https://www.mohfw.gov.in/pdf/Revisedtestingguidelines.pdf>. If they test positive, they shall be assessed clinically.
 - a. If they are assessed as mild cases, they will be allowed home isolation or isolated in the Covid Care Centre (both public & private facilities) as appropriate.
 - b. Those having moderate or severe symptoms will be admitted to dedicated COVID Health facilities and managed accordingly. If found negative, they shall be advised to further isolate themselves at home and self-monitor their health for 7 days.
- xvi. In case, any symptoms develop they shall inform the district surveillance officer or the state/national call centre (1075).

BOI Advisory

1. All incoming passenger traffic, on all 107 Immigration Check Posts which includes all Airport ICPs, all Seaport ICPs all Land Port ICPs, all Rail Port ICPs and all River Port ICPs, is prohibited, in the view of the spread of COVID-19. Vehicles/Trains carrying goods for the trade or essential goods and supplies are exempted from this prohibition along with their crew, driver, helper, cleaner etc. subject to their thorough screening by the medical staff for COVID-19.
2. **The visa restrictions, as mentioned below, shall remain in force**
 1. All existing Visas granted to Foreigners except to those belonging to Diplomatic, Official, UN/International organizations, Employment and Project categories shall remain suspended till prohibition on international travel of passengers from/to India is lifted by the Government of India. (Vide MHA OM No. 25022/24/2020-FV/FI(i) dated 5th May, 2020).
 2. "Regular Visa, e-visa or stay stipulation of such foreign nationals whose visa have expired or would be expiring during the period from 01.02.2020(Mid night) till the date on which prohibition on international air travel of passengers from India is lifted by the Government of India, would be extended on 'GRATIS' basis on submission of online application by the foreigners. Such extensions would be granted for a period up to 30 days from the date of lifting of prohibition on international air travel of passengers from India without levy of overstay penalty. Exit to such foreign nationals, if so requested by them, will also be granted on the same lines." (Vide MHA OM No. 25022/24/2020-FV/FI(ii) dated 5th May, 2020).
 3. The validity of OCI card of foreigners presently in India shall remain.
 4. Visa free travel facility granted to OCI card holders, has been kept in abeyance till prohibition on international travel of passengers from/to India is lifted by the Government of India. Any foreign national (including OCI cardholder) who intends to travel to India for compelling reasons may contact the nearest Indian Mission for fresh visa. (Vide MHA OM No. F.NO.26011/Misc./83/2020-OCI dated 5th May, 2020).

Vide MHA Order No. 26011/Misc/83/2020-OCI dated 22.05.2020, the following categories of Overseas Citizen of India (OCI), who are stranded abroad, are permitted to come to India:

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BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION
Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India
Immigration Visa Foreigners Registration and Tracking

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Vide MHA Order NoNO.40-3/2020-DM-I (A) Dated 5th May, 2020

A. Standard Operating Protocol (SOP) for movement of Indian Nationals stranded outside the country

- i. Such persons will register themselves with the Indian Missions in the country where they are stranded, along with necessary details as prescribed by MEA.
- ii. They will travel to India by non scheduled commercial flights to be arranged by Ministry of Civil Aviation (MOCA); and, naval ships to be arranged by Department of Military Affairs (DMA). Only those crew and staff, who are tested COVID-19 negative, will be allowed to operate these flights/ ships.
- iii. Priority will be given to compelling cases in distress, including migrant workers/ labourers who have been laid off, short term visa holders faced with expiry of visas, persons with medical emergency/ pregnant women/ elderly, those required to return to India due to death of family member, and students.
- iv. The cost of travel, as specified by MoCA/ DMA will be borne by such travellers.
- v. Based on the registrations received, MEA will prepare flight/ ship wise database of all such travellers, including details such as name, age, gender, mobile phone number, place of residence, place of final destination; and information on RT-PCR test taken and its result. This data base will be shared by MEA with the respective State/ UT in advance.
- vi. MEA will display with at least two days notice, the schedule (day, place and time of arrival) of the incoming flight/ ship, on their online digital platform.
- vii. Before boarding, all travellers shall give an undertaking that they would undergo mandatory institutional quarantine for a minimum period of 14 days on arrival in India, at their own cost.
- viii. At the time of boarding the flight/ ship, thermal screening as per health protocol. Only asymptomatic travellers would be allowed to board the flight/ ship.
- ix. Passengers arriving through the land borders will also have to undergo the same protocol as above, and only those who are asymptomatic will be enabled to cross the border into India.
- x. Self-declaration form (with health and personal details) in duplicate will be filled in advance by all passengers coming from any point of entry, i.e., land, sea or airports, and a copy of the same will be given to Health and Immigration officials present at the airport/ seaport/ landport.
- xi. While on board the flight/ ship, the health protocol of MoCA/ DMA will be strictly followed. This would include wearing of masks, environmental hygiene, respiratory hygiene, hand hygiene etc. to be observed by airline/ ship staff, crew and all passengers.
- xii. On arrival, thermal screening, as per health protocol, would be carried out in respect of all the passengers by the Health officials present at the airport/ seaport/ landport.
- xiii. All passengers shall be asked to download ArogyaSetu app on their mobile devices.
- xiv. The passengers found to be symptomatic during screening shall be immediately taken to medical facility as per health protocol.
- xv. The remaining passengers shall be taken to suitable institutional quarantine facilities, to be arranged by the respective State/ UT Governments. These facilities may be as far as possible, in the district headquarters, of the district to which the arriving passengers belongs.
- xvi. These passengers shall be kept under institutional quarantine for a minimum period of 14 days.
- xvii. If they test negative after 14 days, they will be allowed to go home and will undertake self-monitoring of their health for 14 more days as per protocol. The remaining persons will be shifted to the medical facility by the State/ UT Government.

Vide MHA Order No NO.40-3/2020-DM-I (A) Dated 5th May, 2020

B. Standard Operating Protocol (SOP) for movement of persons stranded in India who are desirous to travel abroad

- i. Such persons will apply to Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) or to any agency designated by MoCA for this purpose, along with necessary details, including the places of departure and arrival, as prescribed by MoCA.
- ii. Only those persons shall be allowed to travel to the destination countries, who are citizens of that country; who hold visa of at least one year duration of that country; and green card or OCI card holder. In cases of medical emergency or death in the family, Indian Nationals holding six month visa can also be allowed.
- iii. Before the tickets of such persons are confirmed, MoCA will ensure that the destination country allows entry of such persons in that country. The conditions, if any, imposed by the destination country, will have to be fulfilled by the person intending to travel.

March 22, 2020 (0530 hrs Indian Standard Time (IST) of March 22, 2020). These instructions shall remain in force till prohibition on international travel of passengers from/to India is lifted by the Government of India.

3. A maximum travel time of 20 hours is permissible for such commercial aircraft to land in India.

4. As such, no incoming scheduled international commercial passenger aircraft shall be allowed to disembark its passengers on Indian soil (Foreigner or Indian) after 2001 hrs GMT of March 22, 2020 (0131 hrs IST of March 23, 2020).

5. All passengers who have visited COVID-19 affected countries duly identified by Government of India in earlier travel advisories, who have visited these countries on or after February 15, 2020; and which are mentioned hereunder again:- China, Iran and EU, EU FTA, Turkey, UK (from where passengers have been prohibited from entering India from Afghanistan, Philippines and Malaysia (in force from March 17), shall remain in force and no scheduled international commercial airline shall carry or disembark such passengers on Indian soil.

6. These instructions are in addition to the travel restrictions/advisories already issued and under implementation. The above are temporary measures to restrict the spread of COVID-19, and are subject to review by Government.

- [FAQs on new visa restrictions COVID-19](#)

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BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION
Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India
Immigration Visa Foreigners Registration and Tracking

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- i) All regular (sticker) Visas/e-Visa (including VoA for Japan and South Korea) granted to nationals of Italy, Iran, South Korea, Japan and issued on or before 03.03.2020 and who have not yet entered India, stand suspended with immediate effect. Such foreign nationals may not enter India from any Air, Land or Seaport ICPs. Those requiring to travel to India due to compelling reasons, may seek fresh visa from nearest Indian Embassy/Consulate.
- ii) Regular (sticker) visa / e-Visa granted to nationals of Peoples Republic of China, issued on or before 05.02.2020 were suspended earlier. It shall remain in force. Such Chinese nationals may not enter India from any Air, Land or Seaport ICPs. Those needing to travel to India under compelling circumstances may apply for fresh visa to nearest Indian Embassy/Consulate.
- iii) Regular (sticker) visas/e-Visas granted to all foreign nationals who have travelled to Peoples Republic of China, Iran, Italy, South Korea and Japan on or after 01.02.2020, and who have not yet entered India stand suspended with immediate effect. Such foreign nationals may not enter India from any Air, Land or Seaport ICPs. Those requiring to travel to India under compelling circumstances may apply for fresh visa to nearest Indian Embassy/Consulate.
- iv) Diplomats, officials of UN and other International bodies, OCI cardholders and Aircrew from above countries are exempted from such restriction on entry. However, their medical screening is compulsory.
- v) All foreign and Indian nationals entering into India from any port are required to furnish duly filled self declaration form (including personal particulars i.e: phone no. and address in India) and travel history, to Health officials and Immigration officials at all port.
- vi) Passengers (foreign and Indian) other than those restricted, arriving directly or indirectly from China, South Korea, Japan, Iran, Italy, Hong Kong, Macau, Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia, Nepal, Thailand, Singapore and Taiwan must undergo medical screening at port of entry.

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