

(c) and (d) The Government of India has engaged with the Members of European Parliament to convey its position on the Act, including by the External Affairs Minister in Brussels on 17 February, 2020.

### **Visa-on-arrival and Visa-free entry for Indians**

1648. SHRI ELAMARAM KAREEM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the countries in the world which are allowing visa-on-arrival and visa-free entry to Indian passport holders;

(b) the details of increase or decrease in the number of such countries in last five years and the reasons therefor;

(c) the country with maximum visa-free entry into other countries, India's position in this regard;

(d) the position at which Indian passport is placed among other countries in the world in terms of safety; and

(e) which are the countries that are allowed visa-free entry into India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN): (a) As on date, 16 countries provide visa-free entry and 39 countries provide visa-on-arrival facility to Indian citizens holding ordinary Passports. List of countries is given in the Statement-I and the Statement-II (*See* below).

(b) The number of such countries has gradually increased over the years. The increase is due to our own visa liberalization measures including e-Visa as well as our overall bilateral relations with such countries.

(c) There is no official information available on this. However, as per data compiled by Henley & Partners on their website [www.henleyglobal.com](http://www.henleyglobal.com) (popularly known as Henley's Passport Index), Japan ranks No. 1 in 2020 with 191 countries providing visa-free entry to Japanese nationals. India's position is at No. 84 in this index.

(d) There is no index/ parameter to rank Indian passport in terms of safety. However, some of the measures that have been put in place by the Ministry to prevent

usage of fake passports are given below:—

- (i) Issuance of machine-readable passports with improved security features and in compliance with International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) guidelines issued from time to time. Machine Readable Zone (MRZ) has been included in the passports. Details available in MRZ are proving instrumental in detection of forgery in passports.
- (ii) Changing the design of Indian Passports with reverse stitching and non-tearable papers to make it more secure.
- (iii) Installation of Passport Reading Machines (PRMs) and Questionable Document Examiner (QDX) machines at International Check Posts for verifying the genuineness of the passports and detection of sophisticated forgeries in the travel documents.
- (iv) Installation of Immigration Control System (ICS) software which verifies the passport details of passengers to prevent impersonation.
- (v) Introduction of Supplementary Letter Screen Image (LSI) in passports to prevent any forgery in data pages.
- (vi) The passport database of Ministry of External Affairs has been integrated with Immigration Control System of Bureau of Immigration, which helps in detecting fake/ forged Indian passports at the Immigration Counters on real time basis and strict legal action as per law is taken against persons found involved in forgery of passports.
- (e) Citizens of 3 countries (Nepal, Bhutan and Maldives) are granted visa-free access and citizens of 3 countries {Japan, South Korea and UAE) are granted visa-on-arrival by the Government of India.

**Statement-I**

*Foreign countries which provide visa-free entry to Indian citizens*

Sl. No.	Name of the Country	Remarks
1	2	3
1.	Barbados	Visa-free stay from 30 to 90 days

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1	2	3
2.	Bhutan	Visa Free regime exists between Bhutan and India. Indian ordinary passport holders are granted a minimum of 7-days entry permit to visit Bhutan by road/air.
3.	Dominica	Visa-free stay up to six months for tourism and business
4.	Grenada	Visa-free stay up to three months
5.	Haiti	Visa-free facility available
6.	Hong Kong	Visa-free stay up to 14 days in Hong Kong strictly subject to successfully completing Hong Kong Government mandatory Pre arrival Registration (PAR) online. However an Indian National is required to apply an appropriate visa from Hong Kong Immigration Department if he/she is unsuccessful in completing the Hong Kong Government Mandatory PAR or intends to visit Hong Kong for a purpose other than visit, such as employment, study or taking up residence.
7.	Maldives	Visa-free stay for a maximum of 90 days
8.	Mauritius	There is no visa requirement for Indian ordinary passport holders visiting Mauritius for any purpose. Passport & Immigration Office (PIO), Govt. of Mauritius, stamps visa of different types on arrival to segregate Indian visitors under various categories and maintain record. Tourist visa on arrival: A 60 days extendable visit visa is initially granted at immigration counter on arrival. Visit visa may be granted for a maximum period of 6 months in a calendar year on case to case basis subject to Immigration requirements. Business visa for a maximum of 120 days in a calendar year provided the maximum stay does not exceed 90 days during each trip. Medical visa for a maximum period of 6 months, extendable to complete the treatment provided request is made to PIO prior to expiry of the current visa.
9.	Montserrat	Visa-free stay for tourism and business purposes for a period of three months

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1	2	3
10.	Nepal	Visa-free stay for Indian Nationals
11.	Niue Island	Visa-free stay up to 30 days
12.	Saint Vincent & the Grenadines	Visa-free stay up to 30 days
13.	Samoa	Visa-free stay up to 90 days
14.	Senegal	Visa-free stay up to 90 days
15.	Serbia	Visa-free stay up to 30 days within a period of one year
16.	Trinidad & Tobago	Visa-free stay up to three months for tourism and business purposes

**Statement-II**

*Foreign countries which provide visa-on-arrival facility to Indian citizens*

Sl. No.	Name of the Country	Remarks
1	2	3
1.	Angola	Visa-on-arrival is granted for one month with prior submission of papers
2.	Bolivia	Visa-on-arrival is granted for a maximum 60 days period
3.	Cabo Verde	Visa-on-arrival facility available
4.	Cambodia	Visa-on-arrival is granted for 30 days
5.	Cameroon Union Republic	Cameroon allows pre-approved visa-on-arrival
6.	Cook Islands	Visa-on-arrival is granted for 1 month
7.	Ethiopia	Visa-on-arrival is granted for 1 month
8.	Fiji	Visa-on-arrival is granted for 4 months
9.	Guinea Bissau	Visa-on-arrival is granted
10.	Indonesia	Visa-on-arrival is granted for 30 days on gratis-basis and for 60 days on a fee of US\$ 35/-

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1	2	3
11.	Iran	Visa-on-Arrival facility available. However Indian applicants have to apply online & obtain 'Submission Notice' before departure & Visa fee is paid at Iranian airport.
12.	Jamaica	Visa-on-arrival facility is granted for 90 days
13.	Jordan	Visa-on-arrival is granted for 30 days
14.	Kenya	Visa-on-arrival is granted for 3 months which can further be extended by another 3 months
15.	Kiribati	Visa-on-arrival is granted for 2 months
16.	Laos	Visa-on-arrival is granted for 30 days
17.	Madagascar	Visa-on-arrival is granted for a period of 3 months (maximum) for tourism. If visa is granted for one-month on arrival it can be extended for another 2 months and if visa is granted for 2 months on arrival it can be extended for another one month by the Ministry of Interior, Republic of Madagascar.
18.	Mauritania	Visa-on-arrival is granted for 90 days only at Nouakchott International Airport.
19.	Mongolia	Visa-on-arrival is granted for 1 month (w.e.f 01.02.2020)
20.	Myanmar	Visa-on-arrival is granted. Tourist Visa for 30 days at a fee of USD 50, Business Visa for 70 days at a fee of USD 50, Workshop/Seminar/Meeting/Research Visa for 28 days at a fee of USD 40, Transit Visa for 24 hours at a fee of USD 20, Crew Visa for 28 days at a fee of USD 40
21.	Nigeria	Nigeria allows pre-approved visa-on-arrival
22.	Qatar	Visa-on-arrival is granted for 30 days for tourism subject to certain conditions, which are as follows: (i) the traveler must have passport validity of six months, (ii) a return ticket, (iii) hotel reservation confirmation, and (iv) a valid debit/credit card in his/her name.
23.	Republic of Marshall Islands	Visa-on-arrival is granted for 90 days

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1	2	3
24.	Reunion Island	Visa-on-arrival facility is granted for a maximum duration of 14 days for the purpose of tourism. The hotel bookings have to be made through travel agents notified by the French authorities. The travel agents issue a voucher which has to be produced to the immigration authorities on arrival at Reunion Island.
25.	Rwanda	Visa-on-arrival is granted for 1 month
26.	Saint Kitts & Nevis	Visa-on-arrival is granted
27.	Saint Lucia	Visa-on-arrival is granted for 6 weeks
28.	Seychelles	Visa-on-arrival is granted for 90 days with single entry.
29.	Somalia	Visa-on-arrival is granted for 1 month
30.	Sri Lanka	Visa-on-arrival is granted for 30 days which can be extended up to 180 days in case of Tourist Visa.
31.	Suriname	Visa-on-arrival is granted for 90 days on Tourist card
32.	Tajikistan	Visa-on-arrival facility available. Visa to be applied online and approved well in advance prior to the actual date of travel, with support letter either from the EOI, Dushanbe or the organization/agency sponsoring the Indian traveller. Usually such visa is given for a period of 30 Days with Single Entry. Multiple-entry visa of 90 Days validity is also given, only after recommendation from EOI, Dushanbe.
33.	Tanzania	Visa-on-arrival is granted for maximum 3 months/single entry
34.	Thailand	Visa-on-arrival is granted for 15 days
35.	Tunisia	Visa-on-arrival is granted for a maximum of 3 months single entry
36.	Tuvalu	Visa-on-arrival is granted for 1 month
37.	Vanuatu	Visa-on-arrival is granted for 1 month

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1	2	3
38.	Vietnam	Visa-on-arrival is granted for a maximum period of 3 months. To avail VOA facility, one has to submit an online visa application; pay online processing fee; receive an approval letter from Immigration Authorities in Vietnam and present the approval letter to Immigration Authorities on arrival in Vietnam.
39.	Zimbabwe	Visa-on-arrival is granted for 30 days/single entry at International entry points in Zimbabwe.

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**Missing Indians from Kerala coast**

‡1649. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that 243 Indians taken to New Zealand from Kerala by boat in January 2019 have been missing;

(b) whether these people were taken to New Zealand legally or illegally;

(c) the steps taken by Government to locate the whereabouts of missing people till date; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to stop the incidents of people being sent abroad illegally and the outcomes thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN): (a) to (d) As per the information available with Ministry of External Affairs, no such boat reached New Zealand shores. As per the information made available by the Ministry of Home Affairs, around 105 persons who sailed out of Munambam Harbour in Kerala on 12.01.2019 on a fishing boat named 'Daya Matha-2' are missing.

The Indian Coast Guard launched an intensive search operation to locate the boat using ships, hovercraft and aircraft. Information related to the case had been shared with the Interpol and other agencies in order to locate the missing boat and its occupants. No information about the whereabouts of the boat has been received as yet.

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‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.