

**MOST IMMEDIATE**

**No. 25022/24/2020-F.V / F.I  
Government of India  
Ministry of Home Affairs  
(Foreigners Division)  
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**Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium,  
India Gate Circles, New Delhi – 110002**

**Dated : 17 August, 2020**

**OFFICE MEMORANDUM**

**Subject : Visa & Travel restrictions in response to COVID -19 - Permitting  
certain categories of foreign nationals to enter India**

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The undersigned is directed to refer to this Ministry's O.M. of even number dated 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2020 and 7<sup>th</sup> August, 2020 on the above mentioned subject. 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 addition to the categories of foreign nationals who are permitted to enter India vide this Ministry's O.M. of even number dated 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2020, it has been decided to permit foreign nationals holding Journalist (J-1) visa and their dependents holding J-1X visa 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. It has also been decided that the existing restrictions on incoming passenger traffic into India through the Immigration Check Posts will not apply in respect of these categories of foreign nationals. 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.

3. Accordingly, following sub-para (C) has been added in para 2 of this Ministry's O.M. of even number dated 30.06.2020:-

“(C) Foreign nationals who are holding Journalist (J-1) visa 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..”

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4. This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority.



(Pramod Kumar)  
Director (Foreigners)  
Tel.No. 23077508

To

1. Foreign Secretary (**Shri Harsh Vardhan Shringla**)
2. Ministry of Civil Aviation [**Kind Attn: Shri Pradeep Singh Kharola, Secretary**], Rajiv Gandhi Bhawan, Block B, Safdarjung Airport Area, New Delhi -110 003
3. Bureau of Immigration [**Kind Attn: Shri Rajeev Ranjan Verma, Additional Director**], East Block, R.K.Puram, New Delhi
4. Ministry of External Affairs [**Kind Attn: Shri Devesh Uttam, Joint Secretary (CPV)**], Patiala House Annexe, New Delhi
5. Joint Secretary (DM), Ministry of Home Affairs
6. Joint Secretary (XP), Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi