

MOST IMMEDIATE

**No. 25022/24/2020-F.V / F.I
Government of India
Ministry of Home Affairs
(Foreigners Division)**

**Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium, India Gate
New Delhi – 110002, Dated : 8th September, 2020**

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

**Subject : Movement of OCI cardholders from countries in the Schengen
Zone**

The undersigned is directed to refer to the O.M. No. AV-13029/1/2020-A-MOCA (Pt.II) dated 14th August, 2020 from the Ministry of Civil Aviation on the above mentioned subject and to say that the matter has been examined in this Ministry.

2. In this context, it may be stated that instructions issued vide this Ministry's O.M. of even number dated 07.08.2020 (copy enclosed) were specifically with reference to those countries with which "air bubble" scheme i.e. bilateral air travel arrangements have been worked out by the Ministry of Civil Aviation and the countries that may be included under such scheme in future. In terms of these instructions, all OCI cardholders holding passports of such countries are permitted to enter India under the 'air bubble' scheme. It may be stated that instructions issued vide this Ministry's O.M. of even number dated 30.06.2020 (copy enclosed for reference) which permit certain categories of foreign nationals, including the following 4 categories of OCI cardholders and 3 categories of foreign nationals who have some relationship with OCI cardholders, to enter India has not been superseded by this Ministry's O.M. dated 07.08.2020:-

- (a) Minor children who hold OCI cards and whose parents are Indian nationals
- (b) OCI cardholders who wish to come to India on account of family emergencies like critical medical conditions of immediate family members or death
- (c) Married couples where one spouse is an OCI cardholder and the other is an Indian national
- (d) Students, who are OCI cardholders where at least either of their parents is an Indian citizen or an OCI cardholder




- (e) Foreign nationals who are minor children where at least either of their parents is an Indian citizen or an OCI cardholder
- (f) Foreign nationals who are single parents of minor children holding Indian passports or OCI cards
- (g) Students who are foreign nationals where at least one of their parents is an Indian citizen or an OCI cardholder

3. It is accordingly clarified that all categories of foreign nationals, including the above mentioned 4 categories of OCI cardholders and 3 categories of foreign nationals who have some relationship with OCI cardholders, covered by MHA's O.M. dated 30.06.2020 holding passports of any country can also travel to India in flights operated under the 'air bubble' scheme, in addition to permission to enter India granted to OCI cardholders vide this Ministry's O.M. dated 07.08.2020.

4. As stated in para 2 above, relaxation in the travel restrictions for certain categories of foreign nationals who want to travel to India and Indian nationals intending to visit other countries covered by MHA's O.M. dated 07.08.2020 is applicable only to those countries with which 'air bubble' scheme i.e. bilateral air travel arrangements has been worked out by the Ministry of Civil Aviation and the countries that may be included under such scheme in future. In view of this, the request of the Ministry of Civil Aviation to permit all OCI cardholders holding passports of countries in the Schengen area to travel to India under the India-France/ Germany air bubbles cannot be agreed to.

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


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

To

Ministry of Civil Aviation [**Kind Attn: Shri Pradeep Singh Kharola, Secretary**], Rajiv Gandhi Bhawan, Block B, Safdarjung Airport Area, New Delhi -110 003

Copy to :-

1. Bureau of Immigration [**Kind Attn: Shri Rajeev Ranjan Verma, Additional Director**], East Block, R.K.Puram, New Delhi
2. Ministry of External Affairs [**Kind Attn: Shri Devesh Uttam, OSD (CPV)**], Patiala House Annexe, New Delhi
3. Joint Secretary (DM), MHA

No.25022/24/2020-F.V/F.I
Government of India
Ministry of Home Affairs
(Foreigners Division)

Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium,
India Gate Circle, New Delhi - 110002,

Dated : 07 August, 2020

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Sub: Visa & Travel restrictions in response to COVID-19 - Permitting certain categories of foreign nationals (including Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) Cardholders) to enter India and Indian nationals to visit other countries - regarding

The undersigned is directed to refer to this Ministry's O.M. of even number dated 30th June, 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 and Indian nationals intending to visit other countries in the context of 'air bubble' scheme i.e. bilateral air travel arrangements worked out by the Ministry of Civil Aviation with USA, UK, Germany and France and the countries that may be included under such scheme in future.

2. Accordingly, in respect of countries with which 'air bubble' scheme (bilateral air travel arrangements) have already been worked out i.e. USA, UK, Germany and France and the countries that may be included under such scheme in future, it has been decided as follows:-

- (a) In partial modification to this Ministry's O.M. of even number dated 30.06.2020, all Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) Cardholders holding passports of such countries are permitted to enter India.
- (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.

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3. In partial modification of para 4 of this Ministry's O.M. 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.
- (ii) 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.

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



(Pramod Kumar)
Director (Foreigners)
☎:23077508

To

1. Ministry of Civil Aviation [**Kind Attn: Shri Pradeep Singh Kharola, Secretary**], Rajiv Gandhi Bhawan, Block B, Safdarjung Airport Area, New Delhi -110 003
2. Bureau of Immigration [**Kind Attn: Shri Rajeev Ranjan Verma, Additional Director**], East Block, R.K.Puram, New Delhi
3. Ministry of External Affairs [**Kind Attn: Dr. Adarsh Swaika, Joint Secretary (CPV)**], Patiala House Annexe, New Delhi
4. Joint Secretary (DM), MHA

No. 25022/24/2020-F.V / F.I
Government of India
Ministry of Home Affairs
(Foreigners Division)

Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium, India Gate
New Delhi – 110002, Dated : 30th June, 2020

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

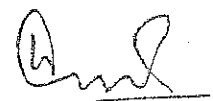
Subject : Visa & Travel restrictions in response to COVID -19 - Permitting certain categories of foreign nationals (including Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) Cardholders) to enter India – regarding

The undersigned is directed to refer to this Ministry's O.Ms of even number dated 17th April, 2020, 5th May, 2020, 7th May, 2020, 1st June, 2020 & 12th June, 2020 regarding Visa and Travel restrictions in response to COVID 19. Reference is also invited to this Ministry's Order No. 40-3/2020-DM-I (A) dated 24th May, 2020 forwarding a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the movement of Indian nationals stranded outside the country and of specified persons to travel abroad, along with its partial modifications vide this Ministry's O.M. of even number dated 1st June, 2020. 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:-

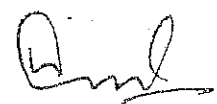
(A) Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) Cardholders

- (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 B-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
- x (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-paras 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 (i) above may travel to India.

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


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

To

1. Ministry of Civil Aviation [Kind Attn: Shri Pradeep Singh Kharola, Secretary], Rajiv Gandhi Bhawan, Block B, Safdarjung Airport Area, New Delhi -110 003
2. Bureau of Immigration [Kind Attn: Shri Rajeev Ranjan Verma, Additional Director], East Block, R.K.Puram, New Delhi
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