

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 1364
ANSWERED ON- 31/07/2025

E-VISA FACILITIES TO TRAVELLERS

1364. SHRI KESRIDEVSINH JHALA
SMT. MAYA NAROLIYA
SHRI BABURAM NISHAD
DR. DINESH SHARMA
SHRI BRIJ LAL

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :-

- (a) the efforts undertaken by the Ministry to provide responsive and efficient delivery of citizen services;
- (b) the total number of e-visas granted and the increment in the e-visa countries since 2020;
- (c) the role of the Ministry in assisting international pilgrims and the details of Haj and Sikh pilgrims assisted thereof;
- (d) the number of e-visas granted to international travelers arriving in Gujarat, particularly through Ahmedabad and Surat airports; and
- (e) the increase in eligible countries since 2020 for these entry points?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a) The Government has taken several steps to ensure responsive and efficient delivery of consular services for Indian nationals abroad, through Indian Missions on priority basis. Grievances are responded through various channels like calls, walk-ins, e-mails, social media, 24x7 Helplines and Open Houses. Pravasi Bharatiya Sahayata Kendras (PBSKs) have been set up at Dubai, Sharjah, Riyadh, Jeddah and Kuala Lumpur to provide assistance to Indian workers abroad. Shelter homes for distressed Indian nationals have also been set up at some Missions/Posts. Mission officials visit immigration offices and labour camps to address the complaints of Indian workers. Financial assistance to distressed Indians, if necessary, is provided through the Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF). During emergency or crisis situations, our Missions/Posts abroad pro-actively help distressed/stranded Indian nationals in terms of providing food, shelter, medicine and helping their return to India.

(b) Total number of e-Visa granted since 2020 to 20.07.2025 are 96,44,567. The number of countries being granted the facility of e-Visa has increased from 171 in 2020 to 181 in 2025.

(c) The Government has implemented various measures towards assisting Indian pilgrims travelling abroad. Key components of these initiatives include administrative oversight, consular assistance, coordination with local authorities and medical facilities. The details of assistance extended to Haj and Sikh pilgrims are as follows:

(i) Haj Operations: The Government plays an important role in ensuring the smooth execution of Haj pilgrimage for Indian nationals. It works in close coordination with Ministry of Minority Affairs (MoMA) and Haj Committee of India (HCoI) and Saudi authorities to deliver comprehensive support across all phases of the pilgrimage. This includes providing various services such as medical support, accommodation, transportation, catering, sanitation and utilities through its consulate in Jeddah. The consulate coordinates the smooth arrival and departure of pilgrims and also provides consular assistance to Indian pilgrims throughout their stay in Saudi Arabia in coordination with Saudi authorities. Each year the Saudi authorities announce a Haj quota for India. In recent years, this quota has on an average been set at 1,75,025 Indian pilgrims.

(ii) Sikh Pilgrims: Under the India-Pakistan Protocol on Visits to Religious Shrines - 1974, the Government facilitates visits of pilgrims between the two countries.

An Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for the facilitation of Pilgrims to visit Gurdwara Darbar Sahib Kartarpur, Narowal, Pakistan, was signed on 24 October 2019 in order to fulfil the long-standing demand of the pilgrims to have easy and smooth access to the holy Gurudwara and to operationalise the corridor for the 550th Birth Anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev Ji.

The Agreement, inter alia, provides for visa-free travel of Indian pilgrims as well as Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) cardholders, from India to the holy Gurudwara Darbar Sahib Kartarpur in Pakistan on a daily basis, throughout the year. To facilitate the visit of pilgrims, a state-of-the-art infrastructure, including a highway from the town of Dera Baba Nanak to Zero Point and an Integrated Check Post (ICP) have been built on the Indian side. The Sri Kartarpur Sahib Corridor was inaugurated on 9 November 2019. Since its inauguration, the Corridor has been used by over 4,00,000 pilgrims to visit the holy Gurudwara in Pakistan.

The Government of India has consistently urged the Government of Pakistan that in deference to the wishes of the pilgrims, it should not levy any fee or charge on the pilgrims who visit Gurudwara Darbar Sahib Kartarpur through the Sri Kartarpur Sahib Corridor. Pakistan, however, continues to levy USD 20 on every pilgrim for each visit. The validity of this Agreement was extended for a period of another 5 years in October 2024.

Kartarpur corridor operations have been suspended since Operation Sindoor.

(d) A total of 3,26,183 (Ahmedabad) and 107 (Surat) e-Visas have been granted to foreigners who selected their port of arrival as Ahmedabad and Surat.

(e) e-Visa eligible countries have increased from 171 in 2020 to 181 in 2025 at Ahmedabad airport. Surat airport was included as e-Visa enabled airport on 26.05.2025 with presently 181 countries being eligible to select as port of arrival.
