

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3135
ANSWERED ON 19/03/2026

VISA FREE ACCESS

3135. SHRI SAMIRUL ISLAM

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the number of countries to which Indians had visa free access had fallen from 2024 to 2025 and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of countries to which Indians lost visa free access and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the countries which have been provided visa free entry into India and the details thereof; and
- (d) whether any country has recently been removed from the list of countries to which India gives visa free access and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a & b) At present, 27 countries provide visa-free entry and 47 countries provide visa-on-arrival facility to Indian ordinary passport holders. Apart from this, India has visa-waiver agreements with 107 countries for holders of Diplomatic/Official passports and another 34 countries for holders of Diplomatic passports only. The lists are available on Ministry of External Affairs' website at <https://www.mea.gov.in/VFFIN.htm> and <https://www.mea.gov.in/bvwa-menu.htm>. There are no major changes in visa-free access for Indian citizens from 2024 to 2025. However, in 2025, Iran suspended its one-way tourist visa facility for Indian nationals holding ordinary passports from 19.11.2025. Indian nationals are now required to obtain a visa to enter or transit through the territory of Iran.

Allowing visa-free entry to foreigners is a sovereign decision of the receiving nation that depends on various factors including bilateral relations and principle of reciprocity. However, visa related matters, particularly visa policies intended to improve ease of travel for Indian citizens are taken up by the Government through bilateral mechanisms, including during Consular Dialogues with foreign countries and during High-Level visits.

(c) The facility of visa-free entry in India is currently available in some circumstances to citizens of Nepal, Bhutan and Maldives. It is available to citizens of Nepal and Bhutan except when they enter India from China, Macau, Hong Kong or Pakistan, in which case Indian visa is required. In the case of citizens of Maldives visiting India for a short period up to 90 days for tourism, medical treatment (including treatment under Ayush systems) and business purposes, visa free facility is available.

(d) India has not suspended visa-free access to citizens of any country recently.

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