

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1203

ANSWERED ON- 06/02/2026

VISA FREE ACCESS

1203. SHRI JAGADISH CHANDRA BARMA BASUNIA

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

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

106 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 available to citizens of Nepal and Bhutan (except when Nepali/Bhutani citizens enter India from China, Macau, Hong Kong or Pakistan; Indian visa is required in such cases), and to Maldivian nationals. Citizen of Maldives visiting India for a short period up to 90 days, are exempt from the requirement of visa

for tourism, medical treatment (including treatment under Ayush systems) and business purposes.

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