

Government of India  
Ministry of Home Affairs  
(Foreigners Division)  
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Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium, New Delhi  
Dated: 28.03.2020

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

**Subject: Grant of some consular services on gratis basis to foreign nationals presently residing in India due to travel restrictions in the context of spread of COVID-19.**

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The undersigned is directed to refer to this Ministry's O.M. of even number dated 19.03.2020 on the subject cited above in view of the "Consolidated Travel Advisory for Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID – 19) issued by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare dated 11.03.2020 and referred O.Ms. of Bureau of Immigration and Immigration Section of Ministry of Home Affairs regarding restrictions on international passenger traffic in view of Government's effort to curb the spread of COVID-19.

2. It has been brought to the notice of this Ministry that a sizable number of foreign nationals, who wish to travel back to their home country but are stranded in India due to upsurge of COVID-19 cases across the globe since January and due to subsequent imposition of travel restrictions mentioned in the referred advisories in phases. Consequently these foreign nationals were/are unable to exit the country during the validity of their visa.


3. In view thereof, it has been decided to provide some consular services by Office of the Foreigners Regional Registration Officers/ Foreigners Registration Officers to foreign nationals, **presently in India**, in the following manner:

**"Regular visa, e-visa or stay stipulation, of such foreign nationals who have been stranded in India because of spread of COVID-19 in many parts of the world and due to consequent travel restrictions imposed by the Indian authorities and whose visas have expired or would be expiring during the period from 01.02.2020 (Midnight) to 30.04.2020 (Midnight), would be extended till midnight of 30.04.2020 on 'GRATIS' basis after making online application by the foreigner. Exit of such foreign nationals, if so requested by them during this period, will be granted without levy of overstay penalty."**

*Mw*  
28/3/2020

4. Bureau of Immigration is accordingly requested to convey the above instructions to all FRROs/FROs/Immigration Check Posts.

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

  
(Manoj Kumar Jha)  
Deputy Secretary to the Government of India  
Tel: 23070168

To:

1. Bureau of Immigration [ Shri Rajeev Ranjan Verma, Additional Director], East Block, R. K. Puram, New Delhi.
2. Ministry of External Affairs [ Dr. Adarsh Swpaika, Joint Secretary(CPV)], Patiala House Annexe, New Delhi.
3. Ministry of Health & Family Welfare [Shri Luv Agarwal, Joint Secretary(PH)], Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi.
4. Additional Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary of Home Department of all State Governments & Union Territory Administrations.

Copy to:

1. PS to Hon'ble HM.
2. Sr. PPS to Home Secretary.
3. DDG (Media), MHA, North Block, New Delhi.
3. Cabinet Secretariat [ Shri Pankaj Agarwal, Joint Secretary].
4. Under Secretary (Immigration)/Under Secretary (Foreigners)
5. Section Officers, Visa Sections, Foreigners Division.