

UNIT IV: TRAVEL DOCUMENTATION

Travel Document:

A **travel document** is an identity document issued by a government or international treaty organization to facilitate the movement of individuals or small groups of people across international boundaries, following international agreements. Travel documents usually assure other governments that the bearer may return to the issuing country, and are often issued in booklet form to allow other governments to place visas as well as entry and exit stamps into them. The most common travel document is a passport, which usually gives the bearer more privileges like visa-free access to certain countries. However, the term is sometimes used only for those documents which do not bear proof of nationality, such as a refugee travel document.

Passport:

In general, a passport is a travel document that also serves as proof of nationality from the issuing country. Although generally accepted by the majority of countries in the world, some issuing countries expressly exclude the validity of passports from nations that are not recognized by their governments.

TYPES OF INDIAN PASSPORT

Two of the most used terms in travel vocabulary are passport and visa. For travelling outside of a country, the passport is a necessary document. In 2018 the Indian passport is ranked at 66th position. This year Indian passport holders can travel without a Visa to 25 countries. 41 countries offer Indian passport holder visa on arrival, while 132 countries require Indians to travel with a pre arrival Visa.

An Indian passport is issued by the Indian Ministry of External Affairs to Indian citizens for the purpose of international travel. It enables the bearer to travel internationally and serves as proof of Indian citizenship. The Ministry of External Affairs functions as the central passport organisation is responsible for issuing Indian passports on demand to all eligible Indian citizens. Indian passports are issued at 93 passport offices located across India and at 162 Indian diplomatic missions abroad.

The passport is a document of identity and contains a person's name, date of birth, gender, address and place of birth.

- first issued - 1920 (first version) - 1986 (current version)
- Issued by - India
- Purpose - Identification

- Eligibility requirements- Indian citizenship
- Expiration - for Adult it is issued for 10 years, age between 15 and 18 is issued for 5 or 10 years, for Minors it is issued for 5 years.

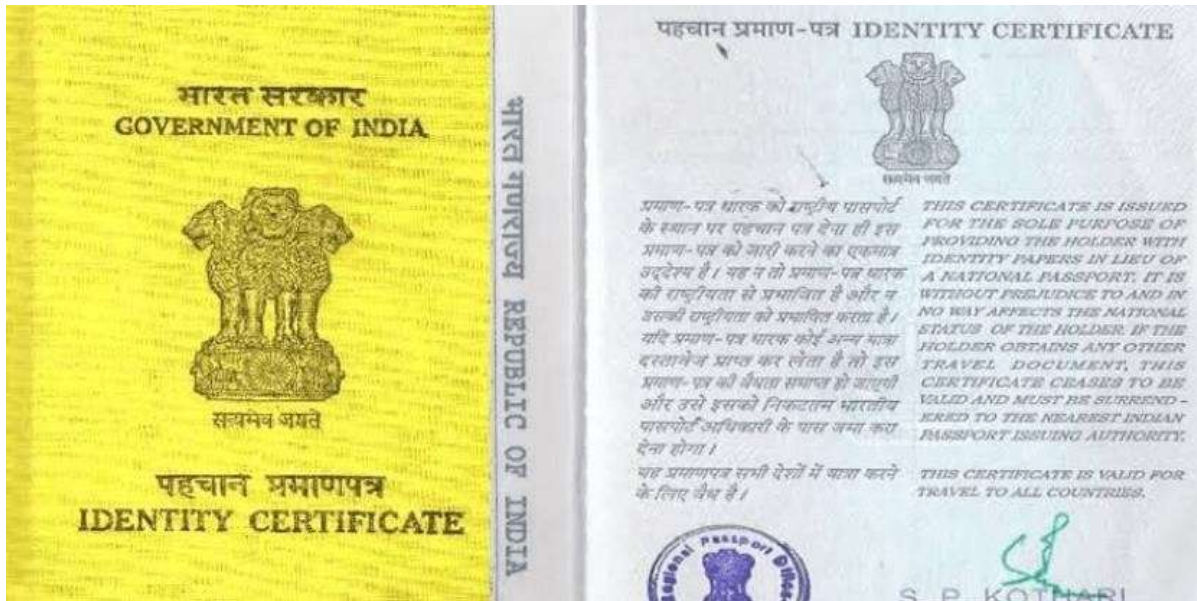


Other types of Indian Passports

1. Ordinary passport is navy blue in colour and is issued for ordinary travel or business trips it needs to be renewed every Ten years.
2. Official Passport is issued to individuals representing the Indian government on official business. It is also called service passports
3. Diplomatic Passport is issued to Indian diplomats, top ranking government officials and diplomatic couriers

All types of passports are to request and require in the Name of the President of the Republic of India By order of the President of the Republic of India. Diplomatic or Official Passports are issued with specific validity five years or less, depending on the position of the holder and the nature of the assignment or visit.

Other than above the passports, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India issues a Travel Document known as Identity Card (IC) to non-citizens of the Republic of India for foreign Travel .It enables the bearer to travel internationally and serves as proof of identity as per the act. In our country it is mostly issued to Tibetan Refugees along with other stateless people.



4. It is commonly known as Yellow passport in India, this certificate have a yellow cover with Golden colour printing. If the holder obtains any other travel document, this certificate must be surrendered to the nearest Indian passport issuing authority.

This certificate is issued for Ten years if the person is aged eighteen years and above, less than eighteen years it is issued for five years. Yellow passport holders are eligible to travel to most of the countries except a few like Sweden and all. The Swedish government has announced that since last year it is not accepting the travel document issued by India to Tibetan refugees for travel abroad, the Identity Certificate(IC). Tibetan refugees living in India normally travel to other countries by using the IC, however, according to a recent report by Voice of America's Tibetan service, the Swedish government does not accept the IC as a valid document. USA also doesn't accepting the Tibetan refugees anymore.

Apart from this, if an Indian travelling abroad loses his or her passport in a foreign country, the Indian embassy in the country usually grants an Emergency Certificate with which the person can travel back to India. Emergency passport also called temporary passport issued to persons whose passports where lost or stolen without time to obtain a replacement.

Travel Visa:

A **visa** (from the Latin *charta visa*, meaning "paper that has been seen") is a conditional authorization granted by a territory to a foreigner, allowing them to enter, remain within, or to leave that territory. Visas typically may include limits on the duration of the foreigner's stay,

areas within the country they may enter, the dates they may enter, the number of permitted visitors or an individual's right to work in the country in question. Visas are associated with the request for permission to enter a territory and thus are, in most countries, distinct from actual formal permission for an alien to enter and remain in the country. In each instance, a visa is subject to entry permission by an immigration official at the time of actual entry, and can be revoked at any time. A visa most commonly takes the form of a sticker endorsed in the applicant's passport or other travel document.

Historically, immigration officials were empowered to permit or reject entry of visitors on arrival at the frontiers. If permitted entry, the official would issue a visa, when required, which would be a stamp in a passport. Today, travellers wishing to enter another country must often apply in advance for what is also called a visa, sometimes in person at a consular office, by post, or over the internet. The modern visa may be a sticker or a stamp in the passport, or may take the form of a separate document or an electronic record of the authorization, which the applicant can print before leaving home and produce on entry to the visited territory. Some countries do not require visitors to apply for a visa in advance for short visits.

Visa applications in advance of arrival give countries a chance to consider the applicant's circumstances, such as financial security, reason for travel, and details of previous visits to the country. Visitors may also be required to undergo and pass security or health checks upon arrival at the port of entry. Some countries require that their citizens, as well as foreign travellers, obtain an "exit visa" to be allowed to leave the country.

Uniquely, the Norwegian special territory of Svalbard is an entirely visa-free zone under the terms of the Svalbard Treaty. Some countries—such as those in the Schengen Area—have agreements with other countries allowing each other's citizens to travel between them without visas. The World Tourism Organization announced that the number of tourists requiring a visa before travelling was at its lowest level ever in 2015.

Types of Visa:

Each country typically has a multitude of categories of visas with various names. The most common types and names of visas include:

Transit visas

Transit visas are required for passing through the country of issue to a destination outside that country. Validity of transit visas are usually limited by short terms such as several hours to ten days depending on the size of the country or the circumstances of a particular transit itinerary.

- *Airside transit visa*, required by some countries for passing through their airports even without going through passport control.
- *Crew member, steward, or driver visa*, issued to persons employed or trained on aircraft, vessels, trains, trucks, buses, and any other means of international transportation, or ships fishing in international waters.

Short-stay or visitor visas

These visas are needed for short visits to the visited country. Many countries differentiate between different reasons for these visits, such as:

- *Private visa*, for private visits by invitation from residents of the visited country.
- *Tourist visa*, for a limited period of leisure travel, no business activities allowed.
- *Visa for medical reasons*, for undertaking diagnostics or a course of treatment in the visited country's hospitals or other medical facilities.
- *Business visa*, for engaging in commerce in the country. These visas generally preclude permanent employment, for which a work visa would be required.
- *Working holiday visa*, for individuals travelling between nations offering a working holiday program, allowing young people to undertake temporary work while travelling.
- *Athletic or artistic visa*, issued to athletes and performing artists (and their supporting staff) performing at competitions, concerts, shows, and other events.
 - *Cultural exchange visa*, usually issued to athletes and performing artists participating in a cultural exchange program.
- *Refugee visa*, issued to persons fleeing the dangers of persecution, a war or a natural disaster.
- *Pilgrimage visa*: this type of visa is mainly issued to those intending to visit religious destinations, as for example in Saudi Arabia or Iran, and to take part in particular religious ceremonies. Such visas can usually be obtained relatively quickly and at low cost; those using them are usually permitted to travel only as a group, however. The best example is Hajj visas for Saudi Arabia.^[9]

- *Digital nomad visa*, for digital nomads who want to temporarily reside in a country while performing remote work. Thailand launched its SMART Visa, targeted at high expertise foreigners and entrepreneurs to stay a longer time in Thailand, with online applications for the visa being planned for late 2018.^[10] Estonia has also announced plans for a digital nomad visa, after the launch of its e-Residency program.^[11]

Long-stay visas

Visas valid for long term stays of a specific duration include:

- *Student visa* (F-1 in the United States), which allows its holder to study at an institution of higher learning in the issuing country. The F-2 visa allows the student's dependents to accompany them in the United States.
 - *Research visa*, for students doing fieldwork in the host country.
- *Temporary worker visa*, for approved employment in the host country. These are generally more difficult to obtain but valid for longer periods of time than a business visa. Examples of these are the United States' H-1B and L-1 visas. Depending on a particular country, the status of temporary worker may or may not evolve into the status of permanent resident or to naturalization.
 - *Journalist visa*, which some countries require of people in that occupation when travelling for their respective news organizations. Countries that insist on this include Cuba, China, Iran, Japan, North Korea, Saudi Arabia, the United States (I-visa), and Zimbabwe.
- *Residence visa*, granted to people obtaining long-term residence in the host country. In some countries, such as New Zealand, long-term residence is a necessary step to obtain the status of a permanent resident.
- *Asylum visa*, issued to people who have suffered or reasonably fear persecution in their own country due to their political activities or opinion, or features, or association with a social group; or were exiled from their own country.
- *Dependent visa*, issued to certain family members of holder of a long-stay visa of certain other types (e. g., to spouse and children of a qualified employee holding a temporary worker visa).

Immigrant visas

Granted for those intending to settle permanently in the issuing country (obtain the status of a permanent resident with a prospect of possible naturalization in the future):

- *Spouse visa* or *partner visa*, granted to the spouse, civil partner or de facto partner of a resident or citizen of a given country to enable the couple to settle in that country.
- *Family member visa*, for other members of the family of a resident or citizen of a given country. Usually, only the closest ones are covered:
 - Parents, often restricted to helpless ones, i. e. those who, due to their elderly age or state of health, need supervision and care;
 - Children (including adopted ones), often restricted to those who haven't reached the age of maturity or helpless ones;
 - Often also extended to grandchildren or grandparents, where their immediate parents or children, respectively, are for whichever reason unable to take care of them;
 - Often also extended to helpless siblings.
- *Marriage visa*, granted for a limited period before intended marriage or conclusion of a civil partnership based on a proven relationship with a citizen of the destination country. For example, a German woman wishing to marry an American man would obtain a Fiancée Visa (also known as a K-1 visa) to allow her to enter the United States. A K1 Fiancée Visa is valid for four months from the date of its approval.^[12]
- *Pensioner visa* (also known as retiree visa or retirement visa), issued by a limited number of countries (Australia, Argentina, Thailand, Panama, etc.), to those who can demonstrate a foreign source of income and who do not intend to work in the issuing country. Age limits apply in some cases.

Official Visas

These are granted to officials doing jobs for their governments, or otherwise representing their countries in the host country, such as the personnel of diplomatic missions.

- *A diplomatic visa* in combination with a regular or diplomatic passport.^[13]
- *Courtesy visas* are issued to representatives of foreign governments or international organizations who do not qualify for diplomatic status but do merit expedited, courteous treatment – an example of this is Australia's special purpose visa.

Foreign Exchange regulations of Indian Residents:

Indians travelling abroad can carry \$3,000 worth foreign exchange in cash, as per Reserve Bank of India regulation. RBI rules say that in connection with private visits abroad, for tourism purposes, etc, foreign exchange up to \$10,000, in any one financial year, may be obtained from an authorised dealer(bank) on a self-declaration basis. Travellers are allowed to purchase foreign currency notes/coins up to \$3,000. The balance amount can be taken in the form of travellers cheque or banker's draft. The ceiling of \$10,000 is applicable in aggregate and foreign exchange may be obtained for one or more than one visit provided the aggregate foreign exchange availed of in one financial year does not exceed the prescribed ceiling of \$10,000. This limit of \$10,000 per financial year can be availed of by a person along with foreign exchange for travel abroad for any purpose, including for employment or immigration or studies. However, no foreign exchange is available for visit to Nepal and/or Bhutan for any purpose.

Exceptions to this are (a) travellers proceeding to Iraq and Libya can draw foreign exchange in the form of foreign currency notes and coins not exceeding \$5,000 or its equivalent; (b) travellers proceeding to the Islamic Republic of Iran, Russian Federation and other Republics of Commonwealth of Independent States can draw entire foreign exchange in the form of foreign currency notes or coins. The \$3,000 limit is applicable to the amount of cash that an individual can carry. However, credit card holders can spend up to the full limit of their cards when travelling abroad. This spending is in addition to the limit of \$3,000 that individuals can carry in cash.
