

No. 18045/6/2019-F.II  
Government of India  
Ministry of Home Affairs  
(Foreigners Division)

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Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium, India Gate  
New Delhi – 110002, dated 18<sup>th</sup> September, 2019

**OFFICE MEMORANDUM**

**Subject : Proposals being received in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Foreigners Division) for grant of security clearance for visit of foreigners to various Educational Institutions**

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The undersigned is directed to say that Ministry of Home Affairs (Foreigners Division) is receiving proposals from various Educational Institutions including IITs seeking security clearance for visit of foreigners to their Institutions.

2. In the above context, it is hereby clarified that security clearance from the Ministry of Home Affairs for visit of foreigners to various Educational Institutions is necessary only in respect of foreigners belonging to Prior Reference Category countries intending to visit an Educational Institution situated in a Protected or Restricted Area. The Protected Areas notified under the Foreigners (Protected Areas) Order, 1958 fall between the 'Inner line' as defined in the said Order and the International Border of some States. Presently, the Protected Areas are – (i) whole of Arunachal Pradesh, (ii) parts of Himachal Pradesh, (iii) parts of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, (iv) parts of Rajasthan, (v) parts of Sikkim (between Inner Line and International Border) and (vi) parts of Uttarakhand. Presently, the Restricted Areas notified under the Foreigners (Restricted Areas) Order, 1963 are – (i) parts of Sikkim (between the Inner line and the West Bengal border) and (ii) parts of Andaman & Nicobar islands. The Prior Reference Categories for whom prior clearance of MHA is necessary are citizens of Afghanistan, China and Pakistan and foreign nationals having their origin in these countries. Besides, visit of Myanmar nationals to Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Jammu & Kashmir & Ladakh and Diglipur & Mayabunder in Andaman & Nicobar islands would require prior clearance of MHA.

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3. It is also clarified that entire area of the States of Manipur, Mizoram and Nagaland have been excluded (except for nationals of PRC countries as mentioned above) from the Protected Areas regime notified under the Foreigners (Protected Areas) Order, 1958 till 31.12.2022. Foreigners visiting these States will have to register themselves with the Foreigners Registration Officer (FRO) of the State/District they visit within 24 hours of their arrival. Further, 30 inhabited islands in the Union Territory of Andaman & Nicobar islands (list enclosed) have been excluded from the Restricted Area Permit (RAP) regime notified under the Foreigners (Restricted) Areas Order, 1963 till 31.12.2022 subject to certain conditions. Foreigners visiting these islands have also been exempted from registration requirements.

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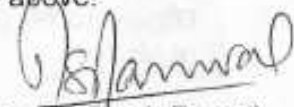
4. It is further clarified that powers for grant of Protected Area Permit (PAP) or Restricted Area Permit (RAP) to foreign nationals [**other than nationals of Prior Reference Category (PRC) countries or having their origin in such PRC countries as mentioned above**] in the following types of cases have been delegated to Home Department of the State Government/ UT Administration concerned and the Foreigners Regional Registration Officers (FRROs):-

- (i) A foreign national intending to visit a place in the PAP or RAP regime for activities other than tourism on Employment, Business or Student Visas
- (ii) A foreign national visiting a place for tourism purpose which is not opened for tourism
- (iii) Individual foreign tourists to visit places which are opened for tourism

Powers to grant PAP or RAP to individual foreign tourists [**except those who are citizens of Prior Reference Category (PRC) countries or having their origin in such PRC countries as mentioned above**] to places which are opened for tourism have also been delegated to the District Magistrate/ Deputy Commissioner concerned.

5. Further, as per extant instructions, no foreigner can visit or reside in any prohibited place, declared as such under the provisions of **the Official Secrets Act, 1923** without the permission of the jurisdictional authority i.e. Foreigners Regional Registration Officers (FRROs) / Foreigners Registration Officers (FROs).

6. It is accordingly requested that the Ministry of Human Resource Development may, through an appropriate advisory, bring the above provisions to the notice of all Educational Institutions coming under their purview for strict compliance. Proposals seeking security clearance for visit of foreigners requiring prior clearance of the Ministry of Home Affairs as explained in paras 2 & 3 above may be forwarded to this Ministry with all relevant details at least 8 weeks before the expected visit of the foreigner. In all other cases, requisite permission may be sought from the competent authority as explained in paras 4 & 5 above.

  
(Pratap Singh Rawat)


Under Secretary to the Govt. of India  
Tel. no. 23077506

To

Department of Higher Education  
[Shri Madhu Ranjan Kumar, Joint Secretary]  
Ministry of Human Resource Development  
Shastri Bhawan  
New Delhi

Copy to :

1. Bureau of Immigration [Shri Rajeev Ranjan Verma, Joint Director]
2. Ministry of External Affairs [Shri Amit Narang, Joint Secretary (CPV)]
3. Cabinet Secretariat [Shri K.G.Praveen Kumar, Director]

  
(Pratap Singh Rawat)  
Under Secretary (Foreigners)

Annexure

List of 30 islands in Andaman & Nicobar Islands excluded from the Restricted Area Permit (RAP) regime

1. East Island
2. North Andaman
3. Smith Island
4. Curfew Island
5. Stewart Island
6. Land Fall Island
7. Aves Island
8. Middle Andaman
9. Long Island
10. Strait Island
11. North Passage
12. Baratang
13. South Andaman
14. Havelock
15. Neil Island
16. Flat Bay
17. North Sentinel Island
18. Little Andaman
19. Chowra
20. Tillang Chong Island
21. Teresa
22. Katchal
23. Nancowry
24. Kamorta
25. Pulumilo
26. Great Nicobar
27. Little Nicobar
28. Narcondam Island
29. Interview island
30. Viper island (for day visits only)

Accordingly, foreigners will not require Restricted Area Permit (RAP) for visiting the above mentioned islands. Exclusion of the above islands from the RAP regime is subject to the following conditions:-

- (i) Citizens of Afghanistan, China and Pakistan and foreign nationals having their origin in these countries would continue to require Restricted Area Permit (RAP) to visit Andaman & Nicobar Islands. In such cases, the Restricted Area Permit (RAP) may be granted only after obtaining prior approval of the Ministry of Home Affairs. If any such national is found visiting these islands without the Restricted

Area Permit, necessary penal action may be taken under the relevant provisions of the Foreigners Act, 1946.

- (ii) For visiting Mayabunder and Diglipur, citizens of Myanmar will continue to require RAP which shall be issued only with the prior approval of the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- (iii) In the case of foreigners staying in hotels, lodges, guest houses, hostels, sarais, inns etc. in the islands, there is a mandatory requirement of submission of details of such foreigners in Form 'C' by the hotel keepers to the FRO concerned. FRO concerned shall ensure that all hotel keepers in the islands submit the Form 'C' without fail.
- (iv) Andaman and Nicobar Islands Administration shall take necessary action to strengthen their mechanism to monitor activities of foreigners. If anything adverse is found, appropriate penal action may be taken under relevant Acts including the Foreigners Act, 1946.
- (v) In order to ensure preservation of natural and marine resources (including marine parks and environment) of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands without affecting tourism and business at large, it should be ensured by the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Administration that the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Environment & Forests from time to time are strictly adhered to.
- (vi) Separate approvals of the competent authority would continue to be required for visiting Reserved Forests, Wildlife sanctuaries and Tribal reserves as is the case at present.
- (vii) The islands, wherein sensitive and critical defence installations may be operationalized in the future from time to time, may be added to the proscribed list of islands.
- (viii) The relaxation in RAP regime does not authorise access to areas housing Defence, Paramilitary and other sensitive establishments in these islands, and specific permission from the competent authority will continue to be required for the same.

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