

Embassy of India to Sweden and Latvia (Stockholm)

Frequently Asked Questions (as on 7th April 2020)

Embassy of India in Stockholm has compiled these FAQs based on the queries we receive on emails, emergency numbers and social media platforms covering a range of issues which have come up due to the extraordinary situation in view of COVID-19 challenge.

FAQs are divided into various sections. You may wish to go through the FAQs before writing an email or calling us on emergency numbers.

Assistance to stranded Indians

1. There are thousands of students, tourists and Indians on business visa who want to go back to India. When they can be taken from other countries, why not from the Sweden and Latvia?

We understand that thousands of Indian citizens including students, short term visa holder professionals, businesspersons and tourists, and many others are unable to go back to India due to COVID-19 related travel restrictions. As per the recent communication of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation of India, scheduled international flights into India remain suspended up to 14 April 2020. Government of India has advised the citizens to avoid non-essential travel. The Embassy of India in Stockholm will update the Indian citizens if there are any changes in the travel advisory through our social media platforms and website. We request Indian citizens in Sweden and Latvia to stay connected with us for updates through social media platforms and our website.

2. What help can Embassy of India in Stockholm provide Indian students/nationals stranded in Sweden and Latvia having problems with accommodation or food?

Given that Indian citizens in need of accommodation and food are spread across Sweden and Latvia, the Embassy of India in Stockholm is constantly working with organizations, community support groups and individuals across Sweden and Latvia so that we can reach out to stranded Indian citizens in a large number of areas to assist them.

The Embassy of India in Stockholm has formed community support groups, which are providing assistance to stranded Indians. Details of such associations can be seen on our

social media platforms. The list is being continuously updated. For updated list, please stay connected with our social media platforms.

The Embassy of India in Stockholm appreciates the generosity of these organizations, associations and individuals.

3. What advice does the Embassy provide in this situation?

Indian citizens in Sweden and Latvia should adhere to the advice of the Public Health Agency of Sweden and Latvia for their safety and well-being. These are trying times. The world is in uncharted waters. We can come out of this challenge only if we act responsibly and help each other.

Those who need extreme emergency assistance may call our helpline numbers +46 76 756 6084 and +46 76 792 2049 or email to us at ppt.stockholm@mea.gov.in /oci.stockholm@mea.gov.in /visa.stockholm@mea.gov.in. In your correspondence please include your name, phone number, current address, passport and visa details.

In case you want to help others

How do I volunteer to help Embassy of India in Stockholm/Indian nationals stranded in Sweden and Latvia?

Organizations/individuals willing to help stranded Indians may write to us at culture.stockholm@mea.gov.in or get in touch with the nearest Indian association in your area.

Cases where visas are expiring

What is Embassy of India in Stockholm's advice for those who are running out of their visa?

It is suggested to send Visa extension application to Migrationsverket by post (or by booking an appointment directly with them) before the date of expiry of Visa.

An appointment must be booked for visiting them, through their website, even if the application is sent through post. If it is hard to get the appointment, the best way is to initiate the process through post, before the date of expiry of Visa.

Please note that one must mention a clear reason that since India has prohibited all the flights till 14/04/2020, it is not possible to travel to India.

Link to fill up the application with Migrationsverket:

<https://www.migrationsverket.se/English/Private-individuals/Visiting-Sweden/Extend-a-visit.html> OR

<https://www.migrationsverket.se/Privatpersoner/Besoka-Sverige/Forlanga-besok.html>

Regarding travel planning

1. Should I book tickets? Till when the ban will be in place? Or is a new advisory expected?

As per the latest communication of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation of India, scheduled international flights into India remain suspended up to 14 April 2020. Considering this, it is not advisable to plan travel to India before 14th April. Please stay in touch with the Embassy of India in Stockholm through its social media platforms or check our website for updates. Any new information, whenever available shall be made available to all fellow Indians.

2. What guidance is currently offered for OCI holders/ other country nationals wanting to visit India for emergency reasons?

All visas and visa free travel to India for OCI card holders is suspended till 15 April 2020.

For updates beyond 15 April 2020, please stay in touch with the Embassy of India in Stockholm through its social media platforms or check our website for updates.

Passport/OCI/Attestation and other Consular Services

1. Can I come and submit the application at the Embassy?

The Embassy of India in Stockholm has suspended all the public dealing until further notice. We shall notify the resumption of these services on our website as well as on social media. However, we are accepting the applications through post.

2. My post has been delivered at Post Office/collection point but hasn't been picked up yet.

The time for the post application to reach the respective section has been impacted to a greater extent due to other prevailing emergencies. If your post status shows that it has been picked up, then it is safe with our post section. As soon as it reaches the concerned department, you shall be contacted.

3. I have queries regarding status of my application or documentation needed for the application. How shall I contact the Embassy?

The best way to contact us presently, is to email us:

For Visa, Attestation: visa.stockholm@mea.gov.in

For passport renewal/new passport/lost passport: ppt.stockholm@mea.gov.in

For passport cancellation and OCI cards, PCC: oci.stockholm@mea.gov.in

4. I have applied for passport renewal and my Visa extension is due but haven't received the new passport yet. What should I do?

Kindly understand that all the sectors and services are impacted due to COVID-19. If your Visa extension is due, you may fill in the details of current passport and start the process. Please add a remark or enclose a letter with Visa application that your new passport is under-process. You may ask your case officer to contact us directly, in case he/she has queries on it.

Message from the Ambassador of India to Sweden and Latvia

My dear fellow Indians,

Namaste!

The unprecedented challenge posed by COVID-19 calls for extraordinary measures. As efforts are being made across the globe to find a vaccine or a treatment for COVID-19, the best defence, at the moment, the world has is to rely on measures to contain the spread of Corona virus.

Governments across the world are taking steps through lockdowns or similar isolation and social distancing, to check the spread of Corona virus to bring people out of this crisis. Government of India is also taking determined measures to check the spread of COVID-19 through a lockdown of 21 days announced on 24th March 2020. A temporary ban on inbound international passenger flights is also in place till 14th April 2020.

All of you who are in Sweden and Latvia have made laudable contribution to strengthen India's hands in the fight against COVID-19 by staying put wherever you are despite facing hardships. I understand the pain of being far from loved ones during these difficult times.

The Embassy of India in Stockholm has been in touch with you and is listening to your concerns through its social media platforms, emails and emergency helplines. We are actively in touch with the Swedish and Latvian as well as relevant Indian authorities on the concerns of Indian citizens living in the Sweden and Latvia.

We are working with individuals, self-help groups, associations and organizations to put in place mechanisms to help and guide stranded Indians on their concerns regarding accommodation, food and other matters. I am happy to inform that a large number of individuals, help groups, associations and organizations have come forward to render help to Indians living in Sweden and Latvia. I applaud their generosity and kind gesture. The list of such helpful efforts is growing and is available on our social media platform.

We have worked with the Swedish and Latvian Governments to address the concerns of those Indian citizens whose visas are expiring but who cannot leave the country due to COVID-19 related travel restrictions.

On concerns regarding travel to India, the Embassy of India in Stockholm is in touch with the Indian authorities concerned and will keep Indian citizens in Sweden and Latvia updated as and when new travel advisories are issued by the Government of India. In the meanwhile, I request all of you not to believe in the misleading and mischievous information circulated by some elements.

I call upon all of you to follow the health advisories of Public Health Agencies. In addition, you may consider practicing simple Yoga postures and breathing exercises to relieve stress and anxiety and make your inner river of energy work for you to boost your overall health. We are regularly tweeting some simple Yoga exercises on our twitter handle. These are also available on Youtube as 'Yoga with Modi'.

Stay safe, stay calm and stay connected with us. My very best wishes for your safety and good health.

(Monika Kapil Mohta)