

**High Commission of India**  
**Canberra**

ICAO has mandated phasing out of all non-Machine Readable passports (non-MRP) with effect from 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2015. Since then, Government of India has received requests from some countries for relaxation of this mandate in respect of their citizens in India. Accordingly, attempts are underway to facilitate all foreigners who are already in India, holding handwritten, non-MRP passports with valid Indian visas, to allow them a hassle free exit whenever they depart from India, subject to other immigration requirements.

2. Further, ICAO also allows continued issue of handwritten, non-MRP passports in emergency cases. Accordingly, foreigners who, having lost their MRP passports, leaving India with handwritten non-MRP passports issued by their Embassies/Consulates, would be facilitated exit from India, as usual.

3. Meanwhile, as a general rule, High Commission / Consulates would not entertain any request for issue of visas on handwritten/non-MRP passports.

**4. In addition, Immigration authorities in India would also attempt to facilitate all Indian citizens with handwritten non-MRP passports re-entry into India irrespective of any deadline.**

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