

What is a diplomatic passport?

By IASToppers | 2023-05-27 15:10:00



What is a diplomatic passport?

Recently, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi surrendered his diplomatic passport.



[Ref: sbnri]

What is diplomatic passport?

- Diplomatic passports are also known as '**Type D**' passports.
- Diplomatic passports are issued to **Indian diplomats, government officials, and select individuals** who are authorised to undertake official travel on behalf of the Indian government.
- Diplomatic passports are **maroon in colour**.

What is the difference between Normal passport and Diplomatic passport?

- Diplomatic passport has **28 pages**.
- Normal passport has a **dark blue cover**, whereas a Diplomatic passport is a **maroon in colour**.
- Normal passport is valid for **10 years for adults and five years for minors**, diplomatic passports are issued for a **period of five years or less**.

How can one apply for a Diplomatic passport?

- Only the [Passport Seva Programme \(PSP\) Division](#) handles the applications for diplomatic/official passports.
 - **Passport Seva Programme (PSP) Division** is under the Ministry of External Affairs, in Patiala House in Delhi.
- However, a person can also apply for a Diplomatic passport at the **passport office attached to his present address**.

What are the benefits of Diplomatic passport?

Official identification:

- The diplomatic passport serves as an **official identification document** for individuals representing the **Indian government on diplomatic missions**.
- They help in establishing their **identity and official status**.

Diplomatic immunity:

- The holders of diplomatic passports are typically entitled to **certain privileges and immunities** as per international law.
- The immunities include **arrest, detention, and certain legal proceedings** in the host country, safeguarding their **ability to perform official duties without hindrance**.

Visa facilitation:

- Diplomatic passports often enjoy certain privileges when it comes to visa facilitation.
- Many countries offer **expedited visa processing or waive visa** requirements altogether for diplomatic passport holders.

Access to diplomatic channels:

- The diplomatic passport grants access to diplomatic channels and services provided by **Indian embassies, consulates, and other diplomatic missions worldwide**.
- This includes assistance with **consular services, protection, and support while abroad**.

Priority services:

- The holders of diplomatic passports may receive **priority services at airports** and during immigration procedures.
- The services include **dedicated immigration counters or expedited security and customs clearance**.

Official representation:

- Diplomatic passport signifies the **official representation of the Indian government** and confers a sense of authority and credibility while dealing with international **counterparts, foreign officials, and diplomatic communities**.

Can a citizen get a Diplomatic Passport?

- Diplomatic passports are issued based on **official designation and roles** within the government.
- They are **not available** for general public use.
- They cannot be obtained for **personal or leisure travel**.