

Indians get fake US, Canadian visas from Malaysia
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KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 11 — Malaysia's lax controls on Indian tourists appear to be helping them enter the US and Canada illegally while prospering a foreign syndicate offering fake visas.

The Times of India reported today that Delhi police have zeroed in on the a Pakistani and Punjabi syndicate operating out of Malaysia which has been making and selling forged visas to Indian nations for hundreds of thousands of ringgit to the US and Canada.

"RA Sanjeev, DCP (IGI Airport) said this was discovered after 11 people, 10 from Punjab and one from Haryana, were deported to India from various countries over the past two years," the Indian daily reported, referring to the country's deputy commissioner of police at the Indira Gandhi International Airport in the Indian capital.

The police official was reported saying that the visa scam had emerged in 2010, with three reported cases and rose to eight cases last year.

"When cases were filed against these people, they confessed that a group was operating out of Malaysia and their agents in India had contacted them. We are working at getting more details about the operation," Sanjeev was quoted as saying in by the English-language daily.

The newspaper also cited sources that said the passengers were first taken to Malaysia where they would get a visas on arrival.

It added that while waiting for their visas, the customers would then hop over to countries like New Zealand, Italy and Turkey before leaving for the US or Canada.

An Indian police official told the paper that it was easier taking them through Malaysia since it has a visa-on-arrival policy.

"In India, we are both better equipped and more stringent in our checking for fake visas. Secondly, the agents have been using a hit-and-trial method for obtaining visas.

"They placed orders for visas in various countries and as soon as one lot was ready, passengers would be taken to that country and flown to the US," the Times of India quoted an anonymous Indian police officer as saying.

Citing sources, the paper reported that several people had gained entry into the US through this method.

It added that 11 Indian nationals, mostly youths from the Punjab state had been caught before they reached the US and were deported.

"This revelation has come shortly after Delhi Police busted a massive human trafficking racket that involved passengers gaining illegal entry into the US via Guatemala in South

America.

"This came to light after 105 passports were found by customs officials in a bag at the IGI Airport. In this case, passengers would be taken to Guatemala, which also has a visa-on-arrival policy, and then made to travel through jungles into North America," the newspaper reported today.

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