

AGREEMENT BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA
AND
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
ON SIMPLIFICATION OF REQUIREMENTS FOR MUTUAL
TRAVELS OF CERTAIN CATEGORIES OF CITIZENS OF THE
TWO COUNTRIES

The Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Russian Federation, hereinafter referred to as "the Parties",

confirming their desire to enhance bilateral relations based on friendship and mutual understanding between the peoples of the two countries,

seeking to encourage contacts between businessmen, representatives of cultural, scientific and educational institutions and to promote tourism between the two countries,

wishing to ensure mutual simplification of requirements for travels by citizens of the States of the Parties, and

noting that the Agreement between the Government of the Russian Federation and the Government of the Republic of India on mutual travel regime for holders of diplomatic and service/official passports concluded at New Delhi on December 3, 2004, already exists,

have agreed as follows:

Article 1
General Provisions

1. The provisions of this Agreement shall apply to the holders of:
for the citizens of the Republic of India - national (ordinary) passport;
for the citizens of the Russian Federation – passport identifying a citizen of the Russian Federation abroad.

2. The provisions of this Agreement shall not affect the legislation of the State of each Party which regulates the issues connected with the foreigners' commercial or labor activities.

3. The legislation of the receiving State shall apply to the issues not covered by the provisions of this Agreement (for example, the refusal to issue a visa, recognition of the validity of travel documents, proof of sufficient means of subsistence, refusal of entry, the measures for expulsion and others).

4. The citizens of the State of one Party during their stay in the territory of the State of the other Party shall observe the legislation of the receiving State.

5. The citizens of the State of one Party shall enter (exit) the territory of the State of the other Party through the border check-points open for international traffic.

Article 2 Valid Documents

1. The citizens of the State of one Party shall enter, transit through, exit from and stay in the territory of the State of the other Party with valid documents and visas in accordance with his Agreement unless they are exempted from visa requirements according to the legislation of the State of each Party or other international agreements between the States of the Parties.

2. Minor citizens of the States of the Parties shall travel with their valid documents or when provided by the legislation of the States of the Parties with the valid documents of their accompanying legal representatives (parents, adopters, custodians, trustees) if they are listed in said documents and travel with them.

3. The competent authorities of the States of the Parties shall exchange specimens of their valid documents through diplomatic channels no later than 30 days after the signing of this Agreement.

4. The competent authorities of the States of the Parties shall inform each other of the introduction of new valid documents or changes in their existing valid documents and convey specimens of the new or changed valid documents through diplomatic channels no later than 30 days prior to introduction of new or changed valid documents.

Article 3

Documentary Evidence Regarding the Purpose of Travel

1. For the following categories of citizens of the Russian Federation and the Republic of India, the following documents shall be sufficient for justifying the purpose of their travel to the territory of the State of the other Party:

a) for members of official delegations who, following an official invitation to the Russian Federation or the Republic of India, participate in the meetings, consultations, negotiations or exchange programs and events held in the territory of the Russian Federation or in the territory of the Republic of India by intergovernmental organizations – a letter issued by the competent authorities of the Russian Federation or the Republic of India confirming that the applicant is a member of the delegation travelling to the territory of the State of the other Party to participate in the said events, accompanied by a copy of the official invitation;

b) for businessmen and representatives of the national associations of businessmen and manufacturers of the State of one Party – a written request from one of the following host national associations of businessmen and manufacturers:

for the Indian Party – Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) and National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM);

for the Russian Party – Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Russian Federation, All-Russian Public Organization “Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs”, All-Russian Public Organization of small and medium business “OPORA Rossii”, non-commercial organization “Russian Union of Commodity Producers (employers)”;

c) for persons participating in scientific, cultural or artistic activities, including university and other exchange programs - a written request from the host organization to participate in such activities;

d) for pupils, students, post-graduate students and accompanying teachers who undertake trips for the purposes of study or educational

training, including in the framework of exchange programs as well as other study related activities - a written request or certificate of enrollment from the host university, academy, institute, college or school or student card or certificate of the courses to be attended;

e) for the participants in official exchange programs organized by sister cities or regions – a written request from the head of administration (mayor) of the host city or region;

f) for the tourists – a properly issued contract for tourist services as well as a confirmation, which is issued in a proper manner by the organization that carries out tourist activities for the incoming foreign citizens in accordance with the legislation of the State of the receiving Party.

1. The written request mentioned in paragraph 1 of this Article shall contain the following information:

a) for the invited person – name and surname, date of birth, sex, nationality, number and type of the identity document, dates and purpose of the travel, number of entries, names and dates of birth of minor children accompanying the invited person;

b) for the inviting organization

- full name and legal and actual address;
- name, surname and position of the person who signs the request, and his/her telephone number.

2. For the categories of citizens mentioned in paragraph 1 of this Article, visas shall be issued according to the simplified procedure without requiring any further justification, invitation or validation concerning the purpose of the travel, in accordance with the legislation of the States of the Parties.

Article 4 Issuance of Multiple-Entry Visas

1. Diplomatic missions or consular offices of the State of one Party shall issue multiple-entry visas with a validity of up to 1 year to the categories of citizens of the State of the other Party referred to in subparagraphs a) through d) of paragraph 1 of Article 3 of this Agreement, provided that during the previous year they had obtained at

least one visa and used it in accordance with the legislation relating to entry and stay in the territory of the State of the receiving Party.

1. Diplomatic missions or consular offices of the State of one Party shall issue multiple-entry visas with a validity of up to 5 years to the categories of citizens of the State of the other Party referred to in subparagraphs a) through d) of paragraph 1 of Article 3 of this Agreement, provided that during the previous 2 years the said citizens had used a one year multiple-entry visa in accordance with the legislation relating to entry and stay in the territory of the State of the receiving Party and that there are reasons for requesting a long-term multiple-entry visa.

2. The citizens of the States of the Parties, mentioned in this Article, shall be issued multiple-entry visas for staying in the territory of the State of each Party for a period not exceeding 90 days per each period of 180 days.

Article 5

Duration of Procedures for Processing Visa Applications

1. Diplomatic missions or consular offices of the States of the Parties shall take a decision on a request to issue a single-entry or double-entry visa within 3 working days from the date of the receipt of the application and documents required for issuing the visa.

2. The diplomatic missions or consular offices of the States of the Parties shall take a decision on a request to issue a multiple-entry visa within 10 working days from the date of the receipt of the application and documents required for issuing the visa.

3. The period of time for taking a decision on a visa application may be extended for up to 30 days, notably when further scrutiny of the application is needed. Such extension shall be intimated to the applicant or his/her representative immediately.

Article 6

Exit in Case of Lost Documents

1. The citizens of the State of one Party, who have lost their valid documents while staying in the territory of the State of the other Party, may leave that territory on the basis of valid documents issued by the

diplomatic mission or consular offices of the State of their nationality ~~authorizing to cross borders with visa or other exit permit issued by the~~ competent authorities of the receiving State.

2. For the citizens mentioned in paragraph 1 of this Article visa or other exit permit shall be issued by the competent authorities of the receiving State free of charge.

Article 7

Extension of Visas in Exceptional Circumstances

For the citizens of the State of one Party, who are unable to leave the territory of the State of the other Party by the time stated in their visas for reasons of *force majeure* which can be proved by documents or confirmed otherwise, the terms of their visas shall be extended free of charge for the period required to exit from its territory.

Article 8

Transit in the Case of Exceptional Circumstances

1. The competent authorities of the State of one Party shall allow visa-free stay for a period of up to 72 hours in its territory to citizens of the State of the other Party on the way to a third country, in case of emergency landing of an aircraft or docking of a ship at a port due to exceptional circumstances (bad weather conditions or transportation problems, etc.) upon receiving a request from the pilot, captain or representative of transportation company.

2. The competent authorities of the States of the Parties reserve the right to set additional restrictions on the conditions of stay for the abovementioned categories of citizens in their respective territories.

Article 9

Visa Application in a Third Country

The citizens of the State of one Party may apply for the visas that are issued in accordance with this Agreement at a diplomatic mission or consular offices of the State of the other Party located in the territory of a third country.

Article 10

Waiver of Visa Application Fees

The fees for processing visas shall be waived for the following categories of persons:

- a) members of official delegations who, following an official invitation to the Russian Federation or the Republic of India, participate in meetings, consultations, negotiations or exchange programs or in events held in the territory of one of the States of the Parties by intergovernmental organizations;
- b) participants in official exchange programs organized by sister cities or regions.

Article 11

Suspension of the Agreement

Each Party may suspend this Agreement in whole or in part for reasons of protection of national security, protection of public order or public health. The decision of such suspension shall be notified to the other Party through diplomatic channels no later than 48 hours before its entry into force. The Party that has decided to suspend the application of this Agreement shall immediately inform the other Party in the same way about resumption of this Agreement.

Article 12

Settlement of Disputes

Any disputes between the Parties arising out of the interpretation or implementation of this Agreement shall be settled amicably by consultations and negotiations between them through diplomatic channels.

Article 13

Final Provisions

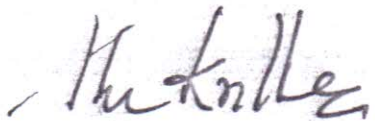
1. This Agreement shall remain in force for an indefinite period of time and come into force 30 days after the date of receipt through

diplomatic channels of the last written notice of the completion by the Parties of their domestic procedures necessary for its entry into force.

2. This Agreement may be amended by the written agreement of the Parties.

3. Each Party may terminate this Agreement by notifying the other Party in writing through diplomatic channels. This Agreement shall be terminated 90 days after the date of receipt of such notification.

Done at New Delhi on 21 December 2010, in two copies, each in the Russian, Hindi, and English languages, all of them being equally authentic. In case of any divergence of interpretation, the English text shall be used.



FOR THE GOVERNMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA



FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION