

AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION ON MUTUAL TRAVEL REGIME FOR HOLDERS OF DIPLOMATIC AND OFFICIAL/SERVICE PASSPORTS

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

Guided by their mutual interest in strengthening friendly relations;

Believing that provision of most favourable conditions for mutual visits of the nationals of the Republic of India and the Russian Federation holding diplomatic and official/service passports will contribute to this goal;

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

1. Nationals of a Party holding valid diplomatic or official/service passports shall be entitled to visa-free entry into, exit from, transit through and stay in the territory of the other Party for a period of ninety days from the day of entry into the territory of that Party except in cases envisaged in paragraph 2 of Article 4 of this Agreement.
2. Nationals of a Party referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article shall enter the territory of the other Party via border check-points open for international traffic.

Article 2

1. Nationals of a Party holding valid diplomatic or official/service passports, who are assigned to a diplomatic mission or a consular office located in the territory of the other Party shall not be required to obtain a visa for entry into the territory of the other Party. After entry into the territory of the other Party, they are subject to accreditation within a period of fourteen days on request from the diplomatic mission concerned and in accordance with the

internal regulations of the other Party. Such persons shall be given multiple entry visas for the period of accreditation.

2. Nationals of a Party holding valid diplomatic or official/service passports, who are assigned to official missions of that Party to international organizations located in the territory of the other Party shall enjoy the rights specified in paragraph 1 of this Article.

3. Rules governing entry, exit and stay, specified in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article, shall also apply to spouses, dependent children and dependent parents of persons mentioned in these paragraphs, provided they hold valid diplomatic or official/service passports or, in case of minor children, are included in the passport of their father or mother.

Article 3

1. When nationals of one Party having diplomatic or official/service passports, are taking part in the implementation of bilateral co-operation projects and according to the project terms, are required to stay in the territory of the other Party, for a period exceeding ninety days, the diplomatic missions or consular offices of the receiving Party, upon the decision of its competent authority, shall issue them multiple entry diplomatic or official/service visas valid till the completion of the project but not exceeding five years. Such nationals of the sending Party shall stay in the territory of the other Party during the period of validity of such visas.

2. In case the duration of the project is extended after the entry of persons mentioned in paragraph 1 of this Article, the visas can be extended on their expiry, by the competent authority of the receiving Party by granting, on the

territory of the receiving Party, subsequent multiple entry visas valid up to one year.

3. Rules governing entry, exit and stay, specified in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article shall also apply to spouses, dependent children and dependent parents of persons mentioned in these paragraphs provided that they hold valid diplomatic or official/service passports or, in case of minor children, are included in the passport of their father or mother.

Article 4

1. Nationals of a Party holding valid diplomatic or official/service passports, who take part in international meetings and conferences held in the territory of the other Party shall not be required to obtain a visa for entry to and stay in the territory of that Party. For purposes of this Article, international meetings and conferences shall mean meetings and conferences convened by a Party with its participation or under the auspices of international organizations.
2. Nationals of the Parties holding diplomatic or official/service passports, who are staff members of international organizations located in the territory of the other Party, shall be required to obtain visas for entry to and stay in the territory of that Party.

Article 5

Each Party shall reserve the right to deny entry into its territory, or reduce the duration of stay therein, of any national of the other Party whom it may consider undesirable.

Article 6

Should a national of a Party lose his/her diplomatic or official/service passport during his/her stay in the territory of the other Party, he/she shall notify

the competent authorities of the host Party. The diplomatic mission or consular office of the State of citizenship of such person shall issue such person either a new diplomatic, official/service passport or a temporary identification document to return to the State of citizenship and shall notify the competent authority of the host Party.

Article 7

Nationals of each Party holding valid diplomatic or official/service passports are obliged to observe the laws and regulations of the other Party upon entry into and during the entire period of stay in its territory.

Article 8

1. For the purpose of this Agreement, each Party shall, not later than thirty days before the provisional application or entry into force of this Agreement, send to the other Party, through diplomatic channels, specimens of its diplomatic and official/service passports, including their detailed description, and shall inform the procedure of their use.

2. Each Party shall notify the other Party, through diplomatic channels, of any modifications in the specimens of its diplomatic or official/service passports and of any change in the procedure of their use, including a detailed description thereof, not later than sixty days before their introduction.

Article 9

For reasons of national security, public order or public health, each Party shall have the right to suspend this Agreement, either in whole or in part. The suspending Party shall immediately notify the other Party accordingly in writing, through diplomatic channels.

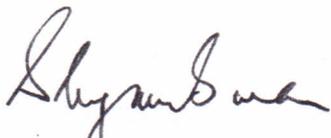
Article 10

1. The Parties may, upon mutual consent, make amendments and additions to the text of this Agreement by way of consultations through diplomatic channels and signing the necessary documents.
2. Any differences or disputes between the Parties regarding the interpretation and implementation of this Agreement shall be resolved through mutual consultations and negotiations.

Article 11

1. This Agreement shall be provisionally applied with effect from 1st February 2005 and will enter into force after the receipt, through diplomatic channels, of the last written communication of the completion by the Parties of their internal procedures necessary for its entry into force.
2. This Agreement shall be of indefinite duration. It may be terminated by either Party by way of notifying the other Party, in writing, through diplomatic channels. In this case, the Agreement shall be terminated immediately after the expiry of sixty days from the date of receipt of such notification.

Done at New Delhi on the 3rd day of December, 2004 in two originals, each in Hindi, Russian and English languages, all texts being equally authentic. In case of any differences in the interpretation of provisions of this Agreement, the English text shall prevail.



FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA



FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION