

India's Liberalised (Yet Restrictive) Visa Policy

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ABSTRACT India introduced its e-tourist visa (eTV) policy in November 2014. Despite initially impressive results in terms of increased arrivals, there is no indication that such modest success will create a significant impact on tourism, or prove to be sustainable in the long run. This paper finds that the policy's very design—and the various weaknesses in its modalities—make it less attractive to travelers, compared to the 'traditional' tourist visa. How can India overcome the shortcomings of its eTV policy? A successful, modernised visa policy, after all, can help India achieve its larger economic objectives. This paper draws lessons from other countries' experiences and argues that it would do well for India to learn them.

INTRODUCTION

In 2015, international tourist arrivals peaked worldwide, with a record 1,184 million overnight visitors – a 4.4-percent growth or an increase of 50 million tourists who traveled to an international destination during the year.¹ This marked an impressive six consecutive years of above-average growth in the industry, with international travels increasing by four percent or more every year since the post-crisis year of 2010.²

There is no doubt that tourism continues to expand and diversify, and has become one of the fastest-growing economic sectors in the world. It can be a key driver of socio-economic progress through the creation of jobs and enterprises,

export revenues, and infrastructure development. Thus, countries across the globe have started to put in place strategies that help ease tourism. Visa facilitation, for one, is beginning to gain momentum as a strategic tool.

In 2015, 61 percent of all the world's travelers required a traditional visa from the embassy of their destination prior to departure—this represents a fall from 77 percent in 2008.³ Between 2010 and 2015, a total of 54 destinations made a significant reform in their visa processes for citizens of at least 30 countries, by changing their visa policies from “traditional visa” to either “e-visa”, “visa on arrival”, or “no visa required”.⁴

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India is one such country that has moved to e-visa. Whereas — in a move away from the traditional visa process — it used to provide “visa on arrival” to citizens of 12 countries, India now has “e-visa” provisions for citizens of 150 countries. While this may appear impressive, however, India received below one percent share of foreign tourist arrivals in the international tourist arrivals in 2015. One of the reasons for such a low uptake is the country's lax attempt at visa facilitation. For instance, the design and implementation of the e-visa policy has been such that since its implementation on 27 November 2014, only six percent per year of foreign travelers to India have opted for an e-visa while the remaining 94 percent opted for a “traditional” visa. This raises questions on whether India's e-visa policy can make a real impact on the country's tourism sector, in particular, and on the national economy, in general.

This paper examines the reasons why reception to India's e-visa facility has been lukewarm. It analyses the trends in India's e-visa policy and discusses some lessons that the country can learn from other countries on the same path of visa-policy reforms, including Cambodia, Kenya

and Sri Lanka. The paper argues that the Indian initiative is rather poorly implemented, and offers recommendations for fixing the shortcomings. The findings of this paper are of interest to a wide audience, as the movement of persons is crucial not only for tourism but also for businesses that want to connect to global value chains as well as overseas partners.⁵

INDIA'S E-VISA POLICY: A BACKGROUND

On 27 November 2014, India introduced a visa facility—already popular in many other countries—whereby travelers from eligible countries can obtain a visa online to visit India rather than being required to apply for a “traditional” visa with the concerned Indian embassy or consulate (mission). Known as the e-tourist visa, this visa allows its holder to visit the country for recreation, sight-seeing, casual visits with friends or relatives, short-duration medical treatment, or casual business visit, for a period of 30 days. Introduced for 43 countries at its inception for a fixed fee and bank charges across the eligible countries, the e-tourist visa facility now covers 150 countries (see table 1) with a fee structure ranging from US\$0-US\$60 and reduced bank charges to 2.5 percent of the e-tourist visa.⁶

Table 1. Chronology of e-tourist visa policy

Announcement date	Implementation date	Countries granted e-tourist visa	Number of added countries
27 November 2014 ⁷	27 November 2014	Australia, Brazil, Cambodia, Cook Islands, Djibouti, Federal States of Micronesia, Fiji, Finland, Germany, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kingdom of Tongo, Laos, Luxembourg, Mauritius, Mexico, Myanmar, New Zealand, Niue, Norway, Oman, Palestine, Philippines, Republic of Kiribati, Republic of Korea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Republic of Nauru, Republic of Palau, Russia, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Thailand, Tuvalu, UAE, Ukraine, USA, Vietnam, Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea	43
1 January 2015 ⁸	1 January 2015 ⁹	Guyana	1
13 March 2015 ¹⁰	14 April 2015	Sri Lankan citizens from the Sinhala and Tamil New Year	1 (partial opening)
29 April 2015 ¹¹	1 May 2015	Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados,	31

		Belize, Bolivia, Canada, Cayman Islands, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominica, Dominic Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, France, Georgia, Grenada, Haiti, Holy See (Vatican), Honduras, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Macedonia, Montenegro, Montserrat, Nicaragua, Paraguay, St. Kitts and Nevis, Seychelles.	
29 July 2015 ¹²	30 July 2015	China, Hong Kong, Macao	3
7 August 2015 ¹³	15 August 2015	Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Aruba, Belgium, Bolivia, Colombia, Cuba, East Timor, Guatemala, Hungary, Ireland, Jamaica, Malta, Malaysia, Mongolia, Monaco, Mozambique, Netherlands, Panama, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Sweden, Taiwan, Tanzania, Turks and Caicos Islands, United Kingdom, Uruguay, Venezuela.	35
25 February 2016 ¹⁴	26 February 2016	Albania, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brunei, Bulgaria, Cape Verde, Comoros, Cote d'ivoire, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Eritrea, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Iceland, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Moldova, Namibia, Romania, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, South Africa, Swaziland, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Trinidad and Tobago, Zambia and Zimbabwe.	37

Table 2. Performance of e-Tourist visa policy, Dec 2014 – Mar 2016

Month	Year	e-Tourist visa		Total Foreign Tourist Arrivals (TFTAs)		e-Tourist visa as a share of TFTAs (%)
		Total (number)	Year on Year Growth rate (%)	Total (number)	Year on Year Growth rate (%)	
December	2014	14083	–	877000	–	1.61
January	2015	25023	77.68	790000	-9.92	3.17
February	2015	24985	-0.15	761000	-3.67	3.28
March	2015	25851	3.47	730000	-4.07	3.54
April	2015	19139	-25.96	540000	-26.03	3.54
May	2015	15659	-18.18	511000	-5.37	3.06
June	2015	15557	-0.65	513000	0.39	3.03
July	2015	21476	38.05	633000	23.39	3.39
August	2015	22286	3.77	589000	-6.95	3.78
September	2015	31729	42.37	540000	-8.32	5.88
October	2015	56477	78.00	680000	25.93	8.31
November	2015	83501	47.85	815000	19.85	10.25
December	2015	103617	24.09	913000	12.02	11.35
January	2016	88162	-14.92	844000	-7.56	10.45
February	2016	117210	32.95	847000	0.36	13.84
March	2016	115677	-1.31	817000	-3.54	14.16
Average		48777	19.14	712500	0.43	6.41

Source: Monthly press releases, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India.

Following its inception, the e-tourist visa policy met with some initial success. There was a rise in the absolute number of e-tourist visas issued, from 14,083 in December 2014 to 115,677 in March 2016 (see Table 2). Travelers' preference for e-tourist visas also increased over the same period – the share of travelers that obtained an e-tourist visa in the total foreign tourist arrivals (TFTAs) went up from 1.61 percent in December 2014 to 14.16 percent in March 2016 (see Table 2).¹⁵

However, there has yet to be any indication that such initial success will be sustainable. The month-on-month growth rate of e-tourist visas issued has been rather volatile, in fact, averaging only 19 percent from December 2014 to March 2016. Further, the average share of e-tourist visas in the TFTAs continues to be low: on average, only six percent of travelers to India from December 2014 to March 2016 opted for an e-tourist visa while the remaining 94 percent obtained their physical visa from the concerned Indian embassy.

A similar pattern emerges from data on the growth of e-tourist visas over time across countries (see table 3) and the growth of e-tourist visas as a share of TFTAs (see table 4). For instance, the absolute number of e-tourist visas issued to US citizens has gone up from 3,417 in December 2014 to 15,512 in March 2016. Moreover, Americans' preference for e-tourist visas has increased over the same period: the share of American citizens who obtained an e-tourist visa in the total arrivals of Americans went up from two percent in December 2014 to 16 percent in March 2016. Still, the month-on-month growth rate of e-tourist visas issued to Americans has averaged at only 26 percent over the period December 2014 to March 2016. The average share of e-tourist visas issued to Americans in their total arrivals is also low, with only nine percent of American travelers to India in that period opting for an e-tourist visa and the remaining 91 percent obtaining a traditional visa.

It would thus be premature to make any conclusions that India's liberalised visa regime would boost international arrivals and strengthen

the country's objective of positioning itself as a “Must Experience” and “Must Revisit” destination for global travelers.

WHAT LIMITS THE SUCCESS?

Is the e-visa facility an answer to modernising the tourism industry? Yet why do both the growth rate of e-tourist visas and share of e-tourist visas in TFTAs not look all that encouraging?

First, the modalities of the e-tourist visa policy are such that foreign travelers end up preferring a traditional visa from the Indian embassy. For instance, instruction number 8 on the official website states that “the validity of visa will be 30 days from the date of arrival in India”.¹⁶ Moreover, instruction numbers 11 and 12 state that “e-tourist visa (eTV) is allowed for a maximum of two visits in a calendar year” and “e-tourist visas once issued on arrival is only single entry, non-extendable, non-convertible and not valid for visiting protected/restricted and cantonment areas”, respectively. Travelers who intend to travel to India for more than twice a year, with each visit beyond 30 days, would be biased for the traditional visa whose conditions are more relaxed; the cost of e-visa is also more prohibitive for some countries.^{17 18} A US citizen, for example, has two options: One, an e-tourist visa which allows two visits to India in a year, for 60 days in total with each visit not exceeding 30 days. This costs US\$ 120 (for two visits) in visa fees.¹⁹ Or two, a tourist visa to be obtained from the proper Indian Embassy, which may be a 10-year, multiple-entry tourist visa costing US\$ 100 in visa fees.²⁰ Moreover, the period of stay for each visit is generally a maximum of up to six months from the date of entry.²¹ Although the actual duration of the visa will be at the discretion of the Consulate, there is a high possibility that US citizens applying for a tourist visa at the Indian embassy may be endorsed with a 10-year, multiple-entry tourist visa (as against single-entry e-tourist visa available for a maximum of two visits) where each

Table 3. Performance of e-Tourist visa policy over time across countries

	Dec 2014	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
	2015															
USA	3417	5933 (73.65)	7748 (30.59)	8595 (10.94)	6092 (-29.13)	5922 (-2.79)	6489 (9.57)	7231 11.44	5779 (-20.08)	5936 (2.73)	9432 (58.88)	13636 (44.57)	20299 (48.86)	13374 (-34.11)	16234 (21.38)	15512 (-4.44)
Australia	1124	2210 (96.61)	2116 (-4.22)	2164 (2.24)	2186 (1.01)	1401 (-35.90)	1504 (7.38)	1662 (10.49)	1605 (-3.47)	2697 (68.08)	3123 (15.80)	4025 (28.87)	5637 (40.05)	4629 (-17.89)	4266 (-7.82)	4384 (2.76)
Canada	-	-	-	-	-	-	756	1353 (78.95)	1424 (5.25)	1440 (1.15)	2479 (72.12)	3933 (58.63)	4559 (15.92)	3615 (-20.72)	4935 (36.52)	4500 (-8.81)
China	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2018	1655 (-18)	2722 (64.50)	3212 (18)	3491 (8.69)	5755 (64.84)	5194 (-9.75)
France	-	-	-	-	-	-	526	1531 (191.21)	1952 (27.50)	1656 (-15.16)	4004 (141.76)	6379 (59.32)	4601 (-27.88)	5290 (14.98)	9471 (79.04)	7577 (-20)
Germany	570	1634 (186.49)	2973 (81.96)	3785 (27.29)	1793 (-52.62)	1464 (-18.36)	1122 (-23.38)	1460 (30.20)	2229 (52.61)	2291 (2.79)	3965 (73.07)	4676 (17.94)	5036 (7.69)	3729 (-25.94)	5767 (54.64)	5992 (3.91)
Israel	-	448	455 (1.52)	434 (-4.49)	-	-	-	-	-	1145	-	-	-	-	-	-
Japan	606	-	522	514 (-1.48)	454 (-11.83)	453 (-0.13)	-	511	760 (48.68)	898 (18.16)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Korea	1551	4569 (194.68)	1919 (-58)	1652 (-13.91)	894 (-45.89)	673 (-24.70)	667 (-0.83)	1196 (79.24)	943 (-21.19)	-	-	-	1896	3280 (72.96)	2520 (-23.16)	-
Mexico	-	-	-	757	561 (-25.96)	495 (-11.73)	384 (-22.37)	601 (56.49)	-	844	-	-	-	-	-	-
Netherlands	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1461	-	-	-	-
New Zealand	715	643 (-10.11)	457 (-28.90)	494 (7.99)	511 (3.50)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Philippines	437	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Russia	2121	3518 (65.88)	3688 (4.82)	3394 (-7.96)	2348 (-30.81)	916 (-60.99)	394 (-57.03)	492 (24.95)	528 (7.40)	2253 (326.64)	6822 (202.74)	9667 (41.71)	8446 (-12.64)	7279 (-13.82)	8144 (11.88)	5716 (-29.81)
Singapore	601	423 (-29.68)	-	-	-	381	425 (11.47)	-	495	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Spain	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1192	-	-	-	-	-	2302
Thailand	-	-	-	-	681	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
UAE	-	443	455 (2.67)	-	-	553	420 (-24.04)	1441 (243.07)	1988 (37.95)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
UK	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2932	12877 (339.22)	19982 (55.18)	24671 (23.47)	22367 (-9.34)	32655 (46.00)	32089 (-1.73)
Ukraine	1149	2500 (117.53)	1512 (-39.53)	1088 (-28)	834 (-23.33)	471 (-43.56)	-	-	-	-	1209	1695 (40.25)	1730 (2.08)	2521 (45.71)	2344 (-7.03)	1920 (-18.09)

Source: Monthly press releases, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India. Figures in parentheses represent year-on-year growth rate. '-' means no information available either because the country was not eligible for the e-tourist visa or the ministry has not published the information. The ministry publishes data on only the top 10 countries for e-tourist visa.

Table 4. E-tourist visa as a share of total foreign tourist arrivals

Month	Year	USA	Germany	Australia	Canada	China	France	Russia	Singapore	UK	Japan	Korea	UAE
December	2014	2	-	3	-	-	-	6	3	-	3	-	-
January	2015	5	7	8	-	-	-	13	-	-	-	31	-
February	2015	8	11	11	-	-	-	16	-	-	3	-	-
March	2015	10	12	11	-	-	-	20	-	-	3	-	-
April	2015	9	11	13	-	-	-	25	-	-	3	-	-
May	2015	7	11	10	-	-	-	-	3	-	3	-	-
June	2015	6	9	11	6	-	4	-	3	-	-	-	-
July	2015	7	9	12	8	-	7	-	-	-	4	-	-
August	2015	8	13	11	10	-	12	-	4	-	5	-	19
September	2015	10	15	15	11	11	13	-	-	7	5	-	-
October	2015	11	16	14	10	10	20	16	-	17	-	-	-
November	2015	11	17	12	11	12	27	24	-	22	-	-	-
December	2015	12	21	12	12	14	25	29	-	23	-	-	-
January	2016	10	14	14	9	15	21	27	-	24	-	21	-
February	2016	15	19	19	12	22	32	28	-	31	-	-	-
March	2016	16	20	19	15	22	32	31	-	30	-	-	-

Source: Monthly press releases, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India. '-' represents no information available either because the country was not eligible for the e-tourist visa or the ministry has not published the information. The ministry publishes data only from the top 10 countries to whom the e-tourist visa is issued and top 15 from where tourists arrived in the country, and the two lists may not always be compatible.

visit is generally a maximum up to six months (as against 30 days during each visit under an e-tourist visa), and all this for a visa fee of US\$ 100 (as against an e-tourist visa fee of US\$ 60 for each 30-day single-entry visit).²² Moreover, US citizens with a multiple-entry Indian tourist visa obtained from the India embassy face no restriction with regards to having a gap of at least two months between two separate visits to India; there is also no requirement for a re-entry permit.²³ However, US citizens on an e-tourist visa, although not facing such restriction, once they have exited India, would then need to re-apply for a tourist visa to enter India once more.

There is also the problem posed by the discrepancy in the name and the modalities of the policy. To the average traveler, being issued an e-tourist visa means that, to begin with, the e-tourist visa application is successful. This observation is gleaned from instruction 6 on the official website which states that “applicant should carry a copy of eTV along with him/her at the time of travel”. However, instruction 12 on the official website states, “e-tourist visa issued on

arrival (emphasis added).” This raises two important questions: First, is the policy one of 'e-tourist visa' or that of 'visa on arrival enabled through electronic travel authorization'? Second, given the discrepancies in the practice, it is not clear whether the granted electronic copy of the e-tourist visa gives discretion to the Immigration Officer to not issue the same to the traveler when he/she arrives at the designated airport.²⁴

A third issue relates to the name and the declared objective of the policy. For instance, the policy encourages foreign travelers to visit India for recreation, sight-seeing, casual visit to meet friends or relatives, *short duration medical treatment or casual business visit* (emphasis added). Yet the 'Frequently asked questions relating to tourist visa' available on the website of the Bureau of Immigration, Ministry of Home Affairs, states: 1. “For persons coming for medical treatment, there is a special category of Medical Visa. Foreign nationals coming for medical treatment will have to come only on Medical Visa and not on Tourist visa”; and 2. “. If a person holding 'tourist visa' is found to be involved in business activities, action

may be taken for visa violations". This lack of clarity raises the question of whether travelers holding an e-tourist visa can engage in activities such as short duration medical treatment or casual business visit without being held up for visa violations.²⁵ The available information also fails to provide details on what constitutes a 'casual business visit' or a 'short duration medical treatment'.

This lack of clarity and flexibility around the e-tourist visa policy is compounded by technical issues. Instruction 14 on the official website, for example, states: "Please be careful while making payment of the eTV fee. If the number of unsuccessful attempts is more than three (03), then the application id would be blocked and the applicant would be required to apply afresh by filling the application form again and regenerating a new application id."²⁶ While there is plenty of information on the website to ensure seamless payment transactions, international travelers have faced difficulties in making the online payment, soon finding their application blocked.²⁷ While there have also been success stories of travelers receiving their electronic visas with relative ease,²⁸ they seem to be outweighed by complaints. Travelers are wondering whether the e-visa is worth going through the cumbersome process for.²⁹

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

India's e-tourist visa policy is currently available to foreign travelers from 150 countries, with a partial opening to Sri Lanka. Despite its potential in easing the procedures to obtain an Indian tourist visa online, travelers appear to still prefer the old way. The hope that the e-tourist visa would impact tourist arrivals does not seem to have lived up to expectations yet.

The following recommendations should help improve the design of the policy. A more sound policy will in turn enable India to maximise the

potential economic benefits of increased tourism.³⁰

1. The government must bring consistency in the name and the modalities of the policy. Given the current structure, it appears that the government does issue the applicant with a tourist visa electronically and the electronic tourist visa is then exchanged for a visa stamp placed in the traveler's passport at the designated port of entry in India.³¹ Therefore, if the objective of the policy is to grant foreign travelers with a visa then it is essential that the government does away with stating "...issued on arrival" in both the approved emails which contain the issued e-tourist visa and instruction number 12 on the official website. Rather, localising examples from countries such as Kenya and Cambodia, the government should simply state, "after receiving your electronic tourist visa (with a visa number) on your registered email, print it out and bring it along with your valid passport when you travel to India. The email print will then be exchanged for a visa stamp which will be placed in your passport at designated arrival airports in India. Designated arrival airports are those where entry through e-visa is valid".³²

The government can also follow in the footsteps of Sri Lanka by adopting an Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA) system where the foreign traveler is granted with an ETA online.³³ Upon arrival at the designated airport, the ETA-holder is then issued a tourist visa and a visa stamp is placed in their passports. In this case, the Indian government would need to rename its policy to 'visa on arrival through ETA', and make necessary changes to the system such that travelers are provided with an ETA number which would then translate to a visa on arrival at the designated airport in India.

Still following the Sri Lankan ETA system, it would be helpful if the government provides a

sample of the email with details on the status either of the e-tourist visa application or the ETA application. This would help avoid confusion regarding what constitutes as e-tourist visa (eTV) which the applicant should carry with her/him at the time of travel.^{34,35}

2. If the policy also aims to encourage short-duration medical treatment or casual business visit, it will help to rename the 'e-tourist visa' to simply 'e-visa'. Countries that do provide visas electronically such as Kenya, Cambodia and Turkey, call their electronic visa polices as 'e-visas' where an e-visa granted can be used for either of the activities. However, if the government is keen on continuing with the name, 'e-tourist visa', then it must reduce the scope of activities for foreign travelers to "recreation, sight-seeing, and casual visit to meet friends or relatives" so that it does not contradict the 'Frequently asked questions relating to tourist visa' available on the Bureau of Immigration, Ministry of Home Affairs. Alternatively, the government can update these FAQs.

In the Sri Lankan ETA system, before starting the application, three options are given to the traveler: (1) Tourist ETA; (2) Business Purpose ETA; and (3) Transit ETA. Upon choosing an option, the system then takes the foreign traveler to the landing page of the concerned ETA application. For instance, if the option is 'Business Purpose ETA', the system then proceeds to the appropriate application page where the traveler chooses one of the identified activities which he/she will carry out when in Sri Lanka under 'Business Purpose ETA'.³⁶ A similar process applies for the option, 'Tourist ETA'.

By correcting the misnomer and providing details on the activities foreign travelers can undertake, it will avoid confusion and redirect foreign travelers who may have avoided

because of the discrepancy in the name and objectives stated on different official information sources. Moreover, by streamlining the application processes, it will help in collecting data which can then be used to devise strategies to maximise economic benefits. While collecting the data is one part of the analysis, it is essential that the government adheres to its commitment under 'Open Government Data' and make the data publicly available. Data should have semantic interoperability properties, too. Data should be complemented with complete metadata, and should be made available in machine-readable formats rather than the existing format (PDF) which is easily readable by humans but not by machines.

3. The policy must be designed in such a manner that foreign travelers can come for more than the current prescribed length of stay of 30 days on such a visa. This can be achieved by either increasing the initial (current) prescribed length of stay of 30 days or by allowing visa extension while the foreign traveler is in India, or a combination of both. In Kenya, for instance, foreign travelers may be issued an e-visa with a stay period not exceeding 90 days from the date of arrival. The stay period may be renewed for a further 90 days at the immigration headquarters in Nairobi, giving the visitor a maximum of 180 days of stay.³⁷ Likewise, in Cambodia, a foreign traveler may be issued an e-visa with a stay period not exceeding 30 days from the date of arrival. This can be further extended to stay for 30 days at Cambodian National Police Immigration Department, Ministry of Interior.³⁸

Further, the government can relax the current single-entry visa to a multiple-entry visa with no requirement for a re-entry permit.

Therefore, notwithstanding reciprocity, political diplomacy, obligations arising out of

the international agreements to which India is signatory, and national security, the government of India should allow foreign travelers to visit India on an e-visa for a stay period which is beyond the current 30 days from the date of arrival in India. It should provide the traveler the opportunity to extend the stay period with the concerned authorities in India. During their stay period on an e-visa, foreign travelers should be allowed to enter India multiple times with no requirements for a re-entry permit.³⁹

4. The government can focus on integrating Indian tourism with regional tourism. One, countries in the Asia and the Pacific belong to the world's top destinations.⁴⁰ The region has been witnessing a robust growth in international tourism.⁴¹ It is also witnessing a rising market share from international travelers, and their citizens are strong contenders in tourism expenditure.^{42,43}

One of the ways the government can facilitate the entry of foreign travelers from the Asia Pacific region to India, as well as regional foreign travelers to India, is by taking advantage of the increased openness in the region.⁴⁴ This can be achieved by either entering regional joint visa agreements that allow travelers from a third country to move freely between member countries once admitted by one of the participating countries, or increasing reciprocation (see Table 5) to visa policies of member countries of the region.

The above recommendations will not only help India in enacting its 'Act East' policy but will also potentially reinforce India's call for manufacturers to 'Make in India' by facilitating business visas. Further, it will strengthen India's bargaining power in negotiating joint visa agreements for facilitating greater reciprocity, and also have the potential of creating spillovers while negotiating regional or international trade and investment agreements.⁴⁵

Table 5 – Visa requirements for Indian tourists of countries that are offered an Indian e-tourist visa

Countries	Visa not Required (Visa Exemption) ⁴⁶	Visa Required			Reference	Last Updated
		Visa on Arrival	e-Visa	Manual Application at the embassy/representative office prior/overseas mission to commencement of travel ⁴⁷		
Anguilla	No	No	No	Yes ⁴⁸	www.gov.ai/visas_travel.php	26th January 2016
Antigua and Barbuda	No	No ⁴⁹	No	Yes	Email from the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, Consulate General New York dated 23rd July 2015	23rd July 2015
Australia	No	No	No	Yes	http://www.vfsglobal.com/	26th January 2016
Bahamas	No	No	No	Yes	http://www.bahamas.gov.bs/wps/wcm/connect/bf838397-2677-410e-9987-87fa188e4966/Visa+Requirements+for+Visitors+Travelling+to+The+Bahamas1.pdf?MOD=AJPERES	26th January 2016
Barbados	No	No	No	Yes	http://www.foreign.gov.bb/UserFiles/File/June%202012.pdf	26th January 2016
Belize	No	No	No	Yes	http://www.belize.org/tiz/immigration-procedures	27th January 2017
Brazil	No	No	No	Yes	http://novadelhi.itamaraty.gov.br/en-us/visas.xml	27th January 2017
Cambodia	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	http://www.embassyofcambodia.org/faq.html https://www.evisa.gov.kh/Default.asp	27th January 2017
Canada	No	No	No	Yes	http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/visas.asp?country=India	27th January 2017
Cayman Islands	No	No	No	Yes	www.immigration.gov.ky/portal/page?_pageid=4121,7117326&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL	27th January 2017
Chile	No	No	No	Yes	http://www.echileindia.com/visa.htm	27th January 2017
China	No	No	No	Yes	http://www.visaforchina.org	1st February 2017
Cook Islands	Yes – up to 31 days	Yes	No	No ⁵⁰	http://www.cookislands.travel/cook-islands/cook-island-tourism/information	2nd February 2017
Costa Rica	No ⁵¹	No	No	Yes	http://www.costarica-embassy.org/index.php?q=node/51#1	29th January 2016
Djibouti	No	No ⁵²	No	Yes	http://wikitravel.org/en/Djibouti	29th January 2016
Dominica	Yes – up to 6 months	Yes ⁵³	No	Yes ⁵⁴	http://www.dominica.dm/index.php/entry-requirements	9th June 2016
Dominican Republic	No	No ⁵⁵	No	Yes	http://www.dr-embassy-india.com/visa.html	29th January 2016
Ecuador	Yes – up to 90 days	No	No	Yes ⁵⁶	Email from Embassy of Ecuador in India dated 21st July 2015 ⁵⁷	21st July 2015
El Salvador	No ⁵⁸	No	No	Yes ⁵⁹		
Estonia	No	No	No	Yes	Schengen area (http://www.newdelhi.vm.ee/consular_information/visa_information)	29th January 2016
Fiji	No	Yes	No	Yes	http://www.fijihighcom.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=40&Itemid=46	29th January 2016

India's Liberalised (Yet Restrictive) Visa Policy

Finland	No	No	No	Yes	http://www.finland.org.in/public/default.aspx?nodeid=34946&contentlan=2&culture=en-us	30th January 2016
France	No	No	No	Yes	Schengen area (http://www.newdelhi.vm.ee/consular_information/visa_information)	30th January 2016
Georgia	No	No	Yes	Yes	https://www.geoconsul.gov.ge/HtmlPage/Html/View?id=32&lang=Eng https://www.evisa.gov.ge/GeoVisa/	1st February 2016
Germany	No	No	No	Yes	Schengen area (http://www.newdelhi.vm.ee/consular_information/visa_information)	1st February 2016
Grenada	Yes – 6 months	No	No	Yes ⁶⁰	Email from the Marketing Tourism Authority dated 22nd July 2015 ⁶¹	16th February 2016
Guyana	No	Yes ^{62,63}	No	Yes	http://www.moha.gov.gy/images/immigration/immigration.pdf	16th February 2016
Haiti	Yes–upto 90 days	Yes ⁶⁴	No	Yes ⁶⁵	http://www.haiti.org/visa-entry-requirements-for-haiti/	9th June 2016
Honduras	No ⁶⁶	No	No	Yes ⁶⁷	http://www.indemguatemala.org/traveling-to-guatemala/	2nd February 2016
Hong Kong	Yes–upto 14 days	Yes ⁶⁸	No	Yes ⁶⁹	http://in.chineseembassy.org/eng/lssw/hzqz/t61663.htm	8th June 2016
Indonesia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	http://evisa.kbri-newdelhi.go.id/	8th June 2016
Israel	No	No	No	Yes	http://www.israelvisa-india.com/#	2nd February 2016
Japan	No	No	No	Yes	http://www.in.emb-japan.go.jp/short_term%20visas.html	1st February 2016
Jordan	No	Yes	No	Yes	http://www.jordanembassyindia.org/	1st February 2016
Kenya	No	No	Yes	Yes	http://www.kenyaembassy.com/visa.html	23rd February 2016
Kiribati	No	No	No	Yes	http://www.kiribatitourism.gov.ki/index.php/practicalinformation/visainformation	23rd February 2016
Laos	No	Yes	No	Yes	http://www.laos-guide-999.com/visa-on-arrival.html	23rd February 2016
Latvia	No	No	No	Yes	Schengen area (http://www.newdelhi.vm.ee/consular_information/visa_information)	23rd February 2016
Liechtenstein	No	No	No	Yes	Schengen area (http://www.newdelhi.vm.ee/consular_information/visa_information)	23rd February 2016
Lithuania	No	No	No	Yes	Schengen area (http://www.newdelhi.vm.ee/consular_information/visa_information)	23rd February 2016
Luxembourg	No	No	No	Yes	Schengen area (http://www.newdelhi.vm.ee/consular_information/visa_information)	23rd February 2016
Macao	Yes– upto 30 days	Yes ⁷⁰	No	Yes ⁷¹	http://in.chineseembassy.org/eng/lssw/hzqz/t61663.htm	8th June 2016
Marshall Islands	No	No	No	Yes	http://www.visitmarshallislands.com/travel-to-the-marshall-islands	1st February 2016
Mexico	No ⁷²	No	No	Yes	https://embamex2.sre.gob.mx/india/index.php/es/visas	23rd February 2016
Micronesia	No	No	No	Yes	http://www.fsmembassydc.org/visa.htm#4	23rd February 2016
Montenegro	No	No	No	Yes	http://www.mvpei.gov.me/en/sections/consular-affairs/visa-regimes-for-foreign-citizens/india	1st February 2016

India's Liberalised (Yet Restrictive) Visa Policy

Montserrat	Yes	Yes	No	No	Email dated 14th July 2016. ⁷³	14th July 2016
Myanmar	No	No ⁷⁴	Yes ⁷⁵	Yes	http://www.visasmyanmar.com/visa-tips/apply-myanmar-visa-from-india.html	5th March 2016
Nauru	No	No	No	Yes	Email dated 13th June 2016. ⁷⁶	13th June 2016
New Zealand	No	No	No	Yes	http://www.newzealand.com/in/visas-and-immigration/	1st February 2016
Niue Island	No	Yes	No	Yes	For all visitors to Niue you will receive a free 30 day visa upon arrival. If you wish to extend your stay on the Island, you are to apply for a visa through our immigration office on email at immigration.office@mail.gov.nu	19th July 2015
Norway	No	No	No	Yes	Schengen area (http://www.newdelhi.vn.ee/consular_information/visa_information)	30th January 2016
Oman	No	Yes ⁷⁷	Yes ⁷⁸	Yes	https://evisa.rop.gov.om/voa http://www.rop.gov.om/english/dg_pr_visas_tourist.asp	9th June 2016
Palau	No	Yes	No	No	Email dated 25th July 2015. ⁷⁹	25th July 2015
Palestine	No Visa is required to enter Palestine except that of the country via which Palestine is accessible – Israel, Jordan or Egypt. Visa is subject to these countries.				http://palestine.dk/palestine/entry-requirements/	
Papa New Guinea	No	No	No	Yes	http://www.immigration.gov.pg/visa.html	30th January 2016
Paraguay	No	No	No	Yes	http://www.paraguayembassy.in/visa_rqmnt.php http://www.paraguayembassy.in/form/Tourist%20Visa%20Requirments.jpg	30th January 2016
Philippines	Yes ⁸⁰	No	No	Yes	http://newdelhipe.dfa.gov.ph/index.php/2014-04-14-03-10-05/78-consular-services/108-visa-application-requirements	30th January 2016
Republic of Korea	No	No	No	Yes		30th January 2016
Republic of Macedonia	No	No	No	Yes	http://www.mfa.gov.mk/index.php/	1st February 2016
Russia	No	No	No	Yes	http://www.russianembassy.net/rusvisa.html#tourist	31st January 2016
Saint Christopher and Nevis	Yes	Yes ⁸¹	Yes	Yes	http://www.stkittsnevis.org/visas.html	9th June 2016
Samoa	Yes–upto 60 days	Yes ⁸²	No	No	http://www.samoaimmigration.gov.ws/VisitorServices/tabid/6819/language/en-US/Default.aspx	9th June 2016
Singapore	No	No	No	Yes	http://www.mfa.gov.sg/content/mfa/overseasmission/mumbai/visa_information/overview.html	31st January 2016
Solomon Islands	No	No	No	Yes	http://www.commerce.gov.sb/Divisions/Immigration/Immigration_Requirements.htm	31st January 2016
Sri Lanka	No	No	Yes	Yes	http://www.immigration.gov.lk/web/index.php?option=com_content&id=151&Itemid=196&lang=en http://www.eta.gov.lk	30th January 2016
Thailand	No	Yes	No	Yes	http://www.thaiembassy.com/thailand/visa-on-arrival.php	30th January 2016
Tonga	No	No	No	Yes	http://www.thekingdomoftonga.com/about/ , http://www.vavau.to/facts5.html ,	1st February 2016

Tuvalu	No	Yes	No	No	http://www.tongaairports.com/passenger-information/ https://www.un.int/tuvalu/sites/www.un.int/files/Tuvalu/Images/immigrationregulations2014_1.pdf	15th June 2016
UAE	No	No	No	Yes ⁸³		7th March 2016
USA	No	No	No	Yes		7th March 2016
Vanuatu	Yes—upto 30 days	Yes ⁸⁴	No	Yes ⁸⁵	http://vanuatutavel.info/index.php/travel-services/permits-and-immigration http://www.vanuatuhktc.org/?q=node/15	9th June 2016
Vatican City—Holy See	No	No	No	Yes	Apply for a Schengen visa to enter Vatican City	9th June 2016
Vietnam	No	Yes ⁸⁶	No	Yes	http://www.vietnameseembassy.org/india+newdelhi.html	7th March 2016

In a nutshell, India's attempt at reforming its visa regimes is laudable. Nevertheless, the policy needs to be closely examined and fine-tuned. The lessons of the Indian visa liberalisation reforms also seem to be well worth considering elsewhere.

Facilitating the movement of people is not only important for the ever-expanding tourism industry but also for economies in general, especially in an era of globalisation and international value chains. 

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ENDNOTES

1. 'International tourist arrivals up 4% reach a record 1.2billion in 2015', 18th January, 2016, UNWTO Press Release, <http://media.unwto.org/press-release/2016-01-18/international-tourist-arrivals-4-reach-record-12-billion-2015>.
2. 'International tourist arrivals up 4% reach a record 1.2billion in 2015', 18th January, 2016, UNWTO Press Release, <http://media.unwto.org/press-release/2016-01-18/international-tourist-arrivals-4-reach-record-12-billion-2015>.
3. Visa Openness Report 2015, UNWTO. The report can be accessed at <http://www.unwto.org/doi/pdf/10.18111/9789284417384>.
4. Ibid
5. <http://www.kommers.se/In-English/Publications/2015/Trade-Costs-of-Visas-and-Work-Permits/>
6. 'India's share in Foreign Tourist Arrivals' Press Information Bureau, Government of India, 4th May 2016, <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=144794>.
7. 'Year End Review', Press Information Bureau, Government of India, December 31, 2014, <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=114238>.
8. 'TVoAs in February 2015 shows an increase of 1162% over the TVoAs of February 2014. USA registers highest share of TVoAs in February, 2015', Press Information Bureau, Government of India, March 13, 2015, <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=117009>.
9. Since the press release for the date of announcement is not available, it has been assumed that the date of announcement and date of implementation for tourists coming from Guyana to avail of the TVoA is the same.
10. 'Prime Minister's Media Statement during visit to Sri Lanka', Press Information Bureau, Government of India, March 13, 2015, <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=116947>.
11. 'Extension of e-Tourist visa scheme to 31 more countries', Press Information Bureau, Government of India, 29th April, 2015, <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=120017>.
12. 'Extension of e-Tourist Visa scheme to China, Hong Kong and Macao from tomorrow', Press Information Bureau, Government of India, 29th July, 2015, <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=123908>.
13. 'Government extends e-Tourist Visa scheme to 36 more countries and 7 more airports from August 15, 2015', Press Information Bureau, Government of India, 7th August, 2015, <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=124631>.
14. 'Extension of e-Tourist Visa scheme to 37 more countries from tomorrow', Press Information Bureau, Government of India, 25th February, 2016, <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/printrelease.aspx?relid=136761>.
15. Throughout the paper, total foreign tourist arrivals (TFTAs) from a given country c in a given year t in India or total foreign tourist arrivals (TFTAs) in a given year t in India represents (proxies) the total tourist visas issued to a given country c in a given year t by India or total tourist visa issued in a given year t by India.
16. <https://indianvisaonline.gov.in/visa/tvoa.html>.
17. Currently, because of the '30 days from the date of arrival in India' modality of the e-tourist visa policy, foreign travelers wanting to stay in India beyond 30 days would have to opt for the traditional tourist visa from the Indian embassy out of necessity. This is because a traditional tourist visa obtained from the Indian embassy will, in all likelihood, offer the visa-holder, a stay period in India of at least 30 days. For instance, see <https://goo.gl/QYQER7>.

18. Currently, because of the single-entry modality of the e-tourist visa policy, foreign travelers traveling in and out of India would have to opt for the traditional tourist visa from the Indian embassy out of necessity. This is because a traditional tourist visa obtained from the Indian embassy will, in all likelihood, offer the visa-holder, entry in and out of India more than once in the lifetime of the issued tourist visa. For instance, see <https://goo.gl/s6L7Jv>.
19. Visa fees excludes other processing charges such as bank charges, service provider charges, amongst others.
20. The webpage of the Consulate General of India (Chicago) states “With effect from April 15, 2015, the single category of Tourist Visa available to US nationals will be 10 year, multiple entry Tourist visa, with a fee of US\$100 (exclusive of service provider charges and Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) contribution). The actual duration of the visa will be at the discretion of the Consulate” (<http://ww2.in.ckgs.us/visa/type-of-visa/tourist-visa.shtml>).
21. <https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/country/india.html>. The website of CKGS, the only authorized service provider for the embassy of India and its Consular services across the USA for Visa, OCI and Renunciation of Indian citizenship services as follows with effect from 21 May 2014, states “the period of stay for each visit is maximum up to six months from the date of entry and visa validity could be up to 10 years” (<http://ww2.in.ckgs.us/visa/type-of-visa/tourist-visa.shtml>). The period of stay during each visit to India is a definite max six months as stated on CKGS website as compared to the lax six months as stated on website of US Passports and International Travel (<https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/country/india.html>).
22. It is to be noted that Indian tourist visas whether availed from the Indian embassy or through online, are non-extendable and non-convertible for US travelers (<http://indianconsulate.com/page/display/99/12>).
23. See the website of CKGS, <http://ww2.in.ckgs.us/visa/type-of-visa/tourist-visa.shtml>, for more details. Exception to this rule are for nationals of China, Iran, Pakistan, Iraq, Sudan, Afghanistan, Maldives passport holders or foreigners of Pakistan origin and stateless person (<http://ww2.in.ckgs.us/general-information/faq.shtml>).
24. It should be noted that a visa does not guarantee entry into the country and the Immigration Officer may deny entry to the traveler on various grounds. However, in this case a visa is issued to the traveler on his passport rather than the considered case in this paper where the visa is granted electronically and issued on arrival.
25. 'Frequently Asked Questions Relating to Tourist Visa' updated on 11.8.2014 (<http://mha1.nic.in/pdfs/ForeignD-FAQ-TVisa280710.pdf>).
26. See foreign travelers' blog their unpleasant experience of the application being blocked after three unsuccessful payment attempts when using the online system to obtain their tourist visa at <https://goo.gl/fCGzSr>, for instance.
27. See foreign travelers' blog their unpleasant experience of payment system failures when using the online system to obtain their tourist visa at <https://goo.gl/8bmLTq>, <https://goo.gl/fCGzSr>, for instance.
28. See some happy travelers' blogging on the success of the policy <https://goo.gl/dX1KUL>, <https://goo.gl/rJYDVc>, for instance.
29. See <https://goo.gl/ZgHOZB>, for instance.
30. Recommendations are not provided in order of priority.
31. See the email sample of the approved e-tourist visa application at <https://www.tripadvisor.in/Travel-g297604-c220339/Goa:India:Etourist.Visa.A.Guide.html>.
32. Kenya and Cambodia also issue e-visas to eligible foreign travelers through designated arrival airports in their country.

33. Sri Lanka's ETA is issued through an online system, and no passport copies, documents or photographs are required. Moreover, there is no requirement to endorse the ETA on the passports. Upon arrival, the traveler can produce his/her passport to the Immigration Officer at the port of entry to obtain the necessary clearance. Nevertheless, foreign travelers are advised to carry a copy of the ETA approval notice at the time of travel to the country. The ETA approval notice is sent as an email to the foreign travelers email account and it contains the ETA number.
34. Travelers have blogged their confusion on what they should print once they have been granted an e-tourist visa. See <https://goo.gl/OkITps> for instance.
35. I am aware that the sample email may boost fraudulent activities. Yet, it may be essential to reduce the confusion at the travelers end.
36. The activities are : 1. Conferences, Workshops and Seminars; 2. Art, Music and Dance Events; 3. Business meetings and negotiations; 4. Religious events; 5. Symposiums; 6. Short-term training programs.
37. <http://evisa.go.ke/single-entry-visa.html>
38. <https://www.evisa.gov.kh/>
39. The government is intending to increase the validity of the e-tourist visa from the current 30 days to 60 days, and also to provide foreign travelers with double entry on such a visa (<http://traveltrendstoday.in/news1/india-tourism/item/4097-mot-set-to-launch-e-visa-for-medical-and-business-travel-segments>). Although the proposed revisions liberalize the existing rules of the e-tourist visa, it still does not stand as lucrative as the relaxed rules foreign travelers enjoy if they obtain a tourist visa from the Indian embassy.
40. In 2014, China and Russia appear in the top 10 world's top 10 international tourism destinations as measured by international tourist arrivals, and China, Macao, Thailand and Hong Kong appear in the world's top 10 international tourism destination as measured by international tourism receipts. UNWTO Tourism Highlights, 2015 Edition (<http://www.e-unwto.org/doi/pdf/10.18111/9789284416899>).
41. In 2014, Japan (29%), Taiwan (24%), South Korea (17%), Hong Kong (8%), Sri Lanka (20%), Maldives (7%), Australia (8%), Palau (34%), Myanmar (51%), Malaysia, Indonesia and Cambodia (all +7%), and Vietnam (4%) recording the strongest growth in terms of international tourist arrivals. UNWTO Tourism Highlights, 2015 Edition (<http://www.e-unwto.org/doi/pdf/10.18111/9789284416899>).
42. Market share of Asia and the Pacific region increased by 7% from 2013 registering a 23.7% in 2014. UNWTO Tourism Highlights, 2015 Edition (<http://www.e-unwto.org/doi/pdf/10.18111/9789284416899>).
43. In 2014, China has been the fastest growing source market in recent years and has been the world's top spender in international tourism since 2012. Chinese outbound travel has been growing exponentially over the last two decades – Chinese travelers spent a record US\$165 billion abroad in 2014 which is a 27% increase over 2013 and US\$36 more in absolute terms. China's global tourism receipts, around 13%, benefits many destinations around the world, particularly Asia and the Pacific. Besides China, other regional countries have also emerged as strong contenders in terms of rising tourism expenditure in 2014 – Russia (5th position with US\$50 billion), Australia (9th position with US\$26 billion), Taiwan, the Philippines, Thailand, and Colombia. UNWTO Tourism Highlights, 2015 Edition (<http://www.e-unwto.org/doi/pdf/10.18111/9789284416899>).
44. In 2015, on an average 20% of the world's population did not require a visa to visit Asia and the Pacific, another 23% could obtain a visa on arrival, and 11% could use an e-Visa. When looking at inter-regional visa facilitation patterns, in 2015, 71% of the Europeans do not require a traditional visa when visiting the Asia and the Pacific region while 37% do not need any entry visa at all. When looking at intra-regional visa

facilitation patterns, in 2015, 20% of the Asia and the Pacific region can travel within the region with a visa-on-arrival facility. The information has been retrieved from Visa Openness Report 2015 which can be accessed at <http://cf.cdn.unwto.org/sites/all/files/docpdf/2015visaopennessreportonline.pdf>.

45. Most of the countries provide information on how to obtain a tourist visa to visit their country either online or through the respective country's embassy in India. However, many countries do not have their embassies in India and only operate through representative offices which can be really be just one person. Such a person was contacted to obtain information. In cases where emails to representative officers went answered, concerned persons in the respective country who has been an immigration officer or someone from the tourism ministry had been contacted to obtain the information.
46. Visa exemption countries generally issue a visitors/entry permit to the Indian traveller on arrival at the airport – for a fee or not. Travellers who are exempted from a visa need not apply for a visa through the country's embassy/representative office before travelling if the travel is for the exempted days. However if the traveller is intending to stay beyond the exempted days then he/she would need to apply for a visa, before travelling to the destination, from the embassy/representative/overseas mission in India or the immigration department in the respective country. There are cases where you cannot contact the immigration department if you do require to stay beyond the prescribed days. You will have to contact the immigration department whilst you are in the respective country for further extension. This information is either based on the information provided by the respective country's immigration department (Guyana) or an assumption where no such information is either available online or provided by the immigration officer (Palau/Tuvalu).
47. In case of visa requirements and no physical embassy/representative office/overseas mission present in India, Indian passport holder would need to obtain permission from the immigration department/office of the respective country.
48. “Persons already in possession of a UK visa are not required to apply for a visa to enter Anguilla.” Source - www.gov.ai/visas_travel.php
49. In an email from the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, Consulate General New York, dated 23rd July, 2015 – “Persons travelling to Antigua and Barbuda who are required to have a visa to enter and are in possession of a valid USA Visa or Permanent Resident Card, Canadian Visa or Permanent Resident Card, European Union (EU) Schengen Visa and United Kingdom Visa may be permitted to proceed with their scheduled trip; upon arrival the passenger can present the necessary documents and may obtain a visa waiver at a cost of \$100USD valid for thirty (30) days.”
50. “When you come to the Cook Islands, a valid passport and a return ticket will allow you a stay of up to 31 days. Extensions may be granted on a monthly basis – for up to six months. Source - <http://www.cookislands.travel/cook-islands/cook-island-tourism/information>
51. Visa exemption in the following situation - <http://www.costarica-embassy.org/index.php?q=node/24>
52. Visa on arrival available in the following situation - https://www.timaticweb.com/cgi-bin/tim_website_client.cgi?SpecData=1&VISA=&page=visa&NA=IN&AR=00&PASSTYPES=PASS&DE=DJ&user=KLMB2C&subuser=KLMB2C
53. Entry permit will be issued on arrival.
54. If the traveller intends to stays beyond the exempted period.
55. “If applicant has valid multiple entry visa for USA, Canada, UK or Schengen countries then he may obtain tourist card on arrival, if travelling for tourist purpose only or may apply in the Embassy for the tourist visa.” Source - <http://www.dr-embassy-india.com/visa.html>
56. If the traveller intends to stays beyond the exempted period.

57. Email dated 21st July 2015 – “Dear Sir/Madam, The Consular Section of the Embassy of Ecuador to India would like to inform you that for the citizen of India there is no visa required up to 90 days. The citizen of India can obtain permission of subcategory T3 on arrival at the International Airport of Ecuador for tourist purposes. For that you should have original passport which should be valid at least for six months. There are no charges for that as it is free of cost. Regards, Consular Section- New Delhi, EMBASSY OF ECUADOR IN INDIA, E - 3/2, 1st, 2nd & 3rd Floor, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi – 110057”
58. “Indian travellers holding valid USA, Canada or Schengen Visas in their passports do not need to apply for Salvadoran Visa. El Salvador does not grant visa on arrival.” Source - <http://www.indemguatemala.org/traveling-to-guatemala/>
59. “All Indian travellers need a passport to enter El Salvador, valid for at least six months past the date of entry, as well as a return ticket. El Salvador is party to the Central America Border Control Agreement (CA-4), allowing travellers to easily travel through Guatemala and Honduras for up to 90 days.” Source - <http://www.indemguatemala.org/traveling-to-guatemala/>
60. If the traveller intends to stay beyond the exempted period.
61. “Upon your arrival in Grenada, you will be eligible to six months stay. Should you require an extension of stay you must apply to our Immigration Department via email: immigrationgd@spiceisle.com or telephone number 1 473 440 2456”. If stay is beyond 6 months before the departure from India then – “I regret to inform you that Grenada do not have an embassy or consulate office in India. As such, prior to your departure you must apply to the Immigration Department in St. George.”
62. “For persons travelling from countries whose passport holders require a visa to enter Guyana and who may be unable to apply at any of Guyana's Mission or Consulates, visas will be issued on arrival.” Source - <http://www.moha.gov.gy/images/immigration/immigration.pdf>
63. In an email dated 27th July 2015, the Embassy states the following – “The Embassy recommend that we have a visa stamp in your passport before arrival.”
64. An entry/visitor permit is issued on arrival.
65. If the traveller intends to stay beyond the exempted period.
66. “Indian travellers holding valid USA, Canada or Schengen Visas in their passports do not need to apply for Honduran Visa. Honduras does not grant visa on arrival.” Source - <http://www.indemguatemala.org/traveling-to-guatemala/>
67. “All Indian travellers need a valid passport and Honduran visa to enter Honduras as well as a return ticket. As part of the Central America Border Control Agreement (CA-4), Honduras allows travellers to travel to and from El Salvador and Guatemala for up to 90 days without dealing with immigration formalities at the borders.” Source - <http://www.indemguatemala.org/traveling-to-guatemala/>
68. Entry/Visitor permit is issued on arrival.
69. If the traveller intends to stay beyond the exempted period.
70. Entry/Visitor permit is issued on arrival.
71. If the traveller intends to stay beyond the exempted period.
72. “Holders of any valid visa for the United States of America (any nationality) DO NOT require visa to enter Mexico on tourist, business and transit purposes only.” Source - <https://embamex2.sre.gob.mx/india/index.php/es/visas>
73. “Good Day to you, You will get a permit extension to stay on Montserrat once you have met all the immigration requirements that is to say Valid Passport, sufficient funds, valid airline ticket back to India and proper accommodation. Regards, pond”

74. Visa-on-arrival is only available for 1. business visa; 2. entry visa (meetings/workshops/events); 3. transit visas. Source - <http://www.mip.gov.mm/portfolio/types-of-visa-fees-and-duration/>.
75. It should be noted that Indian passport holders will not be able to use e-Visa to enter Myanmar via seaport. Source - <http://evisa.moip.gov.mm/NoticetoTourists.aspx>
76. Email dated 13th June 2016 – “Dear Dr Agarwal, Thank you for your interest to visit Nauru. You will require an entry permit before you travel and I have attached the form and requirements needed to obtain the permit. Once completed and signed, please email them to me for processing. The only other question I need answered is do you know anyone in Nauru currently, or in the past, whether working or living there?
Regards, Trent Dabwido Consular Assistant (Nauru Consulate-General, Level 3, 99 Creek St, Brisbane, Qld 4000, Australia Tel: +61 7 32203040, Fax: +61 7 32203048, Mbl: +61 417611730)”
77. 26G (H) Tourist Visa – Visit to Oman by a person who is not a New Zealand (South Korea or Brunei) national, but is the spouse or child of a New Zealand (South Korea or Brunei) national, and who is accompanied by that New Zealand (South Korea or Brunei) nationals. Source - <https://evisa.rop.gov.om/voa>
78. 26E (F) tourist visit visa – Visit to Oman for 10 (30) days by a person who is not a Group 1 national, but is the spouse or child of a Group 1 national, and who is accompanied by that Group 1 national. Source - <https://evisa.rop.gov.om/voa>
79. Email dated 25th July, 2015 – “Hello & Warmest Alii from Palau! Thank you for considering our Islands for your vacation. Tourist Visa will issued to Indian Passport holder upon arrival. However, you must meet the following requirements. 1. Your passport validity must be more than six months upon arrival. 2. Provide a print out copy of your itinerary that shows a confirmed departure flight. 3. Show prove of financials to support your stay in palau-(only if asked) if these requirements are meet, than a 30 days tourist visa shall be issued to you. thank you, Dison Sbal Bureau of Immigration”
80. (CIR-698-OCA-2012/FSC 36-12) - <http://tokyo.philembassy.net/consular-section/services/visa/visa-free-entry-for-temporary-visits>
81. Entry permit is issued on arrival. Source - <http://www.stkittsnevis.org/visas.html>
82. A 60 day entry permit is issued upon arrival. Source - <http://www.samoaimmigration.gov.ws/VisitorServices/tabid/6819/language/en-US/Default.aspx>
83. The UAE Embassy does not issue visas on ordinary passports. Tourist visa for an Indian national, holding an ordinary passport, is arranged by a sponsor in the UAE. It can also be obtained on booking a hotel in UAE or through the Emirates Airlines Office or through a Travel Agent in India. Source - http://www.uaeembassy-newdelhi.com/consularservices_visapassport.asp#U4
84. “People visiting the country for a holiday, to see relatives or research the possibility of starting a business or for the furtherance of businesses carried on outside Vanuatu (i.e. sales representatives etc.) may be issued with a Visitors Permit on arrival provided they are in possession of a confirmed onward or return ticket to a place to which entry is authorised, have sufficient funds to support themselves and a passport that is valid for six months beyond the intended stay. This entitles them to stay in Vanuatu for up to 30 days. This is generally what a tourist to Vanuatu will be authorised with.” Source - <http://vanuatutavel.info/index.php/travel-services/permits-and-immigration>.
85. If the traveller intends to stays beyond the exempted period.
86. It is available for travelling to Vietnam by air only.



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