



A PASSAGE FROM INDIA

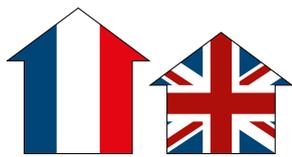
IMPROVING UK VISITOR VISAS FOR INDIAN NATIONALS

"India presents a tremendous opportunity for business and leisure tourism – an opportunity that will only continue to increase in its value and importance. We believe that the changes advocated in this report would help re-establish the UK as the leading destination for Indian visitors, thereby securing and enhancing the economic and social benefits which these visits bring."

Nigel Huddleston MP & Professor Lord Patel of Bradford OBE



HEADLINES



France has recorded more Indian tourists than the UK – **500,000 in 2015**



The UK is losing its market share of Indian visitors, costing almost **£500m a year** and over **8,000 tourism jobs**



Chinese visitors to the UK already have this special two-year visa **since 2016**



UK-India Year of Culture 2017: Year-long programme of events to celebrate the UK's cultural ties with India provides a timely opportunity

WHY OFFER THIS VISITOR VISA TO INDIA?

1 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

9th
largest economy

India, as a nation, is on the rise. **Ninth largest economy** in the world. Growth at 7%



Indian Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) into the UK **up 64%** in 2014

110k
UK jobs

This FDI helps employ **110,000** Britons



India is the UK's **third largest FDI partner** after the US and France

2 CULTURAL EXCHANGE



UK the **oldest** and India the **largest** modern democracy in the world

1.4m
of Indian decent

Largest diaspora in the UK – 1,400,000
Census 2011



Strong UK-India links in food, music, sport, and education

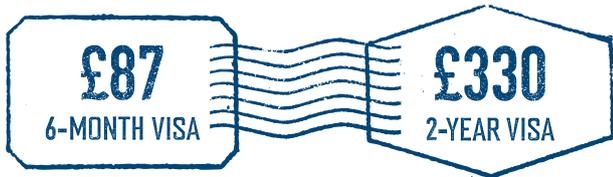
3 COMMONWEALTH PARTNERSHIP



Shared values, legal systems, and language instil trust between members and enhance soft power and trade. Visa reforms can strengthen these ties further



UK VISITOR VISAS – A RECENT HISTORY



Current **six-month** UK visitor visa costs £87

Current **two-year** UK tourist visa costs £330



Jan 2016 – Chinese visitors offered a **two-year UK visitor visa** for the **price of six-months**

TRENDS – INDIAN VISITORS TO THE UK

422k
in 2015

422,000 Indian visitors to the UK in 2015 – one of the highest by nationality but losing ground to competitors

£433m
in 2015

Indian tourist total spend – **£433m**



Larger spending total than visitors from SA, Mexico, Brazil, and Japan

£586m
in 2015

Indian tourists total spend **outstripped China's until 2012**. China now spends £586m a year



Indian business visitors spent £201m compared to £98m from its Chinese counterparts

MARKET SHARE OF INDIAN TOURISTS

– 2006 – **4.42%** → **2.13%** – 2015 –

The UK is **losing its market share** of global Indian tourists

+10%

2014 – **18.3m** Indians travelled abroad. **10% increase** p.a. for the past 20 years



Between 2006 and 2013 – USA and South Africa **doubled** their number of Indian visitors



Canada and Italy have **almost doubled** their numbers, while Malaysia and Nigeria have **more than doubled** their Indian tourists

INDIA'S MIDDLE CLASS



24 million Indians defined as middle class

Projected to rise to **200m** in the next decade

This group will gain **greater disposable income** and wish to travel

A VIEW FROM INDIA

To optimise exchanges of people, business and ideas, it is important that both the UK and Indian governments discuss this promising proposal openly and collaboratively consider delivering it. The strength of the UK-India relationship today must also reflect in a stronger visa regime.

CHANDRAJIT BANERJEE, DIRECTOR GENERAL, CONFEDERATION OF INDIAN INDUSTRY (CII)

CONCLUSION

We have identified why the UK-Indian relationship remains strong. However, there are public policy opportunities currently being left on the table. By not reacting swiftly, the UK is further risking its market share of the growing global number of Indian visitors. This policy proposal is not new and builds on the existing UK offer to China. Adding India to the scheme will signal the UK's intent that it views China and India as being on an equal footing. Granting a £87 two-year visitor visa in time for this milestone would go a long way in enhancing the close affinities between our two peoples for their mutual benefit.

SUPPORTING PARTNERS:

