

# 'Visa on arrival in India should be reciprocated'

## KyMBERLEE FERNANDES

DUBAI — Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi made headlines when he announced visa on arrival for Australians visiting India. He next declared that Fijians would receive the same facility. While growth in business has been cited as the reason, some Indian expats in the UAE feel the facility should be reciprocal, while some don't.

Not all Indian expatriates, however, believe in reciprocity, stating there are more benefits to the facility. Ashish Mehta, Lawyer, Ashish Mehta & Associates says: "India must do away with this practice of the past century and have a broader vision on issuance of visa on arrival at Indian airports by taking the initiative of extending this facility to persons holding passport of other countries even though such countries do not currently extend visa on arrival to In-



**Ashish Mehta**

dian in their respective country(s). Should India take this initiative, other countries are most likely to reciprocate the Indian initiative."

So, does India need to follow a tit for tat practice? "Certainly not," says Mehta. "India lays emphasis on trade, development, growth and good governance — the commercial benefits to India by issuing visa on arrival will be far more even if some countries do not reciprocate its initiative."

This initiative of visa on arrival for Australian and Fijians will boost incoming visitors, trade and business, growth and development.