

## #DESTINATION

### Securing A Work Visa

Whether it's the work-life balance in the Netherlands, the economic opportunities in the UK, the natural beauty of New Zealand, the dynamic environment of Singapore, or the promising prospects in Australia, each destination offers its own unique advantages for Indian professionals, looking to embark on an international career journey.



Securing a 'work visa' abroad often comes with significant challenges, navigating through complex eligibility criteria and bureaucratic red tape. However, selecting a country with streamlined procedures and fewer requirements can greatly simplify this endeavour. Whether aspiring for a balanced work-life dynamic in the Netherlands, exploring economic opportunities in the UK, being captivated by the picturesque landscapes of New Zealand, immersing in the dynamic culture of Singapore, or pursuing promising career avenues in Australia, each destination offers unique benefits for Indian professionals, venturing into the realm of international careers. Here, we highlight five such countries, where obtaining a work visa from India is relatively straightforward, each offering distinct advantages to consider, when determining the best fit for your needs.

#### The Netherlands

Renowned for its outstanding work-life balance, the Netherlands provides a flexible visa endorsement system, designed for professionals seeking career advancement. The country's commitment to technological innovation nurtures an environment conducive to professional development. Moreover, lower taxes and high living standards ensure access to top-notch career opportunities, education, and healthcare.

#### United Kingdom

Being a significant global economic force, the UK offers plentiful prospects for Indian citizens aspiring to work overseas. Various visa pathways, such as the Global Talent Visa and Skilled Worker Visa, streamline entry for skilled professionals into the country. The UK's flourishing economy and robust infrastructure create a conducive setting for advancing one's career.

#### New Zealand

With streamlined visa processes and minimal prerequisites, New Zealand stands out as a desirable choice for Indian professionals. Enhanced by its stunning natural landscapes and modern amenities, the country offers an inviting atmosphere for living. Through its inclusive immigration policies, New Zealand fosters abundant prospects for career progression and individual development.

#### Singapore

Known for its easy work visa process, Singapore welcomes Indian professionals across various industries, from teaching to information technology and hospitality. As a global financial hub, the city-state offers abundant job opportunities and a favourable business climate. Singapore's warm climate adds to its allure, making it an attractive destination for individuals seeking career growth in a dynamic environment.

#### Australia

With reduced quotas for skilled workers, Australia offers favourable work visa options for Indian professionals aspiring for international career growth. The country's citizenship rights, safe environment, and superior living standards make it an appealing destination. Australia's robust economy and diverse job market provide ample opportunities for professionals to thrive and succeed.



Fanny Parkes, whose 'Wanderings of a Pilgrim in search of the Picturesque, During Four-and-twenty Years in the East; with Revelations of Life in the Zenana,' in detail, not only shows that Parkes understood India better, but India became personal to her! It was a clear departure from the mid-19th century English arrogance on the colonised people. Of course, the English community was critical of the book itself. According to the critics, "Her opening invocation to *Ganesh*, the Hindu patron of literature, was in the worst possible taste."

## The Female Coloniser Of India



Anjali Sharma  
Senior Journalist & Wildlife Enthusiast

The challenges faced and overcome by the English women, who came to India accompanying their husbands, parents and siblings, during the chosen period of two-and-a-half centuries of company rule, were many. In the beginning, the accompanying women of the English were thought to be mere encumbrances, though later, they were persons of substance. From the time they were considered 'incumbrance' to the time when they became 'instruments of both, convenience and utility' for the traders, in addition to some of them becoming torch-bearers of later feminist movements.

Company's stout refusal to allow any of its members to be accompanied by the spouse, were some of the dictates that had to be adhered to. For almost two generations, the directors remained steadfast in their assessment that the wives were mere 'incumbrances.' But in 1650, when Aaron Baker refused to accept the post given to him in Bantam, unless he was allowed to take his wife along and since the company knew he was very valuable, they had to relax the rules. The Company's willingness to allow Elizabeth Baker to 'accompany him to Madras' became the starting point though Elizabeth never reached the shores of India. Her tombstone, originally from the present High Court complex in the then Madras and now in St. Mary's Church compound, notes her date of death as August 5, 1652, at sea.

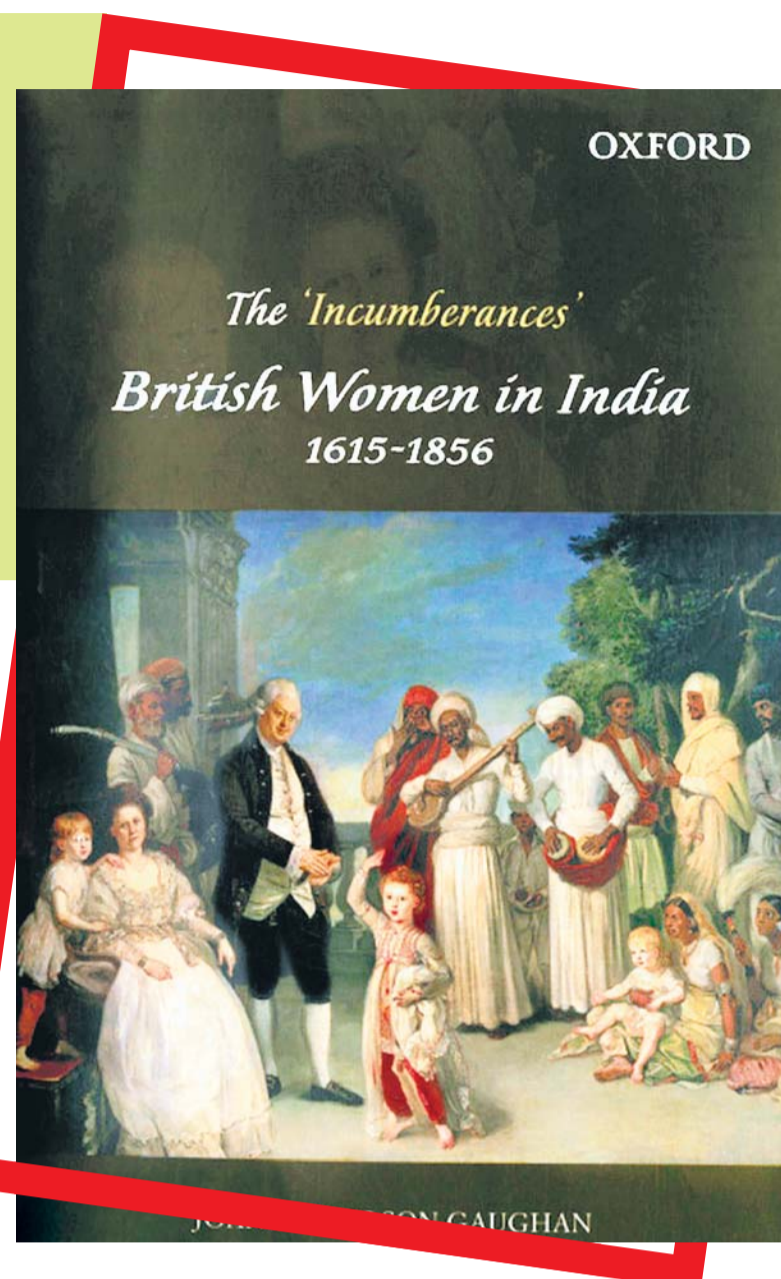
Although whatever one reads of ladies, who later left for India, one should feel that had she reached India, she might not have liked to stay as the conditions were not conducive. It was not

easy for a factor to maintain a family, with the type of remuneration he was getting. In 1678, the company felt the need to 'prevent liaisons with 'foul' women and to avoid weakening of the Protestant religion and 'interest' and increased the wages so that a family could be maintained. In fact, religion played an important role.

On the other hand, one can read extensively that for the English women, India had always represented an opportunity to improve economic and social level. Quoting three English women, who played important roles in their own ways, the author shows that India offered them a 'lifestyle' that they could never have imagined in their own country.

Maria, who came to India as Mrs. Imhoff and ended up marrying Hastings, finds a place in the book for her 'love affair' in spite of the "scandal" tag attached to the story in Madras. According to the author, "Her wit and vivacity together with Calcutta's own rather looser morality apparently put the entire affair quite beyond the reach of scandal." So are the stories of many an Englishwoman, who made a mark in one way or the other, whether it was while negotiating with the king's men in India or the social order that the woman created. Beginning with the publication of *Jemima Kindersley's* letters, which is considered one of the best in the genre, through their journals, letters, diaries and articles, the Englishwomen could convey a sense of India's people, geography, cultures and religions that lay outside the realm of officialdom or scholarship.

Far from withdrawing from India as their earlier counterparts did these women reached out, with excitement and enthusiasm. These women communicated with the locals by learning the languages and learned to appreciate life as lived in the interior areas and recorded their findings, which became sources for later researchers. Most colourful descriptions of India came from *Emma Roberts* or *Fanny Parkes*, who moved about freely and recorded whatever they found



## #MYTHS



interesting. *Maria Graham* is dealt with, more elaborately. Maria came to India with her father in the book for her 'love affair' in spite of the "scandal" tag attached to the story in Madras. According to the author, "Her wit and vivacity together with Calcutta's own rather looser morality apparently put the entire affair quite beyond the reach of scandal." So are the stories of many an Englishwoman, who made a mark in one way or the other, whether it was while negotiating with the king's men in India or the social order that the woman created. Beginning with the publication of *Jemima Kindersley's* letters, which is considered one of the best in the genre, through their journals, letters, diaries and articles, the Englishwomen could convey a sense of India's people, geography, cultures and religions that lay outside the realm of officialdom or scholarship.

### Patriarchal system

When considering imperialism, there is a group of people who exist at the intersection of race, class, and gender hierarchies, the *female colonizer*. The logic, that colonial power is built upon, often overlaps with the logic used to justify a 'patriarchal system.' But this blurring allowed the British women of colonial India a certain amount of 'gendered power' to participate in the imperialism of the British Empire.

The histories of British women in the colonies have been vilified, romanticized, or altogether omitted from the colonial narrative. One portrayal of these women is as 'exalted martyrs,' who embodied English femininity, helping 'save the heathens' with their morality. Conversely, in the book, *Empire and Sexuality*, Ronald Hyam describes a common stereotype of the British colonial woman in modern consciousness.

"Dull, incurious eyes of the *mehsalib*, mooping and sickly, father ruling over a mass of unruly (brown) children.' The metaphor of the family was essential in perpetuating the British idea of the 'model government.' British women were essential in replicating it within the home.

This is exemplified in colonial British women's literary works, travelogues, letters and household guides for other women. The household guides, in particular, are revealing as to the extent to which these women worked to establish an 'imperialistic model' within their own homes. They conveyed how the ideal British wife in India run her household and 'train the native servants.' In a guide (written by an anonymous 'lady resident'), *The Englishwoman in India*, the author states that in relation to knives, 'which are constantly stolen,' that the 'natives thoroughly enjoy lazily squatting on the ground' to sharpen them. She recommends that readers simpli-

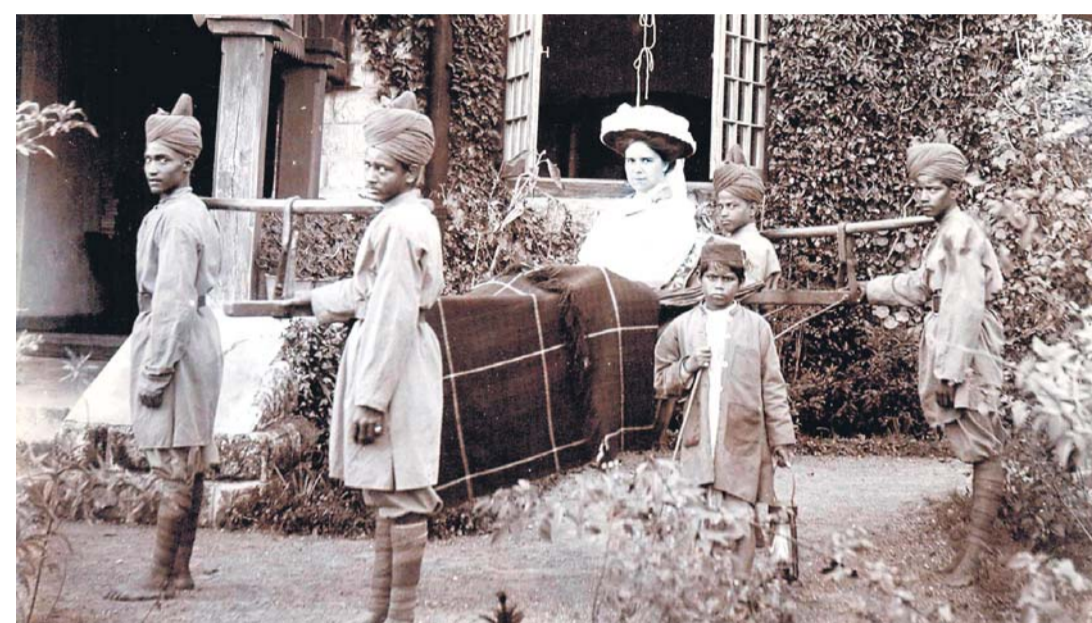
fy writing as much as possible as 'native intellect' corrupts the message till it is comically unintelligible. At the risk of 'scandalizing' readers, the author proposes hiring servants who are 'all unmitigated heathens,' for Christians are almost always 'cheaters.' The language is reflective of an attempt to create not only racial and cultural distance, but also a 'intellectual and moral' divide.

This divides helped British women in India perpetuate the imperialist model by implementing it domestically. A recurring theme in the guide is that of the British woman "conquering" the foreign country at the domestic level, establishing racial and social hierarchies, much like her male counterparts did. It is important to note the extent to which imperialist models like these can shape every aspect of colonial society, from the governing of servants to the governing of nations.



## April Fools' Day

Also known as *All Fools' Day*, and celebrated every year on April 1st, *April Fools' Day* is a holiday when people play pranks on each other and try to trick their friends and family. The origins of April Fools' Day are unclear, but it is believed to have originated in ancient Rome as a festival called 'Filibertia.' The holiday has since spread around the world and is now celebrated in many countries. On *April Fools' Day*, people often play practical jokes on one another. The day is typically marked with a light-hearted spirit and is not meant to be taken seriously.



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From 1760 to 1840, the British both expanded their frontiers and consolidated their authority in India. While they negotiated and made alliances with some native rulers, they fought against and defeated others beyond conquering new territories, the East India Company also began to tax local populations. This was an extremely lucrative practice, and during the eighteenth century, the Indian province of 'Bengal' alone generated tax revenue of three million pounds. In order to keep tax revenue flowing, the British administration needed to assess taxes, enforce payment, and encourage

stable property relations. Juggling military conquest, diplomacy with native rulers, and the regulation of tax collection resulted in a governmental bureaucracy that was unusually large, and predominantly concerned with controlling native peoples rather than the self-rule systems common in North American colonies.

### Missionary work

*British women's missionary work* has been characterised as focused on seeking to enter and transform the high-caste Hindu household. In fact, British women missionaries sought inclusion in mainstream missionary strategies, which afforded them visibility, largely through establishing schools and orphanages. They also engaged with mainstream discourses of 'colonial and missionary education' in India. Establishing India also details how India was established for British missionary women through texts and magazines. Missionary magazines provided British women with a continuous record of women's work in India, reinforcing a belief in the providential rightfulness of the project. Magazines also both, facilitated and misrepresented various types of work that British women engaged with in India. *Orphan sponsorship* was established through the magazines and myths of *zenana work* were constructed. Missionary magazines were crucial to countering male narratives of white female absence or victimhood in India and they served to keep the women's missionary project in India both visible and intact.

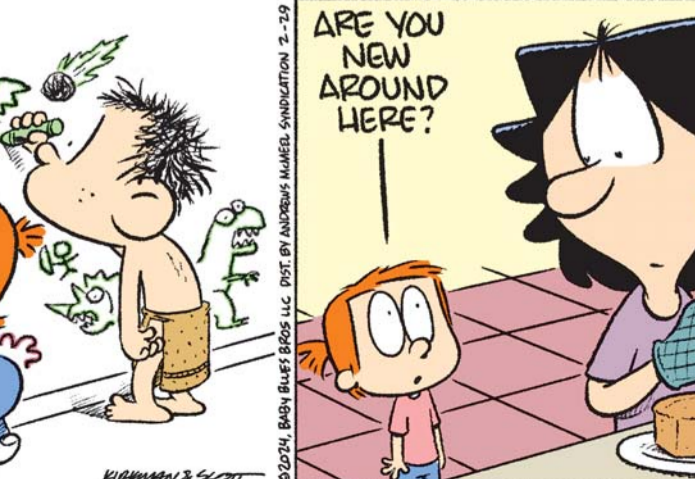
Some British women created professional roles for themselves, out of their philanthropic work in India between 1880 and 1900. Colonial India provided a particular context of imperial ideals and gendered realities. Indian women were believed to be particularly deprived of learning, medical care and civilisation by custom and culture, and Englishwomen could call on the rhetoric of imperial duty to legitimise their care of these disadvantaged women.

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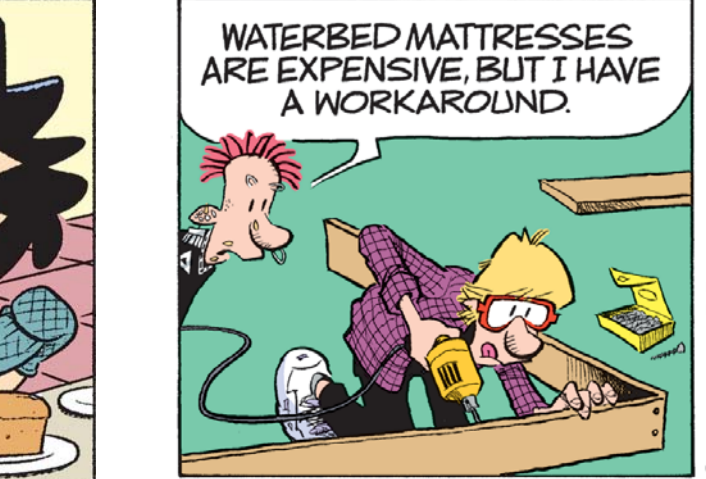
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## #J'ADORE

### Nail Trends That Are in Full Bloom

Artists are getting creative with their finishing touches

This spring, we lay to rest the minimal manicures that ruled our fingertips for the past year. Many of 2023's trends are rebelling against the previously reigning

'clean girl' look. So what's next, you ask? Beauty experts are predicting a widespread return to 'maximalism' this year and nail designs are no exception. All of spring 2024's nail trends make a statement with bold art and flashy

details. Artists are getting creative with their finishing touches. Even our favourite neutrals and more subtle polishes are getting an eye-catching twist. Ahead, we share some of the top nail looks for this spring season!



#### Nail Jewels

Even the most basic manicure looks like it took a whole lot of effort when you add sparkling 3D nail jewels. We're going to be seeing more textured nail art, specifically gel designs that are not only fun to look at but also fun to touch. Pick your favourite stone or mix metals, like silver and gold studs. For a more subtle look, adorn a solid-coloured manicure with dainty gold pearls.



#### Jelly Nails

This look has a Y2K vibe, with a futuristic twist. Reach for a nail polish with a jelly finish or go for a set of jelly-tinted press-ons. If you're in a pinch, mix a few drops

of your desired nail polish colour with clear nail polish to achieve the perfect sheer shade. The fewer coats, the more transparent the effect will be.



#### Cat Eye Nails

Cat Eye nails are back in a fresh palette. This spring, experiment with the glittering finish over seasonal colours like pastel yellows and soft, muted blues. If you can't make a trip to the salon, a simple DIY way to achieve this look is with a magnetic nail polish. After coating your nails in the polish, use a nail magnet to manipulate the particles into any design you'd like.



#### French Croc

Crocodile-print nails are the most popular choice right now. Rather than painting your entire nail in this bold texture, emboss French tips with the design in very technical to paint by hand with traditional polish. We recommend to use *blooming*

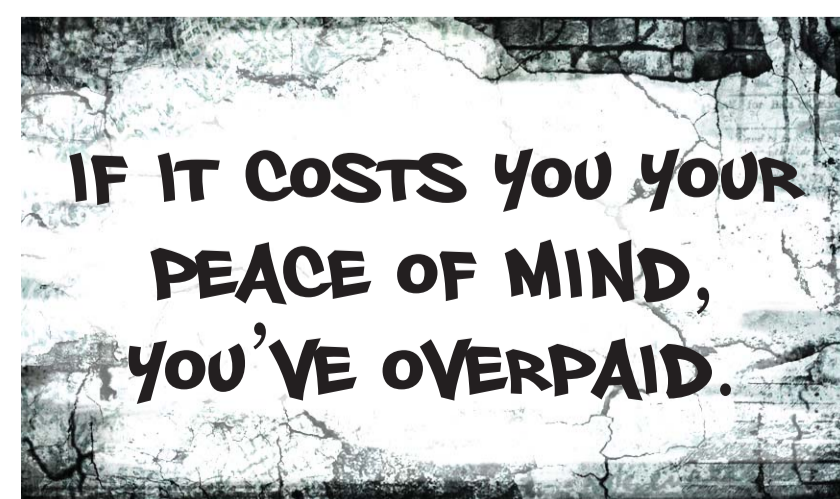
gel (a product that spreads or blooms once it has been placed) for an easier approach. To begin the design, dot some blooming gel spread out in dashes, across your nail bed, in a brick pattern. These dashes will spread in a matter of seconds, leaving a pattern with gaps that resembles a crocodile.



#### Coquette Nails

Everything is prettier with a bow on it, including your manicure. Dress up your favourite polish with 3D bows and pearls to nail the *coquette aesthetic*. With these 3D nail decals, available easily, there's no need to be skilled at tying the perfect bow. Just add a dot of nail glue exactly where you want to stick on the accessory.

## THE WALL

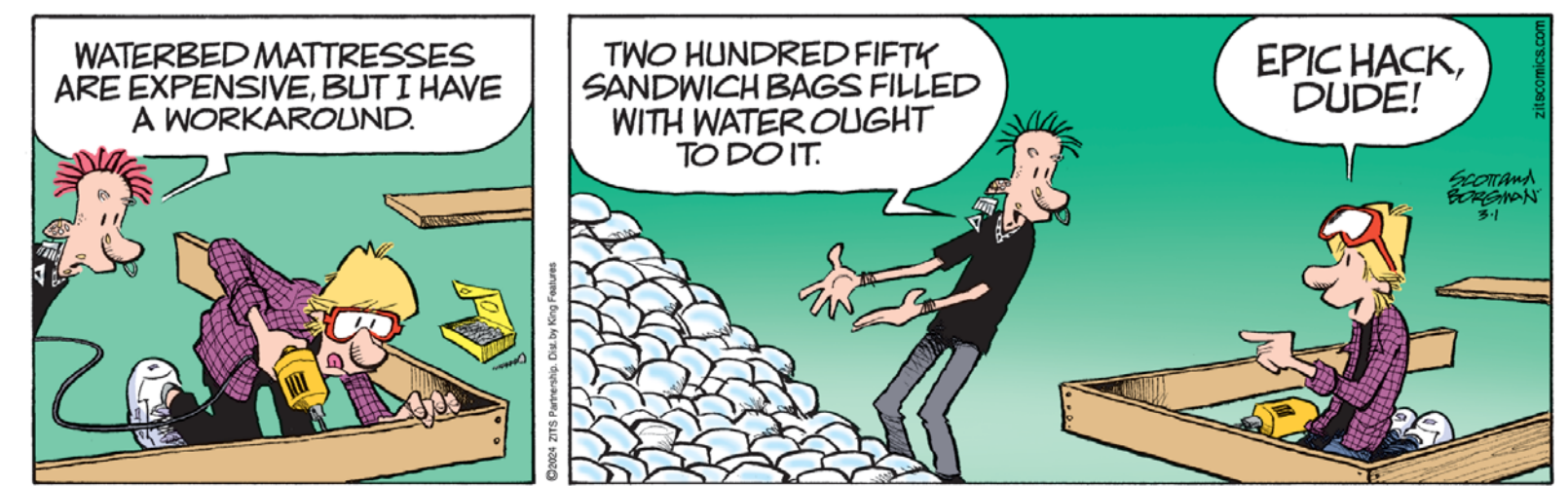


## BABY BLUES



By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

## ZITS



By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman