

उ0प्र0 शासन
गृह (बीजा) अनुभाग-4
संख्या-790/छ: बीजा-4-2020-08(बीजा)/2020
लखनऊ: दिनांक 07 अगस्त, 2020

✓ अपर मुख्य सचिव
उत्तर प्रदेश शासन

प्रवासी भारतीय विभाग (एन.आर.आई.)

प्रदेश में निवेश प्रोत्साहन की दिशा में विभागों द्वारा चलाये जा रहे विभिन्न कार्यक्रमों/निवेशोन्मुखी नीतियों का विदेशों में बसे प्रवासी भारतीयों में प्रचार-प्रसार करने, प्रदेशके विकास में सहयोग/निवेश को प्रोत्साहित करने तथा प्रवासी भारतीयों में सम्भाव्य निवेशकों का डाटाबेस तैयार करने हेतु प्रवासी भारतीय विभाग द्वारा एक वेबसाइट nri.up.gov.in का निर्माण आई.टी. एवं इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स विभाग की कार्यदायी संस्था-UPDESCO द्वारा किया गया है। इस नवनिर्मित वेबसाइट में "प्रदेश के अनिवासी भारतीयों (NRIs/PIOs/OCIs) उत्प्रवास स्वीकृत प्राप्त व्यक्तियों को बीजा/इमीग्रेशन प्राप्त करने में सहायता प्रदान करना" के सम्बन्ध में सूचनाएं उपलब्ध कराने एवं महत्वपूर्ण एवं उपयोगी सूचनाओं की वेबसाइट पर अपलोड कर अद्यतन कराया जाना है।

2- उक्त प्रयोजन हेतु श्री धीरेन्द्र कुमार, संयुक्त सचिव, गृह बीजा विभाग, कक्ष संख्या-427 चतुर्थ तल, सी ब्लॉक, लोकभवन, उ0प्र0 शासन को गृह विभाग में नोडल अधिकारी नामित किया गया है, जिनका विवरण निम्नवत् है-

नाम- श्री धीरेन्द्र कुमार

पदनाम- संयुक्त सचिव, उ0प्र0शासन

मोबाईल नं0- 9454412465

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(रामनिवास शर्मा)
विशेष सचिव

7/8/20

(आलोक कुमार)
अपर मुख्य सचिव
सर्वजनिक उद्यम, उ0प्र0 एवं इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स
उत्तर प्रदेश शासन

उ0प्र0-790(1)/छ: बीजा-4-2020, तद्विनांक,

प्रतिलिपि निम्नलिखित को सूचनार्थ एवं आवश्यक कार्यवाही हेतु प्रेषित-

- 1- निजी सचिव, अपर मुख्य सचिव, गृह विभाग, उ0प्र0 शासन को अपर मुख्य सचिव महोदय के सूचनार्थ।
- 2- निजी सचिव, सचिव, गृह विभाग, उ0प्र0 शासन को सचिव महोदय के सूचनार्थ।
- 3- निजी सचिव, विशेष सचिव, गृह (बीजा) अनुभाग-4, उ0प्र0 शासन।
- 4- श्री धीरेन्द्र कुमार, संयुक्त सचिव, उ0प्र0 शासन, चतुर्थ तल, लोकभवन, लखनऊ।

(रामनिवास शर्मा)
विशेष सचिव

5-0481

11-8-2020
(जय प्रकाश)
संयुक्त सचिव
अवस्थापना एवं औद्योगिक विकास विभाग,
उ0 प्र0 शासन।



OCI (Overseas Citizen of India) Card

OCI (Overseas Citizen of India) Card

OCI - OVERVIEW

OCI Card is a multiple entry life-long multi- purpose visa which enables the holder to travel and stay in India, as and when he/she desires to do so.

Benefits of applying for an OCI card:

Multiple entries, with multi-purpose life-long Visa to visit India.

OCI Card holder is exempted from having to report to Police authorities for any length of stay in India.

Provides for equality with NRIs in all spheres of financial, economic and educational fields barring the purchase of agricultural or plantation properties

Note: Vide circular No. 26011/06/2015-OCI dated 29th January, 2015 of Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, all immigration authorities in India will not insist on production of the foreign passport containing the 'U' Visa Sticker in the case of OCI Cardholders while they enter / exit India and the immigration clearance will be granted based on production of the 'OCI CARD ONLY', when produced alongwith valid passport.

OCI Travel Advisory – Re-issue of OCI Card (On getting a New Passport)

Re-issuance of OCI is mandatory every time passport is renewed up to the age of 20 years, and again after attaining the age of 50 years in view of frequent biological change in facial features in this age group.

For further details please visit the following link:

<http://mha1.nic.in/pdfs/GuidelinesOCI.pdf>

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED

Applicants are required to submit the originals along with a set of photocopies of the originals. Both sets of documents need to be submitted at the counter. Originals will be returned once the Embassy of India is satisfied with the documents provided. All photocopies need to be self-attested.

Mandatory documents for an OCI Application:

Printed Application form: All applicants need to fill the online application form on the website <https://passport.gov.in/oci/>

Two photographs as per the photo specifications

Copy of Foreign Passport

Copy of Naturalisation Certificate, if applicable.

Applicants, who have obtained Foreign Nationality by Naturalisation, are required to submit Naturalisation Certificate (Original) along with the copy.

All applicants are required to submit the originals along with the copy of the Proof of Indian Origin documents as per the below list.

Documents required for Applicants born In India:

Applicants are required to submit Surrender Certificate of Indian Passport (original).

The Indian Citizenship Act, 1955, does not allow dual citizenship. Holding Indian Passport / acquiring Indian Passport / travelling on Indian passport after acquisition of foreign citizenship constitutes an offence under the Indian Passport Act, 1967, and attracts penalties. Under the Indian law, Persons of Indian Origin who have acquired foreign Nationality are required to renunciate their Citizenship and get Indian passports cancelled at the nearest Indian Mission/Post within 3 months after acquisition of foreign citizenship and to obtain Renunciation Certificate. Delay in renunciation of Indian citizenship may attract penalties.

Applicants who have obtained foreign nationality after May 2010 need to submit original Surrender Certificate compulsorily, however, If applicants are unable to provide surrender certificate due to loss of passport will be required to submit the Renunciation of Indian Citizenship Certificate.

Applicants who have held an Indian passport, and obtained foreign nationality before May 2010, but are unable to produce the same for Surrender of Indian passport for any reason (lost/misplaced) are required to furnish a notarized affidavit in original from local authorities stating the facts about their Indian passports along with other necessary documents as mentioned below

Applicants who were born in India and never held Indian passport, and travelled on parents Indian Passports, are required to submit a affidavit stating the fact and how they travelled abroad along with other necessary documents as mentioned below

Other necessary documents of Indian origin.

Domicile certificate (in original)

OR

Original Birth Certificate issued from Indian Municipality or Panchayat. Recently issued birth Certificate (Post-dated birth certificates) from Municipality/Panchayat etc. This should be duly certified by the District Magistrate/District Collector of the area, with name, stamp, seal and contact telephone numbers with area code for verification.

OR

School Leaving Certificate (in original). Post-dated School Certificate/School Leaving Certificate from India should be authenticated by Director of Education/District Magistrate/District Collector of the area with name, stamp, seal and contact telephone numbers with area code for verification

OR

Agriculture land documents.

Documents required for Applicants born in India/Abroad and applying on the basis of Parents/Grand Parents/Spouse:

Applicant who are born in India/abroad and wish to apply on the basis of their parents/grand parents'/spouse (Indian origin) must furnish the below documents

A photocopy and the original of their full version birth certificate and marriage certificate along with the Indian origin proof of their parents/grandparents/spouse must be furnished by the applicants to prove their link with them. For any other foreign-born applicant Birth Certificate must be in full version and it has to be translated in English by a reputed and registered translation authority.

Applicants applying on the basis of parents needs to submit his/her full version Birth certificate with both the parent's details on it, along with parent's proof of Indian Origin.

Applicants applying on the basis of Grandparents are required to furnish:

Applicant's full version Birth Certificate

Applicant's Parent's full version Birth Certificate

And Grandparent's proof of Indian Origin

Applicants applying on the bases of Spouse needs to submit their registered marriage and Birth certificate with along with spouse's proof of Indian Origin.

Copy of Indian Passport or copy of Indian Empire passport (stating the status of holder "Indian by birth" or "British protected person native of Indian state"...). Please note that the Indian empire passport stating the status 'British Subject' is not accepted for OCI.

OR

Indian Birth Certificate/Education Certificate (If post-dated, the signature of the issuing authority should be verified by District Magistrate/Deputy Collector of the same district - (in original).

OR

Domicile Certificate of the applicant or of his/her parents/grandparents issued from concerned Competent Authority in India i.e. District Magistrate/Collectors/Sub Divisional Magistrate may also be accepted as a proof of Indian Origin (in original).

Applicants applying on the basis of spouse need to submit registered marriage certificate. Marriage should have been registered and subsisted for a continuous period of not less than 2 years immediately preceding the presentation of the application.

Applications for minor children

In addition to the above documents - For minors both the parents needs to self-attest all the photocopies along with parent's passport photocopies. In case if the parents are holding Indian passport then photocopies of the Bio Page (photo page), last page with the address should also be provided.

Minor children holding foreign nationality and whose both parents are citizens of India or one of the parents is a citizen of India or both or one parents are OCI card holder, are eligible for OCI Card.

If one of the parents of the minor children is/has been a Pakistani/Bangladeshi citizen, these children will not be eligible for OCI.

Important Information for all OCI Applicants

Signatures should be in the box provided. In case of minor applicant, his/her thumb impression (left hand thumb) or signature (if minor can sign, signature is mandatory) of the minor applicant should be provided in BOX.

In case of minor children, both the parents need to be signed in part 'B' or parent's consent letter is mandatory (if divorced) or court order having custody of children.

Applicant whose birth certificate mentions about only one parent and nationality and other parent is not known, is not eligible for OCI Card.

Asylees or Stateless applicants are not eligible for OCI.

Foreign Defence/Military/Civil Servants/Police/ex-Defence personnel/ persons working with security agencies and their family members are not eligible to apply for OCI. The above implies that the personnel of Home Office as well as of MoD. In addition, foreign diplomats are also not eligible.

For applicants applying on the basis of spouse, now deceased, are required to furnish the death certificate, marriage certificate and self-declaration to confirm the same or if re-married again. If re-married, then provide the new marriage certificate along with the above.

If one of the parent/grandparent is of Pakistani or Bangladeshi origin, applicant will not be eligible for OCI.

OCI APPLICATION FORM

How to fill the application form?

Applicants are required to fill the online application form on the website <https://passport.gov.in/oci/> and submit the printed application form with Supporting Documents.

Applicants are required to Submit TWO sets of Application Form.

The applicants need to fill Part-A and Part-B of the application online. Once you fill up the application, the registration number will be generated by the system and a print out of the application should be taken by the applicants for submission to Embassy of India, Kinshasa. For each family application Part-B is common to all applicants of the family of up to a maximum of four. Separate applications are required for any other additional members.

OCI MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES

Transfer of OCI from expired Passport to new Passport or change in Nationality

Applicants are required to fill miscellaneous application form online for transfer of OCI 'U' Visa from old passport to new passport and have to

submit the printed application along with copy of old and new passport and copy of OCI booklet.

New Passport Number is to be given in the application form for transfer of OCI Visa to new Passport.

Applicants who wish to change their OCI booklet on change of nationality should get the previous OCI 'U' visa and OCI booklet cancelled at the time of submission of their new application for Miscellaneous OCI Services

Applicants should enclose two colour photographs of 2X2 inch size along with the application.

Signature/thumb impression should be confined in the prescribed box. In case of minor applicants, parents should NOT sign the box.

Transfer of OCI Visa and issuance of OCI booklet in case of lost or damage of passport/OCI booklet

Applicants are required to fill miscellaneous application form online for lost or damage passport or OCI booklet and have to submit the printed application along with copy of old and new passport and copy of OCI booklet.

New Passport Number is to be given in the application form (if applicable).

Copy of police report/crime reference number is required along with the application.

Applicants should enclose two colour photographs (2 by 2 inch size) along with the application.

Please visit <https://passport.gov.in/oci/> for the application form for Miscellaneous Services.

Issue of new OCI 'U' Visa and OCI booklet due to change of personal particulars (change of name, address, wrong date of birth in OCI booklet etc.)

Applicants are required to fill miscellaneous application form online for new OCI booklet due to change in personal particular and have to submit the printed application form along with copy of OCI booklet and copy of old and new passport (if applicable).

New Passport Number is to be given in the application form in case of new passport.

Applicants should enclose two colour photographs (2 X 2 inch size) along with the application.

Signature/thumb impression should be confined in the prescribed box. In case of minor applicants, parents should NOT sign the box.

Name change deed from solicitor/oath commissioner/notary should be submitted in case of name change. Marriage certificate is required to be submitted for name change after marriage.

PIO TO OCI

All applicants need to fill the online application form on the website and also upload copy of Foreign Passport and PIO Card. The following documents are required to be produced at the time of submission of application at the Embassy's counter:

2 photographs as per the photo specifications

Foreign Passport

Photocopy of the foreign passport

PIO card(in original)

Copy of PIO card.

The Government of India has announced vide Gazette Notification No.26011/01/2014IC.I dated 09 January 2015 that all PIO cards issued till 09 January 2015 are deemed to be OCI card. As such the PIO Card scheme has been withdrawn, henceforth, applicants may apply for OCI card ONLY, as PIO card scheme is no longer in existence. The date for application for conversion of valid PIO card to OCI card has been extended till **31st December 2017**. The valid PIO card holders are advised to submit the applications by **31st December 2017**. One can apply for OCI card in lieu of valid PIO card free of any charges till 31.12.2017.

PHOTO SPECIFICATION

Photographs should be in colour and strictly as per the specifications below.

Two photographs of 2 inch x 2 inch size .

Face should cover about 70 to 80% of the photo area.

Frame Subject with Full Face, Front view, Eyes open

Latest photo to reflect your current appearance.

The photographs must be clear, well defined and taken against a light background.

Appropriate brightness and contrast showing your skin tones naturally

Face must be square to the camera with a neutral expression, neither frowning nor smiling and with your mouth closed.

If you must wear a head covering for religious reasons, make sure your full facial features are not obscured.

Non-tinted prescription glasses are allowed as long as your eyes are clearly visible. Make sure that the frame does not cover any part of your eyes. Sunglasses are not acceptable.

Headphones, wireless hands-free devices, or similar items are not acceptable in your photo.

Photograph for Child/babies - The photograph should show the baby or child awake, looking straight at the camera with mouth closed and nothing covering the mouth. It should also show both edges of the face clearly (no toys, blankets, chair backs or other people visible) and no hair across the eyes.

Embassy of India Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon Central African Republic

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. Who is eligible to apply?

A foreign national, who was eligible to become a citizen of India on 26.01.1950 or was a citizen of India on or at anytime after 26.01.1950 or belonged to a territory that became part of India after 15.08.1947 and his/her children and grand children, is eligible for registration as an Overseas Citizen of India (OCI). Minor children of such person are also eligible for OCI. However, if the applicant had ever been a citizen of Pakistan or Bangladesh, he/she will not be eligible for OCI.

2. Who was eligible to become Citizen of India on 26.01.1950?

Any person who, or whose parents or grand-parents were born in India as defined in the Government of India Act, 1935 (as originally enacted), and who was ordinarily residing in any country outside India was eligible to become citizen of India on 26.01.1950.

3. Which territories became part of India after 15.08.1947 and from what date?

The territories which became part of India after 15.08.1947 are:

- (i) Sikkim 26.04.1975
- (ii) Pondicherry 16.08.1962
- (iii) Dadra & Nagar Haveli 11.08.1961
- (iv) Goa, Daman and Diu 20.12.1961

4. Can the spouse of the eligible person apply for OCI?

Yes, if he/she is eligible in his/her own capacity.

5. Can Minor children apply for OCI?

Yes, if either of the parents is eligible for OCI.

6. In what form should a person apply for an OCI and where are the forms available?

A family consisting of spouses and upto two minor children can apply in the same form i.e. Form XIX, which can be filed online or downloaded from our website <http://mha.nic.in/ForeigDiv/ForeigHome.html>.

7. Can application form be filled and submitted on line?

Yes. Part A of the application form should be filed online. Part B should be downloaded and printed on computer or by hand in Block letters. Printed Part A and Part B of the application form has to be submitted to the Indian Mission/Post/Office along with all requisite documents.

8. What documents have to be submitted with the application?

The following documents shall be enclosed for each applicant:

1. Proof of present citizenship
2. Evidence of self or parents or grand parents,
 - (a) being eligible to become a citizen of India at the time of commencement of the Constitution; or
 - (b) belonging to a territory that became a part of India after 15 th August, 1947; or
 - (c) being a citizen of India on or after 26 th January, 1950

These could be:

- (i) Copy of the passport ;or
 - (ii) Copy of the domicile certificate issued by the Competent authority ;or
 - (iii) Any other proof substantiating the request. Usually applicants are able to submit a certificate of residence or place of birth of self/parents/grand parents from First Class Magistrate/District Magistrate (DM) of the concerned place.
3. Evidence of relationship as parent/grand parent, if their Indian origin is claimed as basis for grant of OCI such as birth certificate or Educational Certificate etc.

4. Application fee by way of Demand Draft (US \$ 275 for each applicant or equivalent in local currency; US \$ 25 or equivalent in local currency for each PIO card holder) in case of application filled in India, fee Rs.15,000/- for general category, for PIO card holders Rs.1,400/- and for minor PIO card holder Rs.8,000/- to be paid by way of Demand Draft.
 5. PIO card holders should submit a copy of his/her PIO card.
- 9. What documents would qualify for “Any other proof” for evidence of self or parents or grand parents being eligible for grant of an OCI?**

Any documentary evidence like a school certificate, Agricultural land ownership certificate, birth certificate etc. by which eligibility may be reasonably ascertained.

- 10. How many copies of application have to be submitted?**

Only one Set of Application has to be submitted for each applicant.

- 11. Whether applicant(s) have to go in person to submit the application (s)?**

No. Application(s) can be sent by post either by Speed post or Registered post only and not through Courier.

- 12. Whether the applicant (s) have to take oath before the Counsel of the Indian Mission/Post?**

No. Earlier provision in this regard has been done away with.

- 13. Where to submit the application?**

To the Indian Mission/ Post of the country of citizenship of the applicant. If the applicant is not in the country of citizenship, to the Indian Mission/Post of the country where he is ordinarily residing. If the applicant is in India, to the FRRO Amritsar, Bangalore, Kozhikode, Chennai, Kochi, Delhi, Goa, Hyderabad, Lucknow, Mumbai, Kolkata, and Thiruvananthapuram as per specified Jurisdiction of the FRRO concerned.

14. Can a person apply in the country where he is ordinarily residing?

Yes.

15. What are the consequences of furnishing wrong information or suppressing material information?

All the applications will be subject to pre or post enquiry depending on whether any adverse information is voluntarily reported in the application or not. If the Government comes to the know that any false information was furnished or material information was suppressed, the registration as OCI already granted shall be cancelled by an order under section 7D of the Citizenship Act, 1955. The persons will also be blacklisted thereby banning his/her entry into India.

16. What is the fee for application for registration as an OCI?

US \$ 275 or equivalent in local currency for each applicant. In case of PIO card holder, US \$ 25 or equivalent in local currency for each applicant. In case of application filled in India, fee Rs.15,000/- for general category, for PIO card holders Rs.1,400/- and for minor PIO card holder Rs.8,000/- to be paid by way of Demand Draft.

17. What is the time taken for registration as OCI?

Within 30 days of the application, if there is no adverse information available against the applicant. If any adverse information is available against the applicant, the decision to grant or otherwise is taken within 120 days.

18. If the registration as an OCI is not granted, what amount will be refunded?

An amount of US \$ 250 or equivalent in local currency shall be refunded, if registration is refused. US \$ 25 is the processing fees, which is non-refundable. In case application filled in India, Rs.1,400/- will be non-refundable being processing fees.

19. Can a PIO Cardholder apply?

Yes, provided he/she is otherwise eligible for grant of OCI like any other applicant.

20. Will the PIO Cardholder be granted an OCI registration gratis?

No. He/she has to make a payment of US \$ 25 or equivalent in local currency along with the application & Rs.1,400/- in case of application is filled in India.

21. Will the PIO card be honored till the time it is valid even after acquisition of an OCI?

No. PIO card will have to be surrendered to the Indian Mission/Post/FRROs before collection of OCI registration certificate and an OCI 'U' visa sticker.

22. What will be issued after registration as an OCI?

A registration certificate in the form of a booklet will be issued and a multiple entry, multi-purpose OCI 'U' visa sticker will be pasted on the foreign passport of the applicant. For this purpose, the applicant has to produce the original passport to the Indian Mission/Post/FRROs after receipt of the acceptance letter/verifying the status of the application online.

23. Will a separate OCI passport be issued?

No.

24. Will a duplicate certificate of registration as an OCI will be issued?

Yes. For this purpose, an application has to be made to the Indian Mission/Post with evidence for loss of certificate. In the case of mutilated/damaged certificate an application has to be made enclosing the same. The applications in both the cases to be submitted to the concerned Indian Mission/ Post/FRRO along with payment of a fee of US \$ 100 or equivalent in local currency & Rs.5,500/- in case of application is filled in India.

25. Will a new OCI visa sticker be pasted on the new foreign passport after the expiry of the old passport?

Yes. On payment of requisite fee, a new OCI 'U' visa sticker will be issued. However, the applicant can continue to carry the old passport wherein the OCI 'U' visa sticker was pasted along with new passport for visiting India without seeking a new visa, as the visa is lifelong.

26. Will the applicant lose his citizenship after registering as an OCI?

No.

27. Can a person registered as an OCI travel to protected area/restricted area without permission?

No. He/she will be required to seek PAP/RAP for such visits.

28. Would the Indian civil/criminal laws be applicable to persons registered as OCI?

Yes, for the period OCI is living in India.

29. Can a person registered as an OCI be granted Indian citizenship?

Yes. As per the provisions of section 5(1) (g) of the Citizenship Act, 1955, a person who is registered as an OCI for 5 years and is residing in India for 1 year out of the above 5 years, is eligible to apply for Indian Citizenship.

30. Will an OCI be granted gratis to certain categories of people?

No.

31. Can OCI be granted to foreign nationals who are not eligible for OCI, but married to persons who are eligible for OCI?

No.

32. Will foreign-born children of PIOs be eligible to become an OCI?

Yes, provided one of the parents is eligible to become an OCI.

33. What are the benefits of an OCI?

Following benefits will be allowed to an OCI:

- (i) Multiple entry, multi-purpose life long visa to visit India;
- (ii) Exemption from reporting to Police authorities for any length of stay in India; and
- (iii) Parity with NRIs in financial, economic and educational fields except in the acquisition of agricultural or plantation properties.
- (iv) Registered Overseas Citizen of India shall be treated at par with Non-Resident-Indian in the matter of inter-country adoption of Indian children.
- (v) Registered Overseas Citizens of India shall be treated at par with resident Indian nationals in the matter of tariffs in air fares in domestic sectors in India.
- (vi) Registered Overseas Citizens of India shall be charged the same entry fee as domestic Indian visitors to visit national parks and wildlife sanctuaries in India
- (vii) Parity with Non-Resident Indian in respect of entry fees to be charged for visiting the national monuments, historical sites and museums in India;
Pursuing the following professions in India, in pursuance of the provisions contained in the relevant Acts, namely:-
 - (a) doctors, dentists, nurses and pharmacists;
 - (b) advocates;
 - (c) architects;
 - (d) chartered accountants;
- (viii) Parity with Non-Resident Indian to appear for the All India Pre-medical Test or such other tests to make them eligible for admission in pursuance of the provisions contained in the relevant Acts.
- (ix) "State Governments should ensure that the OCI registration booklets of OCIs are treated as their identification for any services rendered to them. In case proof of residence is required, Overseas Citizens of India may give an

affidavit attested by a notary public stating that a particular/specific address may be treated as their place of residence in India and may also in their affidavit give their overseas residential address as well as e-mail address, if any”

34. Will any other benefit be granted to an OCI?

Any other benefits to an OCI will be notified by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs (MOIA) under Section 7B(1) of the Citizenship Act, 1955.

35. Is the OCI entitled to voting rights?

No.

36. Is the OCI entitled to hold constitutional post in India?

No.

37. Is the OCI entitled to hold Government posts in India?

No, except for the posts specified by an order by the Central Government.

38. If a person is already holding more than one nationality, can he/she apply for OCI?

Yes.

39. What are the advantages of the OCI when compared to PIO cardholders ?

- (i) An OCI is entitled to life long visa with free travel to India whereas for a PIO card holder, it is only valid for 15 years.
- (ii) A PIO cardholder is required to register with local Police authority for any stay exceeding 180 days in India on any single visit whereas an OCI is exempted from registration with Police authority for any length of stay in India.
- (iii) An OCI gets a specific right to become an Indian Citizen as per Section 5(i) and (ii) of the Citizenship Act, 1955.

whereas the PIO card holder does not have this.

40. Whether an OCI be entitled to apply for and obtain a normal Indian passport which is given to a citizen of India?

No. Indian Passports are given only to Indian citizen.

41. Whether nationals of Commonwealth countries are eligible for the OCI?

Yes, if they fulfill the eligibility criteria.

42. Can a person renounce OCI?

Yes. He/she has to declare intention of renunciation in Form XXII to the Indian Mission/Post where OCI registration was granted. After receipt of the declaration, the Indian Mission/Post/FRROs shall issue an acknowledgement in Form XXII A.

43. Do the applicants who have applied on the earlier prescribed application form have to apply again in the new form?

No. All such applications will be considered for registration as an OCI without seeking fresh applications and fees.

44. Can an OCI holder undertake Research work in India?

Yes, after getting prior approval/special permission from MHA.

45. Whether foreign military personnel are eligible for grant of OCI?

NO, foreign military personnel either in service or retired are not entitled for grant of OCI.

46. Whether civil Govt. servant working in Ministry of Defence as IT engineers/civil contractors entitled for OCI?

NO.

(2) An overseas citizen of India shall not be entitled to the rights conferred on a citizen of India-

- (a) under article 16 of the Constitution with regard to equality of opportunity in matters of public employment;
- (b) under article 58 of the Constitution for election as President;
- (c) under article 66 of the Constitution for election of Vice-President;
- (d) under article 124 of the Constitution for appointment as a Judge of the Supreme Court;
- (e) under article 217 of the Constitution for appointment as a Judge of the High Court;
- (f) under section 16 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950(43 of 1950) in regard to registration as a voter;
- (g) under sections 3 and 4 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 (43 of 1951) with regard to the eligibility for being a member of the House of the People or of the Council of States, as the case may be;
- (h) under section 5, 5A and 6 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 (43 of 1951) with regard to the eligibility for being a member of the Legislative Assembly or a Legislative Council, as the case may be, of a State;
- (i) for appointment to public services and posts in connection with the affairs of the Union or of any State except for appointment in such services and posts as the Central Government may by special order in that behalf specify.

(3) Every notification issued under sub-section (1) shall be laid before each House of Parliament.

7C. Renunciation of overseas citizenship.- (1) If any overseas citizen of India of full age and capacity makes in the prescribed manner a declaration renouncing his overseas citizenship of India, the declaration shall be registered by the Central Government, and; upon such registration, that person shall cease to be an overseas citizen of India.

(2) Where a person ceases to be an overseas citizen of India under sub-section (1), every minor child of that person registered as an overseas citizen of India, shall thereupon cease to be an overseas citizen of India.

Extract from the Citizenship Act, 1955

OVERSEAS CITIZENSHIP

7A. Registration of overseas citizens of India.- The Central Government may, subject to such conditions and restrictions as may be prescribed, on an application made in this behalf, register as an overseas citizen of India-

- (a) any person of full age and capacity,-
 - (i) who is citizen of another country, but was a citizen of India at the time of, or at any time after, the commencement of the Constitution; or
 - (ii) who is citizen of another country, but was eligible to become a citizen of India at the time of the commencement of the Constitution; or
 - (iii) who is citizen of another country, but belonged to a territory that became part of India after the 15th day of August, 1947; or
 - (iv) who is a child or a grand-child of such a citizen; or
- (b) a person, who is a minor child of a person mentioned in clause (a):

Provided that no person, who is or had been a citizen of Pakistan, Bangladesh or such other country as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, specify, shall be eligible for registration as an overseas citizen of India.

7B. Conferment of rights on overseas citizens of India.- (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, an overseas citizen of India shall be entitled to such rights other than the rights specified under sub-section(2) as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, specify in this behalf.

7D. Cancellation of registration as overseas citizen of India.- The Central Government may, by order, cancel the registration granted under sub-section(1) of section 7A if it is satisfied that-

- (a) the registration as an overseas citizen of India was obtained by means of fraud, false representation or the concealment of any material fact; or
- (b) the overseas citizen of India has shown disaffection towards the Constitution of India as by law established; or
- (c) the overseas citizen of India has, during any war in which India may be engaged, unlawfully traded or communicated with an enemy or been engaged in, or associated with, any business or commercial activity that was to his knowledge carried on in such manner as to assist an enemy in that war; or
- (d) the overseas citizen of India has, within five years after registration under sub-section(1) of section 7A has been sentenced to imprisonment for a term of not less than two years; or
- (e) it is necessary so to do in the interest of the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security of India, friendly relations of India with any foreign country, or in the interests of the general public.

COMPARATIVE CHART ON NRI/PERSON OF INDIAN ORIGIN /OCI CARDHOLDER

	NRI	Person of Indian Origin	OCI cardholder
1. Who?	An Indian citizen who is ordinarily residing outside India and holds an Indian Passport	A person who or whose any of ancestors was an Indian national and who is presently holding another country's citizenship/ nationality i.e. he/she is holding foreign passport	A person registered as Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) Cardholder under section 7A of the Citizenship Act, 1955
2. Who is eligible	-	-	<p>Following categories of foreign nationals are eligible for registration as Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) Cardholder:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Who was a citizen of India at the time of, or at any time after the commencement of the Constitution i.e. 26.01.1950; or (2) who was eligible to become a citizen of India on 26.01.1950; or (3) who belonged to a territory that became part of India after 15.08.1947; or (4) who is a child or a grandchild or a great grandchild of such a citizen; or (5) who is a minor child of such persons mentioned above; or (6) who is a minor child and whose both parents are citizens of India or one of the parents is a citizen of India; or (7) spouse of foreign origin of a citizen of India or spouse of foreign origin of an Overseas Citizen of India Cardholder

			<p>registered under section 7A of the Citizenship Act, 1955 and whose marriage has been registered and subsisted for a continuous period of not less than two years immediately preceding the presentation of the application.</p> <p>Note : No person, who or either of whose parents or grandparents or great grandparents is or had been a citizen of Pakistan, Bangladesh or such other country as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, specify, shall be eligible for registration as an Overseas Citizen of India Cardholder.</p>
3. How can one get?	-	-	<p>Eligible persons to apply online. For this purpose, please log on to https://passport.gov.in/oci</p>
4. Where to apply?	-	-	<p>The applicants have to submit the application form online and upload all the requisite documents (self attested), photograph and signature (in the case of minors who cannot sign, left hand thumb impression) along with the application. After submission of the complete application online including documents, photograph and signature, the original of the supporting documents have to be submitted to the Indian Mission/ Post/ FRRO concerned for prior verification.</p> <p>Details of offices where the applicants have to submit the original supporting documents for prior verification are as follows:-</p> <p><u>Applicants outside India</u></p> <p>(1) The Indian Mission /Post having jurisdiction over the country of which applicant is a citizen; or</p>

			<p>(2) If he/she is not living in the country of his/her citizenship, to the Indian Mission /Post having jurisdiction over the country of which the applicant is ordinarily resident.</p> <p><u>Applicants in India</u></p> <p>(i) If the applicant is residing in India, to the Foreigners Regional Registration Offices (FRROs) according to their jurisdictional control. To know the jurisdiction of FRROs, please see "Addresses of offices to submit OCI applications" in the website of the Ministry of Home Affairs – www.mha.nic.in.</p>
5. Fees?	-	-	<p>(a) in case of application submitted in Indian Mission/ Post abroad - US \$ 275 or equivalent in local currency.</p> <p>(b) in case of application submitted in India - Rs.15,000/- .</p>
6. Which nationals are ineligible?	-	-	No person, who or either of whose parents or grandparents or great grandparents is or had been a citizen of Pakistan, Bangladesh or such other country as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, specify, shall be eligible for registration as an Overseas Citizen of India Cardholder.
7. What benefits one is entitled to?	All benefits as available to Indian citizens subject to notifications issued by the Government from time to time	No specific benefits	(i) Multiple entry lifelong visa for visiting India for any purpose (However OCI Cardholders will require a special permission to undertake research work in India for which they may submit the application to the Indian Mission/ Post/ FRRO concerned).

			<p>(ii) Exemption from registration with Foreigners Regional Registration Officer (FRRO) or Foreigners Registration Officer (FRO) for any length of stay in India.</p> <p>(iii) Parity with Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) in respect of all facilities available to them in economic, financial, and educational fields except in matters relating to the acquisition of agricultural or plantation properties.</p> <p>(iv) Registered Overseas Citizen of India Cardholder shall be treated at par with Non-Resident-Indians in the matter of inter-country adoption of Indian children.</p> <p>(v) Registered Overseas Citizen of India Cardholder shall be treated at par with resident Indian nationals in the matter of tariffs in air fares in domestic sectors in India.</p> <p>(vi) Registered Overseas Citizen of India Cardholder shall be charged the same entry fee as domestic Indian visitors to visit national parks and wildlife sanctuaries in India.</p> <p>(vii) Parity with Non-Resident Indians(NRI) in respect of:-</p> <p>(A) entry fees to be charged for visiting the national monuments, historical sites and museums in India;</p> <p>(B) pursuing the following professions in India, in pursuance of the provisions contained in the relevant Acts, namely:-</p> <p>(a) doctors, dentists, nurses</p>
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			<p>and pharmacists; (b) advocates (c) architects (d) chartered accountants</p> <p>(C) to appear for the All India Pre-Medical Test or such other tests to make them eligible for admission in pursuance of the provisions contained in the relevant Acts.</p> <p>(viii) State Governments should ensure that the OCI Cardholder registration booklets of OCI Cardholders are treated as their identification for any services rendered to them. In case proof of residence is required, Overseas Citizens of India Cardholder may give an affidavit attested by a notary public stating that a particular/specific address may be treated as their place of residence in India and may also in their affidavit give their overseas residential address as well as e-mail address, if any.</p> <p>Any other benefits to an OCI Cardholder will be notified by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) under section 7B(1) of the Citizenship Act, 1955.</p>
8. Does he/she require visa for visiting India	No	Yes	Can visit India without visa for life long
9. Is he/she required to register with the local police authorities in India?	No	Yes if the period of stay is for more than 180 days	No
10. What activities can be	All activities	Activity as per the type of visa obtained	All activities except research work for which special permission is required from the Indian

undertaken in India?			Mission/Post/FRRO concerned.
11. How can one acquire Indian citizenship?	He/she is an Indian citizen	As per section 5(1)(a) & 5(1)(c) of the Citizenship Act, 1955, he/she has to be ordinarily resident in India for a period of 7 years before making an application for registration.	<p>As per section 5(1)(g) of the Citizenship Act,1955, a person registered as an OCI cardholder for 5 years and who is ordinarily resident in India for twelve months before making an application for registration is eligible for grant of Indian citizenship.</p> <p>Central Government, if it is satisfied that special circumstances exist, may after recording the circumstances in writing, relax the period of twelve months, up to a maximum of thirty days which may be in different breaks.</p>
