IMPORTANT NOTICE

Discontinuation of Person of Indian Origin (PIO) Card Scheme

The Government of India announced vide Gazette Notification No.26011/01/2014-F.I dated 09.01.2015 that all PIO cards issued till 09.01.2015 are deemed to be OCI cards. As such the PIO cards issued till 09.01.2015 are deemed to be OCI cards but henceforth applicants may apply for OCI card only, as PIO card scheme is no longer in existence.

2. Importantly, the date for application for conversion of valid PIO card to OCI card has been extended till "**31 March 2016**". Beyond March 31, 2016, the existing PIO cards shall not be valid and holders will need a visa to travel to India. Applications for OCI cards after March 31, 2016 shall also attract the usual charge of USD 283. Valid PIO card holders are advised to submit applications well in advance of March 31 2016 for conversion to OCI card to avoid last minute rush. One can apply for OCI card in lieu of valid PIO card free of any charge. The applicants may submit the applications for OCI card in lieu of PIO card to the Indian Missions at Abuja and Lagos. This is in modification of the earlier instructions that applicants should apply only at the location where the PIO card was issued.

3. For more information and registration for OCI card please visit OCI website at **https://passport.gov.in/oci/**

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