



Consulate General of India
Atlanta

PRESS RELEASE

December 23, 2021

Subject: Extension of validity of PIO Card till 31st December, 2022

It has been decided that **the Bureau of Immigration (BOI) will accept Person of Indian Origin (PIO) Cards as valid travel document till 31st December, 2022 along with valid foreign passport.** The Indian Immigration Check Post(s) will continue to consider all PIO Cards valid for exit/entry into India till 31st December, 2022.

2. This extension of timeline is subject to the condition that if in the meantime, any deadline is notified by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) thereby making handwritten PIO Cards invalid, then PIO cardholders may have to obtain appropriate visa from Indian Missions/Posts.

3. All PIO Cardholders with valid PIO Cards as on 9th January, 2015 are advised to apply for conversion of their PIO Cards into OCI Cards. The advantages of OCI Cards are given below:

- (a) OCI Card is a smart card;
- (b) Possession of an OCI Card will facilitate quicker immigration clearance at Immigration Check Posts;
- (c) It will help in obtaining various Consular Services from Indian Missions/Posts;
- (d) For those who are resident in India, it will facilitate in availing various services in India; and
- (e) The fee for conversion of PIO Card into OCI Card is US\$ 100 while the fee for issuance of fresh OCI Card is US\$ 275.

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