Updated Overseas Indian Card Instructions

The Government of India has circulated fresh instructions in respect of Overseas Indian Citizen (OCI) which is a life-long visa granted to people of Indian origin, who are now nationals of foreign countries.

2. Since, this is not a visa granted on the national passport of a country but a separate passport like card, the following important instructions are brought to the attention of airlines operating in Djibouti with regard to the OCI:-

Important Information;

(1) It is a multiple entry lifelong visa for visiting India for persons of Indian origin.
(2) OCI Card would not be valid to visit India to do (i) Research Work; visit Protected Areas/Restricted Areas for which special permission from Ministry of Home Affairs, New Delhi would be required.
(3) OCI Card can be issued to Persons of Indian Origin with lineage up to 4th generation for all countries except nationals of Mauritius and Surinam where the facility is extended up to 6th generation.
(4) OCI Card must be reissued each time a new passport is issued up to the age of 20 years and once after completing 50 years of age in view of biological changes in the face of the applicant.
(5) There is no need to make a new OCI Card after getting a new passport, between the ages of 21 and 50 years.
(6) In case of change of nationality of the OCI Cardholder, he/she can be permitted to enter/exit on the strength of the OCI Card and valid passport of the new nationality provided the new nationality is not that of Pakistan or Bangladesh.
(7) Children and spouse of the foreign military/police personnel either in service or retired and foreign nationals working in private security agencies, Home Offices, Prisons, National Probation Service and companies or organizations associated with the Home Office or military institutions i.e. those who are not directly employed in military or police, may be considered for registration as OCI Cardholders.
(8) Adopted children, children born out of live-in relationship and children born out of IVF/Surrogacy may be considered for registration as an OCI cardholder provided fulfilling prescribed eligibility criteria.
Ineligible Persons:

(9) The persons of non-Indian origin including or Pakistani and Bangladeshi origin; foreign military/police personnel either serving or retired are not eligible for OCI Card.

Procedure for Granting registration as OCI Cardholder:

(10) OCI Card can be applied at the Indian Embassies abroad or at FRRO’s office in India after clearance from MHA, New Delhi. In case MHA clearance is not received, Embassies may grant OCI Card after 20 days from date of acknowledgement of the application. The OCI Card can be applied at webpage www.ociservices.gov.in

(11) In case of application submitted in respect of spouse of Person of Indian Origin, the Embassy can issue OCI Card only after MHA, New Delhi clearance. Deemed MHA clearance after lapse of 20 days is not applicable.

Benefits for OCI Cardholder in parity with Non-Resident Indians:

(12) Inter-country adoption of Indian children.
(13) Same tariffs in air fares in domestic sectors in India; admittance into nationals parks; wildlife sanctuaries; national monuments; working as doctors; dentists; nurses; pharmacists; advocates; architects; and chartered accountants; and appearing for All India Pre-Medical Test or such other tests to make them eligible for admission.
(14) In economic, financial and agricultural fields except in matters related to the acquisition of agricultural or plantation properties.
(15) Eligible for teaching faculty in IITs, NITs, IIMs, HSERs, HSc, Central Universities and in the new AIIMS being set up.
(16) Exemption from registration with FRRO/FRO for any length of stay in India. OCI cards are treated as their identification for any services rendered to them.

OCI Cardholders are not entitled to:

(17) To vote; to hold offices of President, Vice President; Judges of Supreme Court and High Courts; Member of Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, Legislative Assembly or council; and for appointment in public services (Government services).

For updated FAQ on OCI and other details, please see: www.ociservices.gov.in

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