

## EMBASSY OF INDIA

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### **NOTICE**

As earlier announced the PIO Card scheme has been withdrawn vide Gazette Notification No.25024/9/2014F.I dated 09/01/2015.

Conversion of PIO cards into OCI cards will be done free-of-charge (Gratis) for applications submitted until 31 December, 2017. The conversion process for PIO card to OCI card is very simple and does not involve scrutiny or additional documentation except for the requirement of foreign passport and the existing PIO card.

It is pertinent to mention that erstwhile PIO cards are hand written whereas the new OCI cards are machine readable. It has been brought to the notice of the Ministry that from October, 2018, International Civil Aviation Organization will accept only machine readable travel documents. The Existing PIO cards which are hand written will, therefore, become invalid travel documents.

A separate online application form for submission of application for registration as OCI cardholder in lieu of PIO card is available on the website: <http://passport.gov.in/oci/captchaActionPIO>

All the PIO card holders are, therefore once again advised to apply urgently for conversion of their PIO cards to OCI cards within the deadline of 31/12/2017.

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