



**Consulate General of India**  
**Atlanta**

**PRESS RELEASE**

October 23, 2020

**Subject:        Extension of validity of PIO Card till December 31, 2021**

It has been decided that the Bureau of Immigration (BOI) will accept Person of Indian Origin (PIO) cards as valid travel document till 31.12.2021 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 31.12.2021.

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 are, meanwhile, advised to convert their PIO cards in to OCI cards well in time. The advantages of OCI cards:

- (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.
- (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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