



सत्यमेव जयते  
Consulate General of India  
Melbourne

## Press Release

### **Discontinuation of hand-written Travel Documents by International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) and validity of Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) Cards**

All Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) cardholders with valid cards as on 09 January 2015 were deemed to be Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) cardholders and were advised to apply for conversion of their PIO cards to OCI Cards before 31 December 2017. The conversion after this date is permitted at a fee of USD 275 (charges for issuance of fresh OCI card).

2. Machine readable electronic travel document is mandated by International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) guidelines. It is not a precondition prescribed by the Government for entry into India.

3. If any deadline is issued by ICAO, thereby making hand written PIO cards invalid, all such handwritten PIO card holders would be required to take appropriate visas from the Indian Missions/Consulates.

4. However, the Indian immigration check posts would continue to consider all PIO cards valid for exit/entry into India till 31 March 2019.

5. All holders of valid PIO cards as on 09 January 2015 are requested to get their PIO cards converted into OCI cards at the earliest.

Melbourne

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