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**Press Release**

**Overseas Citizen of India Cardholder**

We have been receiving queries from Kuwaiti nationals married to Indian women or those having parents/grand parents as Indian nationals regarding eligibility for grant of Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) card. The position with regard to the grant of OCI by Government of India is as below:

2. A foreign national, - (i) who was a citizen of India at the time of, or at any time after 26th January, 1950; or (ii) who was eligible to become a citizen of India on 26th January, 1950; or (iii) who belonged to a territory that became part of India after 15th August, 1947; or (iv) who is a child or a grandchild or a great grandchild of such a citizen; or (v) who is a minor child of such persons mentioned above; or (vi) who is a minor child and whose both parents are citizens of India or one of the parents is a citizen of India - is eligible for registration as OCI cardholder. **Besides, spouse of foreign origin of a citizen of India or spouse of foreign origin of an Overseas Citizen of India Cardholder and whose marriage has been registered and subsisted for a continuous period of not less than two years immediately preceding the presentation of the application is also eligible for registration as OCI cardholder**.

3. Therefore, the spouse (for example, Kuwaiti national) of foreign origin of a citizen of India or spouse (for example, Kuwaiti national) of foreign origin of an Overseas Citizen of India Cardholder and whose marriage has been registered and subsisted for a continuous period of not less than two years immediately preceding the presentation of the application is also eligible for registration as OCI cardholder

4. **Benefits of OCI card holders and the OCI registration process**:

**(a) An OCI card holder has the following benefits:**
(i) Multiple entry, multi-purpose lifelong visa to visit India;

(ii) Exemption from reporting to Police authorities for any length of stay in India; and

(iii) Parity with NRIs in financial, economic and educational fields except in the acquisition of agricultural or plantation properties.

**(b) How to register for grant of OCI card:**

Please visit the URL : <http://passport.gov.in/oci/> for those seeking registration as OCI. For those seeking OCI card in lieu of PIO may visit URL: <http://passport.gov.in/oci/capchaActionPIO>. The chart showing fee application for grant of OCI, conversion of PIO to OCI and miscellaneous service is enclosed.

**Note**: Since the OCI card is received from India by post after verification/clearance by concerned authorities in India, it may take about 60 days for receipt of OCI card. (Since the application is made on-line, the applicant can also check the status on-line). For any query relating to OCI card, please contact Shri K.K. Pahel, First Secretary (Consular and Community Affairs) Tel. No. 22533315 & Mobile 97229948.

**15 September 2016**