

**Extension of deadline for registration as OCI cardholder
by erstwhile PIO cardholders**

The submission of application for OCI card in lieu of PIO card is voluntary and on gratis basis. Presently such conversion on gratis basis has been extended till 31.12.2017.

2. It is pertinent to mention that erstwhile PIO cards are hand written whereas the new OCI cards are machine readable. It is brought to the notice that from October 2018, International Civil Aviation Organisation will accept only machine readable travel documents. Since the existing PIO cards are hand written, it will become invalid. Hence, it is necessary upon PIO cardholders to obtain machine readable OCI cards in lieu of existing hand written PIO cards. It is advisable to get PIO cards converted before 31.12.2017 to avoid any inconvenience.