Frequently Asked Questions

1. **I am a US citizen and hold a valid multiple entry tourist visa for India. I am of Indian origin but I don't have OCI. I would like to visit India due to family emergency. Is it possible to get a special permit from the Consulate that would allow me to visit India?**

   The Government of India has restored all existing visas, which had been suspended earlier, **except electronic visa (e-Visa), Tourist Visa and Medical Visa**.
   All those who hold **e-Visa, Tourist visa and Medical visa** are required to apply for a fresh **Entry visa** to enter India. For details, please refer to https://www.cgisf.gov.in/page/entry-visa-services/ and follow the instructions.

2. **Can the Consulate provide an exemption certificate to waive off institutional quarantine so that I can reach my family quickly?**

   No. Consulate doesn't issue exemption certificate. Please refer to the latest travel advisory for all international passengers issued by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare at https://www.mohfw.gov.in/pdf/Guidelinesforinternationalarrivals17022021.pdf
   Quarantine will be as per guidelines by concerned State and Central Government authorities in India. All international passengers arriving in India post 23:59 hrs on 22-Feb-2021, may refer to the algorithm at https://www.mohfw.gov.in/pdf/Algorithmforinternationalarrivals.pdf

3. **Should I be taking a COVID test before landing in India?**

   As per the existing guidelines, all travellers should (i) submit self-declaration form on the online Air Suvidha portal (www.newdelhiairport.in) before the scheduled travel and (ii) upload a negative COVID-19 **RT-PCR** report. This test should have been conducted within 72 hrs prior to undertaking the journey.

4. **I have an OCI card which needs to be re-issued since my age crossed 50 years and I am carrying a new US passport. Can I travel on my current OCI card to India?**

   Yes. If you have any emergency travel plan, you can travel with your current OCI card, current passport and old passport associated with OCI. OCI renewal time has been extended till 30-Jun-2021. For details, please refer to https://www.cgisf.gov.in/page/oci-overseas-citizenship-of-india-cards/

5. **I am a USA citizen born in India. I have a valid OCI card. Should I apply for entry visa to travel to India?**

   No. As per the latest guidelines, all OCI card holders holding US Passport are permitted to enter India. You may also refer to https://www.cgisf.gov.in/news_detail/?newsid=81
   OCI Card holders do not require entry visa to enter India.

6. **Can I book my tickets through other commercial foreign carriers such as Emirates/Lufthansa.?**

   The existing air bubble arrangement only allows **Air India** and **United Airlines** to carry passengers from US to India. We recommend flying by these airlines directly to India.

7. **Parents are Indian Citizens holding Indian Passports. Minor children are US citizens and they hold valid Indian visa. Can we travel now?**

   The existing visas like **e-Visa, Tourist visa and Medical visas** are currently suspended. You are required to apply for an **Entry visa** for your minor children holding US passport. To apply for entry visa, please refer to https://www.cgisf.gov.in/page/entry-visa-services/ and follow the instructions.

8. **How do I know the current status of my OCI application?**

   For any enquiry regarding your OCI application, please write to our service provider, M/S VFS Global at SFOICAC@vfsglobal.com

9. **I am an Indian citizen and my Indian passport is expired/about to expire. How should I apply for passport renewal?**

   Please follow the instructions regarding passport renewal on the M/S VFS Global website at
   https://visa.vfsglobal.com/usa/en/ind/apply-passport