

(Updated as on 16th September, 2014)

Powers delegated to State Governments/ UT Administrations/ FRROs/ FROs for various visa related services

S.No.	Type of Visa	Visa related service	Powers delegated
1	Any type of visa	Exit permission	FRROs/FROs are empowered to regularize overstay of foreign nationals and grant exit subject to no local objection, no LOC, no Court case pending due to overstay and on payment of fees/penalty.
2	Any type of visa	Temporary extension	In case any request of a foreign national (other than a Pakistani national) for extension of visa is forwarded by FRROs/FROs to the Ministry of Home Affairs for approval, FRROs/ FROs may grant temporary extension of visa for 3 months and also may grant return visa for visiting their home country or for holiday to nearby countries.
3	Any type of visa	Cancellation of visa	In the case of conviction by a court, violation of visa conditions, deportation, issue of Leave India Notice/ Exit of foreigners, Entry refusal, non-issuance of appropriate visas, FRRO/FRO concerned is empowered to cancel the Indian visa of the foreigner before grant of exit/ deportation.
4	Visa/Exit permission to child born in India (other than surrogacy cases)	Child born in India (other than surrogacy cases) Endorsement of visa/ exit permission	In all cases relating to child born in India (other than surrogacy cases), visa endorsement/ exit permission may be granted by FRROs/ FROs subject to usual checks. Any further extension of visa may also be granted by FRROs/ FROs.
5	Visa/exit permission for a child born in India (in surrogacy cases)	Endorsement of visa/ exit permission on the passport of a child born in India (in surrogacy cases)	In such cases, visa endorsement/exit permission may be granted by the FRROs/FROs subject to ensuring that the following documents are submitted by the foreign nationals concerned before grant of visa/exit permit:- 1. Notarised agreement between the commissioning parents, surrogate mother and doctor treating the case

			<ol style="list-style-type: none">2. Letter from the Embassy of the foreign country in India or the Foreign Ministry of the country stating that (a) the country recognized surrogacy and (b) the child/ children to be born to the commissioning couple through the Indian surrogate mother will be permitted entry into their country as a biological child/ children of the couple commissioning surrogacy3. Undertaking from the commissioning Parents that they would take care of the child/ children born through surrogacy4. Certificate from the ART clinic concerned confirming that the child/ children have been duly taken custody by the foreigners and that liabilities towards the Indian surrogate mother have been fully discharged as per the agreement5. Discharge letter from the hospital where child is born6. Copy of no dues certificate from ART clinic where child is born7. Birth Certificate(s) of the surrogate child/ children8. A copy of the passport issued to the surrogate child by the respective foreign country9. A copy of the passport and visa of the foreign parents.
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6	<p>Visa/ exit permission in case of passport acquired while in India</p>	<p>Endorsement of visa/ exit permission in case of passport acquired while in India (in cases of loss/ theft of original passport of a foreign national or acquiring nationality/ passport of another country by an Indian national)</p>	<p>In all cases where a passport of another country has been acquired while in India due to loss/ theft of original passport of a foreign national or acquiring nationality/ passport of another country by an Indian national, visa endorsement/ exit permission may be granted by the FRROs/FROs subject to production of copy of FIR on loss/ theft of original passport & checking arrival details of the foreigner (in case of loss/ theft of original passport) and submission of certificate regarding surrender of Indian passport etc.(in case of an Indian national acquiring nationality/ passport of another country).</p>
7	<p>Tourist Visa</p>	<p>Re-entry permission</p>	<p>As per extant instructions, there should be a gap of at least 2 months between two visits to India on a Tourist Visa in respect of nationals of Afghanistan, China, Iran, Pakistan, Iraq, Sudan, foreigners of Pakistan origin and Stateless persons.</p> <p>However, in emergent cases involving re-entry of persons of Indian origin on Tourist Visa within the 2-month period of their earlier departure from India, the FRROs/FROs may exercise their discretion in allowing such passengers to enter the country after being convinced of the genuineness of their visit.</p> <p>Some foreign nationals holding Tourist Visas, after initial entry into India, may plan to visit another country largely on account of neighbourhood tourism and need to re-enter India within 60 days, before finally exiting. The Immigration authorities in all the Immigration Check Posts in the country may allow such foreign nationals on Tourist Visas arriving in India without the specific authorization from the Indian Missions/Posts to make a maximum of three entries into the country (need based) subject to production of travel itinerary and supporting documentation (ticket bookings).</p>

			<p>Note: The restriction of two months gap for re-entering India does not apply to foreign nationals coming on any other type of visa and also to people of Indian origin holding PIO and OCI cards.</p>
8	Tourist Visa	Conversion to 'X' Visa	<p>(a) Tourist Visa may be converted to 'X' (Entry) Visa by the FRRO/ FRO concerned if a foreigner who has come to India on a Tourist visa marries an Indian national during the validity of his/her Tourist visa, subject to the fulfillment of the following conditions:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Submission of a copy of the registered Marriage Certificate; and (ii) a report about their marital status which will, inter-alia, include his/her antecedents, confirmation about their living together and security clearance. <p>(b) Tourist visa of Persons of Indian Origin, who were otherwise entitled for 'X' (Entry) Visa but have entered India on Tourist visa, may be converted to 'X' Visa by FRRO/ FRO concerned during valid stay on Tourist Visa subject to verification of PIO status.</p> <p>On conversion of Tourist visa into 'X' visa, the following endorsement will be made on the Passport / Residential Permit - 'Employment/Business not permitted'.</p>
9	Tourist Visa	Conversion to Medical Visa/ Medical Attendant Visa	<p>Tourist visa of a foreigner who falls ill after his/her entry into India rendering him/her unfit to travel and who requires specialized medical treatment may be converted to Medical visa by the FRRO/ FRO concerned if he/she is eligible for grant of Medical Visa and a medical certificate is obtained from a government / ICMR recognized hospital. In such cases,</p> <p>'Tourist' visa of the attendant accompanying the foreigner (whose 'Tourist' visa is converted into Medical</p>

			<p>Visa) may also be converted into Medical Attendant [Med X] visa co-terminus with the Medical visa of the foreigner by the FRRO/ FRO concerned.</p> <p>On conversion of Tourist visa into Medical visa/ 'Med X' visa, the following endorsement will be made on the Passport / Residential Permit - 'Employment/ Business not permitted'.</p>
10	Medical Visa/ Medical Attendant Visa (other than Pakistan and Bangladesh nationals)	Extension of visa	<p>The initial period of validity of Medical Visa (MED Visa)/Medical Attendant Visa (MED X Visa) may be up to a period of one year or the period of treatment, whichever is less. This period can be extended for a further period up to one year by the FRROs/ FROs on production of medical certificate/advice from established/recognized/ specialized hospitals/ treatment centres in India.</p> <p>Any further extension will be granted only by the Ministry of Home Affairs on the recommendations of the FRRO/FRO concerned supported by appropriate medical documents.</p> <p>Two medical attendants allowed</p> <p>Medical visa/Medical Attendant Visa will be valid for a maximum of three entries during one year. FRROs/FROs may permit one additional entry in emergent situations, where such additional entry is justified by medical documents.</p>
11	Medical Visa/ Medical Attendant Visa (Pakistan nationals)	Extension of visa	<p>The initial period of validity of Medical Visa/ Medical Attendant Visa may be up to a period of 3 months or the period of treatment, whichever is less. This period can be extended by the Ministry of Home Affairs on the recommendations of the State Governments/ FRRO supported by appropriate medical documents.</p> <p>Only one Medical Attendant allowed.</p>

12	Medical Visa/ Medical Attendant Visa (Bangladesh nationals)	Extension of visa	<p>The initial period of validity of Medical visa/ Medical Attendant Visa may be up to a period of one year or for the period of treatment whichever is less. The Medical visa and the Medical Attendant visa will be extendable by another one year subject to production of the required medical report.</p> <p>Three Medical Attendants are allowed.</p>
13	Employment Visa	Extension of visa	<p>(1) As per extant instructions, an Employment Visa can be granted by the Indian Missions/Posts to a foreign national for the duration as mentioned below :-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) A foreign technician/expert coming to India in pursuance of bilateral agreement between the Government of India and the foreign government, or in pursuance of a collaboration agreement that has been approved by the Government of India, may be granted an Employment visa for the duration of the agreement, or for a period of five years, whichever is less, with multiple entry facilities. (ii) In the case of highly skilled foreign personnel being employed in the IT software and IT enabled sectors, the Missions/Posts may grant visa with validity up to 3 (three) years or the term of assignment, whichever is less, with multiple entry facility. (iii) A foreigner coming to India for employment not covered in (i) or (ii) above may be granted Employment visa with a validity up to 2 (two) years or the term of assignment, whichever is less, with multiple entry facility.

			<p>(iv) CEO/Senior executive of a US company may be granted Employment Visa for a period of 3 years or co-terminus with the contract, whichever is earlier.</p> <p>(v) <u>Japanese nationals</u></p> <p>(a) Japanese technicians or experts coming to India in pursuance of a bilateral agreement between the Government of India and the Government of Japan or a collaborative agreement that has been approved by the Government of India or arrangements between non-governmental organizations including arrangements regarding cultural or academic exchanges that have been approved by the Government of India may be granted multiple entry Employment visa for the duration stated in the arrangement or for a period of 5 years, whichever is less.</p> <p>(b) Japanese nationals who are not covered under (a) above but are highly skilled and qualified professionals employed by a company, organization or industry in the IT software and IT enabled sectors in India, multiple-entry employment visa valid for 3 years initially may be granted</p> <p>(c) Japanese nationals who are highly skilled and</p>
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			<p>qualified professional coming to India for employment by a company, organization or industry in India or engaged in an undertaking in India on contract not covered in (a) and (b) above may be granted multiple-entry employment visas valid for up to 3 years or the terms of assignment whichever is less.</p> <p>(2) The Employment visa of a foreign national may be extended by the FRROs / FROs beyond the initial visa validity period, up to a total period of 5 years from the date of issue of the initial Employment Visa, on an year to year basis subject to good conduct, production of necessary documents in support of continued employment, filing of Income Tax returns and no adverse security inputs about the foreigner. The period of extension shall not exceed five years from the date of issue of the initial Employment visa.</p>
14	Employment Visa	Extension of Employment Visa granted to foreigners wishing to work with NGOs registered in India	<p>A foreigner who wishes to come to India for honorary work (without salary) with NGOs registered in India may be granted a multiple entry Employment 'E' Visa with special endorsement on his/ her E Visa" TO WORK WITH NGO—(Name of the NGO and place of work) for one year initially.</p> <p>This Employment Visa may be extended by the FRROs / FROs beyond the initial visa validity period up to a total period of 5 years from the date of issue of the initial Employment Visa, on an year to year basis, subject to good conduct, production of necessary documents in support of continued employment and no adverse security inputs about the foreigner. The</p>

			period of extension shall not exceed five years from the date of issue of the initial Employment visa.
15	Entry (X) Visa of family members/dependents of those coming on Employment Visa	Extension of visa	<p>Family members /dependents of a foreigner who is granted Employment Visa can be granted 'X' Visa co-terminus with the validity of the visa of the principal visa holder or for such shorter period as may be considered necessary by the Indian Mission.</p> <p>'X' visa of the family members/dependents of such foreign national can be extended by the FRROs/ FROs beyond the initial visa validity period up to a total period of 5 years from the date of issue of the initial visa, co-terminus with the visa of the principal Visa holder, subject to no adverse inputs against the said foreign national.</p>
16	Employment Visa	Conversion to 'X'(Entry) visa	<p>(a) Employment visa may be converted by the FRRO/ FRO concerned to 'X' (Entry) Visa if a foreigner who has come to India on Employment visa marries an Indian national during the validity of his/her Employment visa and does not intend to continue on Employment Visa. Such conversion would be considered subject to fulfillment of following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) submission of a copy of the registered Marriage Certificate; and (ii) a report about their marital status which will, inter-alia, include his/her antecedents, confirmation about their living together and security clearance <p>(b) Employment visa in case of Persons of Indian Origin, who were otherwise entitled for 'X' (Entry) Visa but have entered India on Employment visa, may also be converted by FRRO/FRO concerned to 'X' Visa subject to verification of PIO status.</p>

			On conversion of Employment visa into 'X' visa, the following endorsement will be made on the Passport / Residential Permit - 'Employment / Business not permitted'. "
17	Employment Visa	Conversion of Employment visa to Medical Visa and 'X' visa of dependents to Medical Attendant Visa	<p>Employment visa of a foreigner who falls ill after his/her entry into India rendering him/her unfit to travel, and requiring specialized medical treatment, may be converted by the FRRO/FRO concerned to a Medical visa if he/she is eligible for grant of the Medical Visa and a medical certificate is obtained from a government / ICMR recognized hospital.</p> <p>In such cases, 'X' visa of the family members/dependents accompanying the foreigner (whose Employment visa is converted into Medical Visa) may be converted into Medical Attendant [Med X] visa co-terminus with the Medical visa of the foreigner by the FRRO/FRO concerned.</p> <p>On conversion of Employment visa into Medical visa/ 'Med X' visa, the following endorsement will be made on the Passport / Residential Permit - 'Employment / Business not permitted'."</p>
18	'X' visa of nationals of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, China, Iran and Sri Lanka married to Indian nationals	Conversion of X visa into Employment Visa	<p>'X' Visa of nationals of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, China, Iran and Sri Lanka married to Indian nationals, but not entitled to a PIO card, may be converted into Employment Visa, on application, by the Ministry of Home Affairs, after prior screening by Security Agencies, subject to the following:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) He/she fulfils the conditions laid down for the grant of Employment Visa in such cases i.e. he/she must draw a minimum salary of US\$ 14,000 per annum. (b) Submission of adequate proof of marriage with the Indian national. (c) Obtaining a field report about the satisfactory conduct of the said

			<p>national.</p> <p>(d) Such conversion would be permissible only after two years of marriage having subsisted.</p> <p>The period of such visa will be for one year and the Employment visa can be extended on an yearly basis (without any limit) by the FRROs /FROs subject to the subsistence of the marriage with the Indian national, good conduct, production of necessary documents in support of continued employment, filing of Income Tax returns and no adverse security inputs about the said national.</p> <p>Any change in the employer will be permitted only with the prior approval of the Ministry of Home Affairs (Foreigners Division).</p> <p>If he/she discontinues the employment, his/her visa may be converted into 'X' Visa.</p>
19	Project Visa	Extension of visa	<p>The period of Project visa would be determined by the Indian Missions/Posts carefully in each case taking into account the actual duration of the project/ contract. The period of visa would be initially for a period of one year or for the actual duration of the project/ contract, whichever is less, with multiple-entry facility.</p> <p>The Project Visa can be extended for another one year by the State Government/ UT Administration concerned after getting a field report from the FRRO/FRO concerned.</p> <p>Any further extension of Project visa can be granted only by the Ministry of Home Affairs on getting a field report from the State Government/UT Admn. concerned.</p>
20	Business Visa	Extension of visa	<p>Indian Missions may grant a Business Visa with multiple entry facility for a period up to five (5) years or for a shorter duration as per the requirement. A stay stipulation of a maximum period of six (6) months may be</p>

			<p>prescribed for each visit by the concerned Indian Mission keeping in view the nature of the business activity for which such Business Visa is granted.</p> <p>In case Business visa is granted for a period less than five years by the Indian Missions, the same can be extended up to a maximum period of five years by the FRROs/ FROs concerned on year to year basis subject to the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) The gross sales/turnover from the business activities, for which the foreigner has been granted visa, is not less than Rs.1 crore per annum (to be achieved within 2 years of setting up the business or date of initial grant of B visa, whichever is earlier) (This condition would be applicable in case of Business Visa granted to foreign nationals to establish an industrial/ business venture in India. (2) Good conduct, production of necessary documents in support of continued business activity and no adverse inputs , security related or otherwise, about the foreigner. (3) The period of extension shall not be beyond five years from the date of issue of the Business visa. (4) If the extension of Visa is denied by FRRO/FRO, the foreigner shall leave India forthwith on expiry of the period of validity of the visa.
21	Business Visa	Conversion to X (Entry) Visa	<p>Business visa may be converted to 'X'(Entry) Visa by the FRRO/ FRO concerned if a foreigner who has come to India on Business visa marries an Indian national during the validity of his/her visa and does not intend to continue on Business Visa. Such conversion would be considered subject to fulfillment of following conditions:</p>

			<p>(a) submission of a copy of the registered Marriage Certificate; and</p> <p>(b) report about their marital status which will, inter-alia, include his/ her antecedents, confirmation about their living together and security clearance.</p> <p>(2) Business visa in case of Persons of Indian Origin, who were otherwise entitled for 'X' (Entry) Visa but have entered into India on Business visa, may be converted to 'X' Visa subject to verification of PIO status by the FRRO/ FRO concerned.</p> <p>On conversion of Business visa into 'X' visa, the following endorsement will be made on the Passport / Residential Permit - 'Employment/Business not permitted'."</p>
22	Business Visa	Conversion of Business visa to Medical Visa and 'X' visa of dependents to Medical Attendant Visa	<p>Business visa of the foreigners who fall ill after their entry into India rendering them unfit to travel and require specialized medical treatment may be converted to Medical visa by the FRRO/ FRO concerned if they are eligible for grant of Medical Visa and a medical certificate is obtained from a government / ICMR recognized hospital. In such case, 'X' visa of family members/ attendant accompanying the foreigner (whose 'Business' visa is converted into Medical Visa) may also be converted into Medical Attendant [Med X] visa by the FRRO/ FRO concerned co-terminus with the Medical visa of the foreigner.</p> <p>On conversion of Business visa into 'Medical visa/ 'Med X' visa, the following endorsement will be made on the Passport / Residential Permit - 'Employment/Business not permitted'."</p>
23	Student Visa	Grant of additional entries and extension of Student visa	As per extant instructions, Indian Missions/Posts may grant Student Visa for a maximum period up to five years or for the duration of the academic course of

			<p>study, whichever is less. Further, a maximum of three entries per academic year may be allowed to foreign students to facilitate them to visit their home countries during vacation.</p> <p>(a) In emergency situations, additional entries may be granted by FRROs/FROs concerned with prior permission obtained from the University/ Educational institution.</p> <p>(b) In case the duration of a course (s) being undertaken by a foreign student requires stay of more than 5 years from the initial validity of Visa, the foreigner can be granted extension of Visa by the jurisdictional FRRO/FRO.</p> <p>(c) Foreign students who fail to qualify a course within the prescribed time limit for completion of the course may also be granted an extension of visa as long as the concerned University/ Institution permits a student to complete a course subject to production of the necessary documentary evidence from the University/Institute permitting the foreign student to continue studies. However, the foreign student is expected to complete a course within three attempts and any permission beyond three attempts is to be approved carefully after thorough examination of documents and valid reasons for inability to complete the course in time. FRROs / FROs are empowered to grant an extension in such cases.</p> <p>(d) FRROs / FROs are also empowered to grant permission to change the course or educational institution / extend 'Student Visa'.</p>
24	Student Visa	Extension of Provisional	In case the foreign national does not have a firm letter of admission from the

		Student Visa and conversion to Student Visa.	<p>university / 15 ecognized college or educational institution because the procedure in some institutions may require an admission test etc., in such cases the Missions/ Posts may grant a 'Provisional Student Visa' on the basis of provisional admission certificate / letter of offer or advertisement for admission to foreign students issued by the University / 15 ecognized college or educational institution in India.</p> <p>'Provisional Student Visa' shall be valid for a period of six months which shall be extendable by the jurisdictional FRRO/FRO for a period up to six months on production of satisfactory documentary evidence. The name of the institution shall not be given in the 'Provisional Student Visa' as the foreign student may try admission in different institutions and alternative courses simultaneously.</p> <p>In case the Student gets regular admission in some University / 15 ecognized / reputed college or educational institution within the validity of the provisional visa, FRROs / FROs are empowered to grant a regular 'Student Visa' for the duration of the course or for a period of five years whichever is less.</p>
25	Student Visa	Cancellation of Student Visa	In case a foreigner on Student Visa discontinues his/ her course of study abruptly and voluntarily seek 'Exit' from India, FRRO/ FRO concerned is empowered to cancel his/ her Student Visa without prejudice.
26	Student Visa	Extension of Student visa of Chinese nationals	<p>Missions/ Posts may grant Student Visa to Chinese nationals under the following two broad categories:-</p> <p>(i) A three months Student Visa may be granted to Chinese nationals coming for studies under self finance</p>

			<p>(ii) Student Visa for the full duration of the course may be granted to Chinese nationals coming under cultural exchange programme or education exchange programme or other mutually approved programme.</p> <p>Student visa of Chinese nationals shall be extended for the first year by the State Government / UT Administration concerned. Subsequent extensions up to the duration of the course with two entries every year may be granted by FRROs/ FROs. In case there is change in institution/course/ place of registration of a Chinese Student, FRROs/ FROs may seek the approval of the Ministry of Home Affairs.</p>
27	Student Visa	Grant of exit and transfer of University or Educational Institution	<p>Request for grant of exit permit to foreign students, wherever required, should be issued by the FRRO/FRO concerned preferably on the same day but in any case within a period not exceeding three days, on submission of all the requisite documents like valid passport/visa, 'No due certificate' issued by the University / educational institution concerned and subject to nothing adverse and no local objection.</p> <p>All requests for transfer of University or educational institution should be cleared within a period of 15 days in case of transfer of University / educational institution within the jurisdiction of the same FRRO/FRO, and within 60 days in cases which involve transfer of University / educational institution to another FRRO/FRO on production of original cancellation certificate issued by the existing University or educational institution and admission confirmation certificate issued by the new University or educational institution.</p>

28	Student Visa	Conversion of 'X' Visa to Student Visa	'X'(Entry) Visa of dependents of foreign nationals coming on Employment, Business, Student, Research Visa etc. can be converted into Student Visa within the country by the FRRO/ FRO concerned provided such dependents fulfill the conditions laid down for the grant of Student Visa.
29	Student Visa	Conversion of 'X' Visa to Student Visa	'X' (Entry) Visa of a foreigner who has been studying on Entry Visa can be converted to Student Visa by the FRRO/ FRO concerned on attaining the age of 16 years or after 12 th Standard subject to fulfillment of the conditions for grant of Student Visa.
30	Student Visa	Conversion of 'X' visa to Student Visa	'X' (Entry) Visa of foreigners born to Indian nationals may be converted to Student Visa by the FRRO/ FRO concerned subject to verification of the PIO status.
31	Student Visa	Conversion of Student Visa to 'X' Visa	<p>Student Visa may be converted to 'X' (Entry) Visa by the FRRO/ FRO concerned if a foreigner who has come to India on Student visa marries an Indian national during the validity of his/her visa and does not intend to continue his studies. Such conversion would be considered subject to fulfillment of following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Submission of a copy of the registered Marriage Certificate; and (b) Report about their marital status which will, inter-alia, include his/her antecedents, confirmation about their living together and security clearance. <p>On conversion of Student visa into 'X' visa , the following endorsement will be made on the Passport / Residential Permit - 'Employment/ Business not permitted'</p>
32	Student Visa	Extension of Student Visa granted for study of yoga/vedic culture/ Indian systems of dance/ music	Indian Missions/ Posts may grant a Student Visa to persons coming for studying yoga, vedic culture, Indian systems of dance/ music etc. at a recognized institution. Some Institutions have been recognized for grant of visa for a period up to 5 years and some other institutions have been

			<p>recognized for grant of visa for a period up to one year. List of such institutions recognized is given under “Overview of visas granted by India- Student Visa” in the MHA website www.mha.nic.in – E-Governance services – Visa/Citizenship/PIO/OCI. The one year visa can be further extended on a year to year basis for the duration of the course subject to a maximum period of up to five years which may be granted by the FRRO/FRO concerned on the basis of due sponsorship by the Institution, nothing adverse against the foreigner(s) from the security angle, no local objection etc.</p>
33	Student Visa	Extension of Student Visa granted to foreign nationals desiring to study at the Vedanta Academy, Malavali, Pune	<p>The Mission/Post may, subject to production of a bonafide certificate, sponsorship by the institution, adequate financial resources to meet their costs, nothing adverse against the individual and no local objection etc., grant 3 years Student visa to the foreigner desiring to come to study at the Vedanta Academy, Malavali, Pune. The three years visa can further be extended for two more years in India by the FRRO/ FRO concerned subject to due sponsorship by the Institution/ nothing adverse etc.</p>
34	Research Visa	Extension of Research Visa	<p>Missions/Posts may grant Research Visa for a period of 3 years or for the duration of the research project, whichever is earlier.</p> <p>FRROs/FROs are competent to extend the Research Visa of foreign research scholars staying in India subject to production of (a) valid Research Visa, (b) bonafide certificate from the University/Institution of affiliation about his / her pursuing the research project indicating the duration of the research project, and (c) evidence of financial resources. The total period of the Visa may be restricted to the duration of the project as approved by the Institute of Affiliation or five years, whichever is less. Such foreign scholars may, if required, also be given extension for a period of not more</p>

			than six months as the last and final extension even after completion of the project in order to enable the research scholar to complete the final formalities of the research project.
35	Research Visa	Conversion of Student visa of foreign students already in India to Research visa	<p>In the case of those foreign students who are already in India and who wish to pursue research programmes after completing their studies in India, the local FRRO/ FRO can convert a student visa into a research visa if the student can furnish documentary proof of admission in a research programme and of adequate financial resources. Referral by the FRRO/ FRO to MHA and MEA would only be made if the case falls under the following categories:-</p> <p>(a) In case of nationals from Prior reference countries i.e. Afghanistan, China, Iran, Pakistan, Iraq or Sudan, or a foreigner of Pakistani origin, or a Stateless person.</p> <p>(b) Where research work involves visits to 'Restricted' or 'Protected' areas in India etc. or involves politically and socially sensitive subjects.</p>
36	Research Visa	Conversion of 'X' Visa to Research Visa	'X'(Entry) Visa of dependents of foreign nationals coming on Employment, Business, Student, Research Visa etc. can be converted into Research Visa within the country by the FRRO/ FRO concerned provided such dependents fulfill the conditions laid down for the grant of Research Visa
37	'X' Visa	Extension of 'X' visa of foreigners of Indian origin	A foreigner of Indian origin, his/her spouse and children staying in India on a long term visa, who are eligible for a 5 year multi-entry visa, may, on an application, be granted extension of stay for a period up to five years at a time from the date of initial entry under intimation to the Ministry of Home Affairs provided that such persons have not come to any adverse notice, and are not citizens of Bangladesh, Pakistan,

			<p>Sri Lanka, Afghanistan or China. The extension of stay may be granted by the FRRO/ FRO concerned subject to the following conditions:</p> <p>(a) The validity of the Residential Permit shall be for the period of stay specified in the Visa i.e. if the visa is for a period of 5 years without a stay stipulation, Residential Permit shall be issued for the entire period of 5 years. The Residential Permit may be issued with the following stipulation:-</p> <p>If at any time a foreigner, who is required to register, proposes to be absent from his/ her registered address for a continuous period of eight weeks or more, or is changing the registered address, or is finally departing from India, he/ she shall, before leaving, inform in person, or through an authorized representative, or by registered post to the jurisdictional Registration Officer of his/ her intention to leave, either temporarily or permanently. In case he/ she is moving to another address in India, the new address should also be intimated to the Registration Officer.</p> <p>(b) After completion of 5 years from the date of issue of visa, if further extension is required, the proposal shall be referred to MHA for clearance. MHA would grant extension for one year after the expiry of the initial period of five years. Subsequent extensions, if any, up to a total period of another</p>
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			<p>5 years at a time may be granted by FRROs/FROs concerned.</p> <p>(c) The same procedure as at (b) above will be adopted if further extension is required.</p> <p>(d) Extension will be granted subject to nothing adverse being reported and no local objection.</p> <p>(e) The foreigner shall not engage in business or employment or any activity which is not in accordance with the type of visa held by him/her.</p> <p>(f) Name of the foreigner shall not figure in any Ration card and/or Electoral Rolls. Passport / Residence Permit of the foreigner to be stamped - 'Business / employment not permitted on X Visa'.</p>
38	'X' Visa	Extension of 'X' Visas of foreign nationals coming to join Auroville Foundation	<p>(A) <u>Long-term visa</u> : Cases for grant of extension to such foreign nationals who have come on five years 'X' visa to join Auroville Foundation would be reviewed by the Secretary, Auroville Foundation and FRRO, Chennai jointly, based on the inputs available with them, and</p> <p>(a) if both are agreeable to the continued stay of the foreigner, the visa would be renewed for the next five years by FRRO, Chennai without any reference to the Ministry of Home Affairs. Such extension would entail three entries in a year. However, FRRO, Chennai may allow at the most one additional visit in a year under emergent conditions if there are reasonable grounds for the same. There would be no limit to such extensions in 5 year blocks at a time;</p>

			<p>(b) if both are opposed to the continuance of the foreign national, he/she would be ordered to leave India by the FRRO, Chennai immediately; and</p> <p>(c) if there is any disagreement between the two on grant of extension, the matter will be referred to the Ministry of Home Affairs</p> <p>(B) <u>Short-term visa</u>: Cases for grant of extension to such foreign national who has come on one year 'X' visa to join Auroville Foundation would be reviewed by the Secretary, Auroville Foundation and FRRO, Chennai jointly, and</p> <p>(a) if both are agreeable to the continued stay of the foreigner the visa would be renewed by FRRO, Chennai ,without any reference to the Ministry of Home Affairs, at the most for a period of three years on a year to year basis. In every such extension the person would be permitted only three entries in a year. However, FRRO, Chennai may allow one additional entry in a year under emergent conditions if he/she is so convinced;</p> <p>(b) if both are opposed on the continuance of the foreign national, he/she would be ordered by FRRO, Chennai to leave India immediately; and</p>
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			(c) if there is any disagreement between the two on grant of extension, the matter will be referred to the Ministry of Home Affairs.
39	'X' Visa	Extension of 'X' Visa granted to foreign nationals who own property in India	<p>As per extant instructions, the Indian Missions/ Posts abroad may grant one year multi entry 'X' visa to foreign nationals who own property in the country, subject to the following conditions:-</p> <p>(a) The foreign national must submit documentary proof of permission of the Reserve Bank of India for the purchase of / holding the property in India and the document should show registration of the particular property with the registration authority concerned.</p> <p>(b) The following stamp will be affixed on the passport - 'Employment / Business not permitted'.</p> <p>The one year multi 'X' visa granted by the Missions/Posts abroad to the foreigners who own property in India can be extended by the FRRO/FRO on yearly basis up to a maximum period of 5 years from the date of initial visa.</p>
40	'X' Visa	Extension of 'X' visa of foreign nationals coming to join the Missionaries of Charity, Kolkata	<p>The Indian Missions/ Posts may grant multiple entry 'X' (Entry) Visa for appropriate duration to the non-Indian Sisters, Brothers and Fathers who are coming to join the Missionaries of Charity, Kolkata for true and spiritual training subject to usual checks and on production of a letter of recommendation from the Missionaries of Charity, Kolkata, with a specific endorsement on the visa – "To join the Missionaries of Charity, Kolkata".</p> <p>The 'X' visa of such genuine spiritualists may be renewed by the FRRO concerned up to a maximum period of 5 years from the date of issue of initial visa based on the recommendation of the Missionaries of</p>

			Charity, Kolkata subject to no local objection, no Court case pending and on payment of applicable fee. Further renewal beyond 5 years may be granted only with the prior approval of the Ministry of Home Affairs.
41	'X' visa	Extension of stay on 'X' visa in cases of foreigners married to Indian nationals whose Indian spouse has expired or the person has gone for divorce	<p>(a) <u>In case of death of Indian spouse</u> : If the couple had a child and the foreign national has not re-married another foreigner, he/she may be allowed extension of stay on X visa by FRRO/ FRO concerned subject to usual checks and no local objection. <i>If the foreign national is remarried to another foreign national, no extension of visa will be allowed and he/she will be granted exit.</i></p> <p>(b) <u>In case of divorce</u> : If the couple had a child whose custody has been given to the foreigner by a court and the foreigner has not re-married another foreigner, he/she may be allowed extension of stay on X visa by FRRO/ FRO concerned subject to usual checks and no local objection. <i>If the foreign national is remarried to another foreign national, no extension of visa will be allowed and he/she will be granted exit.</i></p>
42	'X' Visa	Regularization of stay of foreign nationals married to Indian nationals – Conversion to 'X' Visa	There are foreigners who had entered India on Tourist Visa and have been staying in India for many years due to marriage to Indian nationals. FRROs/ FROs are delegated powers to regularize their stay, convert their visas to Entry(X) visa and grant further extension of visa on case to case basis subject to verification of marital status fully supported by marriage certificate issued by authorities authorized by the State Government/ UT Administration for registration of marriages, security vetting, profile of activities etc.
43	Landing Permit	Extension of Landing Permit	A landing permit facility, up to a maximum of three days, can be given to a foreigner who enters India by air or sea, without valid

			<p>visa, under emergent circumstances.</p> <p>A landing permit will be valid for a single journey and for a period of stay not exceeding 3 days. This permit is not extendable except in case of extreme emergency like strike, traffic disruption, inclement weather, illness, etc. and will be restricted to the exact period for which the exigency obtains. Extensions of this nature shall be personally dealt with and disposed of at the level of FRRO/FRO concerned</p>
44	Special Landing Permit	Grant of Special Landing Permit to OCI card holders who do not carry the old passport containing the 'U' visa sticker	In the case of OCI cardholders who do not carry the old passport containing the 'U' visa sticker while coming to India, the Immigration authorities may grant Special Landing Permit for 30 days extendable up to 180 days by FRRO/FRO concerned without levying any charge.
45	Changes in the Port of exit	Change in the Port of exit in respect of Bangladeshi nationals	<p>In case any change in the Port of exit is required by a Bangladeshi national after arrival in India, it may be granted, based on bonafide and sufficient reasons, by the following authorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) FRROs at Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Amritsar, Hyderabad, Bangalore and Chennai. (ii) The State Governments of Assam, Bihar, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura and West Bengal. <p>Changes in the port of exit may be granted by the authorities specified in (i) and (ii) above in accordance with the following guidelines:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) A Bangladesh national travelling by air is permitted to exit from an airport different from the port of entry, or by land through the Haridaspur ICP (ii) A Bangladesh national travelling by air can be allowed, in genuine

			<p>cases, to leave India through the land ICPs, other than Haridaspur, provided advance intimation of the entry is given to the ICP by the authority permitting the change. Otherwise, the Bangladesh national shall travel by the designated port only.</p> <p>(iii) A Bangladesh national entering through the Haridaspur ICP may be allowed to exit through the Kolkata/Delhi Airport.</p> <p>(iv) A Bangladesh businessperson / professional sponsored by a reputed Chamber of Commerce may be allowed to exit from a land ICP different from the ICP of entry.</p> <p>(v) In all cases where changes in the port of exit are allowed, the authority concerned shall satisfy itself about the genuineness of the purpose of visit of such Bangladesh national and the circumstances necessitating such change.</p>
46	Long Term Visa (Bangladeshi nationals)	Extension of Long Term Visa (LTV) in respect of Bangladeshi nationals	<p>As per extant instructions, the following categories of Bangladeshi nationals are eligible for grant of Long Term Visa (LTV) to enable them to qualify for Indian Citizenship:-</p> <p>(i) Bangladeshi women married to Indian nationals</p> <p>(ii) Bangladeshi nationals of minority community, viz. Hindus, Sikhs and Buddhists, married to Indian women</p> <p>(iii) Bangladeshi women of Indian origin married to Bangladeshi nationals and returning to India due to widowhood/divorce and having no male member to support them in Bangladesh</p> <p>(iv) Cases involving extreme compassion.</p>

			<p>Approval for grant of LTV for the first year is given by the Central Government. While powers for grant of subsequent extensions of LTV in respect of categories (i), (ii) and (iii) above are delegated to the State Governments/UT Administrations concerned on year to year basis subject to good behavior and validity of their passports, extension of LTV in respect of persons falling in category (iv) i.e. cases involving extreme compassion will have to be referred to the Ministry of Home Affairs for approval.</p>
47	Long Term Visa (Pakistani nationals)	Extension of Long Term Visa (LTV) in respect of Pakistani nationals	<p>As per extant instructions, the following categories of Pakistani nationals are eligible for grant of Long Term Visa (LTV) to enable them to qualify for Indian Citizenship:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Members of minority communities in Pakistan (Hindus, Sikhs, Christians and Buddhists) (ii) Pak women married to Indian nationals and staying in India (iii) Indian women married to Pak nationals and returning due to widowhood/divorce and having no male member to support them in Pakistan (iv) Cases involving extreme compassion <p>Approval for conversion of short-term visas into Long Term Visas and the first year extension is granted by the Central Government. Powers for grant of subsequent extensions of LTV in respect of categories (i), (ii) and (iii) above on a two-year basis at a time till they are granted Indian citizenship are delegated to the State Governments/UT Administrations concerned subject to good behavior and validity of their passports. However, extension of LTV in respect of persons falling in category (iv) i.e. cases involving</p>

			extreme compassion, will have to be referred to the Ministry of Home Affairs for approval.
48	Long Term Visa (Pakistani nationals)	Grant of permission to Pakistan nationals staying in India on LTV to engage themselves in employment and permitting their children to take admission in schools, colleges, universities etc.	<p>State Governments/UT Administrations are empowered to decide the requests of Pakistani nationals staying on LTV under eligible categories for grant of permission to engage themselves in employment and permitting their children to take admission in schools, colleges, universities etc. subject to the following conditions:-</p> <p>(a) Pakistan nationals staying on LTV under the eligible categories, with the intention of settling permanently and obtaining Indian citizenship, may be permitted to engage in employment of purely private nature i.e. excluding Government/semi-Government, local bodies, cooperative jobs etc.</p> <p>(b) Children of Pak nationals staying on LTV under eligible categories with intention to settle permanently and obtaining Indian citizenship would be permitted to take admission in schools, colleges, universities, technical/professional institutions etc. subject to usual conditions prescribed for foreigners in this regard.</p> <p>Information regarding grant of permission for engaging in employment granted may be sent to the Ministry of Home Affairs immediately.</p>
49	NORI (No Objection to Return to India) (Bangladeshi nationals)	Grant of NORI to Bangladeshi nationals living in India on Long Term Visa(LTV)	Powers to grant NORI to Bangladeshi nationals living in India on LTV are delegated to the State Governments/UT Administrations.
50	NORI (No Objection to Return to India) (Pakistani nationals)	Grant of NORI to Pakistani nationals living in India on LTV	NORI facility for once in a year to Pakistani nationals living in India on LTV can be granted by the State Governments/UT Administrations concerned. However, in

			deserving cases having extreme compassionate features, the State Governments/UT Administrations concerned may grant NORI endorsement more than once in a year on merits provided the person concerned has not come to any adverse notice.						
51	NORI(No Objection to Return to India) (Tibetan Refugees/ Tibetans intending to visit abroad)	Grant of NORI(No Objection to Return to India) to Tibetan Refugees/Tibetans intending to visit abroad	Tibetan Refugees/Tibetans intending to visit abroad for a short duration up to 15 days shall travel only on the strength of the Identity Certificate (IC) issued by the Ministry of External Affairs/ Regional Passport Officer and would be required to obtain 'No Objection to Return to India (NORI)' permission from the FRRO/State Government. If intended visit abroad requires absence from India for a period more than 15 days, such Tibetan Refugees/Tibetans would be required to take exit permission from the concerned FRROs/FROs and report arrival to them on coming back to India. NORI in case of less than two weeks or Exit permission in case of more than two weeks would be granted by the concerned FRRO/State Government on the recommendation of CTA or any other authority so designated by the Central Government subject to nothing adverse and no local objection of the concerned FRRO/State Government.						
52	Registration (Tibetan refugees/ Tibetan nationals)	Registration of Tibetan refugees/Tibetan nationals and grant of extension of stay	FRROs/FROs are empowered to register Tibetan refugees/Tibetan nationals coming on Special Entry Permits (SEPs). Registration Certificates in respect of all the Tibetan refugees/Tibetans staying in India should be renewed on annual basis uniformly by all FRROs/FROs. The Tibetans entering India on SEP for pilgrimage, education and other purposes may be given Registration Certificates for the period as under:-						
			<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Purpose</th> <th>Period</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Pilgrimage</td> <td>6 months</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Education</td> <td>Duration of course</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Purpose	Period	Pilgrimage	6 months	Education	Duration of course
Purpose	Period								
Pilgrimage	6 months								
Education	Duration of course								

			<table border="1"> <tr> <td></td> <td>or one year, whichever is earlier.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other purpose</td> <td>Long term stay initially for one year extendable on yearly basis on the basis on the recommendation of CTA after conducting police verification.</td> </tr> </table>		or one year, whichever is earlier.	Other purpose	Long term stay initially for one year extendable on yearly basis on the basis on the recommendation of CTA after conducting police verification.
	or one year, whichever is earlier.						
Other purpose	Long term stay initially for one year extendable on yearly basis on the basis on the recommendation of CTA after conducting police verification.						
			No request for change in purpose of stay will be entertained. No request for extension of stay will be entertained except in case of long term stay.				
53	Stay Visa/ Residential Permit of Afghan nationals	Extension of Stay Visa/ Residential Permit, Registration, NORI etc. in respect of Afghan nationals	<p>The following guidelines have been issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs vide letter no. 25022/16/2004-F.V dated 27.6.2014 regarding extension of Stay Visa/ RP, Registration, NORI etc. in respect of Afghan nationals:-</p> <p><u>Extension of Stay Visa/ Residential Permit</u></p> <p>(1) Extension of Stay Visa/ Residential Permit may be granted by the FRROs/FROs concerned up to one year for ethnic Afghan nationals and up to two years for non-ethnic Afghan nationals (ie. Hindus and Sikhs).</p> <p>(2) Extension of Stay Visa/ Residential Permit may be granted to non-ethnic Afghan nationals, who have arrived in India after 1.1.2009 on the basis of refugee certificates issued by UNHCR. The extension of Stay Visa/ Residential Permit will also continue to be available to non-ethnic Afghan nationals who arrived before 1.1.2009.</p> <p>(3) Extension of Stay Visa/ Residential Permit may be granted to ethnic Afghan nationals who have arrived in India after 1.1.2009 on case to case basis by a Committee under the</p>				

			<p>Chairmanship of FRRO/FRO concerned after carefully scrutinizing all the documents including UNHCR card, local enquiries, interview and after substantiating his/ her nationality as an Afghan national.</p> <p>(4) Non-ethnic Afghan nationals entering India from Afghanistan or a third country, with a valid Passport and valid Visa and who have their families (mother, father, children and spouse) in India already registered with the FRRO/ FRO may be granted extension for a maximum period of 6 months irrespective of visa type.</p> <p>(5) Extension of visa on medical grounds may be granted to an Afghan national who falls ill after his/her entry into India rendering him/her unfit to travel and who requires specialized medical treatment on production of a Medical Certificate from a Government/ ICMR recognized hospital. The individual whose visa is not so extended shall leave India immediately and may come back to India after obtaining a visa of appropriate category.</p> <p><u>Police Reporting/ Registration and Exit permission</u></p> <p>(6) Exemption from Police Reporting (EPR) to be granted to Afghan nationals, up to the age of 12 years or those above 65 years of age, who are in possession of separate passport. Afghan nationals who are issued visas by Head of Mission at Kabul with 'Exemption from Police Reporting', shall be exempt from both Police Reporting as well as Exit</p>
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			<p>permission within the visa validity period.</p> <p>(7) Afghan nationals up to the age of 12 years who are not in possession of a separate passport and are travelling on the joint passport of their parents/guardians are not required to be physically present at the time of registration at FRRO/ FRO.</p> <p>(8) Afghan nationals with a visa duration of 30 days or less, are exempt from the requirement of registration, provided the visa applicant gives the Indian Mission his/her local address in India. In other cases registration of Afghan nationals with the FRRO/ FRO within 14 days of arrival is required.</p> <p>(9) All Afghan nationals entering India on fresh visa for more than 30 days will be required to be registered within 14 days (temporary registration) as at present except the following:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) Individuals holding diplomatic/ official passports travelling on official work and their immediate family members accompanying them.(b) Government of India sponsored Afghan nationals coming to India for studies/ training/ workshops/ conferences provided their names have been security vetted by MHA.
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			<p>(10) Afghan students intending to pursue higher studies are permitted to report within 14 days in conformity with the provision for other foreigners as per Visa Manual.</p> <p>(11) Exit permission is not required for those Afghan nationals who leave India within the validity of the visa period.</p> <p><u>Re-entry permission</u></p> <p>(12) In keeping with the policy of the Government to encourage them to leave the country permanently, ethnic Afghan nationals staying in India on Stay Visa/ Residential Permit should not be granted re-entry facility for any purpose.</p> <p>(13) Non-ethnic Afghan nationals (i.e. Hindus and Sikhs) who are staying in India on Stay Visa/ Residential Permit and registered with FRRO/FRO may be granted-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(i) one re-entry facility for a maximum period of 90 days in a year with the endorsement that the said person is not entitled for second re-entry; or else(ii) two re-entry facilities in a year for a maximum period of 45 days each, for-<ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) disposal of their property in Afghanistan; or(b) visiting a country other than
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Afghanistan and Pakistan, if the request is found justified.

General

- (14) Afghan nationals who are Medical Attendants (Med X visa holders) will be allowed entry only if they are accompanied by the patients (Med visa holders).
- (15) No restriction on travel within India (except RAP, PAP, other restricted or prohibited areas). They shall be treated at par with other foreigners for this purpose.
- (16) No exit fee/ overstayal fee to be charged from these Afghan nationals when they are leaving the country permanently. In all such cases, bio-metric enrolment and photograph shall be taken by FRRO/ FRO concerned before granting exit permission.
- (17) All Afghan nationals on Stay Visa/ Residential Permit who have entered into marriage in India and have their children/ family staying in India should in due course be encouraged to apply for Indian Citizenship by neutralization.
- (18) All Afghan nationals, ethnic as well as non-ethnic, found to be overstaying will be dealt with under the Foreigners Act, 1946.
- (19) As regards the grant of Tourist

			<p>Visa, Student Visa, Medical Visa etc., the general policy guidelines for other foreign nationals, as per the provisions of the Visa Manual and instructions issued from time to time, shall be applicable to Afghan nationals as well.</p> <p>(20) Cases not falling in the above categories, if any, may be referred to the Ministry of Home Affairs for an appropriate decision.</p> <p>(21) The above mentioned policy guidelines may be reviewed/ amended by the Ministry of Home Affairs as deemed necessary</p> <p>The above policy will continue up to 30th June, 2016.</p>
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