# CITIZENSHIP OF INDIA

# Frequently Asked Questions(FAQ)

**1.    I am a foreigner and want to acquire Indian citizenship. How and where should I apply to acquire Indian Citizenship?**

Reply: Please visit MHA website indiancitizenshiponline.nic.in. You may verify your eligibility under relevant provisions of Section 5 and Section 6 of the Citizenship Act, 1955 mentioned therein and fill relevant Form online, upload required documents and pay the prescribed fee.

**2.    Where should I submit hard copy of citizenship application Form?**

Reply: Printout of online filled application Form has to be submitted in the office of District collector/ District Magistrate /Deputy Commissioner(herein after referred as district Collector) of the area where the applicant is ordinarily resident. If the applicant is residing outside India, the printout of the application should be submitted to the Consular General of India.

**3.    How do I come to know about the progress/status of my citizenship application?**

Reply: You may verify status of your application on MHA website indiancitizenshiponline.nic.in. Furthermore, you would be intimated through email and SMS about the progress.

**4.    How much time will it take to acquire Indian citizenship?**

Reply: After the submission of application in the office of the District Collector, the same is processed as per Rule 12 of the Citizenship Rules, 2009 and as per the time framed indicated there. The Central Government/the competent authority disposes of the cases depending upon adequacy of submitted documents and availability of the security report.

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**5. I am unable to fill the Form in MHA website indiancitizenshiponline.nic.in. Whom should I contact for help?**

Reply: Please contact MHA helpdesk at email: support.ctznoci@mha.gov.in

**6. How to pay the fee prescribed regarding citizenship application?**

Reply: After filling the online Form, the applicant is supposed to finally submit the application. Then, the applicant needs to upload relevant documents. Thereafter, the provision to pay the prescribed fee through SBI – e pay payment gateway will be enabled. Net banking, Debit and Credit Card facilities can be used to pay the fee amount. The applicant can pay fee by using any one of the three modes offered by SBI – e pay Payment gateway.

**7. I am staying outside India. How do I pay the fee?**

Reply: Same as FAQ No.6. The fee is payable in Indian Rupees.

**8. I am a Nepal origin person I do not have passport and visa. Can I apply online for acquiring Indian citizenship?**

Reply: In absence of passport, you have to upload online, either a Nepali citizenship certificate or voter ID card issued by Election Commission of Nepal or limited validity photo identity certificate issued by Nepalese Mission in India or, photo ID issued by principal of the School for children in the age group between 10-18 if accompanied by parents having valid travel documents, and fill the form.

**9. I am a Bhutan origin person I do not have passport and visa. Can I apply online for acquiring Indian citizenship?**

Reply: In absence of passport, you have to upload online, either a Bhutanese citizenship certificate or voter ID card issued by Election Commission of Bhutan or limited validity photo identity certificate issued by Royal Bhutanese Mission in India, or photo ID issued by principal of the School for children in the age group between 10-18 if accompanied by parents having valid travel documents and fill the form.

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**10.    I have stayed outside India for 25 days in the 12 months before the date of application for Indian citizenship. Am I eligible to acquire Indian citizenship?**

Reply: The Central Government, if it is satisfied that special circumstances exist, may relax the requirement of residency period of twelve months before the date of application up to a maximum of thirty days for applications under Section 5(1)(a), 5(1)(c), 5(1)(f), 5(1)(g) and 6(1) of the Citizenship Act, 1955. An applicant may submit the details of special circumstances due to which he/she was unable to comply with the requirement of twelve months residency period before the date of his/her application.

**11.    I have my High School/ Matriculation/HSC certificate showing my date of birth and also have Aadhar Card. Can I submit these documents as proof of birth in India in place of 'birth certificate'?**

Reply: It is mandatory to submit the documents specified in the statutory forms i.e. Form I to Form VIII. Alternate documents mentioned above are not acceptable.

**12.    I was born in India in 1990 and both my parents were foreigners at the time of birth. Am I a citizen of India by birth?**

Reply:  No. For details you may refer to the provisions of Section 3 the Citizenship Act, 1955.

**13.    I am a foreigner and staying in India for more than 20 years. Am I not a citizen of India due to my continuous stay in India for such a long time?**

Reply: No. By mere long stay in India, one does not become citizen of India. The Citizenship of India can be acquired under any one of the following provisions of the Citizenship Act, 1955:-

a) Citizenship by Birth            - Section 3
b) Citizenship by Descent          - Section 4
c) Citizenship by Registration     - Section 5.
d) Citizenship by Naturalization   - Section 6
e) Citizenship by incorporation of
   territory                       -Section 7

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**14.    I do not have valid foreign passport and valid Visa/RP/ LTV. Can I apply for Indian citizenship?**

Reply: No. As per provisions of Section 5 and 6 of the Citizenship Act, 1955, an illegal migrant is not eligible to acquire citizenship of India. The term "illegal migrant" has been defined in Section 2(1)(b) of the Citizenship Act, 1955.

**15.    I have received a letter/communication to submit additional/deficient documents. How and where should I submit these?**

Reply: Please upload these documents on the MHA website indiancitizenshiponline.nic.in against your file number and then submit hard copy of documents in the office of the District Collector of your area where you ordinarily reside.

**16.    I have received intimation that the Central Government has decided to grant me citizenship and I have been asked to submit original receipt of fee paid, photographs, signatures, duly filled Form X or XI or XII and the original copy of renunciation certificate. Where should I submit these documents?**

Reply: You must upload scanned copies of these documents on the MHA website indiancitizenshiponline.nic.in. However, you have to submit original of these documents, in the office of the concerned District Collector.

**17.    I have been issued in-principle acceptance letter and asked to renounce my Pakistani Nationality. But Pakistan Embassy is not issuing Renunciation Certificate. What should I do?**

Reply: Applicants belonging to Hindu/Sikh communities of Pakistan and Afghanistan, who have entered India on or before 31/12/2009 are permitted to submit affidavit in lieu of renunciation certificate and may refer to MHA circular dated 17/11/2014. Other applicants have to mandatorily submit renunciation certificate from the Embassy of their country.

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**18. My child is born outside India. How to register his birth with Indian Mission under Section 4 of the Citizenship Act, 1955?**

Reply: You may visit MHA website indiancitizenshiponline.nic.in and fill the required form for registration of birth. In case of further difficulty please contact the concern Indian Mission.

**19. My child was born outside India 5 years ago. Can I register his birth in Indian Mission?**

Reply: Under special circumstances, birth of a minor can be registered by Head of Indian Mission even after one year of date of birth.

**20. My child was born outside India but is now ordinarily resident in India. Can I register his birth in Indian Mission abroad?**

Reply: Same as FAQ no. 18 above.

**21. My son aged 19 years was born abroad. Can he register his birth now in Indian Mission? How can he acquire Indian citizenship?**

Reply: Registration of birth under Section 4 of the Citizenship Act, 1955 is applicable only for minors. If a person has attained full age, he can apply for Indian citizenship under relevant provisions of Section 5 or 6 of the Citizenship Act, 1955.

**22. I was earlier Indian citizen and my minor child was also Indian citizen. Later on, my minor child has ceased to be an Indian citizen because I renounced Indian citizenship. How can my child resume Indian citizenship?**

Reply: On attaining full age, your child can apply for resumption of Indian citizenship under provisions of Section 8 of the Citizenship Act, 1955 and Rule 24 of the Citizenship Rules, 2009.

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